



THEsouthernscoop

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Spring 2022

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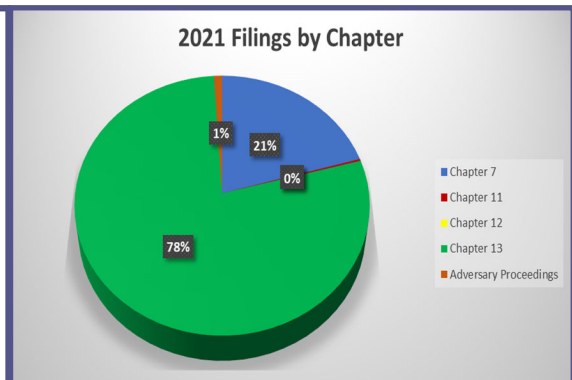
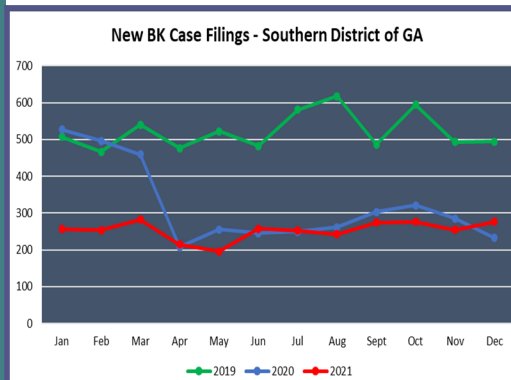
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U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Georgia 2021 Workload Statistics

For the year ending December 31, 2021, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia saw an overall decrease in bankruptcy case filings, continuing the downward trend seen since the COVID-19 crisis began. Filings of bankruptcy petitions declined 21% to 3,032 (down 808 petitions), compared to a 39% decline in 2020 from previous 2019 filings; however, the downward trend appears to be shifting, with the slight uptick seen in December 2021 case filings.

While the Court saw a decrease in new case filings, the number of other miscellaneous motions and filings remained steady throughout the year, with the Clerk's Office performing quality control on 131,826 docket entries, out of the total number of 241,399 docket entries filed in CM/ECF (see next page for a full listing of filing statistics). Motions to Dismiss were the most commonly filed motions, accounting for 31% of the total number of motions filed in our district.

With the implementation of CM/ECF NextGen, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, and the Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act, the Clerk's Office also made a total number of 374 CM/ECF modifications, including new and/or modified docket events, improvement of 14 existing forms, and creation of 20 new forms. Please refer to the next two pages of this newsletter for more statistics information.



COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS

| *AUGUSTA | *BRUNSWICK | DUBLIN | *SAVANNAH | STATESBORO | WAYCROSS |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 600 James Brown Blvd Augusta, GA 30901 | 801 Gloucester St Brunswick, GA 31520 | 100 N Franklin St Dublin, GA 31021 | 124 Barnard St Savannah, GA 31401 | 52 N Main St Statesboro, GA 30458 | 601 Tebeau St Waycross, GA 31501 |
| (706) 823-6000 | (912) 280-1376 | unstaffed | (912) 650-4100 | unstaffed | unstaffed |

