



Bankruptcy Bits & Pieces

November/December 2013

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

New Fee

Effective December 1, 2013, a new fee of \$176 is required for filing **motions for the sale of property free and clear of liens under 11 U.S.C 363(f)**. The Judicial Conference created the new fee after looking at the significant benefits provided to purchasers and sellers by these motions, and weighing it with the burden the motions imposed on the court to resolve them. Revised fee charts will be updated online by December 1, 2013.

Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN)

The Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois has partnered with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to pilot a debtor electronic noticing program using the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) beginning mid-November 2013. The program, called "Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing" or "DeBN" allows debtors to request email delivery of notices and orders that have been filed by the Court (e.g., Notice Scheduling Objections, Hearing Notice, Order on Motion for Relief from Stay, Order Discharging Debtor). DeBN is a voluntary and free program for debtors, and debtors will be able to request enrollment or deactivation at any time during the pendency of their case. See page 3 for more information on the DeBN project.

Important Notice Re: DeBN:

A debtor enrolled in DeBN is NOT receiving all documents in the case electronically and is NOT on the CM/ECF service list. ONLY documents filed by the Court will be served on the debtor electronically, and service will be through the BNC. All other parties must continue to serve debtors via U.S. mail or in person as required by court rules.

CourtSpeak



The Springfield Division is now using CourtSpeak to add audio files to docket entries. PDFs with embedded mp3 audio files are attached to a CM/ECF docket entries—so interested parties may listen to the digital recording of any court proceeding. After a docket entry is created, the user clicks on the document number to display the PDF: the user then clicks on the "attachment" icon (paper clip) to play the audio with whatever facility is available on his PC (for example Windows Media Player). You can listen to the entire audio file or to excerpts by fast forwarding to the parts you wish to hear. A PACER user is charged \$2.40 for each access, however, attorneys who receive the PDF with embedded audio with their Notice of Electronic Filing are entitled to one free listen.



ECF Filing Tips of The Day...

Uploading Orders

REMINDER: When uploading orders to ECF it is important that you link your order to the correct document. Generally, the order should be linked to the document/pleading that is referenced in the order, usually the Motion or Application. The best way to do this is to select the category to which your order relates when uploading your order. For example, if your order relates to a motion to lift stay, select the 'motion' category to link the document. The system will show a pick list of pending motions from the docket. You can then choose the appropriate motion. If you have problems or are unsure which document to link the order with you may call our office and we will be happy to guide you through the process. There is also a training demonstration available on our website.

The screenshot shows the ECF filing interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Bankruptcy, Adversary, Query, Reports, Utilities, Search, and Logout. The main heading is "Upload a Single Order". Below this, it says "Select the category to which your event relates:". A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of categories: answer, appeal, auditor, caseupld, claims, clap, court, credtrcd, crtntc, and misc. A tooltip points to the dropdown with the text "Select the type of filing to which this order relates (e.g. Motion)". Below the dropdown is a "File Document" field and "Next" and "Clear" buttons.

Free Search Option for Pre-2004 Cases

If you need to determine if someone filed a bankruptcy pre-2004 in the Central District of Illinois, you can use the Federal Records Center Case Information Search link located on our website. The search will provide some basic case information, such as the case number, chapter, date filed, date discharged and date terminated. It will also include the information necessary to complete the request form to obtain records from the Federal Records Center, if needed.

The link can be found on our website by going to Case Info > Obtaining Copies of Documents, and the link (FRC Records Center Case Information Search) is located under the last section entitled "Obtain Copies from the Federal Records Center."

Court Closures

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

November 11, 2013
November 28, 2013
December 25, 2013

Court Locations

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

Danville
1st Floor Room 130
201 N. Vermilion Street
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 431-4820
Office Hours: 7:30 am–4:30 pm

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

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

KHADIIJA V. THOMAS
CLERK OF COURT

226 U.S. COURTHOUSE
600 E. MONROE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62701

TEL 217-492-4551
FAX 217-492-4556
www.ilcb.uscourts.gov

Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN) Pilot

Updated November 4, 2013

The Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of Illinois has partnered with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts to pilot a debtor electronic noticing program using the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) beginning **mid-December 2013**. The program, called "Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing" or "DeBN," allows debtors to request email delivery of notices and orders that have been filed by the Court (e.g., Notice Scheduling Objections, Hearing Notice, Order on Motion for Relief from Stay, Order Discharging Debtor).

Overview:

- DeBN is a free and voluntary service available only to debtors.
- Debtors may request enrollment or deactivation of their DeBN account at any time.
- Debtors must file a written request to participate in the DeBN program using the Court's approved form.
- Email delivery of notices and orders through the DeBN program ONLY applies to documents that have been filed by the Court. All other parties will continue to serve debtors via U.S. mail.
- Emails will be sent by the BNC in the evening on the same day the notice or order was filed.
- Notices and orders will be PDF attachments with no limit on how often they can be viewed.
- A debtor's email address will only appear in the case on the BNC Certificate of Mailing.
- A debtor will receive electronic notice of any documents filed by the bankruptcy court in any current or future bankruptcy or adversary case from any bankruptcy court district in which the debtor is listed with the same name and address, including cases where the debtor is listed as a creditor.

How it Works:

- Debtor completes and files the approved form (Debtor's Electronic Noticing Request).
- Court staff registers the debtor's DeBN account.
- BNC sends debtor an automated email with a link to click to activate the DeBN account.
- Debtor clicks the link and activates the account.
- BNC sends debtor an automated email confirming account activation.
- Debtor will immediately begin receiving notices and orders via email.

The implementation of DeBN will provide faster and more efficient service of court notices and orders on debtors. It will also improve attorney-client communications regarding court notices and instructions, and will significantly reduce court noticing costs.

Request for Volunteer Debtor Attorneys:

The Court is seeking volunteers to assist in testing the DeBN pilot program. The Court will provide the attorneys with educational materials for their debtor clients. To be considered for the DeBN testing team, you must:

- Have a high volume practice representing debtors.
- Be willing to work closely with the debtor and the court to ensure proper receipt of email notices.

DeBN testing is expected to begin **mid-December 2013** and continue for approximately 60 days. If you would like to be considered for the DeBN testing team or have any questions, please contact the DeBN Project Leader, Angela (Dory) Pasquale, at (217) 993-7821 or angela_pasquale@ilcb.uscourts.gov by **Friday, November 29, 2013**.