

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION  
OF A COMMISSION ON STATEWIDE  
RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

ADKT 0491  
**FILED**

JUL 08 2020

ELIZABETH A. BROWN  
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT  
BY   
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

*ORDER AMENDING SUPREME COURT RULE 252(2)(e)*

WHEREAS, on June 19, 2020, James W. Hardesty, Associate Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, filed a petition in this court seeking to amend Supreme Court Rule 252(2)(e) to allow any judge, other than the settlement judge, to accept a defendant's plea; and

WHEREAS, it appears that an amendment to Supreme Court Rule 252(2)(e) is warranted; accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Supreme Court Rule 252(2)(e) shall be amended and shall read as set forth in Exhibit A.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the amendments to Supreme Court Rule 252(2)(e) shall be effective 30 days from the date of this order. The clerk of this court shall cause a notice of entry of this order to be published in the official publication of the State Bar of Nevada. Publication of this order shall be accomplished by the clerk disseminating copies of this order to all subscribers of the advance sheets of the Nevada Reports and all persons and agencies listed in NRS 2.345, and to the executive director of the State Bar of Nevada. The certificate of the clerk of this court as to the accomplishment of the above-described publication of notice of entry and

dissemination of this order shall be conclusive evidence of the adoption and publication of the foregoing rule amendment.

Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

Pickering, C.J.  
Pickering

Gibbons, J.  
Gibbons

Hardesty, J.  
Hardesty

Parraguirre, J.  
Parraguirre

Stiglich, J.  
Stiglich

Cadish, J.  
Cadish

Silver, J.  
Silver

cc: Eric Dobberstein, President, State Bar of Nevada  
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada  
All District Court Judges  
All Court of Appeal Judges  
Clark County Bar Association  
Washoe County Bar Association  
First Judicial District Bar Association  
Elko County Bar Association  
Douglas County Bar Association  
Administrative Office of the Courts

## EXHIBIT A

### AMENDMENT TO SUPREME COURT RULE 252

#### **Rule 252. Settlement conferences.**

**1. Settlement conferences in civil cases.** At any time in any civil case, the parties may request or the court may order that the parties and their attorneys meet in person with a judge other than the judge assigned to preside over the trial and attempt to settle the case.

(a) Settlement conferences held pursuant to subsection 1 of this rule shall be held before a senior justice or senior judge or other judge who is amenable to hearing the case.

**2. Settlement conferences in criminal cases.** The purpose of a settlement conference is to facilitate good faith discussions to resolve any criminal case before the district court in a manner that serves the interest of justice.

(a) In any criminal case before the district court, either party may request a settlement conference, or the trial judge may, on its own, recommend that counsel with settlement authority participate in a settlement conference. A case will not be referred to a settlement conference if any party objects. The defendant must consent on the record or in writing before a case is referred to a settlement conference. In all cases, the settlement conference must not be before the trial judge. If settlement discussions do not result in an agreement, the case must be returned to the trial judge.

(b) Beyond all else, participation in a settlement conference is voluntary by the parties, and no party has any right to an offer, or may raise any claim from any fact or circumstance that occurs during the settlement conference, including but not limited to the bad faith of the parties in participating in the

conference. Decision-making authority remains with the parties and not the settlement judge. The trial judge, the settlement judge, or any party may unilaterally terminate the settlement conference at any time.

(c) Settlement conferences must, in all respects, be confidential and not reported or recorded.

(d) Communications between the settlement judge and the trial judge. The settlement judge and the trial judge must have no contact or communication, except that the settlement judge may, without comment or observation, report to the trial judge that:

(1) The parties cannot reach an agreement;

(2) The parties have reached an agreement, and the agreement reached may be reduced to writing, signed by the prosecuting attorney, the defendant, and defense counsel and submitted to the court for approval;

(3) Meaningful attempt to settle is ongoing; or

(4) The settlement judge withdraws from further participation in potential settlements.

(e) Should the settlement conference result in a settlement agreement, the terms of the agreement must be reduced to a guilty plea agreement in accordance with NRS 174.063 and signed by the defendant, defense counsel (if any), and the prosecutor. The parties must file the guilty plea agreement with the trial ~~[judge.]~~ judge, but any judge, other than the settlement judge, may accept the defendant's plea. Any party may withdraw from an agreement before ~~[the trial judge accepts the plea.]~~ the defendant's plea is accepted.

(f) If the parties reach a guilty plea agreement that involves any stipulations, ~~[the trial judge agrees that]~~ such a settlement shall be conditioned on the trial judge's acceptance of and agreement to follow the

stipulations. If the trial judge is unwilling to abide by the stipulations, then either side may withdraw from the guilty plea agreement.