

## CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF) October 2009

The federal judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) project revolutionized the way in which the federal courts manage their cases and documents. This easy-to-use system allows attorneys to file documents directly with the court over the Internet and allows courts to file, store, and manage their case files in an easy-to-access, transparent way.

The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use – filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then save it as a PDF file. After logging onto the court's web site with a court-issued password, the filer enters basic information relating to the case and document being filed, attaches the document, and submits it to the court. There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically and e-mailed to the parties in the case.

CM/ECF provides courts the ability to make their documents available to the public over the Internet. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Litigants receive one free copy of documents filed electronically in their cases, which they can save or print for their files. Additional copies are available to attorneys and the general public for viewing or downloading at eight cents per page, with a maximum cost per document of \$2.40. Copies of court opinions, as designated by the authoring judge, are available at no charge. Neither the free copy nor the maximum cost per document applies to transcripts filed with the court. Directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees, the judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs.

Amendments to the Federal Appellate, Bankruptcy, Civil, and Criminal Rules of Procedure address issues relating to privacy and public access to electronic case files. The Rules require that filers redact certain “personal identifier” information, such as Social Security numbers or taxpayer-identification numbers, dates of birth, names of minor children, financial account numbers, and in criminal cases, home addresses, from their filings. [Fed. R. App. P. 25\(a\)\(5\)](#); [Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2](#); [Fed. R. Crim. P. 49.1](#); [Fed.R. Bankr. P. 9037](#). At login to CM/ECF, a message reminds attorneys of their responsibility to redact this private information from the documents they file, and the most recent version of this reminder also requires attorneys to acknowledge that they have read the notice and complied with the redaction rules. Filers cannot complete the login process without checking the acknowledgment in this recent version.

The national roll-out of the CM/ECF system for bankruptcy courts started in early 2001.

The CM/ECF system for district courts began to roll out nationally in May 2002. Implementation of the CM/ECF system for appellate courts began in 2005. Over 35 million cases are on CM/ECF systems, and more than 400,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet.

For more information, please contact: Barbara Kimble, Office of Judges Programs (202) 502-1862. **To register for CM/ECF, please contact your court.**

Relevant websites:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/cmecf/cmecf.html>

<http://www.privacy.uscourts.gov/>

<http://www.pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>

### **Courts Currently Operational on CM/ECF**

*\*Courts Accepting Electronic Filing*

#### *District Courts*

Alabama Middle\*  
Alabama Northern\*  
Alabama Southern\*  
Alaska\*  
Arizona\*  
Arkansas Eastern\*  
Arkansas Western\*  
California Central\*  
California Eastern\*  
California Northern\*  
California Southern\*  
Colorado\*  
Connecticut\*  
Delaware\*  
District of Columbia\*  
Florida Middle\*  
Florida Northern\*  
Florida Southern\*  
Georgia Middle\*  
Georgia Northern\*  
Georgia Southern\*  
Guam\*  
Hawaii\*  
Idaho\*  
Illinois Central\*  
Illinois Northern\*  
Illinois Southern\*  
Indiana Southern\*  
Indiana Northern\*  
Iowa Northern\*  
Iowa Southern\*  
Kansas\*  
Kentucky Eastern\*  
Kentucky Western\*

#### *Bankruptcy Courts*

Alabama Middle\*  
Alabama Northern\*  
Alabama Southern\*  
Alaska\*  
Arizona\*  
Arkansas Eastern\*  
Arkansas Western\*  
California Central\*  
California Eastern\*  
California Northern\*  
California Southern\*  
Colorado\*  
Connecticut\*  
Delaware\*  
District of Columbia\*  
Florida Middle\*  
Florida Northern\*  
Florida Southern\*  
Georgia Middle\*  
Georgia Northern\*  
Georgia Southern\*  
Guam\*  
Hawaii\*  
Idaho\*  
Illinois Central\*  
Illinois Northern\*  
Illinois Southern\*  
Indiana Northern\*  
Indiana Southern\*  
Iowa Northern\*  
Iowa Southern\*  
Kansas\*  
Kentucky Eastern\*  
Kentucky Western\*

