UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

District of New Jersey

Honorable Christine M. Gravelle, Chief Judge | Jeanne A. Naughton, Clerk of Court

August 2026 Court Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to advise New Jersey Bankruptcy Court subscribers of new system and operational developments and to highlight issues that require immediate attention.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Newark

Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building
50 Walnut Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Phone (973) 645-4764
CM/ECF Helpdesk: (973) 645-3366

Trenton

Clarkson S. Fisher US Courthouse
402 East State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
Phone (609) 858-9333
CM/ECF Helpdesk: (609) 858-9401

Camden

US Post Office and Courthouse
401 Market Street
Camden, NJ 08101
Phone (856) 361-2300
CM/ECF Helpdesk: (856) 361-2301

CM/ECF Helpdesk email address

cmecf_help_desk@njb.uscourts.gov

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LOCAL RULE REVISIONS (EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2026)

The Court's Notice to the Bar and Public Concerning 2026 Local Rule Revisions has been posted to the Court's website. The revised Local Rules are attached to the Notice for ease of reference. The following Local Rules have been amended under the Court's 2026 Local Rule Making Cycle:

- D.N.J. LBR 2016-5. Compensation of Debtor's Attorney in a Chapter 13 case (to increase the standard fee for a Chapter 13 debtor's attorney from $4,750 to $6,000 for cases filed on or after the effective date of this Rule)
- D.N.J. LBR 3011-1. Unclaimed Funds in Cases Under Chapter 7, Subchapter V of Chapter 11, Chapter 12, or Chapter 13 (to clarify that the court may schedule a hearing within its discretion whether or not an objection has been filed)

Filers are reminded that the Local Rules of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey, when published, supersede all previously entered general orders concerning Court policy which is governed by Local Rule. The changes to the Local Rules are effective August 1, 2026.

A complete Local Rules package is available on the Court's website.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

PACER UPDATED PASSWORD STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT

Beginning August 17, 2026, PACER users who have not updated their password in the last 18 months will be randomly selected to update their password to comply with the updated password standards. Strong passwords are essential in safeguarding systems from unauthorized access. Click here for the full announcement from the Pacer Service Center (PSC).

The PSC can be reached at pacer@psc.uscourts.gov or (800) 676-6856 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET).

CM/ECF EVENT ACCESS – CHANGE OF PAYMENT ADDRESS

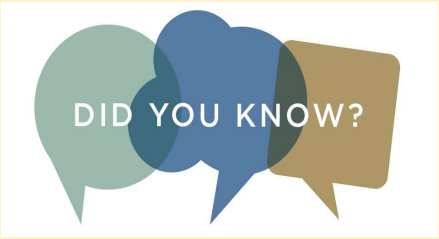
Previously, the CM/ECF event named *Change of Payment Address* was only available to NJ attorneys with full e-filing access but it is now available to limited access e-filers under the Creditor Batch Filings menu.

CHAPMOBILE CALENDAR APP AND INTERACTIVE PUBLIC CALENDAR

The court is looking forward to offering a free calendar app called ChapMobile that will be available for downloading to both iOS and Android devices. Some of the features of this app include:

- View each judge's hearing calendars
- Search hearings by case name or case number
- View 341 meetings by trustee and searching by attorney, case name, or case number
- Create your own list of attorneys and cases to quickly view upcoming hearings
- Navigate to another participating Bankruptcy court's Public Mobile Calendar

In conjunction with the rollout of the ChapMobile app, the Chap IPC (Interactive Public Calendar) will also be implemented. This tool will display court hearing and 341 meeting calendars in a simple, user-friendly interface and features the same functions as the ChapMobile App.



PRO HAC VICE ADMISSION RESOURCES PAGE

The court has a Pro Hac Vice Resources page on our website to help answer the most common questions relating to admission of attorneys, including information on D.N.J. LBR 9010-1, limited e-filing access specifics, and how to receive Notices of Electronic Filing if you have been admitted pro hac vice.

