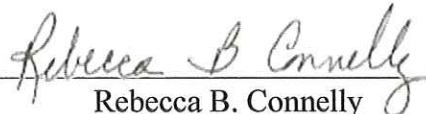




Signed: February 7, 2020


Rebecca B. Connelly
United States Bankruptcy Chief Judge

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

IN RE:

**ORDER AMENDING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR CASE
MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILING**

IT APPEARING that the Administrative Procedures for Filing, Signing, Retaining and Verification of Pleadings and Papers in the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) System were adopted by this Court and became effective on September 7, 2004 and were amended May 2, 2005; June 24, 2008; and again on September 1, 2015, and

IT FURTHER APPEARING it has become necessary to amend said Administrative Procedures to further facilitate the implementation of Electronic Case Filing and to assist the Court and Bar in the orderly and efficient administration of justice, it is therefore

ORDERED

1. That the Amended Administrative Procedures for Filing, Signing, Retaining and Verification of Pleadings and Papers in the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) System (the “Amended Procedures”), attached as an exhibit to this Order, are hereby adopted.

2. That failure to comply with this Order or the Amended Procedures may result in appropriate sanctions by the Court, including but not limited to suspension or loss of CM/ECF filing privileges.
3. That the provisions of this Order shall apply to all cases and proceedings filed on and after the effective date of this Order in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia.
4. Further amendments to this Order may be entered from time to time in keeping with the needs of the Court.
5. This Order shall be effective on February 14, 2020.

** End of Order **

EXHIBIT

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

Amended Administrative Procedures for Filing, Signing, Retaining and Verification
of Pleadings and Papers in the
Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) System

Revisions Effective Date: February 14, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

I. DESIGNATION OF CASES, PASSWORDS AND REGISTRATION FOR THE CASE MANAGEMENT/ELECTRONIC CASE FILING SYSTEM

A. Designation of Cases

The provisions of these Administrative Procedures shall apply to all cases and proceedings filed on and after September 7, 2004, and to any previously filed cases or proceedings thereafter made subject to these provisions.

B. Passwords

Each attorney admitted to practice in this Court and currently in good standing as defined by Local Rule 2090-1 and limited registrants shall be eligible to receive login and password for participation in the internet retrieval and filing of petitions, motions, memoranda of law, or other pleadings, documents and papers (hereafter filings) in accordance with the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing System (hereafter CM/ECF).

C. Registration

Pursuant to Local Rule 2090-1, those individuals eligible for participation in CM/ECF shall complete the appropriate registration form (available on the Court's website) and file same with the Clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court, 210 Church Avenue SW, Room 200, Roanoke, VA 24011. Only those attorneys who have been certified by the Clerk to file electronically may file documents electronically including petitions, motions, memoranda of law, or other pleadings and documents required to be filed with the Court in connection with a case assigned to the Electronic Case Filing System. There are two (2) types of registration:

1. Full Registration

Allows full filing privileges for filing and viewing documents in the CM/ECF system in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. A registrant participant will have the privilege to file documents via the internet with the Clerk's Office, including all documents which may be filed by a limited registrant.

2. Limited Registration

Allows limited privileges for filing documents in the CM/ECF system in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. Limited filing privileges are limited to the authorization to: (i) file proofs of claim and amendments thereto, (ii) file a request to receive notice in a case, and (iii) file a notice of transfer of claim.

3. Pro Hac Vice

All attorneys admitted *pro hac vice* are considered limited registrants and must provide a valid email address to receive electronic notices.

II. FILING AND SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

A. Filing

1. Date and Time of Filing

Any petition, pleading, or other document filed electronically shall be deemed filed as of the date and time in effect at the Clerk's Office of this Court when the electronic transmission affecting such filing is received.

2. Mandatory Use of Electronic Filing System

Effective **October 1, 2005**, all pleadings and other papers filed in all cases and proceedings, whether pending or new, shall be filed electronically according to the procedures established by the Court, except as follows:

a. Parties without legal representation (*pro se* parties) shall file all pleadings and other papers conventionally and not electronically.

b. Creditors who are not registered Electronic Case Filing users will be allowed to file documents conventionally.

c. If either the Court's or a registered user's electronic filing equipment is temporarily inoperable, users may file pleadings and other papers conventionally, providing the filing party has contacted the Clerk's Office in attempt to resolve the technical problem and to state why an immediate filing is necessary.

d. Documents previously ordered sealed or documents to be filed under seal.

e. Involuntary petitions.

f. Items set forth in the designation of record in cases that are appealed.

g. Court hearing transcripts.

h. Motions for leave to file a document conventionally.

i. Any document for which prior authorization to file conventionally has been obtained from the Court upon motion and order.

