



The Southern Scoop

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

www.gasb.uscourts.gov

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall/Winter 2023

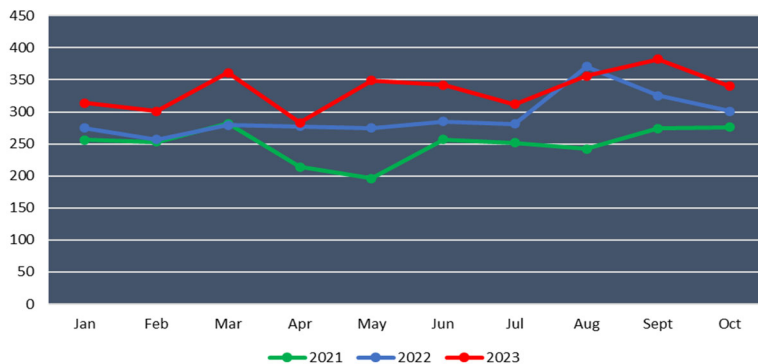
Bankruptcy Filings on the Rise in Southern District of Georgia

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The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia, which serves 43 counties in southeast Georgia, has seen a significant increase in new bankruptcy case filings in the twelve-month period ending October 31, 2023, breaking the downward trend seen since the COVID-19 pandemic began. In comparison with the national bankruptcy filings increase of 13 percent (*see page 7 of this newsletter for more information regarding national filings*), new bankruptcy cases filed in the Southern District of Georgia have risen 14.1 percent since October 2022, with a total of 3,884 new cases filed.

New BK Case Filings - Southern District of GA



Higher numbers of Chapter 13 case filings (3,379 new cases) versus Chapter 7 case filings (501 new cases) persist, in keeping with this district's history of maintaining the highest percentage of Chapter 13 filings. Chapter 11 case filings remain low with 4 new cases filed, while no new Chapter 12 cases have been filed in this district since 2020. Please refer to page 2 of this newsletter for more information regarding filing statistics for the Southern District of Georgia.

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

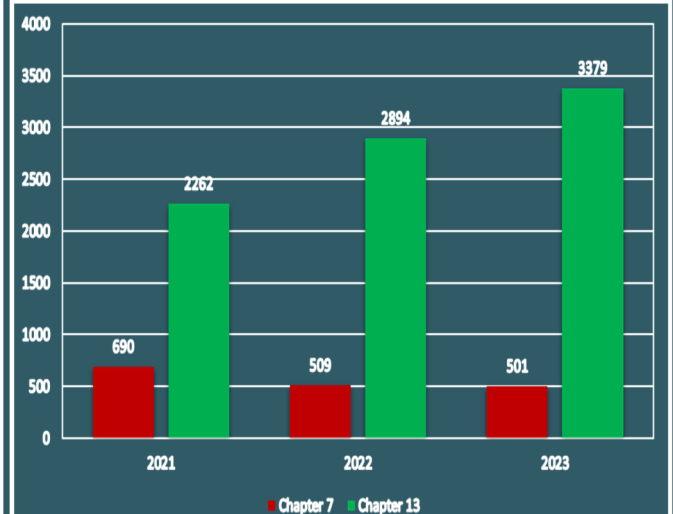
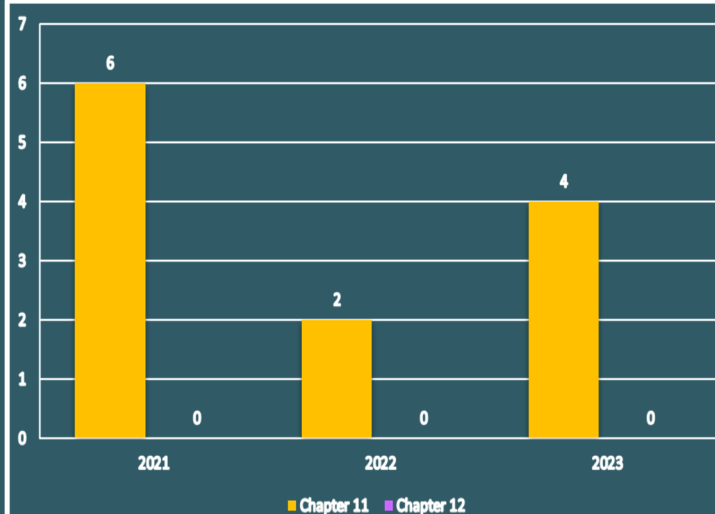
*Clerk's Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