REVISED LOCAL FORMS

It is important to always use the current version of **all** forms when filing with the court. Using outdated versions of forms may result in the issuance of an Order to Show Cause, dismissal of a case, denial of a matter, or delays in processing. All forms can be found on the court's website on the Forms menu. In addition, per D.N.J. LBR 9009-1, use of Local Forms cited in the local rules is mandatory. The following local recommended form was recently revised:

- Local Recommended Form *Order Granting Allowances* (rev. 7-17-2026)

- **REQUIREMENT TO FILE LOCAL FORM *MEDIATION REPORT* BY MEDIATORS** – court-appointed mediators are reminded of the requirement in D.N.J. LBR 9019-2(p) to submit Local Form *Mediation Report* not later than 7 days after the mediator determines that mediation has been concluded.
- **DEBTOR ELECTRONIC BANKRUPTCY NOTICING (DeBN)** - this free service implemented by the court allows debtors to receive orders and court-generated notices by email rather than by U.S. Mail. Debtors who wish to register must file Local Form *Debtor Electronic Noticing Request,* or if the debtor is not self-represented, an attorney can efile the form on their behalf using the event in CM/ECF called *Debtor Electronic Noticing Request,* which is found in the Misc. Events category.
- **COPYWORK EMAIL ADDRESS AND REQUEST FORM** - requests for copies of documents, certified copies, exemplifications, etc. can be sent to the clerk's office via a central email box for all 3 vicinages: copywork@njb.uscourts.gov. The Request Form must be used to make the request. Once the request is received, the clerk's office will advise the requesting party of amount of the fees required. These types of requests may be paid for using the court's payment portal (with a debit card or PayPal), or with a corporate check, attorney trust account check, certified check, or money order.

  Note: All other payments being made by efilers must be made using your efiling account through pay.gov.
- **LIST OF CREDITORS** - efilers are reminded that all efiled petitions must include both a PDF of the List of Creditors AND the List of Creditors must be uploaded electronically in .txt format.

  Be advised that repeated failures of an attorney to upload a List of Creditors in .txt format with a petition and/or file a PDF of the List of Creditors will result in the issuance of an *Order to Show Cause Why Sanctions Should Not be Imposed for Failure to Properly File List of Creditors* by the court.
- **USE OF SYMBOLS IN CM/ECF** – when submitting documents or adding creditors, parties, law firms, etc. in CM/ECF, be aware that some symbols cannot be accepted by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC). A few examples of problematic symbols are: | % # (pipe, percent, and number sign). Please do not use these symbols, as they will cause delays/failures in noticing. Click here for a full list of symbols to avoid.

AVOID THE MOST COMMON EFILING MISTAKES

- **USE OF PROPER EVENTS IN CM/ECF** - if you are unsure of which event to use when filing, use the **Search** feature found on the main menu bar in CM/ECF before using a "generic" event like motion(generic), application(generic), or document. Failure to use proper events can cause delays in processing and in some instances, require resubmission of the document.
- **SIGNATURES** - review all documents before filing to confirm that they contain proper signatures according to D.N.J. LBR 5005-1 and that the signature matches the name of the registered user submitting the document. Digital signatures i.e. *DocuSign* are not acceptable.
- **SUBMITTING PROPOSED ORDERS** - do not enter a "standalone" proposed order on the case docket. If an order is not being submitted as an attachment to an underlying document, email it to the chambers's email address of the judge assigned to the case. Each chambers's email address is available on the court's website under the *Judge's Info* tab in CM/ECF.
- **SELECTING HEARING DATES** - review the available hearing dates for the judge assigned to the case when filing a document that requires a hearing to be scheduled by the filer. An improperly scheduled hearing date (or time) will result in a Correction Notice in Electronic Filing entry by the Clerk's Office and additional follow-up for the filer. Each judge's current hearing dates are available on the court's website under the *Judge's Info* tab.

COURT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Please be advised that the court will be closed on the following dates:

Labor Day – September 7, 2026
Columbus Day – October 12, 2026
Veteran's Day – November 11, 2026
Thanksgiving and Court Recess – November 26 and 27, 2026
Christmas Day – December 25, 2026

COURT COMMUNICATIONS

- **NEVER MISS AN EMAIL BLAST FROM THE COURT** - if you did not receive this Newsletter directly from the court, sign up to receive all of our alerts by clicking the link below, which is also available at the bottom of the court's homepage.

Sign up for email alerts

- **UPDATES TO CONTACT INFORMATION** - efilers are reminded of the responsibility to maintain updated email/contact information. Changes to email address and other contact information must be done through PACER > Manage My Account > Maintenance. When completing an update, under the *Apply Updates to Selected Courts* heading, place a check in the box(es) for the courts and the court will receive notice to process the update to your CM/ECF account. Undeliverable emails are not monitored by the court.