UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

In the Matter of	*	
Confidentiality	*	Standing Order 01-01
Under Local Rule 33	*	

O R D E R

Fourth Circuit Local Rule 33 provides that information disclosed in the mediation process shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed by a circuit mediator, counsel, or other participant in the mediation. The assurance of confidentiality provided by Local Rule 33 is essential to the integrity and success of the Court's mediation program. Accordingly, it is ordered that:

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the mediation proceedings. All statements, documents, and discussions in such proceedings shall be kept confidential. The mediator, attorneys, and other participants in the mediation shall not disclose such statements, documents, or discussions without prior approval of the Standing Panel on Attorney Discipline. Any alleged violations of Local Rule 33 shall be referred to the Court's Standing Panel on Attorney Discipline for a determination pursuant to Local Rule 46(g) of whether imposition of discipline is warranted. All proceedings before the Standing Panel on Attorney Discipline involving confidential information under this procedure shall be confidential.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:

/s/ J. Harvie Wilkinson III
J. Harvie Wilkinson III
Chief Judge

Dated: October 12, 2001