



The Frequent Filer

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

May 9, 2006

www.ianb.uscourts.gov

CM/ECF Version 3.0 - A Sneak Peak

On Thursday, May 11, 2006, the Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Court will upgrade to the newest version of CM/ECF (Version 3.0). This edition of the *Filer* provides a quick-glance overview to some of the new features and functionality you will soon encounter as you file electronically within the Northern District. Good luck, and as always, be careful out there...

Case Upload

Enhancements to the "Case Upload" functionality (one-screen case opening) allow for the inclusion of debtor/joint debtor credit counseling certificates, payment advices, and the disclosure of compensation for the attorney for debtor. The Notice of Electronic Filing has also been amended to include separate transaction receipts for each document filed during case upload (petition, debtor and joint debtor credit counseling certificates, disclosure of compensation, payment advices). This enhancement eliminates any concern about whether or not credit counseling certificates were received with petition; if the Notice of Electronic Filing appears for each certificate, then they are on file.

Case Opening

A number of improvements have been incorporated into this version's case opening process:

Separate Events - Version 3.0 offers separate events for Voluntary and Involuntary Case Opening.

Name Searches - The search screen for adding a party now includes first and middle name fields, making the process more precise.

Open New Bankruptcy Case

Search for a debtor

SSN Tax Id

Last/Business name

First Name

Middle Name

Search Clear

Party Specific Screens - The "Party Role" field has been eliminated from the case opening party information screens, and you are no longer required to select the "role type." Debtor, Joint Debtor, and Petitioning Creditor will appear appropriately on case opening party screens.

Debtor Information

Last name Grant First name Mike

Middle name Generation Title

SSN 123-34-5456 222-11-1234 Tax ID

Office Address 1 123 Victory St

Address 2 Address 3

City San Antonio State TX Zip

County Bexar Country

Phone 210-555-1212 Fax

E-mail MGrant@zone.net

Party text

Attorney... Alias... Corporate parent... Review... Add all attorneys, aliases and corporate parents before clicking the Submit button.

Submit Cancel Clear

Corporate Parents - All party information screens now contain a "Corporate Parent" selection. This feature allows you to enter corporate parent information (a business debtor may have a Corporate Parent if owned or affiliated with other companies) and works with a conflict checking program to determine potential conflicts of interest for judges assigned to a case.

Statistical Screen Updates - Although requesting the same information, the statistical screen has received a "facelift." The combination of radio buttons and check boxes make navigation and selection much more intuitive.

Adversary Case Opening

Searching for and adding parties during case opening has been streamlined. CM/ECF will now prompt you to search for and enter the plaintiff, end plaintiff selection, and then follow the same procedure for defendant information. Only plaintiffs and defendants can

be added when filing a complaint, eliminating the need to select the role type on the Party Information screen. (As with BK case opening, the search screens now include first and middle name fields, making the process more precise.)

You will still be required to add yourselves as counsel for the plaintiff(s) when opening an adversary.

Multiple Natures of Suit - You can now add multiple natures of suit for an Adversary Proceeding. When the text of the complaint spreads to the main bankruptcy case, the docket text automatically includes "Adversary Case" and the AP case number at the beginning, as well as the Nature of Suit descriptions.

Claims Upload

A new docket event is available which would allow you to file multiple claims, in multiple cases, with one docket event. Claims can be condensed into an XML file, zipped, and then uploaded into the system. As this is an entirely new functionality within the CM/ECF system, the Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Clerk's Office will prepare and post on our web site a "Claims Upload Quick Reference Sheet" shortly after conversion.

Filing Claims & Claim Registers

The Claims Filing process now allows you to add and edit creditors within the “File Claims” event. A full edit text box will be presented for adding/editing creditors, making it possible to cut and paste names and addresses rather than retyping.

The Claims Register itself has been re-designed within Version 3.0. The heading has been organized differently to provide information at a single glance. Other upgrades include the ability to view a history of claims activity, or view creditor address changes via a “Creditor History” option.

03-10002 John Jones		
Judge: Charles Anderson	Chapter: 7	
Office: Pleasantville	Last Date to file claims: 09/20/2004	
Trustee: Julian Mayfair	Last Date to file (Govt):	
Creditor: Home Depot History P.O. Box 551 Decatur, GA 30093	Claim No: 1 Filed: 03/09/2004 Entered: 03/09/2004 Amended By Claim No: 1	Status: Withdrawn 43 Filed by: CR Entered by: Stevens, Kate Modified: 11/16/2005
Unsecured claimed: \$1200.00 Secured claimed: \$181.09 Total claimed: \$1381.09		
History:		
1-1 03/09/2004 Claim #1 filed by Home Depot, total amount claimed: \$1381.09 (Stevens, Kate)		
1-2 07/12/2004 Amended Claim #1 filed by Home Depot, total amount claimed: \$1381.09 (Stevens, Kate)		
43 09/03/2004 Withdrawal of Claim(s): 1 by Home Depot. (Stevens, Kate) Status: Withdrawn		
Description: (1-1) Building Supplies (1-2) Building Supplies		
Remarks:		

Amended claims are no longer assigned a new claim number, they simply receive an extension identifier that is associated with the original claim number.

The claims register and Notice of Electronic Filing are now much more interactive. On the claims register you will now find a link to the

Notice of Electronic Filing for the claim (there is also a link directly to the Claims Register on the Notice of Electronic Filing). Finally, at the bottom of the Notice of Electronic Filing Claim Screen there is a hyperlink “File Another Claim” which will allow you to continue the claims filing process.

Reports and Queries

Several upgrades have been included into the querying and reporting functionality of CM/ECF. (i.e. The Query screen now includes a link to the Claims Register.) New report functionality within Version 3.0 includes the ability to run customizable “Summary of ECF Activity,” “Docket Activity” and “Written Opinions” reports. Once again, as this is an entirely new functionality within the CM/ECF system, the Iowa Northern Bankruptcy Clerk’s Office will prepare and post on our web site a “Report Customization Quick Reference Sheet” shortly after conversion.

Reminders-

System Down Time - CM/ECF will not be available for electronic filing and/or research during the server maintenance/software upgrade window associated with this conversion to Version 3.0. We are currently looking at conducting this software conversion on either the evening of Wednesday, May 10th or the morning of Thursday, May 11th, to minimize the inconvenience to the Iowa Northern bankruptcy community. A conversion/system downtime announcement will be issued shortly.

Software Packages - A number of the enhancements incorporated into Version 3.0 are directly dependant on Bankruptcy Preparation Software support and interaction. You may want to contact your provider and ensure that your system is 3.0 ready.