*Clerk's Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

2021 End of Year Statistics

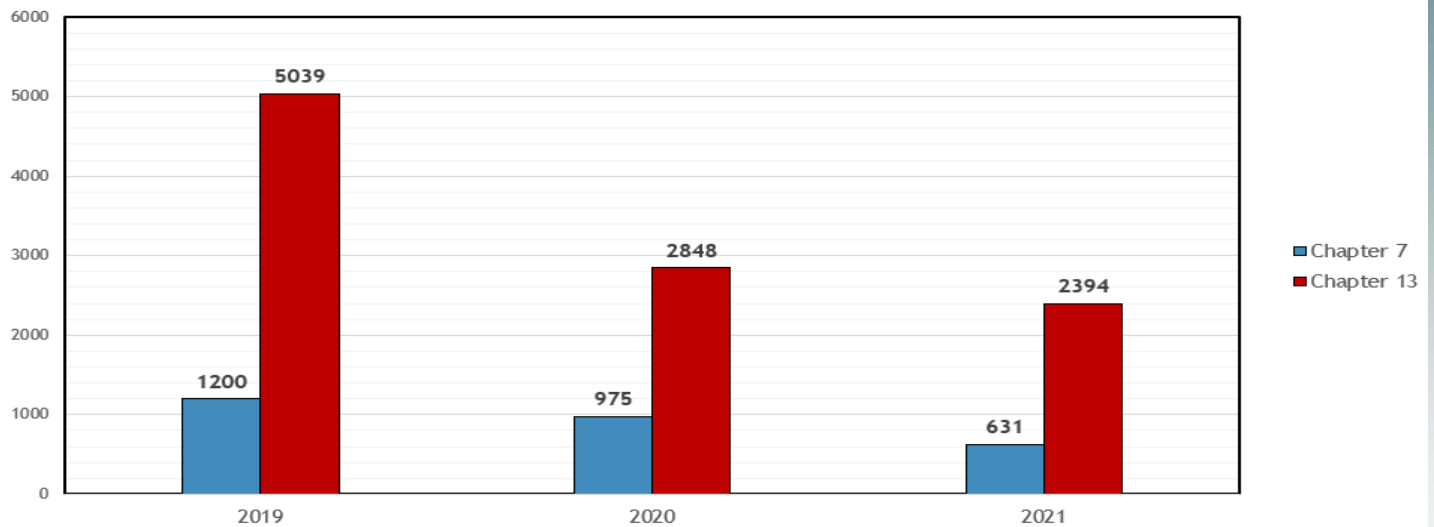
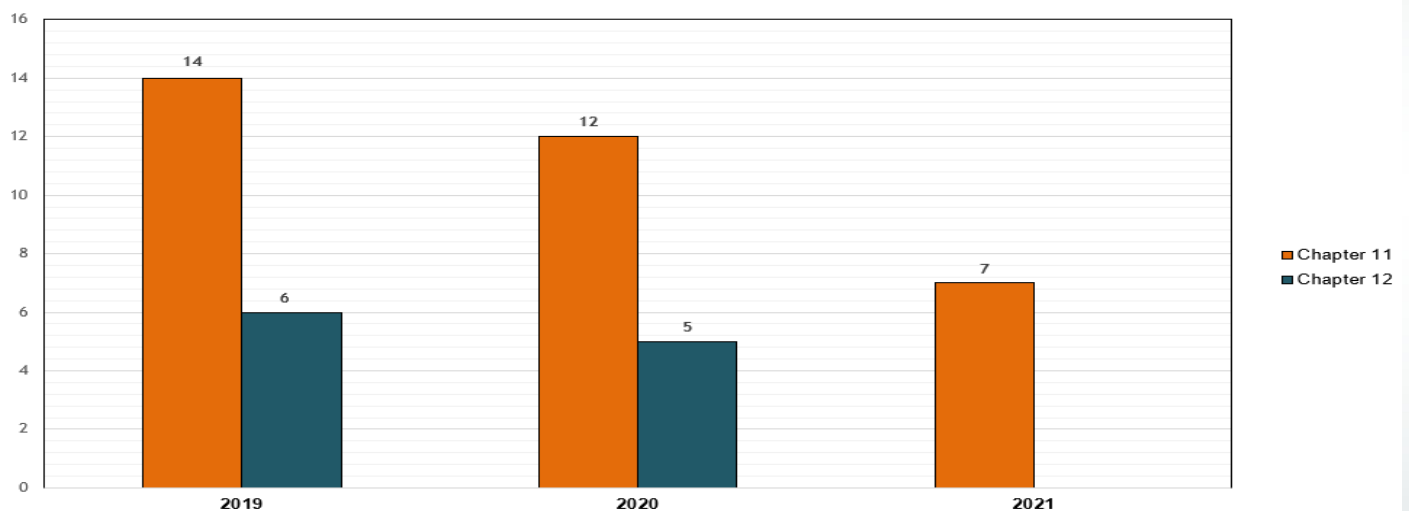
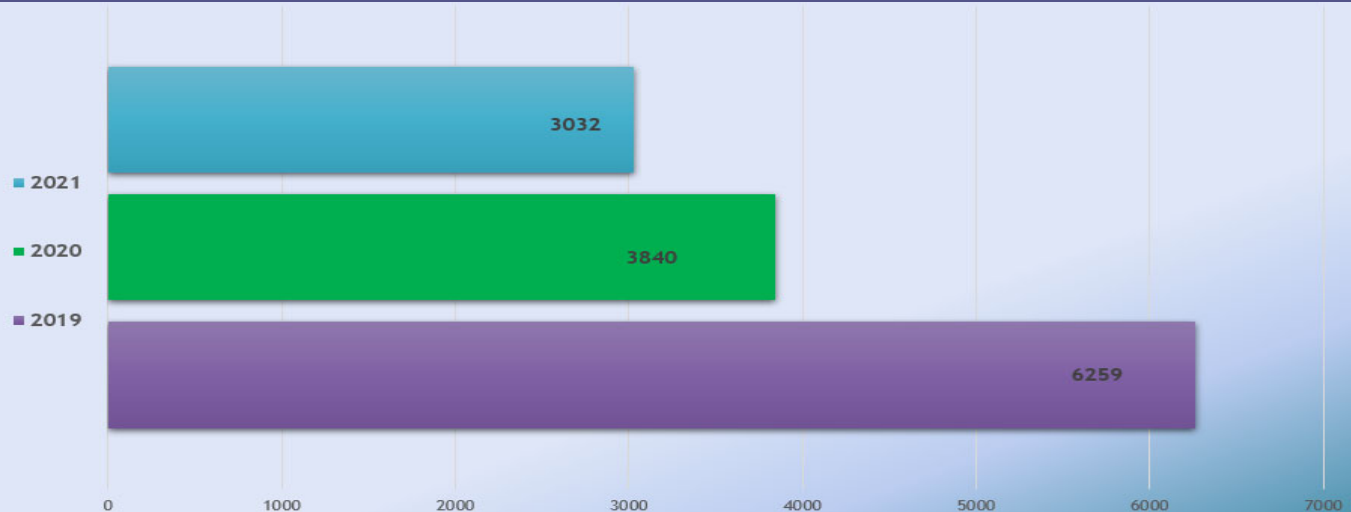
| Docket Entries Made By | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Case Administrators | 6,790 | 7,024 | 7,326 | 5,718 | 5,822 | 6,518 | 6,813 | 6,200 | 5,931 | 6,171 | 5,820 | 6,132 | 76,265 |
| Attorney/Trustee/Creditor | 9,662 | 9,840 | 9,855 | 9,040 | 7,950 | 8,601 | 9,404 | 8,428 | 8,518 | 8,401 | 8,236 | 8,904 | 106,839 |
| Admin (ADI Processes/BNC Certs) | 6,149 | 5,579 | 5,291 | 4,292 | 5,007 | 4,006 | 4,680 | 4,647 | 4,677 | 4,685 | 4,391 | 4,891 | 58,295 |
| Total Docket Entries Made | 22,601 | 22,443 | 22,472 | 19,050 | 18,779 | 19,125 | 20,897 | 19,275 | 19,126 | 19,257 | 18,447 | 19,927 | 241,399 |

