



# Bankruptcy Bits & Pieces

May/June 2015

Bankruptcy Bits & Pieces is published by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois as an information service for the practitioners of our court. Suggestions and comments are always welcome. Please email us at: [attorney\\_newsletter@ilcb.uscourts.gov](mailto:attorney_newsletter@ilcb.uscourts.gov)

## Bankruptcy Filings Down 12 Percent

According to statistics released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2015 fell 12 percent when compared to the bankruptcy filings for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2014. March 2015 bankruptcy filings totaled 911,086 compared to the 1,038,280 bankruptcy cases filed in the 12-month period March 31, 2014.

Below are the statistics of the Central District of Illinois for the current fiscal year.

CD/IL Filings - Fiscal Year 2015

MTH	PEO	YTD	URB	YTD	SPF	YTD	TOTAL MONTH	YTD
MAR	229	1038	140	668	235	1005	604	2711
FEB	163	809	97	528	167	770	427	2107
JAN	145	646	81	431	118	603	344	1680
DEC	145	501	91	350	154	485	390	1336
NOV	149	356	110	259	143	331	402	946
OCT	207	207	149	149	188	188	544	544

Total Filings by Chapter

MTH	Chapter 7				Chapter 11			
	PEO	URB	SPF	TOTAL	PEO	URB	SPF	TOTAL
MAR	177	125	210	512	0	0	0	0
FEB	109	87	149	345	0	0	0	0
JAN	94	65	101	260	0	0	0	0
DEC	103	73	128	304	0	0	1	1
NOV	100	102	124	326	0	0	0	0
OCT	140	122	160	422	17	0	0	17
TOTAL	723	574	872	2169	17	0	1	18

MTH	Chapter 12				Chapter 13			
	PEO	URB	SPF	TOTAL	PEO	URB	SPF	TOTAL
MAR	0	0	0	0	52	15	25	92
FEB	0	0	0	0	54	10	18	82
JAN	0	0	0	0	51	16	17	84
DEC	0	0	0	0	42	18	25	85
NOV	0	0	0	0	49	8	19	76
OCT	0	0	0	0	50	27	28	105
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	298	94	132	524

## CLERK OF COURT Adrienne Atkins

Adrienne Atkins has been appointed Clerk of Court for the Central District of Illinois' Bankruptcy Court following the departure of Clerk of Court Khadijia Thomas. Khadijia resigned her position in March to accept a position with the Bankruptcy Court in Arizona.

Adrienne comes to ILCB after 25 years with the court in the Northern District of Illinois, where she served as Manager of Courtroom and Public Services.

Welcome!

## New Version of Chapter 13 Model Plan Form (Springfield Division)

An updated version of the Chapter 13 Model Plan Form for use in the Springfield Division is now available. The most important change in the new form is the additional option to check 'None' on many of the sections. When a 'None' box is checked, the language for the section collapses and will not be included in the plan. Use of the 'None' boxes should reduce the size of many plans and make plans easier to understand by eliminating provisions which are unnecessary in a particular case. If a 'None' box is checked by mistake, a second click on the 'None' box will restore the missing language.

Use of the new form will be mandatory effective May 4, 2015.

## Past Issues

Past issues of the Attorney Newsletter make excellent reference materials for docketing tips and procedures. To access past issues, click [here](#).

## Maintaining User Accounts

Reminder: Attorneys are responsible for updating their own contact information (e.g. email address, phone number, mailing address, office affiliation, etc) in CM/ECF within 24 hours of any change. Attorneys that fail to keep their CM/ECF account current, especially a valid email address, may not receive proper notice of filings for their cases since electronic notice is often the only notice provided.

To update account information, click **Utilities>Maintain Your ECF Account**. Make any necessary email changes by clicking on 'Email Information'.

It is imperative for counsel to check the docket sheet regularly on your cases to ensure your email system is correct and functioning properly.

## ECF Filing Tips of The Day...

### Amending Motions with Fees

To docket an amended money matter **WITHOUT** incurring an additional filing fee, remember to use the Amended Motion or Application Event. For example, if filing an amended Motion to Lift Stay (fee), choose the docket event: **Bankruptcy>Motions/Applications>Amended Motion or Application**.

Selecting the original docketing event, such as a Motion to Reopen (fee), Motion for Relief from Stay (fee) or any other matter that requires a fee, will incur a second charge. E-Filers are required to pay the second fee to avoid being locked out of CM/ECF.

# DeBN

Debtor Electronic Noticing (DeBN) is a free and voluntary program available for debtors to request email delivery of court notices and orders.

In an effort to educate debtors and attorneys on the DeBN program and to facilitate enrollment, a representative from the Clerk's Office will be appearing from time to time at the 341 Meeting of Creditor locations. The representative will only be present outside the meeting room, and will begin the week of April 20, 2015, in the Springfield location.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the DeBN Project Leader for the Central District of Illinois, Dory Pasquale, by email ([angela\\_pasquale@ilcb.uscourts.gov](mailto:angela_pasquale@ilcb.uscourts.gov)) or phone (217-993-7821).

**Update:** To date, 26 debtors have signed up for DeBN through promotions at 341 meetings! That's an increase in enrollment by more than 100% for 2015. With the prevalence of smart phones, tablets and Wi-Fi, many debtors now prefer to receive notices and orders from the court via email, rather than U.S. mail. When consulting with your clients, please remember to ask them if they would be interested in signing up for DeBN -- a free and convenient service that provides same-day delivery of court notices and orders.



### Court Locations

Springfield  
2nd Floor Room 226  
600 E. Monroe Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 492-4551  
Office Hours: 8 am–5pm

Peoria  
2nd Floor Room 216  
100 N.E. Monroe Street  
Peoria, IL 61602  
(309) 671-7035  
Office Hours: 8 am–5 pm

Urbana  
Room 203  
201 S. Vine Street  
Urbana, IL 61802  
(309) 671-7035  
Office Hours: 8 am–5 pm

### Court Closures

The Clerk's Office will be closed the following days:

May 25, 2015