
❖ PACER Service Center ❖

Quarterly Announcements

<http://pacer.uscourts.gov>

April 2010

New PACER Case Locator Launched!

The PACER Case Locator which allows you to search for court records in all district, bankruptcy, and appellate courts is now available. The Case Locator replaces the U.S. Party/Case Index and provides enhanced search and display capabilities including the ability to:

- request lists of cases for a specified date range by court type;
- conduct searches based on chapter, discharge date and dismissal date for bankruptcy cases;
- access case information for the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation;
- choose result formats, including HTML, delimited text, and XML which can be easily imported to other programs for analysis;
- change the sort order of the results displayed; and
- conduct refined searches within the results of a previous search.

Visit the Case Locator at <http://pcl.uscourts.gov>.

The U.S. Party/Case Index will be available for the next few months to allow you time to become familiar with the capabilities of the new Case Locator. Note that the systems will provide the same results for identical searches.

Upcoming Functionality in the BK CM/ECF Application

Bankruptcy version 4 is scheduled to be released in late Spring 2010. Highlighted features of version 4 are:

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ An RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feed will provide users with the ability to subscribe to notifications of case activity that include links to docket sheets and documents.
- ◆ Password security has been improved. All e-filing passwords must be a minimum of 8 characters, and must include both upper- and lower-case alphabetic characters and at least one digit or special character [e.g., 0-9, @, #, \$, %, &, *, +, :]. E-filers will be prompted to change their password if the current password does not meet these specifications.
- ◆ Internet Explorer 8 and Firefox 3 are fully compatible.
- ◆ E-filers that choose to receive a daily summary report may sort the summary by case number, docket event, chapter or office.

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

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.”

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

Changes to Federal Rules

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2074(a) and the March 26, 2009, Supreme Court orders, amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate, Bankruptcy, Civil, and Criminal Procedure, which include revisions of time periods in 91 rules took effect on effect on December 1, 2009.

The time-computation changes are intended to make the federal rules on calculating time periods simpler, clearer, and consistent by counting all days, including intermediate weekends and holidays, in computing time periods under the procedural rules. In addition, all the deadlines in the rules were reviewed and most short periods were extended to offset the shift in the time-computation rules and to ensure that each period is reasonable.

Go Green

The PACER Service Center encourages customers to make a positive environmental change by switching from paper statements to electronic billing. 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.

Entities with multiple PACER accounts may elect to have 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 pacer.uscourts.gov. 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.



General Information

The PACER Service Center hours of operation are 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Central time, Monday through Friday. The service center is closed for Federal holidays including 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 during 2010.

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 be accessed online. Login to the Account Information section at pacer.uscourts.gov then select "Check Account Balance."