

NOTICE TO THE BAR
COMPULSORY ARBITRATION/ARBITRATION APPEAL MATTERS

In furtherance of promoting meaningful Compulsory Arbitration Hearings, counsel and parties are reminded that they are required to attend and to fully participate in scheduled arbitration hearings. Furthermore, counsel and parties are expected to be ready to proceed with the matter at the time of the hearing (i.e., Complaint must be filed and served, and discovery complete).

In furtherance of attaining these important objectives, the Court has been entering Rule Returnable Orders against parties who fail to appear/participate in arbitration hearings or who are not procedurally ready to proceed with their case at the time of the hearing. The Rule Returnable Orders compel the offending party to appear in Court to explain why they failed to attend the hearing, why they were not ready to proceed and why sanctions should not be entered against them.

Counsel and parties without a satisfactory excuse may be subject to sanctions, including assuming the cost of a second arbitration hearing, non-pros or default judgment. Failure to appear at the Rule Returnable Hearing could result in the imposition of additional sanctions, including entry of a preclusion Order or judgment against the non-complying party.

Please direct all inquiries concerning this notice to Joseph L. Hassett, Esquire, Director, Arbitration Center at (215) 686-9590 or Stanley Thompson, Esquire, Director, Complex Litigation Center at (215) 686-5100.

BY THE COURT:

D. WEBSTER KEOGH
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
TRIAL DIVISION

WILLIAM J. MANFREDI
SUPERVISING JUDGE
TRIAL DIVISION – CIVIL

SANDRA MAZER MOSS
COORDINATING JUDGE
COMPLEX LITIGATION CENTER