

CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILES (CM/ECF)

October 2004

Implementation of the federal judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) systems continues in district and bankruptcy courts across the country. CM/ECF not only replaces the courts' aging 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 fifty-three district courts, seventy-seven bankruptcy courts, the Court of International Trade and the Court of Federal Claims. Most of these courts are accepting electronic filings. Over 15 million cases are on CM/ECF systems. And over 100,000 attorneys and others have filed documents over the Internet. Under current plans, the number of CM/ECF courts will increase steadily each month into 2005. 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. The Judicial Conference has adopted a [set of recommendations](#) relating to privacy and public access to electronic case files. As part of the process to develop these recommendations, public comment was sought on a number of possible approaches. The Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Case Management is overseeing implementation of the recommendations..

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 seven cents per page, with a maximum cost per document of \$2.10. 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,

and is scheduled to take two to three years. The CM/ECF system for district courts began to roll out nationally in May 2002. Implementation of the CM/ECF system for appellate courts is currently scheduled to begin in late 2004.

For more information, please contact: Barbara Kimble, Office of Judges Programs (202) 502-1862

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*

1. District Courts

Alabama Middle*
Alabama Southern*
California Central*
California Northern*
Connecticut*
District of Columbia*
Florida Middle*
Florida Northern*
Georgia Middle*
Georgia Northern*
Illinois Central*
Illinois Southern*
Indiana Southern*
Indiana Northern*
Iowa Northern*
Iowa Southern
Kansas*
Kentucky Eastern*
Kentucky Western*
Louisiana Western*
Maine*
Maryland*
Massachusetts*
Michigan Eastern*
Michigan Western*
Minnesota*
Missouri Eastern*
Missouri Western*

Bankruptcy Courts

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

New Hampshire*
New Jersey*
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*
Oregon
Pennsylvania Eastern*
Pennsylvania Middle*
Pennsylvania Western*
Rhode Island*
South Carolina*
South Dakota*
Tennessee Middle*
Tennessee Western*
Texas Eastern*
Texas Northern*
Texas Southern*
Texas Western*
Utah*

Nebraska*
New Hampshire*
New Jersey*
New York Eastern*
New York Northern*
New York Western*
New York Southern*
Ohio Northern*
Ohio Southern*
Oklahoma Western*
Oregon*
Pennsylvania Eastern*
Pennsylvania Middle*
Puerto Rico*
South Dakota*
Tennessee Eastern*
Tennessee Western
Texas Eastern*
Texas Northern*
Texas Southern*
Virginia Western*
Washington Western*
West Virginia Southern
Wisconsin Eastern*
Wyoming
Court of International Trade*
Court of Federal Claims*

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

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

Courts Currently in the Process of Implementing CM/ECF

District Courts

Alabama Northern
Alaska
Arkansas Eastern
Arkansas Western
Arizona
California Eastern
California Southern
Colorado
Delaware
Florida Southern
Georgia Southern
Guam
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois Northern

Bankruptcy Courts

California Central
California Eastern
Florida Southern
Georgia Middle
Georgia Southern
Idaho
Indiana Southern
Michigan Eastern
Minnesota
Mississippi Southern
New Mexico
Northern Mariana Islands
Puerto Rico
Tennessee Eastern

Louisiana Eastern
Louisiana Middle
Mississippi Northern
Mississippi Southern
Montana
Nevada
North Carolina Eastern
North Carolina Middle
North Carolina Western
North Dakota
Northern Mariana Islands
Oklahoma Eastern
Oklahoma Northern
Pennsylvania Western
Rhode Island
Tennessee Middle
Texas Western
Utah
Vermont
Virginia Eastern
Washington Eastern
West Virginia Northern

Virgin Islands
Virginia Western