

## **CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF)**

**May 2008**

Nationwide implementation of the federal judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) systems is nearly completed in the district and bankruptcy courts and is advancing in the appellate courts. CM/ECF not only replaces the courts' old electronic docketing and case management systems, but also provides courts the option to have case file documents in electronic format, and to accept filings over the Internet.

CM/ECF systems are now in use in 99 % of the federal courts: 94 district courts, 93 bankruptcy courts, the Court of International Trade, the Court of Federal Claims, nine courts of appeals, and four Bankruptcy Appellate Panels. Most of these courts are accepting electronic filings. Almost 32 million cases are on CM/ECF systems, and more than 320,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet. Under current plans, most of the courts that are not yet using CM/ECF will begin usage by the end of 2008. Each court goes through an implementation process that takes about 10 months.

Attorneys practicing in courts offering the electronic filing capability are able to file documents directly with the court over the Internet. 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. A notice verifying court receipt of the filing is generated automatically. Other parties in the case then automatically receive e-mail notification of the filing.

CM/ECF also provides courts the ability to make their documents available to the public over the Internet. 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 certain “personal identifier” information be redacted from court filings. Further information on the new Rules can be found at <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/privacy2.html>.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF; existing document filing fees do apply. 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. 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.

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.

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\*

#### *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\*

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\*  
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\*

Kentucky Eastern\*  
Kentucky 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\*  
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\*

Kentucky Eastern\*  
Kentucky 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\*  
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

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

*Bankruptcy Appellate Panels*

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

Virginia Western\*  
Washington Eastern\*  
Washington Western\*  
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**

*District Courts*

*Appellate Courts*

*Bankruptcy Appellate Panels*

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

1<sup>st</sup> Circuit

*Bankruptcy Courts*

Northern Mariana Islands