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



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



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 October 31, 2023

BANKRUPTCY FILINGS

Chapter 7	501
Chapter 11	4
Chapter 12	0
Chapter 13	3379

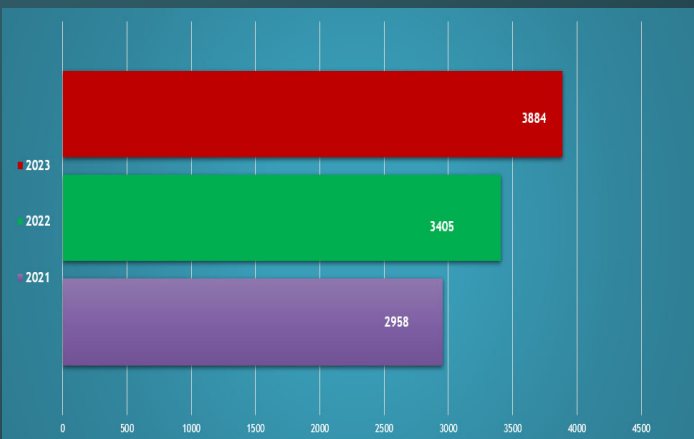
PRO SE FILINGS

102

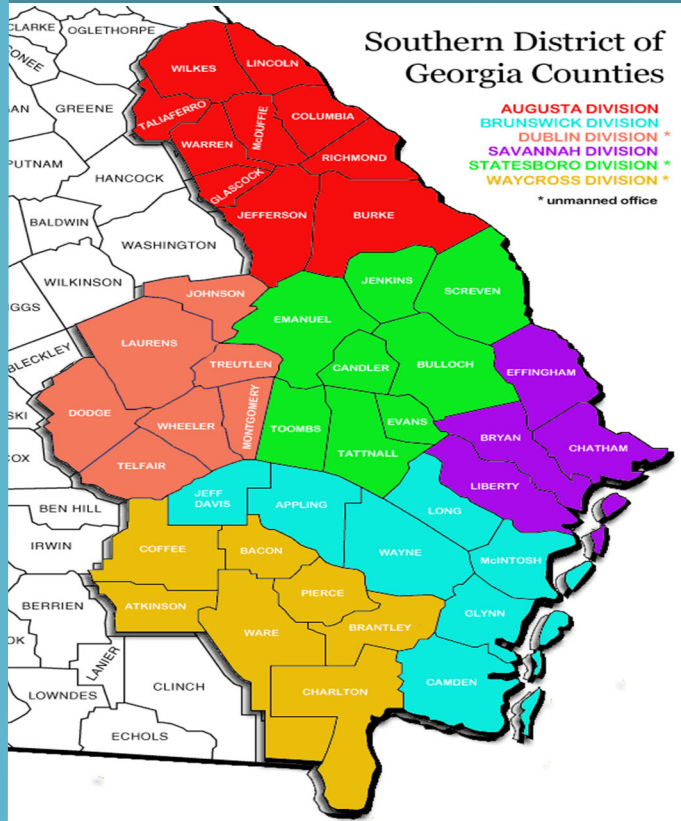
FILINGS BY DIVISION

Augusta	1014
Brunswick	475
Dublin	206
Savannah	1136
Statesboro	392
Waycross	661

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



Reopened Cases	32
Conversions	101
Discharges	2923
Dismissals	1699
Adversary Proceedings	51
BK Closings	4721
AP Closings	46



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

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

Court Operations under a Continuing Resolution in FY 2024

The Federal Judiciary is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) which was enacted on September 30, 2023. The CR, which is intended to fund government operations in the absence of enacted, full-year appropriations and allows operations to continue at a specified rate for a specific period, funds the Judiciary and the rest of the federal government through November 17, 2023. The CR was contained in the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act” (Public Law 118-15). Congress has since passed the “Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024,” which extends the CR through February 2, 2024.

In the event of a lapse in appropriations, normal bankruptcy court operations will continue, including case-related activity such as filings, hearings, and trials. Court personnel will continue to properly and promptly process all filings, motions, orders, emergency applications, and other court documents. CM/ECF and PACER will remain available, and the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) will continue to transmit bankruptcy court notices without interruption.

Parties remain obligated to comply with the filing requirements of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and this Court’s Local Rules. The Court will provide additional information as necessary.

