



The Frequent Filer

Electronic Filing Newsletter
For the U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of Iowa

June 29, 2001

www.ianb.uscourts.gov

CM/ECF is Coming!

The Bankruptcy Judges of the Northern District of Iowa welcome everyone to the challenge of electronic case filing. In a few short years, we will have gone from a paper and pencil court to one which is practically paperless. While the challenge is significant, we feel the access provided to the court in real time will be extremely worthwhile. We invite you to join us in this adventure.

Chief Judge Paul J. Kilburg
Judge William L. Edmonds

Welcome to the first edition of the Electronic Filing Newsletter for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Iowa. This newsletter will be just one example of Iowa Northern's continuing efforts to inform the bankruptcy community of updates, developments, schedules, announcements and the basic "goings on" in the world of electronic filing. We hope that you find this and all subsequent newsletters informative and useful for your participation in the electronic filing initiative with the Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Court

Iowa Northern Tapped for CM/ECF

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Iowa is pleased to announce its participation in the Wave 4 of CM/ECF roll-out. CM stands for Case

Management system, which will replace the current BANCAP system; while ECF is a web-based Electronic Case Filing program that will allow trained users to file petitions and other pleadings electronically via the Internet.

Although Iowa Northern is now in its third year of providing electronic access to case files, documents and dockets, this system will even further enhance that access by allowing trained users to file their pleadings, petitions, motions and matrices twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, from the comfort of their own computer. For a full description of the CM/ECF program, including hardware and software requirements, please review the information on the court's website located at www.ianb.uscourts.gov.

Pre-conversion planning and development will include staff and community training; local rule and administrative order formulation, preparation and implementation; and a plethora of local bar presentations. The anticipated "go-live" time period will be Spring 2002, therefore an aggressive development and conversion schedule is essential. This court strongly encourages "future-user" participation in all stages of pre-conversion groundwork, and will be utilizing this newsletter, as well as local presentations to alert potential users to upcoming events and/or strategy sessions.

CM/ECF Fair Slated for Late July

On Friday, July 20, 2001, Iowa Northern will conduct its first "CM/ECF Fair". The Fair will begin

promptly at 2:30 p.m with an overview of the CM/ECF application and its inherent benefits. Following the overview, members of the Clerk's Office will conduct a demonstration of the application, to include a "how-to" session on opening a new bankruptcy case and filing a petition electronically. Shortly thereafter, several computers will be made available for audience participation, allowing attendees a hands-on trial of the CM/ECF system.

The location for this event will be the Bankruptcy Court's Training Room, 425 Second Street, S.E.(the APAC Building), Suite 800 in Cedar Rapids. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Becky Hoefler at (319) 286-2200, before July 17, 2001.

Project Manager Named

Iowa Northern has selected Kirk Leggott, Systems Manager for the Bankruptcy Court, as Project Manager for CM/ECF Implementation. Kirk will be responsible for organizing preparatory activities associated with all aspects of the conversion, as well as ensuring that Iowa Northern meets and/or exceeds all time frame expectations. Kirk can be reached at (319) 286-2200.



Training Set as Priority One

Iowa Northern has assumed an aggressive training schedule in relation to the implementation of CM/ECF. Slated for individual training sessions are Bankruptcy Attorneys and their Legal Assistants; the U.S. Trustee and potential case trustees, pro se filers and the bankruptcy community at large.

Beginning July 20, 2001, Iowa Northern will initiate a series of "CM/ECF Fairs" throughout the entire Northern District. These fairs will be designed to widen the bankruptcy community's awareness and understanding of this cutting edge electronic filing

system while providing "hands-on" demonstrations of the application.

The next stage of this training cycle will be the development of expertise among the staff members of the Iowa Northern Clerk's Office. Several members of the staff have been identified to participate in "on-site" application training through the Systems Development and Support Division of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in San Antonio, Texas. Once completely trained, these "site experts" will return to Cedar Rapids and Sioux City to present training to the remainder of the staff. This training is expected to occur between October and December of 2001.

Beginning January 2002, training will commence for the external bankruptcy community. If you would be interested in contributing to the training development stage, or would like to participate in the first series of classes available, please contact Becky Hoefler at (319) 286-2200.



The Honor Roll

Beginning January, 2002, and each subsequent issue thereafter, the Frequent Filer will identify those attorneys and agencies that have signed up for and/or completed the certification course for electronic filing. Attorneys will be required to receive certification for participation in the electronic filing program and use of the CM/ECF system. Upon certification attorneys will receive their log-in and password for the system, which will serve as their "electronic signature" on all pleadings and petitions presented to the Court.

