LLCrRLJ 4.5.1
Pretrial Procedures

(a) Duty of Parties.

It is the duty of the parties and their counsel to move expeditiously to seek resolution of these matters prior to trial. It is the strong policy of this court that the Rules of Professional Conduct require the completion of investigation, discovery, and plea negotiations prior to trial setting.

(b) Pre-trial Hearings

The Court shall set all cases where a plea of not guilty has been entered for a pretrial hearing approximately 45 days after the date of first appearance. Said hearing shall provide an opportunity for execution of plea negotiations, resolution of discovery issues and trial setting. All defendants must be present, with counsel, where applicable. Failure to appear for the pretrial hearing may result in the issuance of a warrant of arrest and/or forfeiture of any bail or bond.

It is strongly suggested that all negotiations be completed prior to this hearing since no time for additional negotiations will be available on the pretrial hearing calendar. All amendments to the charges and any pretrial motions except a motion in limine shall be made in writing and filed with the court at, or prior to, the pretrial hearing.

Following this hearing, if a pretrial disposition of any charge does not occur, an order shall be entered setting forth the following: trial date; trial confirmation date; discovery schedule; date of hearing on pretrial motions; and the date by which witness lists must be exchanged and filed.

(c) 3.5 Hearings

All demands for a CrRLJ 3.5 hearing on admissibility of statements or confessions must be made in writing and filed no later than the pretrial hearing. The Court will set hearing dates for motions filed as part of that proceeding. See LLCrRLJ 3.6 for suppression motions.

(d) Imposition of Jury Costs

In order to efficiently schedule the calling of jurors, to avoid unnecessary disruptions of the jurors lives, and to further avoid the waste of public funds, the court will not, unless good cause is shown, permit the waiver of a jury trial nor the entry of a plea of guilty in a matter scheduled for jury trial after the date of the trial confirmation hearing unless the jury costs are imposed against the moving party.

(e) Trial Confirmation Hearing. See LLCrRLJ 6.1.1 (d)

Adopted effective 9/1/98; amended rule effective 9/01/06