

# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** LLA Membership

**From:** Gary Weber

**Date:** December 17, 2019

**Subject: Annual Report of the Customs and Rules Committee**

The LLA Customs and Rules Committee met one time in January 2019 to address a request by the court to consider the adoption of a local rule relating to discontinuances of civil actions and to review a proposed revised civil complaint cover sheet. The meeting resulted in new rules proposals.

The new rules, implemented by order dated April 16, 2019, resulted in a new civil case monitoring notice. The new case monitoring form had one significant change. The tracks were increased from four to five. The attorney will check off a particular track based on the type of case and the time needed for discovery. A new “medical malpractice” track was proposed by attorneys who attended the civil bar meeting last year. The committee agreed that focusing the tracks on the time for discovery rather than the trial term made sense in that discovery was the issue that was in control of the attorneys, while trial date was court driven.

At the same time, a rule new L229 was implemented, requiring any discontinuance filed to be filed in duplicate, so that the duplicate copy may be sent to the court scheduling technician.

The Committee dealt with another rule proposal in November 2019. The Chair circulated a letter from the Judge McCoy requesting the Committee to consider rescission of local rules L1915.13-1 and L1915.13-2 relating to emergency custody matters. The proposal came with the strong endorsement of the court and the Family Court Committee, and without any objection was recommended to the Court for implementation. An order was signed November 18, 2019.