



THEsouthernscoop

Volume 7, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2022

One-Year Anniversary of Savannah U.S. Courthouse Annex Operations

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Photo by Courtney Neibel

The Court recently observed its one-year anniversary of operations in the new Savannah Courthouse Annex on Barnard Street. The new Annex officially opened to the public on August 16, 2021, and its residents have enjoyed the new space, with its open staircase and modern look and feel. The building provides better security, accessibility, and operational efficiency for both employees and the public.

The three-story Annex building currently houses the U.S. Bankruptcy Court and U.S. Probation Office. While the renovation of the historic U.S. Tomochichi Courthouse continues, the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office has relocated temporarily to 8 Southern Oaks Court in Savannah.

Thank you to all who assisted with the movement to these spaces, and who contributed to the seamless continuation of daily operations of the Court.

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



Court Hearing Information

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 must abide by CDC social distancing guidelines and the Court's COVID-19 prevention measures when attending an in-person hearing. Masks are not required at this time; however, they are allowed.

Hearings Before the Honorable Susan D. Barrett

Augusta and Dublin Courthouses - Beginning September 1, 2022, Judge Barrett returned to holding in-person hearings in the Augusta and Dublin Divisions. All attendees must abide by CDC social distancing guidelines and the Court's COVID-19 prevention measures when attending an in-person hearing. Masks are not required at this time; however, they are allowed.

Statesboro Courthouse - Judge Barrett is conducting all Statesboro hearings telephonically until further notice.

Hearings Before the Honorable Michele J. Kim

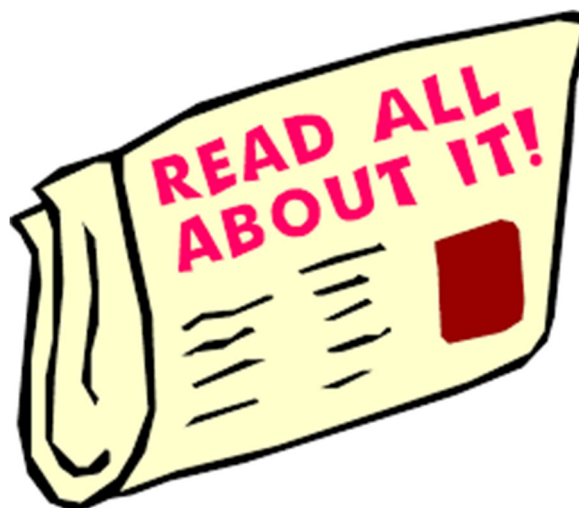
Brunswick and Waycross Courthouses - Judge Kim returned to holding in-person hearings in the Brunswick and Waycross Divisions on May 10, 2022. All attendees must abide by CDC social distancing guidelines and the Court's COVID-19 prevention measures when attending an in-person hearing. Masks are not required at this time; however, they are allowed.



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

Court Dress Code for the Southern District of Georgia

The Court's policy regarding dress, attire and electronic devices applies to all persons entering Southern District of Georgia courthouse facilities. Attorneys must advise their clients of dress code requirements prior to attending any scheduled hearing. Clients should also be advised that cell phones are not permitted in courthouse facilities without prior Court approval. Behavior, conditions, or attire not conducive to the dignified and orderly operation of official court business are prohibited.



