

## NOTICE

The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 becomes effective on October 17, 2005. The following plan has been established by the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio for converting to the new version of the Electronic Case Filing (ECF) program, which is necessitated by the new legislation.

- The conversion will begin at 12:00 AM on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. That is, the ECF system will be taken down at 11:59 PM on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to permit the upgrade to begin a minute later. External ECF users must complete, submit, and pay for ECF transactions by 11:59 PM on Sunday in order for their transactions to be accepted by the system. Events that are initiated, but not finalized, by 11:59 PM will not be processed correctly in the system and may not be deemed to be timely filed. It is the responsibility of the filer to make certain that adequate time is allowed to complete any transaction by 11:59 p.m.
- It is anticipated that the conversion may extend to Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. During this period the ECF system will be inoperable. Therefore, pleadings and other documents may be filed on paper. All documents will be considered filed, but no case number can be assigned to new petitions or adversary complaints at that time. Any required filing fees must be paid by check (if the attorney is not on the cash-only list), cash, or money order. Credit card transactions will not be accepted due to the inability to process credit cards while the system is down.
- The Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) has developed dozens of new ECF docket events to comply with the requirements of the new legislation. Additionally the Court will be creating some customized events to accommodate local filing practices. Many of these new docket events encompass new types of motions and orders. The Court will be revising its ECF Attorney Training Manual to incorporate these new events.
- On October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>, the Court will be offering non-mandatory training classes to attorneys, trustees, their staffs, and any other ECF users with respect to the new docket events. The classes will be presented at 9:00 AM and 1:30 PM at each of the Court's five divisional offices. The classes will not be lengthy and will be focused as a visual demonstration of new event data entry screens. Because space is limited, those interested in attending a class must contact the divisional office Deputy Clerk-in-Charge no later than September 30, 2005, to register. Contact information for Deputy Clerks-in-Charge may be found at the Court Information/Hours-Location link of the Court's website at [www.ohnb.uscourts.gov](http://www.ohnb.uscourts.gov).

**Kenneth J. Hirz**  
Clerk of Court