

United States Bankruptcy Court To Implement Electronic Filing

March 31, 2002

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah will be implementing electronic case filing (ECF) in the near future. A new case management system (CM) was implemented at the Court in October 2001 and is the data system compatible with ECF. The CM/ECF system was developed by the Administrative Office of the US Courts and is the largest project ever undertaken by the Federal Judiciary. CM/ECF was first introduced as a prototype in 1996 and has been used by other federal district and bankruptcy courts since 1997.

ECF will allow registered attorneys access to case information and provide the ability to file new cases and subsequent pleadings via the Internet 24 hours a day. Electronic noticing will be available. The system provides benefits for remote locations; reduces travel time; allows local document printing; generates public reports; saves paper, postage and courier costs; and will have the future ability to view archived files without retrieval from records storage. Fee transactions will be performed via authorized credit cards through ECF. Electronic access to court data in CM is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program at a current rate of \$.07 per page. There are no added fees for filing documents using ECF.

Local Rules of the USBC governing electronic filing are being developed and will address topics including (but not limited to) eligibility, registration, passwords, methods for filing, electronic noticing, and signatures.

System requirements include Internet access with connection speed of 56kps/minute minimum; Netscape Navigator 4.7 or Internet Explorer 5.5; Windows-based petition or word processing software; Adobe Acrobat for conversion of documents to portable document format (PDF); personal computer running a standard platform such as Windows, Windows 95 or higher; a scanner to transmit documents that are not in a word processing system.

The Bankruptcy Court Clerk's office will provide training and certify users before going live on the ECF system. CLE credit may be awarded. The court's website, www.utb.uscourts.gov, contains an on-line training module as well as additional CM/ECF information and updates.

For additional information, please contact William Stillgebauer, Clerk of Court, at 801-524-6565 or Brenda Dowler, Project Manager, at 801-524-6635.