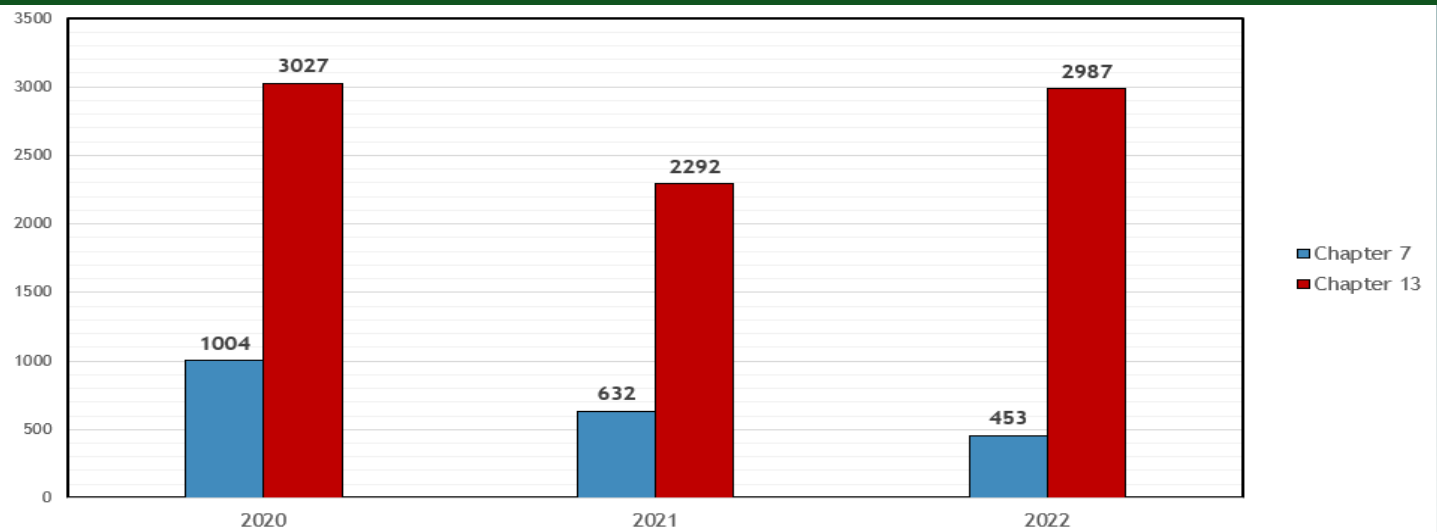
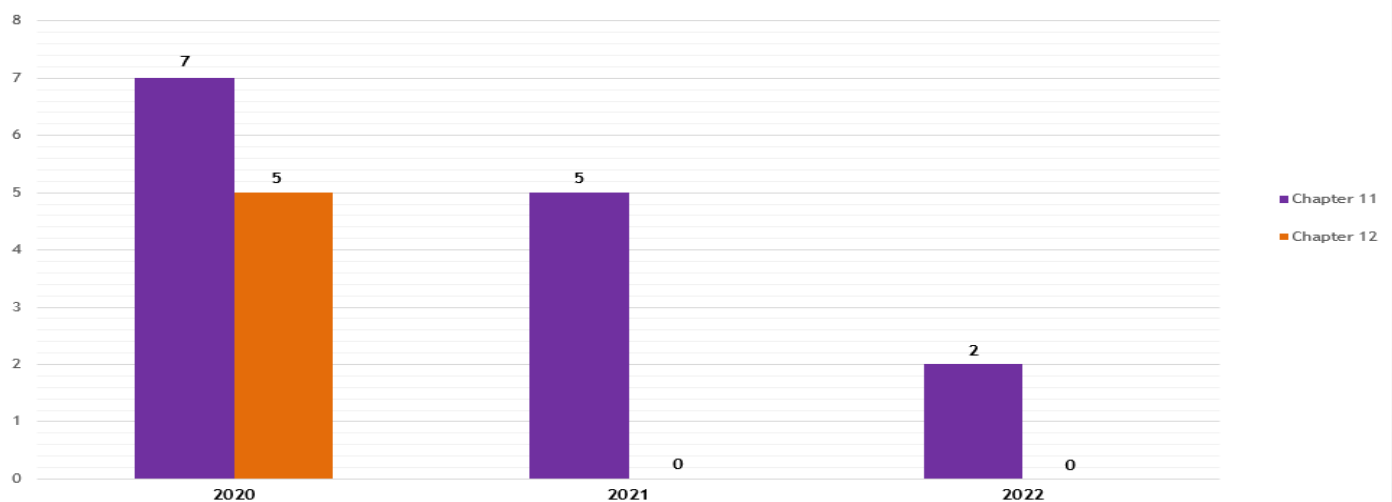
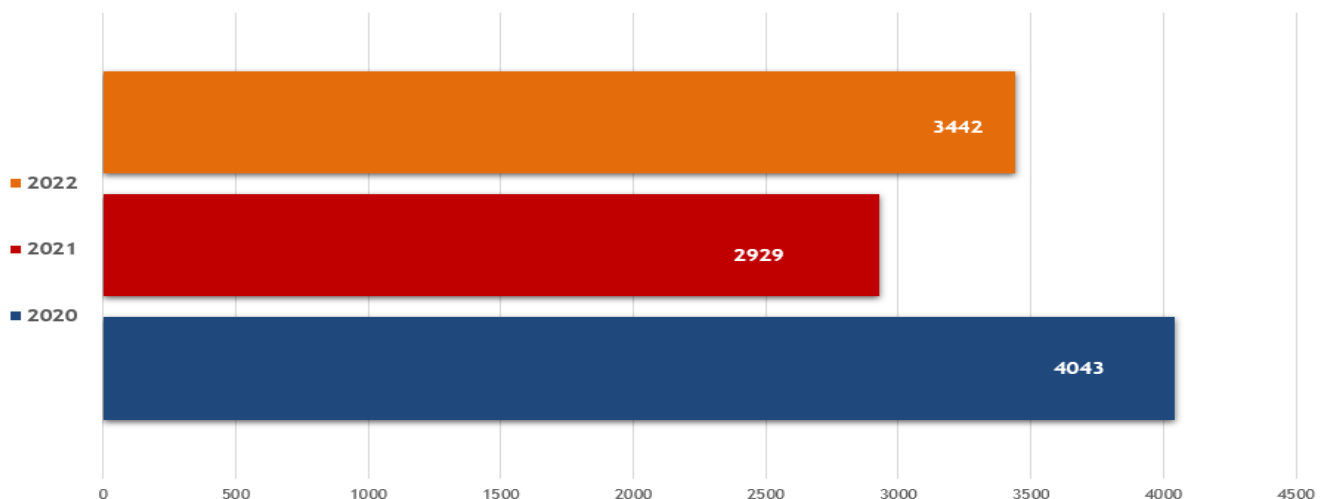
Click [HERE](#) to read the Court Policy Regarding Dress and Attire for the Southern District of Georgia in its entirety.

Current Case Management Digit Assignments

The following digit list became effective on November 21, 2022, and is 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
Betty (BJW)	(706) 823-6030	00 - 32 Bwk / Way	00 - 32 Bwk / Way	00 - 32 Bwk / Way	
Karen (KMS)	(706) 823-6019	33 - 66 Bwk / Way	33 - 66 Bwk / Way	33 - 66 Bwk / Way	
Tory (TGG)	(912) 280-1369	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	67 - 99 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 - 24 Aug / Dub	00 - 24 Aug / Dub	00 - 24 Aug / Dub	
Vonita (VWW)	(706) 823-6024	25 - 49 Aug / Dub	25 - 49 Aug / Dub	25 - 49 Aug / Dub	
Christina (CMT)	(706) 823-6034	50 - 74 Aug / Dub	50 - 74 Aug / Dub	50 - 74 Aug / Dub	
April G. (AKG)	(706) 823-6038	75 - 99 Aug / Dub	75 - 99 Aug / Dub	75 - 99 Aug / Dub	All SDB

