
❖ PACER Service Center ❖

Announcements

<http://pacer.uscourts.gov>

January 2010

Upcoming Functionality in the BK CM/ECF Application

Bankruptcy version 4 is scheduled to be released in the Spring of 2010. The new release will include several new features. A query by name will return information such as case number, case title, chapter, date filed, party role and date closed (if applicable) in addition to the party name. Another notable feature is an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed, which provides users with the ability to subscribe to notifications of case activity that include links to docket sheets and documents. RSS is currently available at District Courts that have installed version 4.0.

For a complete listing of changes, see “CM/ECF Release Notes” under “Featured Links” at pacer.uscourts.gov.



Electronic Public Access Program/ PACER Assessment Currently Underway

The Federal Judiciary’s year-long, comprehensive assessment of the Electronic Public Access program, including PACER and the U.S. Party/Case Index continues through August 2010. The goal of the assessment is to identify potential enhancements to existing services and new public access services that could be provided. Thank you to all that have already participated through focus groups, interviews, and surveys.

Please check our website (pacer.uscourts.gov) for more information about how you can participate.

Questions or Comments regarding information in the announcement? Email pacer@psc.uscourts.gov or call (800) 676-6856.

Changes to Federal Rules

In March 2009, the Supreme Court approved changes that address the method in which time is calculated in the federal courts. Under the former federal rules, intermediate weekends and holidays were excluded when calculating time periods fewer than eleven days. The amended rules, effective on December 1, 2009, count intermediate weekends and holidays for all time periods. In addition, deadlines of less than 30 days were changed to multiples of 7 days so that the expiration of the deadline would typically occur on a weekday. Now, 5-day deadlines become 7 days; 10- and 15-day deadlines become 14 days; 20-day deadlines become 21 days; 25-day deadlines become 28-days. Accordingly, software modifications were implemented to ensure that the default date calculations within CM/ECF comply with the rules amendments.

Detailed information regarding the changes to the time computation rules can be accessed at www.uscourts.gov/rules.

Password Changes

To prevent the unauthorized use of PACER accounts, the PACER Service Center recommends changing passwords every 90 days. It is possible to change passwords at pacer.uscourts.gov. Click on “Account Information,” then “Change Password.”

General Information

The PACER Service Center hours of operation are 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central time, Monday through Friday and is closed for Federal holidays. Holidays for which the PACER Service Center will be closed during 2010 are January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, February 15 for President's Day, May 31 for Memorial Day, July 5 for Independence Day, September 6 for Labor Day, October 11 for Columbus Day, November 11 for Veteran's Day, November 25 for Thanksgiving, and December 24 for Christmas.

The latest version of the PACER User Manual is available at no charge under the Documents section at the PACER Service Center website pacer.uscourts.gov.

Go Green

The PACER Service Center encourages customers to make a positive environmental change by switching from paper statements to electronic billing. Under PACER's Paperless Statement/Invoice option, quarterly statements are sent via email instead of sending a paper bill. It's simple, secure and sustainable. To go paperless, log into the Account Information section at pacer.uscourts.gov then select "Sign up for Paperless Statement/Invoice" to add one or more email addresses to receive an emailed quarterly statement and announcements.

Firms, agencies or companies with multiple PACER accounts may elect to have all statements sent to one or more email address. Email the PACER Service Center at pacer@psc.uscourts.gov to provide the email address(es) for multiple statements.

NOTE: The paperless option applies to Quarterly Statements/Invoices only. If payment is past due, notices will be sent by US Mail.

Save a stamp and pay online!

In addition to receiving the PACER Quarterly Statement/Invoice by email, the convenient option of paying online is also available at the PACER Web site pacer.uscourts.gov. You can make a one-time credit card payment or sign up for automatic billing to a credit card. It's fast, safe and secure. To pay online, log into the Account Information section at pacer.uscourts.gov then select "Make Online Credit Card Payment" and/or "Sign up for Automatic Billing."

PACER Policy Reminder

Public Access to Court Electronic Records is supported by user fees. Any attempt to collect data from PACER in a manner which avoids billing is strictly prohibited and may result in criminal prosecution or civil action. PACER privileges will be terminated if, in the judgment of judiciary personnel, they are being misused. Misuse includes, but is not limited to, using an automated process to repeatedly access those portions of the PACER application that do not assess a fee (i.e. calendar events report or case header information) for purposes of collecting case information.

Appellate CM/ECF

The U.S. Courts of Appeals have implemented CM/ECF. Information regarding a particular court's filing requirements may be available at the court's website.

The Appellate ECF Filer Registration form is available at the PACER Service Center website pacer.uscourts.gov. Appellate CM/ECF Computer-Based Training Modules demonstrating CM/ECF, PACER reports, and document filing functionality are also available at pacer.uscourts.gov. Click on the "CM/ECF Information" icon. Next, select "Training," then "Appellate."

The latest version of Java is required to access the CM/ECF Appellate application, to e-file, or to view case information. This can be downloaded at www.java.com at no charge.

Billing Information

- ◆ The PACER Service Center accepts Discover, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Login to the Account Information section at pacer.uscourts.gov to pay by credit card.
- ◆ No payment is owed until an account accrues charges of more than \$10 in a calendar year. Billing for balances of less than \$10 will automatically be deferred. No phone call is necessary.
- ◆ The PACER Service Center's Federal Tax ID Number is 74-2747938.
- ◆ A fee of \$45 will be assessed if a check is returned for insufficient funds.
- ◆ Receipts for the most recent payment made to a PACER account can now be accessed online. Login to the Account Information section at pacer.uscourts.gov then select "Check Account Balance."