New Hampshire\*  
New Jersey\*  
New Mexico\*  
New York Eastern\*  
New York Northern\*  
New York Southern\*  
New York Western\*  
North Carolina Eastern\*  
North Carolina Middle\*  
North Carolina Western\*  
Northern Mariana Islands\*  
Ohio Northern\*  
Ohio Southern\*  
Oklahoma Eastern\*  
Oklahoma Northern\*  
Oklahoma Western\*  
Oregon\*  
Pennsylvania Eastern\*  
Pennsylvania Middle\*  
Pennsylvania Western\*  
Puerto Rico\*  
Rhode Island\*  
South Carolina\*  
South Dakota\*  
Tennessee Eastern\*  
Tennessee Middle\*  
Tennessee Western\*  
Texas Eastern\*  
Texas Northern\*  
Texas Southern\*  
Texas Western\*  
Utah\*  
Vermont\*  
Virgin Islands\*

Louisiana Eastern\*  
Louisiana Middle\*  
Louisiana Western\*  
Maine\*  
Maryland\*  
Massachusetts\*  
Michigan Eastern\*  
Michigan Western\*  
Minnesota\*  
Mississippi Northern\*  
Mississippi Southern\*  
Missouri Eastern\*  
Missouri Western\*  
Montana\*  
Nebraska\*  
Nevada\*  
New Hampshire\*  
New Jersey\*  
New Mexico\*  
New York Eastern\*  
New York Northern\*  
New York Western\*  
New York Southern\*  
North Carolina Eastern\*  
North Carolina Middle\*  
North Carolina Western\*  
North Dakota\*  
Northern Mariana Islands\*  
Ohio Northern\*  
Ohio Southern\*  
Oklahoma Eastern\*  
Oklahoma Northern\*  
Oklahoma Western\*  
Oregon\*  
Pennsylvania Eastern\*  
Pennsylvania Middle\*  
Pennsylvania Western\*  
Puerto Rico\*  
Rhode Island\*  
South Carolina\*  
South Dakota\*  
Tennessee Eastern\*  
Tennessee Middle\*  
Tennessee Western\*  
Texas Eastern\*  
Texas Northern\*  
Texas Southern\*  
Texas Western\*  
Utah\*  
Vermont\*  
Virgin Islands\*  
Virginia Eastern\*  
Virginia Western\*  
Washington Eastern\*  
Washington Western\*

Louisiana Eastern\*  
Louisiana Middle\*  
Louisiana Western\*  
Maine\*  
Maryland\*  
Massachusetts\*  
Michigan Eastern\*  
Michigan Western\*  
Minnesota\*  
Mississippi Northern\*  
Mississippi Southern\*  
Missouri Eastern\*  
Missouri Western\*  
Montana\*  
Nebraska\*  
Nevada\*  
North Dakota\*

*Appellate Courts*

1<sup>st</sup> Circuit  
3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit\*  
4<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
5<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
6<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
7<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
8<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
9<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
10<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
D.C. Circuit\*

Virginia Eastern\*  
Virginia Western\*  
Washington Eastern\*  
Washington Western\*  
West Virginia Northern\*  
West Virginia Southern\*  
Wisconsin Eastern\*  
Wisconsin Western\*  
Wyoming\*

*Bankruptcy Appellate Panels*

1<sup>st</sup> Circuit  
6<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
8<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*  
9<sup>th</sup> Circuit  
10<sup>th</sup> Circuit\*

West Virginia Northern\*  
West Virginia Southern\*  
Wisconsin Eastern\*  
Wisconsin Western\*  
Wyoming\*  
Court of International Trade\*  
Court of Federal Claims\*

**Courts Currently in the Process of Implementing CM/ECF**

*Appellate Courts*

2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit  
11<sup>th</sup> Circuit