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

Ch. 7 & 13 Case Filings for 12-Month Period Ending 11/30/2022**Ch. 11 & 12 Case Filings for 12-Month Period Ending 11/30/2022****Total Case Filings (All Chapters) for 12-Month Period Ending 11/30/2022**

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

Southern District of Georgia 2022 Bankruptcy Caseload Activity as of November 30

Bankruptcy Case Openings	SDB	EJC	MJK	TOTAL
Ch. 7	238	128	55	421
Ch. 11	1	0	0	1
Ch. 12	0	0	0	0
Ch. 13	826	1012	910	2748
[Pro Se (<i>All Chapters</i>)]	[40]	[26]	[13]	[79]
Total	1065	1140	965	3170

Bankruptcy Case Activity	SDB	EJC	MJK	TOTAL
Reopenings	23	13	11	47
Split Cases	2	0	0	2
Transferred Cases	1	0	0	1
Conversions	47	46	10	103
Amended Ch. 13 Plans Before Confirmation	314	517	256	1087
Motions for Relief from Stay	316	405	281	1002
Applications to Employ Professionals	80	158	97	335
Motions to Sell	49	99	29	177
Motions to Approve Settlement	56	132	60	248
Dismissed Cases	476	456	528	1460

Bankruptcy Case Closings	SDB	EJC	MJK	TOTAL
Ch. 7	324	168	58	550
Ch. 11	3	4	2	9
Ch. 12	2	0	2	4
Ch. 13	1146	1309	1116	3571
Total	1475	1481	1178	4134

Adversary Proceedings	SDB	EJC	MJK	TOTAL
Openings	21	11	9	41
Closings	31	14	12	57

Bankruptcy Filings Continue to Fall

(Published on the U.S. Court's website October 31, 2022)

Personal and business bankruptcy filings fell 11.7% for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2022. The decrease in filings coincided with the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to statistics released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the September 2022 annual bankruptcy filings totaled 383,810, compared with 434,540 cases in the previous year.

Business filings fell 18.7%, from 16,140 to 13,125 in the year ending September 30, 2022. Non-business bankruptcy filings fell 11.4% to 370,685, compared with 418,400 in the previous year.

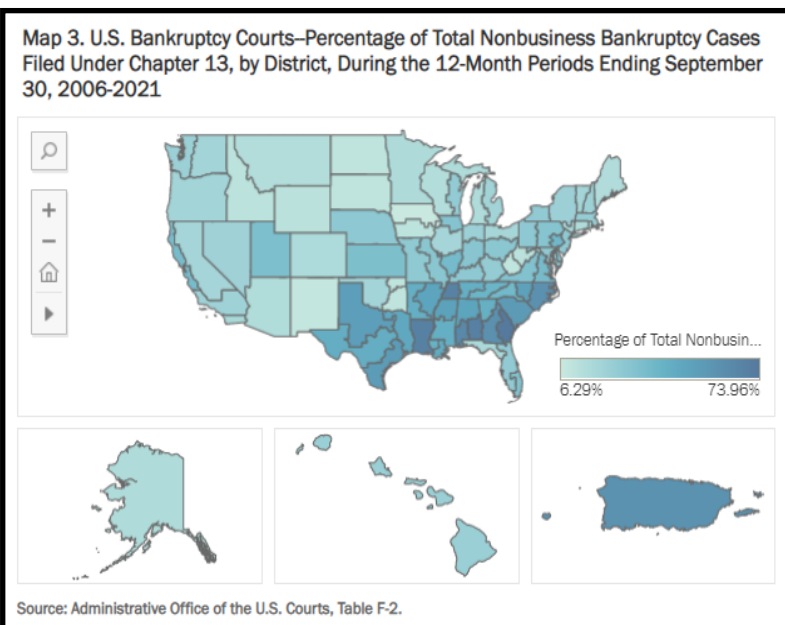
To read the entire article, click on the link below:

https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2022/10/31/bankruptcy-filings-continue-fall?utm_campaign=usc-news&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Consumer Bankruptcy Trends from 2005 to 2021

A new installment of the U.S. Court's *Just the Facts* series examines consumer bankruptcy filings from 2005 to 2021, and includes how bankruptcy filings changed during the Great Recession and COVID-19 pandemic. The United States federal districts in which Chapter 13 nonbusiness bankruptcy filings constituted the highest percentage of total nonbusiness bankruptcy filings from 2006 to 2021 were

concentrated in the South. **The Southern District of Georgia was noted as the district with the highest percentage of Chapter 13 filings as a percentage of total nonbusiness bankruptcy cases at 74%, followed by the Middle District of Alabama, in which Chapter 13 consumer filings accounted for 70% of total nonbusiness filings.**



To read the entire article and view the illustrations, click on the link below:

[Just the Facts: Consumer Bankruptcy Trends, 2005-2021 | United States Courts \(uscourts.gov\)](https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2022/10/31/bankruptcy-filings-continue-fall)



Increase in Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing Adoption Rates = Annual Savings

According to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, an unprecedented increase in Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (EBN) adoption rates has been reported since the amended Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9036 became effective on December 1, 2021. Before the rule took effect, EBN accounted for 52.6% of all notices; as of April 2022, 60% of all notices are sent electronically.

Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9036, as amended last December, granted authority to the Director of the Administrative Office to require that certain high-volume paper notice recipients receive court-generated bankruptcy notices electronically. The threshold for application of this amended rule has been set to entities that receive 100 or more paper bankruptcy notices in a single calendar month.