| Items QC'd in CMA | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Docket Events | 12,279 | 12,114 | 12,856 | 11,375 | 11,144 | 10,001 | 10,765 | 9,341 | 9,259 | 10,391 | 10,982 | 11,319 | 131,826 |
| Claims | 2,476 | 2,270 | 2,826 | 2,326 | 1,981 | 2,253 | 2,268 | 2,587 | 2,465 | 2,574 | 2,766 | 2,732 | 29,524 |
| Total Items QC'd in CMA | 14,755 | 14,384 | 15,682 | 13,701 | 13,125 | 12,254 | 13,033 | 11,928 | 11,724 | 12,965 | 13,748 | 14,051 | 161,350 |

| Miscellaneous Statistics | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG | SEPT | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| New BK Case Filings | 256 | 253 | 282 | 214 | 196 | 257 | 252 | 242 | 274 | 276 | 254 | 276 | 3,032 |
| New AP Case Filings | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 30 |
| Discharges | 251 | 304 | 364 | 203 | 288 | 379 | 224 | 320 | 246 | 240 | 261 | 269 | 3,349 |
| Dismissals | 154 | 184 | 150 | 124 | 99 | 118 | 130 | 162 | 140 | 137 | 109 | 152 | 1,659 |
| Reopenings | 3 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 56 |
| BK Case Closings | 498 | 464 | 511 | 421 | 426 | 439 | 449 | 459 | 435 | 391 | 370 | 376 | 5,239 |
| AP Case Closings | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 44 |
| Conversions | 26 | 25 | 31 | 25 | 18 | 10 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 11 | 211 |
| eOrders Uploaded | 988 | 1,126 | 1,108 | 1,061 | 892 | 931 | 832 | 917 | 1,054 | 1,192 | 1,134 | 1,328 | 12,563 |
| Orders Entered | 1,874 | 2,054 | 2,227 | 1,689 | 1,717 | 1,807 | 1,576 | 1,678 | 1,547 | 1,587 | 1,734 | 1,956 | 21,446 |

Docketing by the Number

| | |
|--|-------|
| Affidavit of Default | 230 |
| Amended Ch. 13 Plan Before Confirmation | 926 |
| Application for Compensation | 233 |
| Application for Unclaimed Funds | 75 |
| Case Closed Without Discharge | 76 |
| DeBN Requests | 8 |
| Deficiency Notices | 3,884 |
| Garnishment Orders | 172 |
| Mapped Motions (from Chapter 13 Plans) | 7,121 |
| Motion to Allow/Reclassify/Reconsider Claim(s) | 172 |
| Motion to Employ/Sell/Settlement | 729 |
| Motion to Extend/Impose Automatic Stay | 405 |
| Motion to Redact | 30 |
| Motion for Relief from Stay (does not include co-debtor or exparte relief) | 1,078 |
| Motion for Turnover of Funds from Trustee | 123 |
| Negative Notice: Motions/Objections to Claim/Modified Ch. 13 Plan After Confirmation | 2,723 |
| Notice of Appeal | 2 |
| Notice of Change of Address/Employment/Name | 3,823 |
| Notice of Continued/Reassigned Hearing | 3,677 |
| Notice of Filing of POC by Debtor or Trustee | 375 |
| Objection to Confirmation of Plan | 2,644 |
| Reaffirmation Agreements | 402 |
| Release of Wages (court generated) | 992 |
| Returned Mail | 60 |
| Transfer of Claim | 1,990 |
| Trustee's Motion to Dismiss/Notice of Non Compliance (Ch. 13) | 3,445 |
| Trustee's Motion to Increase Payments or Dismiss (Ch. 13) | 476 |

Ch. 7 & 13 Case Filings for 12-Month Period Ending 12/31/2021**Ch. 11 & 12 Case Filings for 12-Month Period Ending 12/31/2021****Total Case Filings (All Chapters) for 12-Month Period Ending 12/31/2021**

Statistical data is available to the public on the Judiciary's website at:
<https://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/caseload-statistics-data-tables>

How to Report an After Hours Technical Issue with CM/ECF

If you find the CM/ECF filing system unavailable after normal business hours, on weekends, and/or on holidays, please navigate to the Court's website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov and click on the link as shown below. This link will take you to an informational page on how to contact the Court:



Report An Issue with CM/ECF

Please note that the CM/ECF system is periodically taken down for maintenance. When maintenance is scheduled, email notifications are sent to all system users, and banners are placed on the Court's website well in advance of the scheduled downtime. If you find the CM/ECF system unavailable outside of a scheduled maintenance window, please report the issue to the Court, using the link above.

All other concerns or questions regarding the CM/ECF system should be addressed with the Clerk's Office during regular business hours (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Mon-Fri). Clerk's Office phone numbers are listed below:

Augusta 706-823-6000

Brunswick 912-280-1376

Savannah 912-650-4100

Current Case Management Digit Assignments

The following digits became effective June 15, 2021, and are subject to change periodically. Current case management digit assignments are also available on the Court's website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov under *Court Info > General Information > Phone Directories and Case Management Digit Assignments*.

| Case Administrator | Phone Number | Ch 13 cases including Adversaries | Ch 7 cases including Adversaries | Ch 7/13 Case Opening Digits | Ch 11/12 cases including Case Opening & Adversaries |
|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Ruba (RAF) | (912) 280-1375 | 00 - 49 Bwk / Way | 00 - 49 Bwk / Way | 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 Bwk / Way | |
| Tory (TGG) | (912) 280-1369 | 50 - 99 Bwk / Way | 50 - 99 Bwk / Way | 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 Bwk / Way | |
| April R. (APR) | (912) 280-1378 | | | | All MJK |
| Holly (HKB) | (912) 650-4123 | 00 - 32 Sav / Stb | 00 - 32 Sav / Stb | 0, 1, 2 Sav / Stb | |
| Renaë (RTC) | (912) 650-4132 | 33 - 66 Sav / Stb | 33 - 66 Sav / Stb | 3, 4, 5, 6 Sav / Stb | |
| Laura (LLE) | (912) 650-4140 | 67 - 99 Sav / Stb | 67 - 99 Sav / Stb | 7, 8, 9 Sav / Stb | |
| Elizabeth (EMB) | (912) 650-4117 | | | | All EJC |
| Charlene (CCB) | (706) 823-6456 | 00 - 16 Aug / Dub | 00 - 16 Aug / Dub | 00 - 16 Aug / Dub | |
| Karen (KMS) | (706) 823-6019 | 17 - 32 Aug / Dub | 17 - 32 Aug / Dub | 17 - 32 Aug / Dub | |
| Betty (BJG) | (706) 823-6030 | 33 - 49 Aug / Dub | 33 - 49 Aug / Dub | 33 - 49 Aug / Dub | |
| Vonita (VWW) | (706) 823-6024 | 50 - 66 Aug / Dub | 50 - 66 Aug / Dub | 50 - 66 Aug / Dub | |
| Christina (CMT) | (706) 823-6034 | 67 - 83 Aug / Dub | 67 - 83 Aug / Dub | 67 - 83 Aug / Dub | |
| April G. (AKG) | (706) 823-6038 | 84 - 99 Aug / Dub | 84 - 99 Aug / Dub | 84 - 99 Aug / Dub | All SDB |

Aug = Augusta; Bwk = Brunswick; Dub = Dublin; Sav = Savannah; Stb = Statesboro; Way = Waycross

Hearings Before the Honorable Edward J. Coleman, III

Savannah and Statesboro Courthouses - Judge Coleman returned to holding in-person hearings in the Savannah and Statesboro Divisions on November 5, 2021. All attendees shall abide by CDC social distancing guidelines and the Court's COVID-19 prevention measures when attending an in-person hearing. Masks must be worn upon entering the courthouse, and all persons shall be subject to a temperature screening prior to entry into the courtroom.

Hearings Before the Honorable Susan D. Barrett

Augusta and Dublin Courthouses - Judge Barrett is closely monitoring the precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and periodically extending telephonic appearances. Currently, all hearings set on her Augusta and Dublin calendars through the end of February 2022 will be conducted telephonically. However, in-person hearings may be held on a case-by-case basis, as noticed.

When attending in-person hearings, all attendees must honor social distancing requirements and the Court's COVID-19 prevention measures and take additional precautions as may be deemed appropriate. Masks must be worn upon entering the courthouse and shall not be removed without further direction.

At this point, hearings held beyond February 2022 will continue to be noticed for in-person hearings. If necessary, we will re-notice these matters for telephonic hearings. Please read each notice of hearing carefully to determine if a hearing will be held in-person or telephonically.

Statesboro Courthouse - Judge Barrett is conducting all hearings that are set on her Statesboro calendars telephonically until further notice.

Hearings Before the Honorable Michele J. Kim

Brunswick and Waycross Courthouses - Judge Kim is closely monitoring the precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic and periodically extending telephonic appearances. Currently, all hearings set on her Brunswick and Waycross calendars through the end of April 2022 will be conducted telephonically. However, in-person hearings may be held on a case-by-case basis, as noticed.

At this point, hearings held beyond April 2022 will continue to be noticed for in-person hearings. If necessary, we will re-notice these matters for telephonic hearings. Please read each notice of hearing carefully to determine if a hearing will be held in-person or telephonically.



Remember!

*****Please review each hearing notice carefully for dial-in procedures and toll-free numbers utilized for telephonic hearings.*****



National Bankruptcy Filings Drop 24%

(Published on the U.S. Court's website February 4, 2022)

National bankruptcy filings fell again for the 12-month period ending Dec. 31, 2021. A steady decline in filings has continued since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Annual bankruptcy filings in calendar year 2021 totaled 413,616, compared with 544,463 cases in 2020, according to statistics released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. That is a decrease of 24.0%.

Business filings fell 33.7%, from 21,655 to 14,347 in the year ending Dec. 31, 2021. Non-business bankruptcy filings fell 23.6%, to 399,269 compared with 522,808 in the previous year.

To read the entire article, click on the link below:

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2022/02/04/bankruptcy-filings-drop-24-percent>

Sunset of Certain Bankruptcy Provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act

The [Consolidated Appropriations Act](#) (2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260) was enacted on December 27, 2020. The Act included nine (9) bankruptcy related amendments. *See* §§ 320, 1001, 134 *Stat., at* 2015, 3216.

Several of the Bankruptcy Code amendments sunset on **December 27, 2021**. *See* § 320(f)(2)(A). For more information regarding provisions of the Consolidated Appropriations Act affecting bankruptcy that lapsed after December 27, 2021, visit the Court's website at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/sites/gasb/files/CAA%20lapsed%20provisions.pdf

To view information regarding COVID-19 Bankruptcy Provisions and Sunsets, visit the Court's website at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/sites/gasb/files/COVID%20Bankruptcy%20Provisions%20and%20Sunsets%20Chart%20Sheet.pdf

Please also note that [Director's Form 4100S - Supplemental Proof of Claim for CARES Forbearance Claim](#) was retired on **December 27, 2021**. The Court's CM/ECF docket event for this form has also been retired.

Recent Changes to Bankruptcy Rule 9036 Impacting High-Volume Paper Bankruptcy Notice Recipients



An amendment to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9036 impacting high-volume paper bankruptcy notice recipients became effective **December 1, 2021**. The Director of the Administrative Office (AO) now has authority to require that certain high-volume paper notice recipients receive court-generated bankruptcy notices electronically. The AO Director has initially set the threshold for the application of the amended rule to entities that receive 100 or more paper bankruptcy notices in a single calendar month. This threshold will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted once a year effective on December 1st of each year.

The Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) has already begun outreach to the impacted high-volume paper notice recipients to assist them in preparing to receive electronic bankruptcy notices.

Federal Rules Changes Effective December 1, 2021

The following rules amendments were approved by the Judicial Conference on September 15, 2020. The U.S. Supreme Court adopted these proposed amendments and transmitted them to the U.S. Congress on April 14, 2021. These amendments became effective on **December 1, 2021**:

Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure: 2005, 3007, 7007.1, and 9036

Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure: 3 and 6, Forms 1 and 2

Click [HERE](#) for more information regarding the rule changes.

United States Trustee Program Posts Updated UST Form 11-MORs and UST Form 11-PCRs for Immediate Use (*11/30/2021 Press Release*)

The United States Trustee Program has posted on its website updated versions of the UST Form 11-MOR, Monthly Operating Reports (“MOR”) and UST Form 11-PCR, Post-confirmation Reports (“PCR”), that should be used for all reports filed after **November 30, 2021**. Designed to improve the overall user experience, the updates streamline the process of embedding data on the forms by using standard PDF bar-code technology. The updates do not impact the information required to be reported on the MORs and PCRs.

Click [HERE](#) to read more...

Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act (BAIA)

The [Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act, Pub. L. No. 116-325 \(BAIA\)](#) was enacted on January 12, 2021 and amends the Bankruptcy Code to include a new subsection 330(e) that establishes a new payment for trustees serving in chapter 7 bankruptcy cases. Chapter 7 trustees serving in cases filed on or after January 12, 2021, and through September 30, 2026 (*or cases originally filed under chapters 11, 12, or 13 on or after January 12, 2021, and later converted to chapter 7 on or before September 30, 2026*) are eligible to receive up to \$60 in compensation for each applicable case. Only one payment will be issued under 11 U.S.C. § 330(e) in each applicable case. The amount of the § 330(e) payments will be determined annually, and the judiciary will post an annual notice on uscourts.gov stating that payments can commence for the prior fiscal year. **PLEASE NOTE** that the § 330(e) payments are not expected to commence until March 2022.



NEW for Chapter 7 Trustees: CM/ECF Events Related to BAIA

The following docket events were added to the Court's CM/ECF system on January 19, 2022, to accommodate the process for a Chapter 7 trustee to certify eligibility to receive the § 330(e) payment for each applicable case:

Trustee Services Rendered Pursuant to 330(e)

The event is located in CM/ECF under:

Bankruptcy > Trustee/US Trustee > Trustee Services Rendered Pursuant to 330(e)

The final docket text of the entry reads as follows:

Trustee Certification of Services Rendered Under 11 U.S.C. Section 330(e). I rendered the following service in the case and am eligible for payment under 11 U.S.C. Section 330(e): [Reason]. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. (Executed on [date filed]).

Withdrawal of Trustee Services Rendered

The event is located in CM/ECF under:

Bankruptcy > Trustee/US Trustee > Withdrawal of Trustee Services Rendered

The final docket text of the entry reads as follows:

Withdrawal of Trustee Services Rendered Pursuant to 330(e). Reason for withdrawal: [reason].

CM/ECF NextGen Implementation a Success

The Court went live on NextGen on October 12, 2021. Since the migration, we have received numerous emails and phone calls from outside filers thanking us for helping to make their transition to NextGen as seamless as possible. The truth of the matter is the Court would not have been as successful in its transition without YOU. For eight months we employed a variety of notification methods to inform you that NextGen was coming, along with what you needed to do to get ready. For us to be ready meant you had to be ready... and ready you were! So thank you for attending our training sessions; thank you for upgrading your PACER accounts and creating new ones where needed; thank you for linking your CM/ECF accounts to your PACER accounts; and lastly, a very special THANK YOU to the attorneys, paralegals, and trustee staff who received early access to the upgraded system in order to help us test during the go-live weekend. The feedback you all provided was invaluable.

Please continue to reach out to the Court with any questions or concerns you have regarding the CM/ECF system. Visit our website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov/nextgen-information for updates.

**PACER**

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT ELECTRONIC RECORDS

For assistance in creating new PACER accounts, upgrading your current account, or linking your upgraded PACER account after the NextGen implementation, contact the:

[PACER Service Center](#)

pacer@psc.uscourts.gov

(800) 676-6856

<https://pacer.uscourts.gov>

FAQs:

<https://www.pacer.uscourts.gov/help/faqs>

PACER Administrative Accounts

Does your organization need a Firm Billing Account, also known as a PACER Administrative Account (PAA)? Groups such as law firms, financial organizations, and educational or research institutions can set up a PAA to manage all of their user accounts and have central billing for PACER access fees.

PAAs are free and do not have filing rights in CM/ECF.

For more information, please visit:

<https://pacer.uscourts.gov/register-account/group-billing>

CM/ECF - New User Registration

Since migrating to CM/ECF NextGen, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia has updated the registration information and procedures for obtaining e-filing privileges in our CM/ECF system. Attorneys, creditors, personal financial management course providers, and other limited filers seeking to file in the CM/ECF system in our Court must register through PACER before e-filing privileges can be approved. Filers must obtain a PACER account before requesting e-filing privileges.

Before requesting access to the Court's database, filers must read and agree to *Filer Terms and Conditions* that are available at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-registration-information

CM/ECF User Manuals Updated

CM/ECF User Manuals have been updated since the implementation of CM/ECF NextGen. These manuals are designed to assist attorneys and other filers on how to use the CM/ECF system for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia, to electronically file, view, and retrieve documents for all cases assigned to this system. The manuals provide helpful information and docketing instructions for commonly filed pleadings. It is important for those filing documents with this Court to review the Court's CM/ECF Administrative Procedures, Local Rules, and General Orders, and become familiar with the contents. These documents are available at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-training-user-guidelinesmanuals-and-information



Filing Agents in CM/ECF

A Filing Agent is an individual designated by a registered attorney or trustee in the CM/ECF system to file documents on behalf of that attorney or trustee. Each Filing Agent must have his/her own individual PACER account. A Filing Agent may be linked to multiple attorneys and trustees, and attorneys and trustees may have multiple filing agents.

The attorney/trustee with Filing Agents is responsible for maintaining the list of Filing Agents associated with his/her account and the secondary email address fields for Notices of Electronic Filing (NEFs). Add or remove and update this information in CM/ECF through the attorney/trustee user's account via *Utilities > Maintain My ECF Account*.

More information regarding Filing Agents and the related processes can be found on the Court's website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov/filing-agents.

CM/ECF Judge/Trustee Assignment

Functionality is available in CM/ECF for attorneys representing debtors to run the Automatic Judge/Trustee Assignment (AJTA) module when filing a new bankruptcy case. Running AJTA in this manner will allow an attorney filer to immediately download a mailing matrix from CM/ECF that includes the case trustee (*with the exception of Chapter 7 cases filed in Augusta and Savannah and all Chapter 11 cases*). Attorneys should ensure that creditors have been uploaded into CM/ECF for the bankruptcy case before using the mailing matrix as part of a Certificate of Service for a Chapter 13 Plan.

For more information and instructions for performing the assignment, visit the Court's website at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-judgetrustee-assignment



What's NEW with CM/ECF Bankruptcy Events

New Docket Events

- Under Trustee/US Trustee menu: **Trustee Services Rendered Pursuant to 330(e)**.
- Under Trustee/US Trustee menu: **Withdrawal of Trustee Services Rendered**.

***More information regarding these new docket events can be found on **page 8** of this newsletter.

Modified Docket Events

- **Amended Schedules/Statements (Miscellaneous)** - added *Chapter 13 Statement of Current Monthly Income Form 122C-1* and *Chapter 13 Calculation of Disposable Income Form 122C-2* to the list of amended statements/schedules for selection during docketing.
- **Motion to Seal Document/Motion to Seal Case (Motions/Applications)** - modified these events to add instructions/prompts in the docketing process for sealing documents or the entire case.

Retired Docket Events

- **Motion to File Claim After Claims Bar Date (Motions/Applications)** - docket event retired and replaced with the docket event *Motion to Allow/Reclassify/Reconsider Claim(s)*.
- **Supplemental Proof of Claim for CARES Forbearance Claim (Claim Actions)** - docket event retired; the form related to this event, *Director's Form 4100S - Supplemental Proof of Claim for CARES Forbearance Claim* was retired on December 27, 2021.

Can't find the event you are looking for?

Use the **SEARCH** feature in CM/ECF on the top menu bar, or contact
Data Quality Analyst Courtney Neibel to recommend adding a new event:
courtney_neibel@gas.uscourts.gov (912-650-4107)

Savannah U.S. Courthouse Annex Completed and Open for Business

The new Savannah U.S. Courthouse Annex opened to the public on August 16, 2021. The Annex currently serves as home to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, U.S. District Court, and U.S. Probation Office until the Tomochichi Courthouse renovation project is completed in 2024.

The project started in 2016 when Congress appropriated funding as part of a larger effort to modernize the entire judicial complex. The new three-story Annex building, located on the southeast trust lot of Telfair Square at 124 Barnard Street, will allow the Judiciary to meet its current and long-term needs for security, accessibility, and operational efficiency.

Work began onsite in late spring 2019 with the demolition and removal of the Juliette Gordon Low Building B (*one of the two “tile” buildings located behind the Tomochichi Courthouse*).

The marble and brick façade of the Annex accentuates the historic aesthetics of the Tomochichi Courthouse. The interior features a monumental open-air staircase (*pictured below*) as its centerpiece, creating a light-filled, modern feel to the new building.

The Annex is part of a five-year, two building project that includes renovation of the historic U.S. Tomochichi Courthouse. When complete, the buildings will add to the historic fabric of the downtown area, while respecting the adjacent neighborhoods.



Front Entrance of Courthouse Annex at 124 Barnard Street
(Photo by Courtney Neibel)



Interior Staircase in Courthouse Annex
(Photo by Alec Chappell)

Employee News

New Hires

Ethan Draper, Law Clerk to Judge Barrett



Please welcome Ethan Draper to the Court family as Judge Barrett's term law clerk for 2021-2022. Ethan is a recent graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law where he was a Merit Scholarship recipient and founder and co-chair of the Bankruptcy Law Society. He has clerked for both the District Court for the Western District of North Carolina and the District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina. Ethan also gained invaluable experience as a summer law clerk at the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. We look forward to working with him and his contributions to the Court. Congratulations, Ethan!

Brooks Hagler, Law Clerk to Judge Kim



Brooks Hagler joined the Court family in October 2021 as law clerk to the Honorable Michele J. Kim. Brooks, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, lived in Yakutsk, Russia as a high school exchange student with Rotary, where he played in a rock band in Siberia. He earned his undergraduate degree in English Literature from the University of North Florida and joined the Peace Corps thereafter, volunteering as an English Language teacher in rural Mongolia. Following his two-year tenure in the Peace Corps, Brooks worked in Mongolia for an additional three years on an anti-corruption project for The World Bank Group that included creating a national Parent Teacher Association. After earning his law degree from American University in 2019, he served as a law clerk for the High Court of American Samoa for two years before beginning his term here in the Southern District of Georgia. Welcome, Brooks!

Recent Retirements

Best Wishes to Michael Drabek

Michael Drabek retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on August 29, 2021. Mike began his 20+ year career with the Court as a Records and Reproduction Clerk in the Savannah Division on September 13, 1999. On March 13, 2000, he was promoted to Quality Control Analyst, and then to the role of Property and Procurement Specialist on February 11, 2002. On April 22, 2016, Mike took on additional duties as the Court's Human Resource Administrator, earning his last promotion to Management Analyst.

As a consummate professional, Mike embraced every new task and responsibility with enthusiasm. Over his many years of service, Mike provided tremendous support to our Judges, Chambers Staff, and the Clerk's Office. He provided exceptional guidance to his coworkers both on a professional and personal level.

During his career, Mike headed up the Savannah Court Choir, spread blessings throughout the Court with prayer, and served as the Court's all-around handy man. Mike also routinely brought the most sought-after "White Elephant" gifts to our holiday parties - exceptional pieces of pottery created by his talented wife, Tiffany.

Mike always greeted everyone with a smile and kind word and his friendly demeanor, positive attitude, and unending support will truly be missed. The Court benefited greatly from Mike's tenure, and we wish him much happiness and fulfillment in his retirement.



NCBC LEAD Academy Graduates

Congratulations to Elizabeth Bonanni, Laura Hinton, and April Rowe

We are pleased to honor Clerk's Office employees **Elizabeth Bonanni, Laura Hinton, and April Rowe** as recent graduates of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Clerks (NCBC) 2021 LEAD Academy. Since 1980, the NCBC has represented the needs of bankruptcy clerk's offices throughout the country, providing training and professional development opportunities, advocacy, and leadership at the national level. The LEAD Academy (Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, and Development) is a four-month leadership development program designed to encourage non-supervisory court employees to lead in place, with mentorship being a major component of the program.

Elizabeth, Laura, and April are now members of a small group of approximately 120 bankruptcy court employees nationwide who have successfully completed this program. In July 2021 they attended a virtual LEAD Academy workshop, with classes lasting for 2.5 to 3 hours per day, gaining essential leadership skills for taking on greater responsibilities in their positions and with the Court.

Congratulations to these employees—we are proud of your accomplishments and your dedication to training and development in the judiciary.



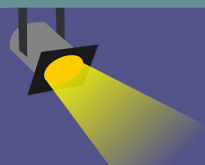
Pictured above: April Rowe



Pictured above (left to right): Laura Hinton, Judge Coleman, Elizabeth Bonanni



LEAD ACADEMY
LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE ACHIEVEMENT & DEVELOPMENT



Employee Spotlight



Carla Wilbourn

Divisional Manager

Augusta, GA

Carla Wilbourn is the Divisional Manager in the Augusta Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia. She has been employed with the Court for twenty-five years as of September 30, 2021, beginning her federal career as a case manager with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Georgia in Macon and joining the Southern District of Georgia team on December 10, 2018.

After graduating from Shorter College (*now Shorter University*) in 1991 and prior to beginning her court career in 1996, Carla worked with the law firm of Jones, Cork & Miller in Macon, Georgia as a certified paralegal. While serving as a case manager in the Middle District of Georgia, her responsibilities included Electronic Court Recording Operator (ECRO) and backup Courtroom Deputy, and she was promoted to Operations Supervisor & Data Quality Analyst in 2012.

Carla's operational and quality control experience benefited the Southern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court during its recent migration to CM/ECF NextGen; she co-presented a NextGen External Users training session on behalf of the Clerk's Office in August 2021, assisted with testing all of the components of the updated filing system, and provided customer service and outreach to local attorneys and paralegals to prepare those filers for the migration.

