**Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts**
**Office of Case Management Systems**

# *CM/ECF*
# *Release Notes*

**For PACER Users**

**District Release 6.3.3**

**April 2020**

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**Update Summary**

| Date | Section | Change |
|---|---|---|
| March 2020 | All | Document created. |

# 1   Introduction

This hotfix addresses several functional issues reported by various courts to the National Support Desk over the last several months. This hotfix addresses the following specific issues:

1.) In December 2019, the Statistics Subcommittee and the Judicial Resources Committee approved the creation of a new nature of suit code for civil cases related to the Defend Trade Secrets Act (of 2016). The new nature of suit will be effective October 1, 2020.

2.) As the number of courts supporting massive multi-district litigation (MDL) cases continues to grow, more courts need the solution individually provided previously to courts with large MDL cases. The solution allows courts the ability to configure how the Party Tree is displayed when PickAty and PickFiler are displayed.

3.) Courts have reported that intermittent filers receive an error message upon Pay.gov processing a fee payment. When the filer uses the back button, they are prompted for payment again and then the transaction completes in CM/ECF. This results in a duplicate payment to the court that must be refunded.

# 2   New Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 Nature of Suit Code

The Statistics Subcommittee agreed to create a new Nature of Suit (NOS) for cases involving the Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016. A new NOS Code (880) has been created to identify these cases. The nature of suit is effective October 1, 2020 and will be accompanied by an updated JS-44, Civil Cover Sheet. CM/ECF will not present the new nature of suit for selection until October 1, 2020.

# 3   Option for Party Tree Display During Docketing

When courts process extra-large multi-district litigation (MDL) cases, the Party Tree displayed during docketing tries to display all the parties in the case. This can cause docketing to time out. Courts have been provided the ability to locally identify extra-large cases based on the number of parties. If a case meets or exceeds the threshold number of parties, a simplified user interface is displayed to reduce processing time for the pick filer and pick attorney screens to display.

Each court may set this value individually, so the threshold will vary by court.

# 4  Pay.gov – Prevention of Duplicate Payments

Multiple courts have reported that outside users experience intermittent issues when using Pay.gov to pay for fees collected through CM/ECF docketing events. After entering their payment information in Pay.gov, the users receive an error message and the event will not complete in CM/ECF, however, payment was successful in Pay.gov. The users then re-attempt to file the event and pay the fees and docketing is successful in CM/ECF. The result is that the filer has been charged twice for the event and court staff must issue a refund.

This hotfix provides a solution to prevent the payment transaction from failing upon returning the user to CM/ECF.