

United States District Court
Southern District of Illinois
750 Missouri Avenue
East St. Louis, Illinois 62201

Chambers of
MICHAEL J. REAGAN
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

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June, 2013

Subject: Changes in U.S. District Judge Michael Reagan's case management procedures. Counsel in civil, non-prisoner cases please takes note!

The purpose of this notice is to alert you to a change in the way I assign trial dates on **civil non-prisoner cases**. By way of history, from November 2000 through May 2013, I gave each non-prisoner civil case a **firm trial date**. The majority of my cases have firm trial dates. These dates will continue to be enforced, with continuance requests discouraged and rarely granted, due to my current docket structure and existing trial schedule through June, 2015.

This month (June 2013), due to the demands of a significantly increased caseload and my increasing inability to meet firm trial dates, I will begin assigning most new non-prisoner civil cases a **presumptive trial month** rather than a firm trial date. Chief Judge Herndon and Judge Murphy use similar models. As to these cases, the following procedure will apply unless varied by Order entered in a particular case.

When I am assigned to a new civil non-prisoner case, during my threshold jurisdictional review, I will give the case a presumptive trial month plus a final pretrial conference date/time. The final pretrial conference will be 30 to 60 days before the first day of the presumptive trial month. At the final pretrial conference, after consulting with counsel/parties about the probable length of trial and the nature of the evidence, I will set a firm trial date.

November 2014 will be the first presumptive trial month I can utilize but be aware that cases which can be tracked for trial before November 2014 may still receive firm trial dates. By January 2014 all cases will be tracked with presumptive trial months. The docket entry advising the CJRA track will signal whether your case has a firm trial date as opposed to a presumptive trial month. Cases already assigned a firm trial date will not be affected by this change. During the transition period from a system of firm trial dates to a system of presumptive trial months, some confusion may linger as to deadlines and due-dates. Counsel should feel free to contact my courtroom deputy, Debbie, or the law clerk assigned to the case (Blaire, John, or Sheila) at 618.482.9225, with any questions.

As a general rule, all motions in limine are due no later than 21 calendar days before trial, and responses to motions in limine are due no later than 14 calendar days before trial. And, as always for my cases under both the "old" and the "new" system, all "Daubert" motions (seeking to exclude expert testimony/evidence) must be filed by the dispositive motion deadline not the motion in limine deadline. [These deadlines may be altered by a specific order entered in a given case, of course.]

As a reminder, my revised final pretrial order and case management procedures can be accessed on my web page, part of the District Court website at www.ilsd.uscourts.gov. Click the "Judges" tab on the burgundy bar across the top of the home page, then choose Judge Michael J. Reagan from the blue menu on the left.

This modification in my system of scheduling civil trials resulted from significant deliberation and the valuable input of a group of local lawyers with diverse practices who freely gave of their time to assist the Court in this process. I extend heartfelt thanks to those attorneys for their insights and contributions: Lee Barron, Ron Fox, John Gilbert, Mark Goldenberg, Jim Hipkiss, Kevin Hoerner, and Becky Jackson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael J. Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Michael J. Reagan

U.S. District Judge