B. Conventional Filing is defined as a filing submitted in paper form.

C. Electronic filing is defined as a filing submitted via the internet in flattened PDF format with all imbedded linkable code(s) and tables removed.

D. Accessibility for Filing via the Internet

If the filer cannot access CM/ECF via the internet to effect a filing, the filer shall contact the appropriate divisional office and speak with a deputy clerk to confirm that CM/ECF is not accessible, to state why an immediate filing is necessary and to make suitable arrangements with the Clerk of Court for the filing to take place. After submission of the filing to the Clerk of Court and when CM/ECF is accessible, a deputy clerk will effect the electronic entry and docketing of the filing.

E. Filing Documents with Exhibits and Attachments Under One Docket Entry Number

All documents with exhibits and attachments capable of electronic imaging and filing shall be electronically filed together under one entry number.

1. Exhibits/Attachments to Documents

Except as the presiding judge in a case may otherwise direct, exhibits/attachments to documents, including but not limited to leases, notes and the like, which are not available in electronic form, shall be electronically imaged/scanned and filed in the format specified by the Clerk.

2. Large Documents

Electronic filings should not be more than eight (8) megabytes in size. Transmission time for effecting such filings is time sensitive. If a filing is larger than eight (8) megabytes and if any portion of the filing has been scanned, the filing document should be no more than 8.5 by 11 inches, without color, and the resolution should not exceed 300 dpi. If making these adjustments does not reduce the filing size to eight (8) megabytes or less, the filer will make suitable arrangements with the Clerk of Court to effect the filing.

F. Fees Payable to the Clerk of Court

For filings that require a fee, registered participants shall pay such fees electronically via the internet by means of the online credit card payment system required by the Court. All payments are to be made contemporaneously with the filing.

III. ORDERS

A. Orders Entered Electronically

Pursuant to Local Rule 9072-1 any Order entered electronically by the Court as provided by these Administrative Procedures shall have the same force and effect as if it had been entered by the Court in the traditional manner.

B. e-Orders Format

Subject to the exceptions identified in Part II.A.2 above, all proposed orders shall be submitted by counsel electronically with the following formatting specifications:

1. Top 3.5 to 4 Inches for Court Use Only

For all orders, the first page of the order must have between a 3.5 to 4 inch top margin that is left blank for Court use only.

2. "End of Order" Designation, No Date or Signature Line

The designation "End of Order" shall be placed after the final line of text on the order. No date or signature line is to be provided for the judge. The attorney(s) presenting the order shall so indicate in the lower left-hand corner of the last page of the order with their name, bar identification number and signature line.

3. The order must be submitted in PDF format.

IV. NOTIFICATION BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

All those who register to use this Court's CM/ECF system must agree to receive service of documents and any docket activity electronically pursuant to FRBP 9036, where service of documents is otherwise permitted by first class mail, except with regard to a complaint initiating an adversary proceeding or a motion initiating a contested matter which must be served pursuant to FRBP 7004. All registrants are further required to maintain a current and active email address to receive said notifications in CM/ECF cases.

Debtor(s) who fill out a request form will have the ability to receive court-generated bankruptcy notices electronically through BNC.

V. EXCEPTIONS TO ELECTRONIC FILINGS

A. Documents to be Filed Under Seal: A motion to file a document under seal shall be filed electronically; however, the actual document to be filed under seal may be filed conventionally. If the motion itself contains confidential information, the movant shall file and serve electronically, a redacted version clearly marked as such. If requested by the Court, the movant shall deliver hard copies of the documents proposed to be filed under seal to the

presiding Judge for review. The Order of the Court authorizing the filing of such documents under seal shall indicate that the motion to file document under seal has been so ordered.

B. Trial Exhibits: All exhibits must be filed electronically unless, upon proper motion, the Court permits conventional filing.