



The Southern Scoop

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

www.gasb.uscourts.gov

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Summer 2023

Dana Wilson Named Acting Clerk for U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

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- ...and more!

The Bankruptcy Court is pleased to announce that effective July 1, 2023, Dana Wilson is appointed as Acting Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia. The appointment coincides with the June 30th retirement of Lucinda Rauback.

Dana joined the Bankruptcy Court in 2000, first serving as a term law clerk to Judge John S. Dalis, and then as the Operations Supervisor of the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office in Augusta from 2002 to 2007. Dana has served as Judge Susan D. Barrett's career law clerk in Augusta since 2007.

As a double "Dawg," Dana received a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture (cum laude), with a major in Environmental Economics and Management, and a Juris Doctor degree (cum laude) from the University of Georgia. Congratulations, Dana!

A heartfelt thank you and best wishes to Lucinda Rauback as she retires from a distinguished 34 year career with the federal judiciary. As a beloved and valued member of the Court family, Lucinda's service and dedication to this district will be remembered always.

Good luck, Lucinda! We will miss you.



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	<i>unstaffed</i>	(912) 650-4100	<i>unstaffed</i>	<i>unstaffed</i>

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

Preventing Third-Party Services' Access to Restricted Information in CM/ECF*

*As provided by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts

CM/ECF filers should be aware of the potential to inadvertently share restricted documents when using third-party services or software. Sharing your PACER account credentials with a third-party service provider or designating that provider as a secondary recipient of a Notice of Electronic Filing or Notice of Docket Activity (NEF/NDA) will give it access to sealed or restricted case information and documents in violation of court order. You are urged to use caution in your computer security practices to ensure that sealed or restricted documents to which you have access are not disclosed.

Please refer to the [State of Georgia's Bar Rules](#) to determine whether it is inappropriate to include a third-party service's email address as a secondary notice recipient (*i.e., a violation of confidentiality or other obligations*). Be cautious when using third-party services and software, and do not use services or software that directly link to filers' PACER accounts, in order to avoid inadvertently redistributing restricted documents. Be mindful of whom you list as secondary NEF/NDA recipients and ensure that third-party services cannot access restricted information and documents intended only for case participants.

Information Security and the Judiciary



Cybersecurity is important to all information technology users, but it is especially important to government information systems and the Court. We are constantly under attack by a growing and sophisticated community of hackers who will stop at nothing to gain access to our secured data. The judiciary has increased its efforts to protect electronic records information and systems, and the process is ongoing. Actions, such as scanning court systems for vulnerabilities and subscribing to security alerting resources, occur on a regular basis at the Court.

How can we protect our data? It begins with the “first line of defense” against IT security incidents — the user (you!). Users must understand and follow effective IT security practices to minimize the risk of data theft, and not just on desk computers; mobile devices, such as laptops, tablets, thumb drives, and smart phones are all vulnerable to loss, theft, and data breaches if not properly secured. Data theft can happen anywhere, so we must be vigilant to protect ourselves and our information.

Refer to page 3 of this newsletter for some tips and tricks on protecting your data. By practicing caution and using secure practices when accessing information, you can help to minimize the threat to sensitive or personal data and stop hackers in their tracks.

Protecting Your Data: *Tips & Tricks**

**As provided by the U.S. Government's IT Security Office.*



- ✓ **Know the security risks** of internet-connected devices and configure them securely. Make sure you have antivirus software installed on all devices. Keep this software, and all other software, current with all updates and patches.
- ✓ **Use strong, unique passwords** for every account. Consider simplifying password management without sacrificing complexity with a password vault (*a software program that electronically protects your passwords*).
- ✓ **Protect the way you connect.** The key to protecting remote access is to use something in addition to a password to log in - to require a “second factor.” The “first factor” is something you know, such as a PIN code or a password. The second factor can be something you have (*such as a single-use code sent to your mobile phone*) or something specific to you (*that is, biometric data, such as a fingerprint*).
- ✓ **Don't be fooled** into clicking that link! Hackers masquerade as friends, contacts, and real businesses. Hover over links to see their true destinations. Malware and other dangers may lurk beneath.
- ✓ **Look for the “S”** in the web address - your data is safer with HTTPS. Exchange sensitive information only with secure websites.
- ✓ **Avoid opening unexpected attachments** in email. Malware and other dangers may lurk within.
- ✓ **Do not click, call back, or download** content from unsolicited text messages. If you believe a text message is real, verify by logging on to your online account and check your messages, or call the organization using a published or known good phone number.
- ✓ **Avoid mobile malware** by downloading mobile apps only from trusted and approved sources. Keep mobile device software and mobile apps up to date.
- ✓ **Beware of QR Code Phishing:** scammers can easily replace legitimate QR codes with fraudulent codes, using the altered barcode to embed malware onto your device. Practice caution when scanning a QR code, slow down and check the destination URL: look for misspelling or typos. Never download apps from QR codes, and avoid making payments from QR codes.



National Bankruptcy Filings Rise, But Stay Lower Than Pre-COVID

(Published on the U.S. Court's website May 5, 2023)

Bankruptcy filings rose slightly for the 12-month period ending March 31, 2023, but new bankruptcy cases remain sharply lower than before the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. According to statistics released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, total filings rose 2.0%, to 403,273 new cases, compared with 395,373 cases in the previous year. Business filings increased 9.9%, from 13,160 in March 2022 to 14,467 in the newest report. Non-business filings rose 1.7%, from 382,213 in March 2022 to 388,806 in March 2023.

This year's 12-month filing total for the quarter ending March 31 is slightly more than half of the total reported in March 2020, when the pandemic disrupted the U.S. economy. That year's 12-month total was 764,282.

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

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2023/05/05/bankruptcies-rise-stay-lower-pre-covid>

Judiciary's 2022 Annual Report and Statistics

(Published on the U.S. Court's website March 14, 2023)

The Judiciary reported on the progress made in 2022 in a number of critical areas of court operations, including improved safety and security of judges and staff, the courthouses where they work, and the IT systems relied on by the courts for day-to-day operations. Judge Roslynn R. Mauskopf, the Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO), credited the hard work of the judges, court executives, and support staff for the milestones detailed in her [Annual Report](#) and [Judicial Business](#) statistical accompaniment published on March 14, 2023. "The entire Judiciary family can take pride in the many ways it has preserved and strengthened our independent third branch of government," she wrote.

Organized in 12 chapters, the report describes the work of the AO and the courts in 2022. In addition to major improvements in safety and security, the Judiciary made strides in greater transparency in financial reporting for judges and in fostering an exemplary workplace that is respectful, diverse, and inclusive.

Many courts returned to pre-pandemic operations as the COVID-19 crisis receded. The Judiciary made progress in the early phases of modernization of its digital case management system and the public access portal for court records, the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) service.

In the accompanying Judicial Business of the United States report, the Judiciary provides statistical tables about federal caseloads by circuit, district, and offense, among other topics. It compares data for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, with data for prior years.

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

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2023/03/14/judiciarys-2022-annual-report-and-statistics-now-available>

United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia Recent Caseload Activity

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia (Court) has a jurisdiction of 43 counties in southeast Georgia, with divisions in Augusta, Brunswick, Dublin, Savannah, Waycross, and Statesboro.

For 12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2023

Reopened Cases	40
Conversions	118
Discharges	2911
Dismissals	1659
Adversary Proceedings	51
BK Closings	4600
AP Closings	54

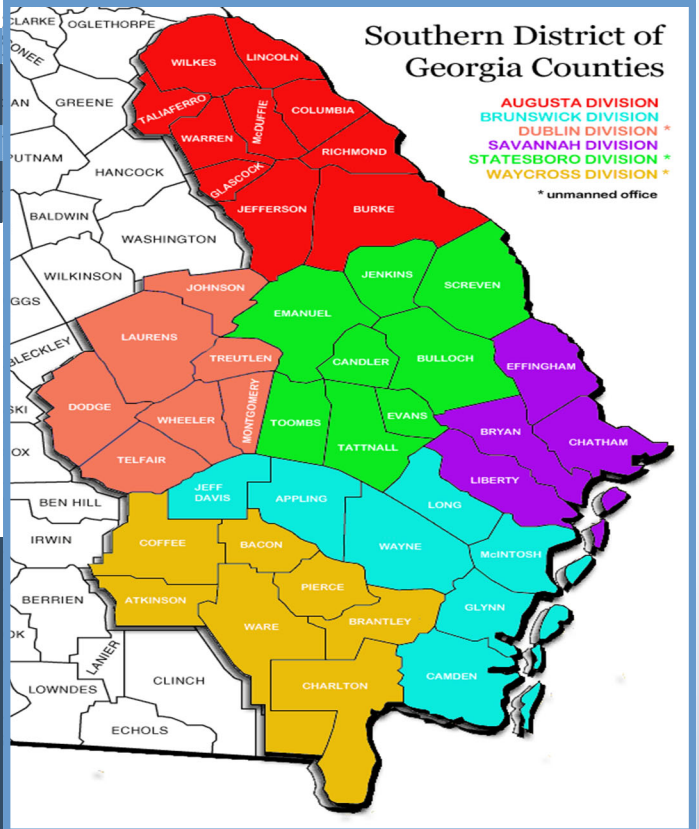
BANKRUPTCY FILINGS

Chapter 7	453
Chapter 11	1
Chapter 12	0
Chapter 13	3168

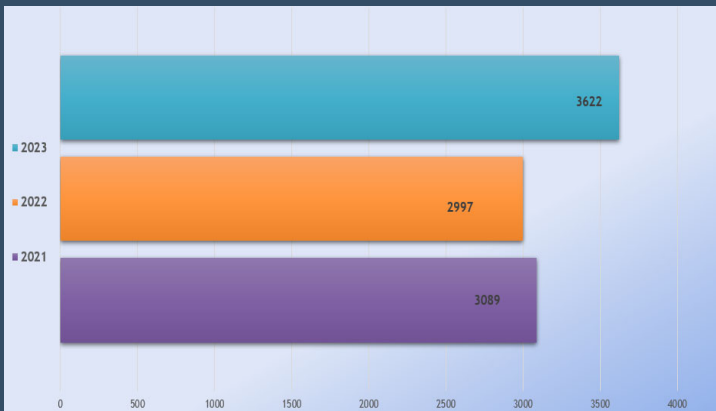
PRO SE FILINGS 111

FILINGS BY DIVISION

Augusta	970
Brunswick	462
Dublin	180
Savannah	995
Statesboro	363
Waycross	652



Total Case Filings (All Chapters) for 12-Month Period Ending March 31

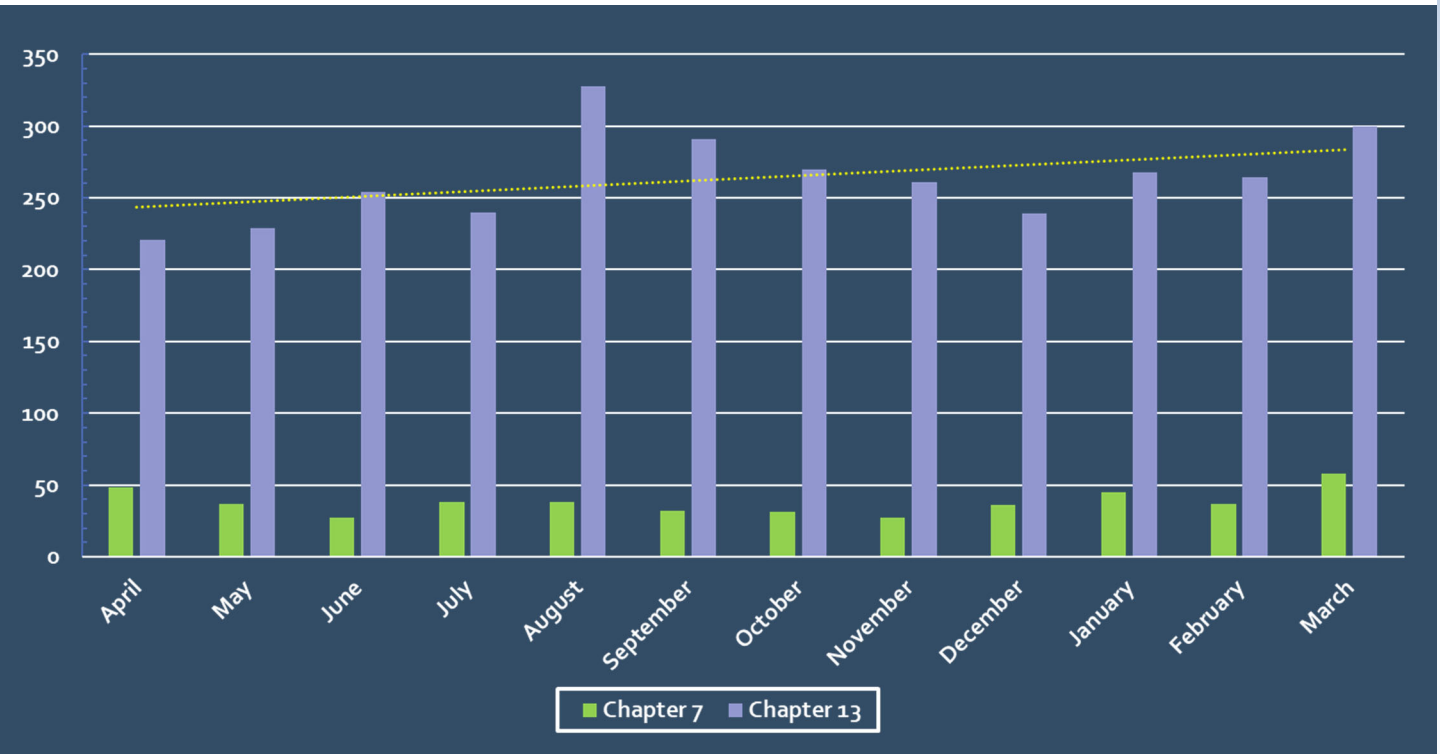


Statistical data is available to the public on the Judiciary's website at:

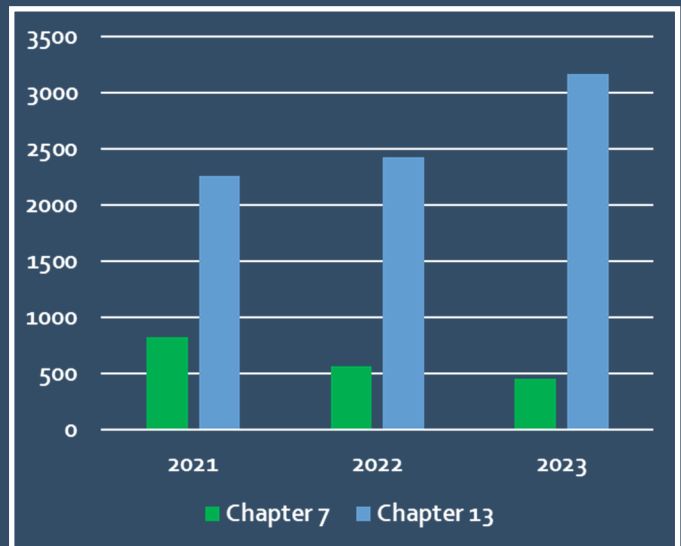
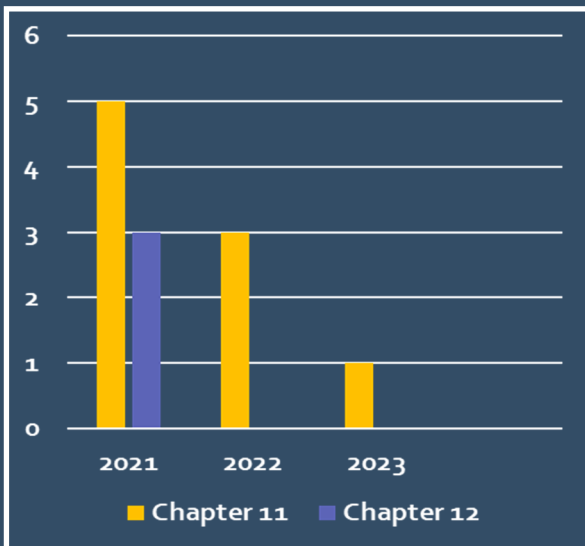
<https://www.uscourts.gov/statistics-reports/caseload-statistics-data-tables>

United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

Case Filings by **Chapter** for 12-Month Period Ending **March 31, 2023**



Case Filing Trends **2021-2023** (12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2023)



Federal Rules Changes Effective **December 1, 2023**



The following rules amendments were prepared by the Judicial Conference's Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure and transmitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in October 2022. If adopted by the Supreme Court and transmitted to Congress by May 1, 2023, and absent congressional action, these amendments will take effect on **December 1, 2023**:

Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure:

3011, 8003, 9006, and new Rule 9038.

Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure: 2, 4, 26, and 45.

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: 6, 15, 72, and new Rule 87.

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

Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act (BAIA) Payments for Applicable Fiscal Year **2022** Cases

The United States Department of Justice announced in February 2023 that there are insufficient funds available for transfer under 11 U.S.C. § 589(a)(f)(1) to pay chapter 7 trustee compensation under 11 U.S.C. § 330(e) in applicable Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 cases. In accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 330(e)(4) and the regulations, the amount for payment in applicable FY 2022 cases is therefore \$0. Despite there being no funds available for applicable FY 2022 cases, trustees should still file their payment eligibility certifications in applicable FY 2023 cases.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view an informational sheet covering additional questions regarding 11 U.S.C. § 330 (e) payments.

Additional information is provided on the [Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act Chapter 7 Trustee Payments page](#), and more information will be posted on that page about FY 2023 cases when it becomes available.

Means Testing Changes Effective **April 1, 2023**

The Census Bureau's Median Family Income Data accessible through the [U.S. Trustee's website](#) has been updated. The U.S. Trustee program applies the updated data to cases filed on or after April 1, 2023. Debtors are instructed, in Part 2 of Bankruptcy Form 122A-1 and Part 2 of Bankruptcy Form 122C-1, to "fill in the median income for your state and size of household." This information is published by the Census Bureau, and the data is updated each year.

[Click here](#) to access the median family income data.

Revision to Voluntary Petition Regarding “Other Names” Used by Debtors

Part 1: Identify Yourself

	About Debtor 1:
1. Your full name Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport). Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.	<input type="text"/> First name <input type="text"/> Middle name <input type="text"/> Last name <input type="text"/> Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III) <input type="text"/>
2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years Include your married or maiden names and any assumed, trade names and <i>doing business as</i> names. Do NOT list the name of any separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC that is not filing this petition.	<input type="text"/> First name <input type="text"/> Middle name <input type="text"/> Last name <input type="text"/> First name <input type="text"/> Middle name <input type="text"/> Last name <input type="text"/> Business name (if applicable) <input type="text"/> Business name (if applicable) <input type="text"/>

The language on **Questions 2 and 4** of [Official Form B101](#), the *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy*, was modified effective December 1, 2022, to clarify the information requested regarding other names the debtor has used in the past eight years.

Question 2 now specifies that all other names used by the debtor should include any assumed, trade names, and *doing business as* names, and should **exclude** the names of separate legal entities (*e.g., corporations, partnerships, LLCs, LLPs, etc.*) in which the debtor holds interest but which are not filing the voluntary petition.

Pursuant to [Committee Notes](#) on this change, this revision to **Question 2** on the Voluntary Petition is to make it clear that the only names to be listed on the Voluntary Petition are names that were used by the debtor personally in conducting business, but **not** names used by other legal entities.

Committee notes regarding this change are available online at:

www.uscourts.gov/forms/individual-debtors/voluntary-petition-individuals-filing-bankruptcy

Termination of **COVID-19** National Emergency and Related Order

On April 10, 2023, following House and Senate passage, the President signed into law a Joint Resolution ([H.J. Res. 7](#)), which provides that “the national emergency declared by the finding of the President on March 13, 2020, in Proclamation 9994... is hereby terminated.”

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia (“the Court”) previously entered Administrative Order 2020-2 on March 19, 2020 and provided that it applied through April 10, 2020. Because the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continued and states of emergency continued in the United States and the State of Georgia, on April 9, 2020 the deadline of Administrative Order 2020-2 was extended indefinitely until further order of the Court.

On April 27, 2023, the Court entered an [Order Setting an Expiration Date of Wednesday, May 10, 2023 for Administrative Order 2020-2](#), returning the Court to pre-pandemic practices that applied prior to Administrative Order 2020-2.

Recent Legislation and Other Developments

In November 2022, the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Department of Education, issued “[Guidance for Department Attorneys Regarding Student Bankruptcy Loan Litigation](#).” The guidance attempts to streamline the process to discharge federal student debt by asking debtors to complete an “attestation form” for the Justice Department to determine whether certain criteria are met for it to recommend a partial or full discharge.

On December 19, 2022, the 11th Circuit affirmed the dismissal of an appeal based on a lack of appellate jurisdiction in *A&S Entertainment LLC v. Florida Dept. of Revenue (In re A&S Entertainment LLC)*, 2022 WL 17752234 (11th Cir. Dec. 19, 2022). The creditor filed a claim, which the chapter 11 debtor objected to. The bankruptcy court entered an order that allowed a sizable priority claim for the creditor. The debtor moved for reconsideration, which was denied. Rather than appeal then, the debtor waited for months (*until after its plan was confirmed*) to file an appeal. The 11th Circuit held that the earlier order was a final order that should have been appealed months earlier because it “settled and disposed of a discrete dispute – what was owed to the creditor – within the larger bankruptcy case.”

On January 5, 2023, the President signed into law the “Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022” ([Pub. L. No. 117-347](#)). This law amends 11 U.S.C. § 523(a) to make nondischargeable a debt for injury to an individual by the debtor relating to a violation under Title 18, Chapter 77 of the United States Code (Peonage, Slavery and Trafficking in Persons).

On February 22, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling in *Bartenwerfer v. Buckley*, No. 21-908, 598 U.S. ___, 143 S.Ct. 665, 214 L.Ed2d 434 (2023), where it resolved a 9th circuit split in ruling that a debt based on fraud committed by, or a false representation made by, the debtor’s partner or agent is nondischargeable in the debtor’s bankruptcy case. In a unanimous opinion authored by Justice Amy Coney Barrett, the Court held that section 523(a)(2)(A) turns on how the money that is subject to a creditor claim was obtained, rather than on who committed the fraud to obtain the money.

Recent Opinions Published in the Southern District of Georgia

- **22-40822-EJC *Erica Latrelle Bryant***; Opinion on Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice entered by Judge Edward J. Coleman III on March 29, 2023.
- **17-06006-SDB *Knight vs. Peoples Bank***; Opinion and Order entered by Judge Susan D. Barrett on March 30, 2023. The Court found that the defendant did violate the discharge injunction, but Debtor failed to carry her burden to prove her damages.

Case Management Modernization Team Releases **PACER** User Interview Findings

(Published in “Court Connections” on March 22, 2023)



The Administrative Office’s case management modernization team has taken the first steps towards replacing PACER, conducting user research to lay the foundation for the new service. The PACER replacement project, known as the “Unified Search” effort, will ultimately result in an intuitive interface that allows searching across all federal courts for publicly available documents and docket entries.

The modernization team began conducting user research to better understand how the public currently uses PACER and views PACER’s search capabilities. The team conducted one-on-one user interviews with each member of the AO’s Electronic Public Access (EPA) Public User Group. The EPA Public User Group was formed in 2020 to provide advice on the development, implementation, and enhancement of the judiciary’s electronic public access services, including PACER. The twelve-member EPA Public User Group represents a cross-section of PACER users from the legal profession, commercial firms, the media, academia, government agencies, and the general public.

A report summarizing the findings of this research shows (*in part*) that the data collected captured overall impressions of PACER, how each individual uses PACER, and how it fits into their daily job. Users were asked both for higher level opinions or impressions of PACER and also to recount a specific instance of recent PACER usage and their recollections of that experience. They were also asked to provide recommendations on how to improve the searching of, and access to, public court records.

Overall, users interviewed were happy that PACER exists and appreciated the access to the large amount of data contained within the federal Judiciary’s case management systems. Those interviewed who are involved with data gathering or data mining mainly wanted an Application Programming Interface (API) to access PACER data and were not as focused on the detailed aspects of searching for cases or parties.

While outside the scope of this project, an overwhelming number of interview participants expressed some concerns regarding PACER fees. Some of those interviewed stated a belief that PACER should be completely free or at least free to the general public; however, most users expressed more specific concerns regarding costs. Several users simply wanted more details regarding what was contained within a document before they decided to pay for the download. Others interviewed felt there could be more transparency regarding the overall fees. Frustration was also expressed about getting charged for a search even if the search returned no results.

Users definitely saw a need for improvements to PACER and mainly focused on being able to easily conduct searches and then better filter search results. Providing the user full text search capability that includes the searching of all documents within the docket would be a significant step forward in satisfying many of the common themes raised during the interviews. Post-search filters on data elements such as judge, attorney, and document type would also greatly improve the user experience.

Current efforts on Unified Search seem to nicely align with all input obtained during the user interviews such as full text search, improved filters, and an API. The EPA Public User Group along with the Unified Search User Representatives will need to continue to be consulted as the project progresses to develop even more detailed requirements or answer specific questions as they arise.

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.

Reminder re: Prohibition of Ex Parte Contacts

Please be reminded that Bankruptcy Rule 9003 prohibits ex parte communications with the Court concerning matters affecting a particular case or proceeding. **Bankruptcy Rule 9003 - Prohibition of Ex Parte Contacts** states, in part:

(a) GENERAL PROHIBITION. Except as otherwise permitted by applicable law, any examiner, any party in interest, and any attorney, accountant, or employee of a party in interest shall refrain from ex parte meetings and communications with the Court concerning matters affecting a particular case or proceeding.

This rule regulates the actions of parties in interest and their attorneys or others employed by parties in interest. This regulation of the conduct of parties in interest and their representative(s) is designed to ensure that the bankruptcy system operates fairly and that no appearance of unfairness is created.

This rule is not a substitute for or limitation of any applicable canon of professional responsibility or judicial conduct. See, e.g., Canon 7, EC7-35, Disciplinary Rule 7-110(b) of the Code of Professional Responsibility: “Generally, in adversary proceedings a lawyer should not communicate with a judge relative to a matter pending before, or which is to be brought before, a tribunal over which he presides in circumstances which might have the effect or give the appearance of granting undue advantage to one party;” and Canon 3A(4) of the Code of Judicial Conduct: “A judge should ... neither initiate nor consider ex parte or other communications concerning a pending or impending proceeding.”

Clerk's Office **Contacts**

Dana M. Wilson, Acting Clerk of Court	(912) 650-4105
Lainie Saul, Chief Deputy Clerk	(912) 650-4106
Leigh Cribbs, Budget/Financial Analyst	(912) 280-1343
Crystal DeLaurentis, Administrative Analyst	(912) 650-4138
Courtney Neibel, Data Quality Analyst/ECF Central Sign-On Administrator	(912) 650-4107

Augusta	
Clerk's Office Main Number	(706) 823-6000
Carla Wilbourn, Divisional Manager	(706) 823-6037

Brunswick	
Clerk's Office Main Number	(912) 280-1376
April Rowe, Divisional Manager	(912) 280-1343

Savannah	
Clerk's Office Main Number	(912) 650-4100
Cherish Hayes, Divisional Manager	(912) 650-4102

Current Case Management Digit Assignments

The following digit list was revised on February 10, 2023, 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	0, 1, 2 Bwk / Way	
Karen (KMS)	(706) 823-6019	33 - 66 Bwk / Way	33 - 66 Bwk / Way	3, 4, 5 Bwk / Way	
Tory (TGG)	(912) 280-1369	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	6, 7, 8, 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 - 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



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 by the Court.

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

Filing Users and Signatures

Remember when signing and filing a document in CM/ECF that the user account of the attorney who signed the pleading should be used when filing the pleading in CM/ECF. The user's login for the CM/ECF system serves as the Filing User's signature for all electronic documents filed with the Court. The user's login also serves as a signature for purposes of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9011, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Local Rules of this Court, and any other purpose for which a signature is required in connection with proceedings before the Court.

Refer to [ECF Local Rule 8](#) and the Court's [CM/ECF Administrative Procedures](#) for more information.

Amending a Motion/Application

When amending a motion/application, please be sure to relate the amended motion/application to the original pleading.

Check the Docket Before You Pay

Before paying a filing fee, be sure to check the case in CM/ECF to determine how much has already been paid to the Court:

Search the docket report of the case for all receipts (*click CTRL+F and type "receipt"*). All receipts docketed in the case will be highlighted. Add each payment received to see how much has been paid in total.

If you overpay filing fees, you may file with the Court a Motion to Refund Court Fees to have the funds credited back to the credit card with which the initial payment was made. Alternatively, you can request that the funds be sent to the Chapter 13 Trustee (*in a Chapter 13 case*) and credited towards the debtor's plan payments. A Motion to Refund Court Fees and Proposed Order must specify who is to receive the refunded payment.

For any questions regarding fees in a bankruptcy case, please contact the Court's Budget/Finance Analyst at 912-280-1343.

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 [eOrders 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.

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 of this can be completed 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 Resources

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-guidelines-manuals-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 and Modified Docket Events

Menu	Event
Limited Misc Events	Redact (Fee Per Case)/Amended Motion to Redact
Trustee/US Trustee (or Miscellaneous)	Notice of Rescheduled Meeting of Creditors with Certificate of Service
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting Concluded - No Asset Case (Ch 7)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting Concluded - Possible Asset Case (Ch 7)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting Continued (All Ch 7 Cases)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting of Creditors Held and Concluded (Ch 11/12)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting of Creditors Held and Continued (Ch 11/12)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting of Creditors Held and Concluded (Ch 13)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting of Creditors Held and Continued (Ch 13)
Trustee/US Trustee	Meeting of Creditors Held and Continued to Confirmation (Ch 13)
Motions/Applications	Determine Lien Satisfied
Motions/Applications	Extend Time to File Tax Returns

Revised Hearing and Meeting Locations

The hearing and meeting locations in CM/ECF have been revised so that the locations no longer appear in all caps in the docket entry text, and telephonic 341 meeting locations now include the trustee's telephonic call in number and passcode in the docket entry text.

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)

Employee News

Meet Leigh Cribbs, Management Analyst (Budget and Finance)

Please welcome Leigh Cribbs as the Court's new Management Analyst in Budget and Finance. Leigh has been employed with the bankruptcy court since February 2000, most recently serving as Divisional Manager of the Brunswick office since 2019. She also held the position of Courtroom Deputy to both Judge Kim and Judge Dalis for a combined 13 years, after serving in case administration positions for 6 years. Leigh's prior office manager experience in the private sector provided an additional 8 years of relevant administrative experience in the areas of bookkeeping, accounting, billing, collections, and time and attendance management. Leigh graduated from Armstrong Atlantic State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Congratulations to Leigh on her new position!



Meet Becky Delatorre, Brunswick Case Administrator

Please welcome Becky Delatorre as the Court's newest Case Administrator in the Brunswick office. Becky graduated in 2007 from Otterbein College in Westerville, Ohio, with a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminology. After college, Becky began a career in law enforcement that has spanned over 15 years. Most recently a Court Security Officer (CSO) in the district's Brunswick federal courthouse, Becky was also a police officer with the Georgia Ports Authority in Brunswick and the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, where she served on the Neighborhood Task Force (NTF) and the Counter Narcotics Team (CNT). Prior to relocating to Brunswick, Becky was a criminal investigator for the district attorney's office in Blue Ridge, Georgia. Welcome to the Bankruptcy Court family Becky!



Meet April Rowe, Brunswick Divisional Manager

Please welcome April Rowe as the new Divisional Manager for the Court's Brunswick office. April has been with the Court for 16 years. She was initially hired by the U.S. Probation Office in April 2007. In December 2008, April transferred to the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, where she worked as a Case Administrator/ECRO before being promoted to Courtroom Deputy to the Honorable Michele J. Kim in December 2019.

April received an Associate of Science Degree in Marketing/Business Management (Dean's List) from Coastal Georgia Community College in Brunswick, GA. She served as Deputy Court Clerk for the State Court of Glynn County, and has several years of experience as a medical receptionist. April will also continue to maintain her role as Courtroom Deputy to Judge Kim. Congratulations, April!



Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Participates in 2023 Legal Food Frenzy

The 12th Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy was held from April 18 to 29, 2023, 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 impact on hunger, and the money raised benefits the regional food banks that serve our local communities.

During this year's competition, 197 law firms, legal organizations, in-house counsel, and courts, including Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Court, across Georgia representing more than 14,000 employees, raised a grand total of \$829,239.00. That's the equivalent of over 3.2 million meals for kids, senior citizens, and families in Georgia!

For more information regarding the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, please visit their website at:

GALegalFoodFrenzy.org



Best Wishes to Wendy Peña



A heartfelt congratulations to Wendy Peña, who retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court on April 30, 2023, after 22 years of distinguished service within the Federal Judiciary.

Before moving from the United Kingdom to the United States in 2000, Wendy was an Insolvency Administrator for 12 years with Arthur Anderson (London), specializing in the fields of corporate liquidation and personal bankruptcy cases. Wendy joined the Savannah Division of the Bankruptcy Court as a Case Administrator in the case opening section in March 2001. Given her impressive background and ability to quickly learn court operations, Wendy was soon promoted from Case Administrator to Case Manager. Wendy's financial and operational knowledge led to her selection as the Court's Financial Specialist in November 2007, and finally to her appointment as Budget and Finance Analyst in May 2016.

Wendy was a Training Lead during the Court's initial CM/ECF implementation in 2005 and, along with other Clerk's Office trainers, provided essential training to attorneys, trustees, and court staff. Nationally, Wendy has served on the

Unclaimed Funds Expert Panel, a sub-group of the Financial Managers Working Group, with a focus on unclaimed funds held by the courts.

Wendy's financial management expertise, attention to detail, accuracy, and uncanny ability to quickly track down and resolve financial issues are legendary. Her dedication, knowledge, experience, and substantial contributions to the Court have made her a valued and trusted colleague to all.

Wendy's plans after retirement are to make more improvements to her home, as she is a "DIY" fanatic; she loves to try her hand at any aspect of home improvement. To date, she and a friend have tackled plumbing, electrical, construction of an addition including vinyl siding, painting, tiling, refinishing of old hardwood floors, and bamboo flooring installation. She also plans to travel to Canada, Ireland, and England to spend more time with family and friends.

Congratulations, Wendy, and best wishes to you for a long, happy, and healthy retirement!



Service Awards Ceremony for Court Staff

Bankruptcy Clerk's Office and Chambers staff were honored at a service awards ceremony this past fall, in recognition of their years of loyal and faithful service to the United States Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of Georgia. The employees recognized have a combined 115 years of federal service! Congratulations to these employees and keep up the great work.



Staff in Augusta, Georgia



Staff in Brunswick, Georgia

Service Awards Ceremony for Court Staff (*Continued*)



Staff in Savannah, Georgia



Celebrating milestones in federal service this year:

5 Years

Karen Shaurette

15 Years

Tory Grandison

20 Years

Cherish Hayes

25 Years

April Green
Betty Way

30 Years

Vonita Wingfield



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>

Useful Links/Resources

United States Courts:

www.uscourts.gov

U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia:

www.gasd.uscourts.gov

United States Trustee Region 21:

www.justice.gov/ust-regions-r21

11th Circuit Court of Appeals:

www.ca11.uscourts.gov

National Creditor Registration Service:

<https://bankruptcynotices.uscourts.gov>

Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2023:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>

Unclaimed Funds Information:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information

Transcript/Audio Requests:

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/transcriptaudio-requests

Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN):

www.gasb.uscourts.gov/debtor-electronic-bankruptcy-noticing-debn



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www.gasb.uscourts.gov

The Court's website is frequently updated with notifications regarding court operations during severe weather and unforeseen circumstances occurring in our area, 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, September 4, 2023

Monday, October 9, 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**:

Elizabeth Bonanni

Holly Bowers

Rena Creel

Leigh Cribbs

Crystal DeLaurentis

Christyne Murray

Wendy Peña

Lucinda Rauback

April Rowe

Lainie Saul

Dana Wilson

thank you



Pictured above: Tybee Island Lighthouse and Museum (exploregeorgia.org)

Ordered by General James Oglethorpe, governor of the 13th colony, in 1732, the Tybee Island Light Station has been guiding mariners' safe entrance into the Savannah River for more than 270 years. It is Georgia's oldest and tallest active lighthouse.

**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!