

**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**

No. M-236-09

Before: Washington, Chief Judge; Ruiz, Reid, Glickman, Kramer, Fisher, Blackburne-Rigsby, Thompson, and Oberly, Associate Judges.

ORDER

(FILED NOVEMBER 17, 2009)

Whereas this court continues to investigate alternative procedures that will permit the court to manage its caseload more efficiently and effectively, and it appearing that a reduction in the scheduled time allotted to oral argument may enhance the quality of argument by encouraging counsel and the court to focus more precisely on the key issues involved in a case, it is

ORDERED that this court will implement a six-month pilot project, beginning in January 2010, under which oral arguments on both the Regular and Summary Calendars will be scheduled for 15 minutes per side, subject to the court's discretion to extend these allotments where appropriate. In addition, requests for argument in Summary Calendar cases, which heretofore were routinely granted by the Clerk, now must be made by motion demonstrating good cause; argument will be granted only on the determination of the assigned merits panel that oral argument is likely to be helpful to the court. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that D.C. App. Rule 34(g)(1) is hereby suspended with respect to cases calendared for argument between January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2010. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that the court requests the cooperation of counsel during the pilot project, and takes this opportunity to remind counsel that the judges will have read the briefs prior to oral argument, making it unnecessary for counsel to use argument time to recite the facts unless asked specific factual questions by a member of the court; and also to assure counsel that arguments made in the briefs but not addressed during oral argument shall not be deemed waived merely for failure to present them orally. It is

FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk shall collect such information on the operation of the pilot project as will assist the court in determining whether the pilot project should be continued or otherwise modified.

PER CURIAM.