Because of the support of the bankruptcy judges, Clerks of Court, Clerk's Office staff, the Bankruptcy Noticing Center, the local bankruptcy bar, and the various high-volume notice recipients who have implemented use of EBN, it is projected that the Judiciary will realize an annual savings of \$1.45 million when all the high-volume recipients identified last December are receiving electronic notices. We thank you and appreciate your continued support!

For more information about EBN and to register or update, please visit EBN online at <https://bankruptcynotices.uscourts.gov/>.

You may also contact EBN Customer Service at 1-877-837-3424 or ebn@baesystems.com.



Request for Public Comment on Amendments to Federal Rules and Forms by February 16, 2023

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Standing Committee) has approved for publication for public comment the following proposed amendments to existing rules and forms, as well as a proposed new bankruptcy rule. **The public comment period is open from August 15, 2022 to February 16, 2023.** If approved, the proposals would take effect on December 1, 2024.

- *Appellate Rules: 32, 35, 40, and Appendix on Length Limits;*
- *Bankruptcy Restyled Rules Parts VII to IX; Rules 1007, 4004, 5009, 7001, 9006, and proposed new Rule 8023.1; Official Bankruptcy Form 410A;*
- *Civil Rule: 12;*
- *Evidence Rules: 611, 613, 801, 804, and 1006.*

To view the proposals and supporting materials, as well as instructions on submitting written comments, please visit the U.S. Court's website at: <https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/proposed-amendments-published-public-comment>.

Federal Rules and Forms Changes Effective December 1, 2022



The following rules amendments were approved by the Judicial Conference at its March 16, 2021 and September 28, 2021 sessions. The U.S. Supreme Court adopted these proposed amendments and transmitted them to the U.S. Congress on April 11, 2022. These amendments are effective as of **December 1, 2022**:

Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure:

1007, 1020, 2009, 2012, 2015, 3002, 3010, 3011, 3014, 3016, 3017.1, 3017.2 (*new*), 3018, 3019, 5005, 7004, and 8023.

Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure: 25 and 42.

The proposed amendment to Official Bankruptcy Form 101 was approved by the Judicial Conference at its September 2022 meeting and are effective as of **December 1, 2022**:

[Official Form 101, Voluntary Petition for Individuals \(revises lines 2 and 4\)](#)

Click [HERE](#) for more information regarding the rules and forms changes.

Changes to Chapter 13 and Subchapter V Debt Limits

On June 21, 2022, the [Bankruptcy Threshold Adjustment and Technical Corrections Act](#) (the “BTATC” Act), Pub. L. No. 117-151, became law. The law includes three major provisions: (1) extends for two years the increase of the amount of debt (*up to \$7,500,000*) allowed to be carried by debtors to qualify for small business reorganization under Subchapter V of Chapter 11 (*applies retroactively to cases commenced on or after March 27, 2022, and with respect to a case that was commenced on or after March 27, 2020, and before June 21, 2022, is pending on June 21, 2022*); (2) increases, for two years, the debt limit for individuals filing for bankruptcy under Chapter 13 (*to less than \$2,750,000*) and allows both secured and unsecured debt to count towards this single limit (*effective June 21, 2022*), and; (3) provides technical amendments to the BAIA (*to 28 U.S.C. § 589(a) specifically*), which became effective on October 1, 2021.

Means Test: Median Family Income Changes

Note median family income changes for cases filed **on or after November 1, 2022**. The Census Bureau’s Median Family Income Data, accessible through the U.S. Trustee’s [“Means Testing Information” page](#) has been updated. The U.S. Trustee Program will apply the updated data to all cases filed on or after November 1, 2022.

The original source for the [State Median Family Income](#) is the [Census Bureau](#). The original source for the National and Local Standards is the [Internal Revenue Service](#).

To access more information about means testing and to obtain the data required for completing the 122A and 122C means test forms, please visit the U.S. Trustee’s website at <https://www.justice.gov/ust/means-testing>.

Negative Notice Procedures Updated: General Order 2022-1

Pursuant to direction of the Court and [General Order 2022-1](#), the Clerk issued a revised notice of procedural changes on August 25, 2022, establishing negative notice procedures with the following types of pleadings:

- *Motion for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay (Chapter 13)*
- *Objection to Claim (Negative Notice does NOT apply to requests for valuation included in a claim objection pursuant to Rule 3012. These requests will automatically be set for hearing.) (Chapters 7, 11, and 13)*
- *Motion to Redeem Property (Chapters 7 and 13)*
- *Motion to Avoid Lien (Chapters 7 and 13)*
- *Modification of Plan After Confirmation (Chapter 13)*
- *Motion to Approve Compromise or Settlement (Chapter 7)*

Click [HERE](#) to view the revised procedures and related [General Order 2022-1](#).

Updated Guide to the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019

The Honorable Paul W. Bonapfel, United States Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Georgia, authored *A Guide to the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019*. The guide, as revised in June 2022, may be viewed [HERE](#). The May-June 2022 supplement to the guide may be viewed [HERE](#).

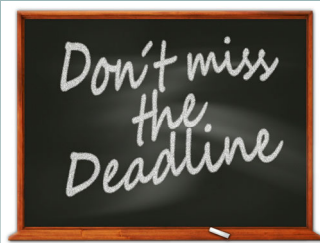
Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act (BAIA) and Chapter 7 Trustee Payments

The [Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act](#) (BAIA), enacted on January 12, 2021, adds subsection (e) to 11 U.S.C. § 330 and establishes an additional payment for eligible Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees, funded by excess collections in the U.S. Trustee System Fund. Eligible Chapter 7 trustees may receive an additional payment, up to \$60 for each applicable case, if they rendered services in cases filed under Chapter 7 on or after January 12, 2021, to the end of fiscal year (FY) 2026, or originally filed under Chapters 11, 12, or 13 on or after January 12, 2021, and subsequently converted to Chapter 7 on or before the end of FY 2026.

