

THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 15-2
(Court Administration)

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 15-07

IN RE: TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF
JUDGE MICHAEL A. HANZMAN TO THE
COMPLEX LITIGATION SECTION IN THE
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION OF THE ELEVENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA TO SERVE
AS MEDIATOR IN A PENDING CASE;
TEMPORARY RELINQUISHMENT OF
AUTHORITY OF JUDGE JOHN THORNTON
AS PRESIDING JUDGE IN SAID CASE

WHEREAS, in the matter of *Stuart I. Meyer, et al, vs. Jorge Lopez, et al* (Case No. 12-09995 CA 40), having been assigned to the Complex Business Litigation Section of the Circuit Civil Division, the Honorable John Thornton, as the presiding judge in this matter, ordered the parties to mediate their disputes within sixty (60) days February 18, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the parties have twice unsuccessfully tried to mediate this matter; and

WHEREAS, the parties, by and through their respective counsel, have filed a joint motion for the appointment of the Honorable Michael A. Hanzman to serve as mediator to increase the likelihood of reaching a settlement; and

WHEREAS, Judge Hanzman is assigned to the Dependency Section of the Juvenile Division, and

WHEREAS, as provided in the Commentary to Canon 5F(1), Code of Judicial Conduct and as opined by the Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee, a judge may participate in arbitration, mediation, or settlement conferences performed as part of his/her judicial duties; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Canon 3B(7)(d), Code of Judicial Conduct, a judge may, with the consent of the parties, confer separately with the parties and their lawyers in an effort to mediate or settle matters pending before the judge; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that Judge Hanzman has to be temporarily assigned to the Complex Business Litigation Section in order to serve in the capacity of mediator, with Judge Thornton relinquishing his authority as the presiding judge in the subject matter for mediation purposes only, to ensure compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, under Rule 2.215, Rules of Judicial Administration, it is hereby **ORDERED**:

1. The Honorable Michael A. Hanzman is temporarily assigned to the Complex Business Litigation Section of the Circuit Civil Division to serve as the mediator in the matter of *Stuart I. Meyers, et al, vs. Jorge Lopez, et al* (Case No. 12-40995 CA 40), for a period of time not to extend beyond April 18, 2015.
2. During the pendency of the mediation, the Honorable John Thornton will temporarily relinquish his authority as the presiding judge in the subject matter for mediation purposes only.
3. Notwithstanding the temporary assignment, Judge Hanzman will continue to perform his judicial duties in the Dependency Section of the Juvenile Division.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida, this 5th day of March, 2015.

**BERTILA SOTO, CHIEF JUDGE
ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA**