

CHAPTER 484

DISTRICT COURTS

484.545 Law clerks.
484.62 Compensation and reporter.

484.68 District administrator.
484.74 Alternative dispute resolution.

484.545 LAW CLERKS.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3. The law clerks, in addition to their salary, shall be paid necessary mileage, traveling and hotel expenses accrued in their discharge of official duties while absent from their permanent work assignment location. The county auditor of the county for which the expenses were incurred, upon presentation of a verified statement approved by one of the judges, shall issue a warrant in payment thereof.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1986]

History: 1987 c 377 s 7

484.62 COMPENSATION AND REPORTER.

When a retired judge undertakes such service, the retired judge shall be provided at the expense of the county of performance of the service with a reporter, selected by the retired judge, clerk, bailiff, if the judge deems a bailiff necessary, and a courtroom or hearing room for the purpose of holding court or hearings, to be paid for by the county in which the service is rendered and shall receive pay and expenses in the amount and manner provided by law for judges serving on the court to which the retired judge is assigned, less the amount of retirement pay which the judge is receiving, said payment to be made in the same manner as the payment of salaries for judges of the district court, on certification by the chief judge of the judicial district or by the chief justice of the supreme court of the state of Minnesota. A deputy court administrator may act as bailiff when called to do so for the purposes of this section. A retired judge who solemnizes a marriage while not assigned under section 484.61 is not entitled to the compensation provided by this section.

History: 1987 c 377 s 8

484.68 DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR.

[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 3. **Duties.** The district administrator shall:

- (a) Assist the chief judge in the performance of administrative duties;
- (b) Manage the administrative affairs of the courts of the judicial district;
- (c) Supervise the court administrators and other support personnel, except court reporters, who serve in the courts of the judicial district;
- (d) Comply with the requests of the state court administrator for statistical or other information relating to the courts of the judicial district;
- (e) With the approval of the chief judge, determine the needs of the judges of the district for office equipment necessary for the effective administration of justice and develop a plan to make the equipment available to the judges of the district; the plan must be submitted to the state court administrator for approval and determination of eligibility for state funding under section 480.15, subdivision 12; and
- (f) Perform any additional duties that are assigned by law or by the rules of court.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 5. **Budget for office.** The office budget of the district administrator shall be set by the chief judge of the judicial district and apportioned among the counties of the district. The budget must include sufficient money for the staff authorized by this section and other staff and expenses authorized under law.

[For text of subds 7 and 8, see M.S.1986]

History: 1987 c 404 s 184,185

484.74 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** In litigation involving an amount in excess of \$50,000 in controversy, the presiding judge may, by order, direct the parties to enter nonbinding alternative dispute resolution. Alternatives may include private trials, neutral expert fact-finding, mediation, minitrials, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. The guidelines for the various alternatives must be established by the presiding judge and must emphasize early and inexpensive exchange of information and case evaluation in order to facilitate settlement.

Subd. 2. **Neutral; appointment; removal.** The judge shall appoint an impartial third-party neutral to conduct all proceedings held under subdivision 1. A party may file with the judge within five days of the notice of appointment of a neutral and serve on all other parties to the action a notice to remove the neutral. Upon receipt of the notice to remove, the judge shall assign another neutral. After a party has once disqualified a neutral as a matter of right, a substitute neutral may be disqualified by the party only by making an affirmative showing of prejudice to the judge.

Subd. 3. **Fees.** Subject to chapter 563, the neutral's fees and expenses must be borne by the parties on a basis determined to be fair and equitable by the presiding judge.

Subd. 4. **Application.** This section applies only to the fourth judicial district, which will serve as a pilot project to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative forms of resolving commercial and personal injury disputes. The state court administrator shall evaluate the pilot project and report the findings to the chairs of the house and senate judiciary committees by January 15, 1989.

History: 1987 c 404 s 186