Amounts available for payment are determined annually based upon the available balance in the U.S. Trustee System Fund and the case count of new Chapter 7 filings and cases converted to Chapter 7 during that fiscal year, and issued after the end of each applicable fiscal year. **The Executive Office for the United States Trustee has notified the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AO) that funds will not be available to transfer to the AO for the judiciary's costs of administering Chapter 7 trustee payments incurred during FY 2022 nor for payment of applicable FY 2022 cases to eligible Chapter 7 trustees under 11 U.S.C. § 330.**

To assist with this process, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts created a dedicated public webpage on uscourts.gov. The webpage also contains a helpful link to sign up to receive notification annually when payments begin for future fiscal years.

To access the public webpage with BAIA information, click [HERE](#).



Deadlines for Payment of Filing Fee in Installments

Application to Pay Filing Fee in Installments

If a bankruptcy petition filed in the Southern District of Georgia is accompanied by an Application to Pay the Filing Fee in Installments, no initial payment is required at the time of filing. If the application is approved, the number of installment payments shall not exceed **four (4)**, and the final installment payment is due no later than **one hundred twenty (120) days** from the petition date.

If a debtor (1) makes four (4) installments payments and still owes a fee balance; or (2) fails to pay the full fee amount within the 120-day period, the Court will enter an Order for Payment of Filing Fee. The debtor will have fourteen (14) days to pay the balance of the filing fee. Otherwise, the case will be dismissed with prejudice barring refiling for one hundred eighty (180) days or until the filing fee is paid.

Extension of Time to Pay Filing Fee

If a debtor moves to extend the time to pay the filing fee and the Court enters an order granting the extension, the debtor must pay the fee no later than **one hundred eighty (180) days** from the petition date. **This 180-day deadline to pay the fee cannot be extended further, and no further notice will be given regarding this deadline after entry of the order granting the extension.** If the filing fee is not paid in full within the 180-day deadline, the case will be dismissed with prejudice barring refiling for one hundred eighty (180) days or until the filing fee is paid.

Fee Balances in Previous Cases

If a previous case was dismissed with prejudice within the past one hundred eighty (180) days for failure to pay the filing fee, the fee must be paid in that previous case in order to re-file.

If a previous case was dismissed (not subject to the 180-day prejudicial dismissal) and a fee balance is due in that previous case, the Court will deny an application to pay the filing fee in installments in the current case and allow the debtor fourteen (14) days from the petition date to pay the filing fee in the current case.

Payments

Attorney filers must pay filing fees electronically through Pay.gov (*accessible in CM/ECF > Utilities > Internet Payments Due*). Attorneys may not use a debtor's credit card or debit card to pay fees via Pay.gov.

Debtors may pay filing fees in cash (exact change required), money order, or cashier's check. No personal checks are accepted from debtors. Please do not send cash through the mail.

Motion for Continued Administration of a Chapter 13 Case

The Motion for Continued Administration of Case (Ch 13) docket event was added in CM/ECF on July 21, 2022. This event enables filers to docket a Motion for Continued Administration after the death of a debtor or joint debtor in a Chapter 13 case instead of using the “generic motion” event.

The filing of a Motion for Continued Administration under Bankruptcy Rule 1016 does not automatically include a request for exemption from any discharge requirements, such as financial management certification or certification of plan completion. Any request for exemption from discharge requirements must be included within the Motion for Continued Administration of Case, or filed as a separate Motion for Exemption with a proposed order.

The new docket event in CM/ECF is located under:

Bankruptcy > Motions/Applications > Continued Administration of Case (Ch 13)

Please note that this docket event may be used to file a stand-alone Motion for Continued Administration of Case, or to file a motion that includes request(s) for exemption from discharge requirements. The filing user will be prompted to answer whether any of those exemption requests are included within the motion, and if so, which one(s).

The final docket text of the entry reads as follows, depending on the selections made during the docketing process:

- Motion for Continued Administration of Case

OR

- Motion for Continued Administration of Case and Motion for Exemption from Financial Management Course

OR

- Motion for Continued Administration of Case and Motion for Exemption from Certification of Plan Completion

OR

- Motion for Continued Administration of Case and Motion for Exemption from Financial Management Course and Motion for Exemption from Certification of Plan Completion.

Additionally, when a Suggestion of Death is filed in a Chapter 13 case, filers will be prompted to select whether administration of the case should be continued; if so, filers will receive a display message directing them to file a Motion for Continued Administration of Case, Motion for Exemption from Financial Management Course, and/or Motion for Exemption from Certification of Plan Completion.

Please [contact the Clerk's Office](#) with any questions or concerns regarding this process.

E-Orders Guidelines and Procedures

are available on the Court's website at:

<https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/e-orders-trustee-and-attorney-guidelines-and-procedures>

The Court has also provided [eOrder templates](#) in Microsoft Word format, both for bankruptcy cases and adversary proceedings, which are configured to meet the formatting requirements in the guidelines and procedures.

Please refer also to the Court's [CM/ECF Administrative Procedures](#), [ECF Local Rules](#), and [Local Bankruptcy Rule 9072-1\(d\)](#) for requirements concerning proposed orders.

CM/ECF RESOURCES

Register for CM/ECF Access

With the implementation of CM/ECF NextGen and Central Sign-On last October, registering for CM/ECF access in the Southern District of Georgia has never been easier! Users** must first register for a [PACER](#) account, then request e-filing access to the Southern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court's Live CM/ECF database, all within PACER.

Before requesting electronic access to the Court's database, filers must first read and agree to the Filer Terms and Conditions that are posted on the Court's website at: www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-registration-information.

Once you have submitted a request for filing access, or any updates to your current information, questions or concerns may be directed to our **CM/ECF Central Sign-On Administrator, Courtney Neibel**, at 912-650-4107. Please also visit the Court's website at https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/nextgen-information for NextGen information and updates.

Please note that Debtors appearing Pro Se (those debtors without attorney representation) are not eligible to receive electronic filing access in the Southern District of Georgia Bankruptcy Court at this time.

CM/ECF User Manuals

User manuals for CM/ECF are updated and available on the Court's website. These manuals are provided to assist filers in using the CM/ECF system for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia, and should be reviewed prior to electronic filing. The manuals also provide helpful information and docketing instructions for commonly filed pleadings. The manuals are available at: www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-training-user-guidelinesmanuals-and-information.

To Report a Technical Issue with CM/ECF:

During Regular Business Hours

Contact the appropriate Clerk's Office:

Augusta 706-823-6000

Brunswick 912-280-1376

Savannah 912-650-4100

After Hours/Holidays/Weekends

Notify the Court immediately via email by clicking [HERE](#).



What's NEW with CM/ECF Bankruptcy Events

New Docket Events

Menu	Event
Motions/Applications	Continued Administration of Case (Ch 13)
Motions/Applications	Post-Recognition Relief under Section 1521 and/or 1507
Miscellaneous	Objection to Post-Recognition Relief under Section 1521 and/or 1507
Motions/Applications	Provisional Relief under Section 1519
Miscellaneous	Objection to Provisional Relief under Section 1519
Miscellaneous	Objection to Recognition of Foreign Proceeding

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)

Continued on the next page...

What's NEW with CM/ECF Bankruptcy Events (continued from previous page)

Modified Docket Events

Menu	Event	Change Description
Motions/ Applications	Reopen Case	Added a display message to the event regarding Bankruptcy Rule 5010.
Miscellaneous	Power of Attorney/ Signatory Verification	Changed the select text for this event to include Signatory Verification and to add a prompt in the event for the filing user to select the type of document being filed.
Miscellaneous	Suggestion of Death	Added a prompt in the event concerning continued administration of the case.
Plan	Chapter 13 Plan	Modified the prompt regarding the certificate of service by removing reference to "commercial notice provider." The filing user must select <i>Yes</i> or <i>No</i> when asked "Is there a Certificate of Service showing the correct manner of service attached to the Plan?"
Plan	Amended Ch. 13 Plan Before Conf.	Modified the prompt regarding the certificate of service by removing reference to "commercial notice provider." The filing user must select <i>Yes</i> or <i>No</i> when asked "Is there a Certificate of Service showing the correct manner of service attached to the Plan?"
Plan	Mod of Plan After Confirmation and Opportunity for Hearing	Modified the prompt regarding the certificate of service by removing reference to "commercial notice provider." The filing user must select <i>Yes</i> or <i>No</i> when asked "Is there a Certificate of Service attached to this modified plan and notice?"
Miscellaneous	Certificate of Service/ Amended Certificate of Service	Added a prompt for filing users to indicate if this certificate of service is for a Chapter 13 Plan or Amended/Modified Chapter 13 Plan.
Claim Actions	Objection to Claim and Notice and Opportunity for Hearing	Modified the event to set a response/objection deadline only for objections to claims filed <u>without</u> a request for valuation.



Proofread documents before filing electronically

Before filing a document electronically in CM/ECF, be sure to check the document for:

- Proper grammar
- Correct spelling and punctuation
- Proper case caption, including correct debtor name(s), case number, judge, and court division
- Exhibits and attachments to be included with the document
- Original or electronic signature(s) of the filer(s)
- Certificate of service with date and signature



Proofreading documents before filing electronically will help to greatly reduce the number of errors and deficiency notices issued from the Court.

REMINDER:



Cellular phones and other devices with cameras or recording capabilities are not allowed in the Southern District of Georgia courthouses.

When adding a party record in CM/ECF:

- Do NOT use all caps when typing text.
- The party information (*name, address, etc.*) should match what is listed on the document being filed.
- Verify the information before clicking to submit.

Overpayment of Filing Fees

If you inadvertently overpay filing fees, you may file a Motion to Refund Court Fees with the Court to have the funds credited back to the credit card with which the initial payment was made. The motion and proposed order must specify who is to receive the refunded payment. In the alternative, you may request that the funds be sent to the Chapter 13 Trustee (*in a Chapter 13 case*) and credited toward the debtor's plan payments.

Please contact the Budget/Finance Analyst at 912-650-4139 if you have any questions regarding fees in a bankruptcy case.

To obtain Notices of Electronic Filing for a previous date in CM/ECF:

- 1) Log in to [CM/ECF](#);
- 2) Click **Utilities** to access the menu;
- 3) Under *Your Account*, click **NEF Summary Report**;
- 4) Enter the **Activity Date** you wish to access, and select either *Summary Text* or *Full Text* to appear on the report;
- 5) Click **Run Report**.

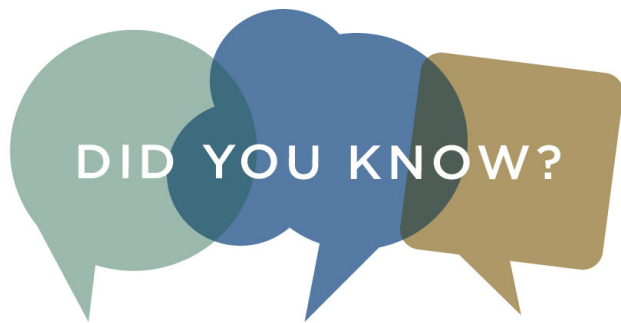
Need assistance with filing?

Contact the Clerk's Office in any of the following divisions during our regular business hours (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM):

Augusta: (706) 823-6000

Brunswick: (912) 280-1376

Savannah: (912) 650-4100



Acronyms Commonly Used in the Court

AO: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
AP: Adversary Proceeding
BNC: Bankruptcy Noticing Center
CM/ECF: Case Management/Electronic Case Filing
CRD: Courtroom Deputy
CSO: Court Security Officer (*or Central Sign-On*)
DCS: Department of Computer Services
DeBN: Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing
DQA: Data Quality Analyst
EBN: Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing
ECRO: Electronic Court Recorder Operator
FRC: Federal Records Center
IFP: In Forma Pauperis (*legal term for parties found to be indigent*)
JENIE: Judiciary Enterprise Network Information Exchange
MR: Modification Request (*for CM/ECF*)
NEF: Notice of Electronic Filing
PACER: Public Access to Court Electronic Records
PHV: Pro Hac Vice
PSC: PACER Service Center
QC: Quality Control
SOP: Standard Operating Procedure
TRO: Temporary Restraining Order

Motion to Substitute Attorney for Debtor

A Motion to Substitute Attorney for Debtor must include the signatures of both the current attorney for the debtor and the attorney who will be substituted as counsel for the debtor.

Judge Barrett also requires that the debtor sign the motion and/or proposed order in her assigned cases, or a hearing will be scheduled on the matter.

Motion for Exemption from Certification of Plan Completion/Domestic Support Obligation

A Motion for Exemption from Certification of Plan Completion/Domestic Support Obligation filed in a Chapter 13 case on behalf of a deceased or incapacitated debtor must be accompanied by an affidavit that is executed by someone with knowledge of and authority over the deceased/incapacitated debtor's financial affairs. The affidavit must affirm that the deceased or incapacitated debtor has no domestic obligations, or that the obligations are current. Any domestic support recipient should be added to the mailing matrix.

Submission of Proposed Orders on Motions for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay

Please note that **Judge Coleman** and **Judge Barrett** require that [Local Form B-55CSE](#) be used for all proposed orders on a Motion for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay, including consent orders.

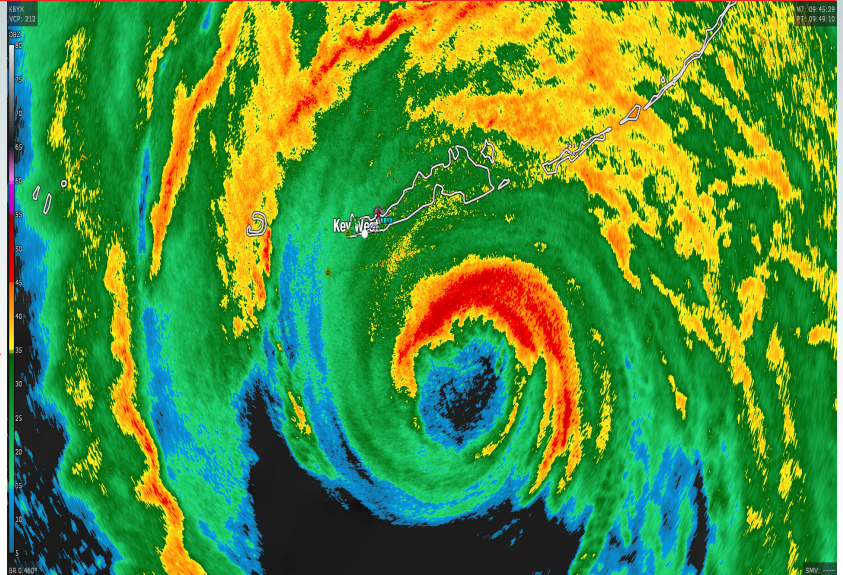
Judge Kim does not require use of the local form if parties submit a proposed consent order on a Motion for Co-Debtor Relief from Stay.

A fillable template (*in e-order format*) for [Local Form B-55CSE](#) is available on the Court's website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov, under *Forms > Local Forms*.

Be **PREPARED** for Severe Weather

Are you ready?

Visit <https://ready.gov>, an official website of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, to access useful information and resources for disaster preparedness, and to download the **FEMA Mobile App** to get preparedness strategies and real-time weather and emergency alerts.



Forecasters at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, are predicting above-average hurricane activity (65% chance of an above-normal season) this year.

Court Emergency Notifications

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia maintains an Occupant Emergency Plan, as well as a Continuity of Operations Plan, to ensure that essential functions are sustained during any disaster preventing normal court operations within our district. **In the event of court closures or rescheduling of hearings, an announcement will be posted to the Court's website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov, and a GovDelivery message will be transmitted to all subscribers. Stay subscribed** and check our website often for updates during a disaster situation, such as severe weather.



Employee News

Welcome to Asiya Khan, Law Clerk to Judge Barrett



Please welcome Asiya Khan to the Court family as Judge Barrett's term law clerk for 2022-2023. Asiya recently graduated cum laude from the University of Miami School of Law where she received CALI Awards for Bankruptcy Law and Topics in Legal Analysis, as well as an Honors Award for Commercial Law: Secured Transactions. She gained invaluable experience as an intern to the Honorable Laurel Isicoff, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida, and as a law clerk to Subchapter V Trustee, Aledia Martinez-Molina. She also served as an intern for the Honorable Jacqueline Becerra, U.S. Magistrate Court for the Southern District of Florida. Congratulations, Asiya! We look forward to working with you and to your contributions to the Court.

Celebrating GASB Milestones



Congratulations to April Rowe on her **15-year** anniversary with the Court. April is the Courtroom Deputy and Chapter 11/12 Clerk for Judge Kim in Brunswick, GA. She began her employment in April 2007 with the U.S. Probation Office, and transferred to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Brunswick Division, where she started as a Case Administrator. April has also served as the Electronic Court Recording Operator (ECRO) for Judge Kim. We are proud of her accomplishments and distinguished court service - way to go, April!



Congratulations to Mrs. Betty Way

(formerly Betty Gary), a Case Administrator in the Augusta Clerk's Office, on her recent marriage to Mr. Bruce Way. The happy couple were married on July 9, 2022, at their home church in North Augusta, South Carolina with friends and family in attendance. Betty and Bruce enjoyed their honeymoon in Ocean City, Maryland.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia is like family - we stand together through happy *and* difficult times.

Betty has been with the Clerk's Office for 24 years, and is a survivor of Stage 4 head and neck cancer. She always comes to work with a positive attitude and works to encourage those around her.

Betty met Bruce Way at church and they were both smitten after the first date! Bruce retired from Savannah River Site after 29 years as a Subcontract Administrator. Now that they are happily wedded, Bruce and Betty will share 7 children and 22 grandchildren. We are so happy for the two of them and wish them all the best.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Georgia Southern Employees Participate in 2nd Annual *Feds In Motion* Challenge

In May 2022, employees from the Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Court (*Team High Octane GAS*) participated in the 2nd Annual Feds in Motion Challenge. All 1,425 participants from across the country helped the Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund (FEEA) to raise over \$100,000 to support programs for federal employees and their families. This funding is integral to the FEEA's ability to provide emergency hardship loans, disaster aid, and more throughout the year. Learn more about the work of FEEA at feca.org.

Team High Octane GAS enjoyed getting our “move” on with colleagues, friends, and family members, logging a total of 661.44 miles. Kudos to the following team members - we hope to rise to the Feds in Motion Challenge again next year!

Dana Wilson

April Green

Jacqueline Bauknight

Elizabeth Bonanni

Courtney Neibel

Karen Shaurette

Betty Way

Crystal DeLaurentis

Leigh Cribbs



Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Participates in 2022 Legal Food Frenzy

The 11th Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy was held from April 18 to April 29, 2022, with fundraising taking place primarily online. The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy is an annual two-week fundraising competition created in partnership with the Georgia Attorney General, the State Bar and Young Lawyers Division, and the Georgia Food Bank Association. The competition is open to everyone in the legal community to see which organization can have the biggest positive impact on reducing hunger, and the money raised benefits the regional food banks that serve our local communities.

During this year's competition, 189 law firms, legal organizations, in-house counsel, and courts (including Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Court) across Georgia representing more than 19,000 employees raised a grand total of \$880,248.08. This is the equivalent of over 3.5 million meals for kids, seniors, and families in Georgia.

For more information regarding Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, please visit their website at www.GALegalFoodFrenzy.org.



**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>

Microsoft Ends Support for Internet Explorer

Microsoft officially ended technical support for Internet Explorer (IE) on June 15, 2022.

CM/ECF NextGen for bankruptcy is compatible with the following browsers:

- Edge 84.0.522.40 - 85.0.564.51
- Firefox 78.0.2 - 80.0.1
- Chrome 84.0.4147.89 - 85.0.4183.102
- Safari

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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 GovDelivery 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.





The Courthouse will be **CLOSED** in observance of the upcoming federal holidays:

Monday, December 26, 2022

Monday, January 2, 2023

Monday, January 16, 2023

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**:

Rena Creel

Leigh Cribbs

Crystal DeLaurentis

Ruba Franks

Christyne Murray

Lucinda Rauback

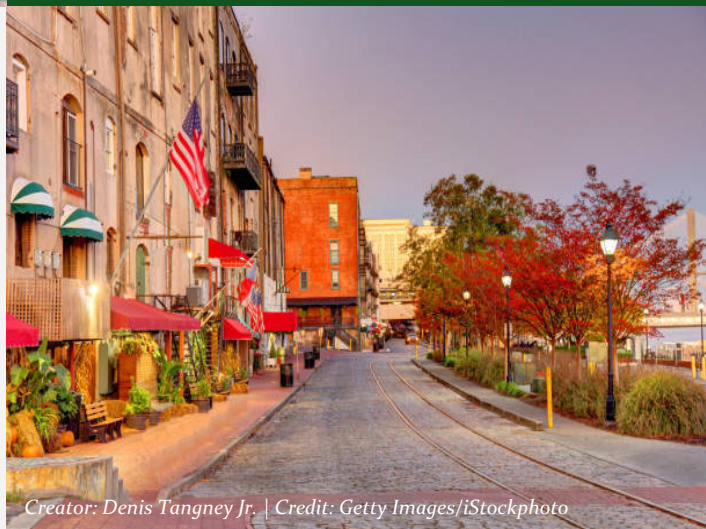
Lainie Saul

Christina Toole

Betty Way

Carla Wilbourn

Dana Wilson



Pictured above: Historic River Street in Savannah, Georgia

Savannah is the oldest city in the U.S. state of Georgia and is the county seat of Chatham County.

Thank You

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

lainie_saul@gas.uscourts.gov

or

courtney_neibel@gas.uscourts.gov

We look forward to your feedback!