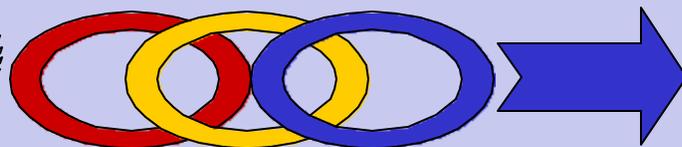


Court Connection



U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of N.C.

E-Mail Address:
Newsletter@ncbankruptcy.org

Volume 4, Issue 1, February, 2003

What's Inside?



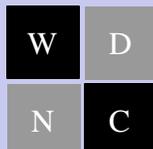
Clerk's Report
CMECF Update
Credit Cards
Electronic Orders
ECF Tips and Tricks
Note of Appreciation
...and more

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The Chambers "Skinny"

by George R. Hodges & J. Craig Whitley, Bankruptcy Judges

After 28 years, Penny Love is retiring from the Court, effective February 28, 2003. Penny grew up in Union County and came to this court in 1975. She began her career as a deputy clerk, and was elevated first to financial deputy, and then in 1985, to secretary to Judge Wooten. Since 1994 Penny has been serving as secretary to both Judge Wooten and Judge Whitley. She will be missed very much.



Our own Ursula Hamilton will succeed Penny as Judge Whitley's secretary. Julie Brodhag has generously agreed to take on Judge Wooten as a client. Ursula has been with the Court for almost a year after retiring from the Air Force. Before coming to us, Ursula was a law office manager in the JAG Corps. She is married to Wayde Hamilton and has two children, Jorel, age 15 and Tiara, age 11. We welcome Ursula to her new position.

Administrative Order Allows Electronic Submission of Proposed Orders



The Administrative Order, dated January 13, 2003, enables registered ECF users to file proposed orders electronically and sets forth the requirements for submission. The Chapter 7 Trustees and the Bankruptcy Administrator's office participated in the court's pilot program to test electronically submitted proposed orders, paving the way for this feature to now be available to all ECF users.

Proposed orders must be accompanied by a completed Tender of Order Form (Local Form 2). This form is available on the court's website under Court Documents/Local Forms in both PDF image and WordPerfect formats. The proposed order event is located under Bankruptcy/Other category in CM/ECF. (Trustees and the Bankruptcy Administrator may use this event or continue to use the event located in the Trustee/BA category.)

It is important to remember that a proposed order should not be submitted prior to the notice period expiring. The additional (3) three day mail period should be taken into consideration before submitting a proposed order electronically. The entry of the order by the Clerk's office constitutes service of the order on the filer by CM/ECF e-mail system.

Please review this new Administrative Order and the accompanying instructions on the court's website for further assistance.



NOTABLES:



The Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) sends out approximately 400,000 bankruptcy notices per day. In Fiscal Year 2002 the BNC distributed more than 100 million bankruptcy notices.



Attorney Manual Updates are posted on the Court's Training web page under CM/ECF Information.



ECF Users Group Meeting April 11, 2003

Click on hyperlink on Court's web page to see agenda and minutes from meetings held.



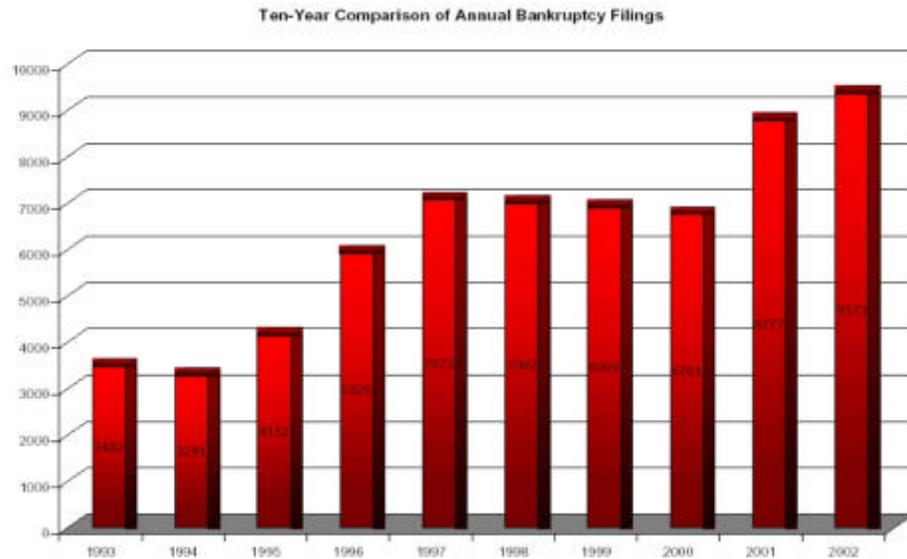
Newsletter Comments? E-mail

Newsletter@ncbankruptcy.org

Report from the Clerk

by Gerri Crockett, Clerk of Court

During this past calendar year, the court experienced another large increase in case filings. Overall, 9,373 cases were filed during 2002. This represents a 7% increase from the prior year and a 39% increase from 2000. The following bar graph shows the filings over the past 10 years which represents an increase of over 169% from 1993 through 2002.



