



NEWS RELEASE

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

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Instant Registration for PACER System

Beginning January 5, 2004, free instant registration will be offered for Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER). Joining the nearly 300,000 registered users of PACER will be easier than ever.

PACER allows users to obtain case and docket information from federal Appellate, District and Bankruptcy courts, and from the U.S. Party/Case Index. It offers an inexpensive, fast and comprehensive case information system to any individual with a personal computer (PC) and Internet access. But until now, the process of registering and receiving a password has taken up to two weeks.

To register instantly, users will need to visit the PACER Service Center web site – www.pacer.uscourts.gov – and click on the Registration icon. They will fill out an online form and provide a valid email address. If a user provides credit card information, an account will be established immediately. The user will receive within a few minutes an email notification that has a unique link back to the PACER Service Center web site. It can be used to retrieve a login and password. Before the login and password is displayed, however, the user must answer a security question correctly and enter his/her birth date. If successful, the new customer can begin using the PACER service.

Registration by the current process also will remain an option for those customers who do not wish to provide a credit card number. Those customers will receive the login information by U.S. mail.

In addition to instant registration, PACER will feature two new helpful processes: automatic billing each quarter and online password retrieval for lost passwords. Users who request instant registration will automatically be enrolled in the automatic billing program. Automatic credit card billing is not just for new users. All PACER users will have the option of signing up for automatic credit card billing via the web site. Existing customers will need to provide the PACER Service Center with a valid email address, security question, and date of birth prior to using the online password retrieval service.

PACER offers access to case dockets to retrieve information such as a listing of all parties and participants in a case, a chronology of case events entered in the record, a listing of new cases each day, and appellate court opinions. Many courts offer imaged copies of case documents.

PACER is a service of the federal Judiciary. The PACER Service Center is run by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. For more information, visit the PACER Service Center web site, or call the center at 800-676-6856.

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