

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO

KEY TOWER, ROOM 3001

127 PUBLIC SQUARE

CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114 -1309

KENNETH J. HIRZ

CLERK OF COURT

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July 11, 2002

Letter to All Bankruptcy Attorneys
Practicing in the Northern District of Ohio

RE: Electronic Case Filing

In September 2001 the Bankruptcy Court announced that its planned November 1, 2001, implementation of Electronic Case Filing (ECF) had been postponed due to problems with the ECF hardware and software provided by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC). The three major obstacles to ECF implementation that we cited in our September 2001 announcement were the difficulty in converting our closed case database, complications with the software affecting the accuracy of notices and autodocketing, and the unreliability of the hardware intended to regulate the data backup system. These problems have since been resolved.

On May 28, 2002, we successfully converted the closed cases and megacases into a new larger Compaq 8500 file server, which also includes all active cases. We currently have more than 300,000 cases in this server with full dockets dating back to September 1990. The hardware and software problems affecting notices, autodocketing, and the data backup system have likewise been reconciled.

Consequently, we are pleased to announce that the Judges have established the ECF "live" date as **Tuesday, October 1, 2002**.

During the month of September we will initiate training of the Judges and Court staff, as well as five attorneys from each divisional office and the staff of the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Chapter 13 Trustee, and the U.S. Attorney. On October 1st we will begin accepting the filing of bankruptcy documents from these external users over the Internet in Chapter 11 and Chapter 13 cases. Assuming that we do not encounter any major problems, our plan is to expand ECF in early 2003 to include Chapter 7 cases and all interested attorneys.

I encourage you to access our ECF web page to review a variety of documents relating to ECF. Anyone wishing to sign-up for ECF may do so by completing the registration form found on our web page at www.ohnb.uscourts.gov. Open enrollment will continue and an ongoing training schedule for registered attorneys will be established beginning in 2003.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Hirz

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