ECF Tips and Tricks

by Karen Heavner and Robin Felts

Attorneys are urged to click the **Judge/Trustee Assignment** button daily (after filing new cases) to ensure cases are assigned the correct judge, trustee and 341 meeting date.

Case Upload - Is a huge time-saver for attorneys filing new bankruptcy cases. Roughly 75% of all cases filed electronically are filed via Case Upload. Check the Court's web site (or contact your software provider) to determine if your petition preparation software generates the files necessary to upload new cases into ECF.

Notice of Disinterest and Request to No Longer Receive Notices - Are you still receiving e-mail notices in cases in which you no longer have an interest? File with the court a "Notice of Disinterest" (text only - no PDF required) and the court will terminate you as an attorney in the case. (Note: this is not applicable if the attorney is the trustee or represents the debtor.)

Multiple Reliefs - Are sorted alphabetically by ECF regardless of the order in which they are selected. A Motion requesting (1) Relief From Stay, (2) Dismissal and (3) Application for Compensation will be displayed by ECF as: **Compensation, Dismissal, Relief from Stay**.

Local Form 2 - The Tender of Order Cover Sheet can be found on the court website under Court Documents/Local Forms. It is now available in WordPerfect format to enable you to save and apply to your office order forms.

Amendments to Matrix - When filing an amendment to the matrix be sure to mark with a star or an asterisk which are being amended on the matrix. Upon filing as noted there is no need to file a disk with the Clerk's Office.

Summary ECF Report - Reports menu/ECF - Registered users may run this report of all ECF filings for a specific date relating to their individual login. This report will allow users to capture e-mail notifications that were missed due to problems with internet service or when a mail server is down. When needing a report from more than one day, individual reports for each date must be generated.

CM/ECF - Version 2 ???

by Karen Heavner

We are fast approaching our two-year CM/ECF anniversary (March 1, 2003). Just when we're comfortable with the new system, the Administrative Office in Washington, D.C. releases version two! Over the next few months we will be upgrading the CM/ECF system for the Western District of North Carolina. We anticipate no noticeable change for non-court users. Court staff however will regain some case management functionality that was included in the judiciary's old systems but missing from version one of CM/ECF.

The Court expects to accept claims electronically soon after upgrading CM/ECF to version two. The new version will offer the court a channel of quality assuring claims that is not available in version one.

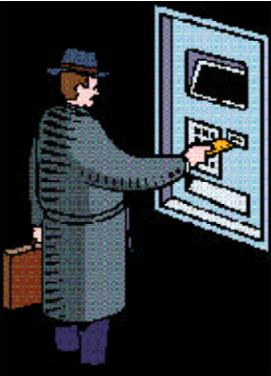
An Administrative Order was entered January 13, 2003 allowing attorneys in the Western District of North Carolina to tender proposed orders electronically. The Administrative Order and filing instructions are available for viewing from the court's website.

We encourage you to attend the CM/ECF Users Group meetings hosted by the court. This group meets every three months at the Charles R. Jonas Federal Building in Charlotte. Check the court's website for the next meeting date, time, and location, and for minutes of past meetings. We welcome your involvement and will gladly arrange teleconferencing from the Asheville courthouse if users in that vicinity would like to attend.



Credit Card Blanket Authorization Forms

By Alesia Wallace, Financial Specialist



Law firms, partnerships, professional corporations, and sole practitioners may present or mail a blanket authorization form to the Court which will permit any lawyer associated with the firm and any employees they designate from the firm to request services and to charge a specified credit card for those services. This form must contain the original signature of the cardholder. The Form should be typed or printed clearly to insure accuracy. The original form will be maintained in the Court's safe.

It is the responsibility of the law firm to submit a new form and notify the Court of any changes to authorized users, a new expiration date when a credit card has been renewed, or a card has been revoked, canceled, or stolen.

For more information, please visit our website at www.ncwb.uscourts.gov.

In Sincere Appreciation

There are no words to express my appreciation for the gift you gave me on February 14, 2003. You are a great group of people to work with and I will miss all of you. As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the Memories."

Penny Love

