

Local Rule for CDC

**Rule #
Hurricane Katrina and Rita Cases**

A. All Hurricanes Katrina and Rita related law suits arising out of insurance claims for property damages shall begin with the current year and continue with the current numeric sequence and given the code number 245. The petition shall bear the case number and shall be designated by the words "Hurricane Litigation" on the pleadings. These cases shall be allotted to all non-domestic divisions of the Civil District Court.

B. Unless the judge for good cause determines otherwise, the time line for these cases shall be as follows:

(1) When the petition is filed and a number is assigned to it , the matter shall be immediately set for a case management conference to be held forty-five (45) days thereafter.

(2) Defendant(s) has the number of days to answer or file responsive pleadings as provided by the Code of Civil Procedure. If requested, defendant (s) are allowed one fifteen (15) day extension.

(3) At the Case Management Conference the parties will be given a Case Management Order with a Pre-Trial Conference date and a Trial Date. *The parties's presence at the Case Management Conference will not be deemed to be an appearance if certain exceptions are pending.*

(a) The Pre-Trial Conference shall be held ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition.

At the Pre-Trial Conference all parties shall be prepared to discuss settlement.

(b) The trial shall be scheduled to take place within ninety (90) days of the Pre-Trial conference.

(4) Discovery will take place as provided by the Code of Civil Procedure except that:

(a) Defendants shall propound written discovery in a timely manner so that plaintiff's discovery responses will be due no later than fifteen (15) days after the case management conference. Plaintiff(s) will be allowed only one seven (7) day extension to answer discovery, if requested.

(b) Plaintiff(s) shall propound written discovery to insure that defendant(s) discovery responses will be due fifteen (15) days after plaintiff(s)'. Defendant(s) will be allowed only one seven (7) day extension to answer discovery, if requested.

(5) All motions and exceptions shall be filed and disposed of prior to Thirty (30) days of the trial date.