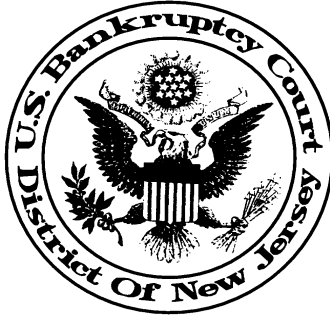


UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
James J. Waldron, Clerk

NOVEMBER 25, 2008



THIS NOTICE IS INTENDED TO ALERT NEW JERSEY CM/ECF USERS OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND HIGHLIGHT ISSUES THAT REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

INCREASE IN FILING FEE -MOTION TO SEVER

The fee to sever a joint case is increased by \$39 so that it equals the filing fee of a new case under the same chapter. The new fee is due when the Motion to Sever is filed. However, if one debtor is being dismissed, no fee is due. CM/ECF has been modified accordingly:

In the Motion to Sever event, (*Sever (fee)*), the user must select *Yes* or *No* to the question, *Is the severed debtor going to be dismissed?* If *Yes*, the user will not be presented with the credit card payment screen. If *No*, the credit card payment screen will display.

If the purpose of severing the case is to convert one of the joint debtors to another chapter, you must wait until the Motion to Sever is granted and a new case is opened for the severed debtor before filing a Motion to Convert or Notice of Voluntary Conversion. Please be aware that the motion or notice must be filed in the case the movant wishes to convert. Docketing instructions are available on our website under *Attorney Filing Information* → *E:Filing Guidance* → *CM/ECF Event Instructions*.

MISCELLANEOUS E:FILING GUIDANCE

The cascading menu feature of CM/ECF has had a negative impact on the system's performance. This feature is now disabled and users must use the point and click method on menu and submenu options.

When adding parties to a case or entering text in free text fields, please **do not** use capital letters except where appropriate. For example, capitalize the first letter only for first and last names, or the leading letter in a new sentence.

Also please note on the screen shot below, when entering the party information, do not include f/k/a, successor or servicer names in the **Last name** field. While this field allows for unlimited text, it results in unnecessarily long docket entries and negatively impacts the party selection pick list.

The screenshot shows a 'Party Information' form with various input fields. Two fields are circled in red: 'Last name' and 'Party text'. The 'Last name' field is a text input field. The 'Party text' field is a larger text input field. Other fields include 'First name', 'Middle name', 'Generation', 'Title', 'SSN / ITIN', 'Tax ID / EIN', 'Office', 'Address 1', 'Address 2', 'Address 3', 'City', 'State', 'Zip', 'Country', 'Phone', 'Fax', 'E-mail', and 'Role'. The 'Role' field is a dropdown menu with 'blank (blank.)' selected. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Submit', 'Cancel', 'Clear', and 'Corporate parent / affiliate...'.

Any additional names should be added in the **Party text** field.

TEMPORARY EXCLUSION FROM MEANS TESTING

The National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act of 2008 provides for a temporary exclusion from the bankruptcy means test. The amendment to §707(b)(2)(D) of the Bankruptcy Code will become effective on December 19, 2008. Additional information regarding Official Form 22A, local rules and procedures will be forthcoming.