Carla is married to Wade Wilbourn, a REALTOR® with Meybohm Real Estate, and they celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in September. Together they have a son, Seth, who is in the eighth grade at Westminster Schools of Augusta. In addition to spending treasured time with family, Carla enjoys unsweetened iced tea, English Breakfast hot tea, reading, and watching crime and mystery dramas.

The following employees are celebrating career milestones with the Court this year:

5 Years

Elizabeth Bonanni
Holly Bowers
Alec Chappell

20 Years

Dana Wilson

25 Years

Carla Wilbourn



**Celebrating
GASB Milestones**

Tips & Tricks

CM/ECF NextGen Web Browser Compatibility

Please ensure that you are using a browser and version tested for compatibility with CM/ECF to avoid potential problems when filing. The following list of browsers are compatible with **CM/ECF NextGen (v1.6)** as of the date of this publication:

- ◆ Internet Explorer 11
- ◆ Firefox: 78.0.2 - 80.0.1
- ◆ Safari: up to v12.1.2 (*supported but not tested*)
- ◆ Chrome: 84.0.4147.89 - 85.0.4183.102
- ◆ Edge: 84.0.522.40 - 85.0.564.51

Another helpful tool when using a web browser is to **clear your browser cache** at least daily. To quickly clear the cache, press **CTRL+Shift+Delete**.

“Free Look” Confirmation Screen in CM/ECF

A free look is provided to case participants when a new pleading or claim is filed in a case. Some antivirus programs access links within emails to verify their safety; in some cases, this can use the free look that was intended for the case participant. Changes have been made in CM/ECF to the free look functionality to avoid this issue.

In the **Maintain Your ECF Account/Maintain User Accounts** menu, a new check box has been added to the “Email Information” screen to enable confirmation of Free Look Use to verify your **one free look** will be used when a document link is clicked from CM/ECF emails (NEFs).



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Required Email Address

Submit

The fastest way to receive information from the Court is to register with GovDelivery for email notifications from our website at:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov

The Court's website is frequently updated with notifications regarding court operations during severe weather, unforeseen circumstances occurring in our area, and COVID-19, as well as new or modified administrative and general orders and procedures. Registration with Gov Delivery also enables you to receive updates from other courts with which you may be affiliated. Sign up using the link under the “News & Announcements” section at the bottom of the Court's home page.



A Friendly Reminder!

PDF Standards in CM/ECF

All PDF documents must be flattened prior to uploading and filing in CM/ECF. To flatten a PDF:

1. Open your PDF in Adobe Acrobat or another tool that lets you work with PDF documents.
2. Print the PDF file to your PDF Printer (*File > Print > select Adobe PDF or another PDF printer listed in the drop-down list*).
3. Save the printed PDF and upload it for filing.

Please note that PDFs with the following content will be rejected:

- Does not comply with PDF format standards
- Encrypted or password-protected
- Contains scripts which can launch an external application
- Contains internal attachments
- Contains audio and video content
- Created with Mac OS X using a fillable form in the Safari browser
- Created with Mac OS X using MS Word and selecting the option “Best for printing”

Amended Motions/Applications

When docketing an Amended Motion or Application in CM/ECF, please remember to relate the amended motion/application to the original motion/application. Ensure that all attachments/exhibits referenced in the amended motion/application are attached to the entry, and include a proposed order on the amended motion/application.

How to Avoid a Deficiency Notice

In 2021, the Clerk’s Office issued a total of 3,884 deficiency notices for pleadings and proposed orders filed in CM/ECF. Deficiency notices are issued when a pleading or proposed order does not meet the requirements set forth in the Court’s local rules, general orders, guidelines, and procedures. The standard deadline for curing a deficiency is seven (7) days from issuance of the deficiency notice, and failure to cure a deficiency can result in the matter being stricken, dismissed, or denied, with no further action taken by the Court.

To avoid getting a deficiency notice, there are several things you can do to make sure your pleading is accurate and proper for presenting to the Court (*this list is not all-inclusive but rather solutions to some of the common deficiencies that have been identified by the Clerk’s Office*):

- * Check grammar and spelling before filing a pleading in CM/ECF.
- * When placing a caption on pleadings, check the CM/ECF docket to ensure the information is correct. Add debtors or other parties to cases using names and addresses exactly as they appear on the document being filed.
- * Ensure the document contains an original or electronic signature of the filer(s).
- * Ensure any exhibits/attachments referenced in the document are attached.
- * Ensure a certificate of service with date and signature is included, and that proper parties have been served at the address on record with the Court.

THE COURTHOUSE WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE FOLLOWING UPCOMING FEDERAL HOLIDAYS

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| February 21 | Presidents' Day | Monday |
| May 30 | Memorial Day | Monday |
| June 20 | Juneteenth National Independence Day | Monday |
| July 4 | Independence Day | Monday |
| September 5 | Labor Day | Monday |
| October 10 | Columbus Day | Monday |

CM/ECF and PACER will be available for online filing and access to case information.

A special thank you to the following folks who contributed to this edition of *The Southern Scoop**:

Alec Chappell

Leigh Cribbs

Crystal DeLaurentis

Ruba Franks

Cherish Hayes

Christyne Murray

Lucinda Rauback

Lainie Saul

Carla Wilbourn

Dana Wilson

HAPPY PRESIDENTS' DAY



February 21, 2022

**For questions, comments, corrections, or suggested articles regarding this newsletter, please email:*

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or

courtney_neibel@gas.uscourts.gov

We look forward to your feedback!

Thank you!