U.S. Trustee Program Implements Virtual § 341 Meetings via ZOOM



The U.S. Trustee program is implementing virtual § 341 meetings of creditors via ZOOM in Chapter 7, 12, and 13 cases nationwide. Virtual § 341 meetings of creditors in the Southern District of Georgia began with meetings held on or after October 4, 2023. The Notice of Bankruptcy Case, Meeting of Creditors, and Deadlines contains the ZOOM meeting information for each case (*see sample below*). For more information, including how to join a meeting and what documents to provide to the trustee prior to the meeting, [CLICK HERE](#).

To join the virtual 341 meeting, participants will need the Meeting ID, Passcode, and phone number if joining by audio only, assigned to the presiding trustee in the case (*as shown on the Notice of Bankruptcy Case, Meeting of Creditors, and Deadlines*). Individual Meeting IDs, Passcodes, phone numbers, and meeting links assigned to each trustee can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

7. Meeting of creditors	December 8, 2023 at 04:30 PM	Location: Zoom video meeting. Go to Zoom.us/join , Enter Meeting ID 336 227 4025, and Passcode 0389013233, OR call 912-217-5834.
Debtors must attend the meeting to be questioned under oath. In a joint case, both spouses must attend. Creditors may attend, but are not required to do so.	The meeting may be continued or adjourned to a later date. If so, the date will be on the court docket.	For additional meeting information go to https://www.justice.gov/ust/moc

Status of 11 U.S.C. § 330(e) Payments for Fiscal Year 2023

As reported on the [U.S. Trustee Program’s website](https://www.justice.gov/ust/private-trustee-information#notices) (updated 11/16/2023), chapter 7 trustees will not receive payments under 11 U.S.C. § 330(e) to supplement other compensation for eligible cases in the 2023 fiscal year. Based on collections for FY 2023, there are no surplus funds available for distribution to trustees. The Program, which supports enhanced compensation for trustees through BAIA (*Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act*) and has worked to ensure the law’s successful implementation, anticipates that payments will resume as filings increase. To read the entire article, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/ust/private-trustee-information#notices>.

Bankruptcy Rules, Forms, and Fee Changes Effective **December 1, 2023**

The following bankruptcy rules, forms, and fee changes are effective **December 1, 2023**:

Amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure

- 3011, 8003, 9006, and new Rule 9038.

These rules changes, as well as the changes to Appellate Rules 2, 4, 26, and 45, and Civil Rules 6, 15, 72, and new rule 87, can be viewed on the [Pending Rules and Forms Amendments](#) page of the United States Courts website. The [Congressional Package](#) dated April 2023 contains blackline versions of the Rules and Committee Notes for a quick reference of the changes.

Changes to the Official Forms

- [Official Form 410A, Proof of Claim Attachment](#)
- [Official Form 417A, Notice of Appeal and Statement of Election](#)

Changes to the official forms may be viewed at <https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/pending-rules-and-forms-amendments/pending-and-recent-changes-bankruptcy-forms>.

Changes to Other Bankruptcy Forms

- Form 1340, Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds - an updated Form 1340 will be made available on the Court's website (www.gasb.uscourts.gov) on December 1, 2023.

Miscellaneous Fee Changes

Several bankruptcy miscellaneous fee changes are scheduled to take effect on December 1, 2023. [CLICK HERE](#) to view a summary of the changes. A revised bankruptcy fee schedule will posted to the Court's website (www.gasb.uscourts.gov) on December 1, 2023.



An amendment to a federal rule generally takes about three years. As described in more detail at Overview for the Bench, Bar, and Public, a proposed rule change is usually considered by an advisory committee and published for comment as part of a document called a Preliminary Draft during the first year of the process, considered by the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (the “Standing Committee”) and the Judicial Conference in the second year, and by the Supreme Court and Congress in the third year.¹

¹As published on the U.S. Courts website at www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/pending-rules-and-forms-amendments.

Pending National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act Extension

On November 2, 2023, the House Committee on the Judiciary marked up H.R. 3315, the “National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Extension Act of 2023,” and ordered it favorably reported without amendment by a vote of 24 to 0. This is a bipartisan measure that would extend the temporary exemption provided by the National Guard and Reservists Debt Relief Act, Pub. L. No. 110-438 (2008) for four additional years. On November 15, 2023, S. 3328, the Senate counterpart to H.R. 3315, was introduced. The Judicial Conference has not taken a position on this legislation.

Under this Act, certain qualifying National Guard members and reserve component members of the United States Armed Forces would be temporarily exempt from the Bankruptcy Code’s means test’s presumption of abuse. It applies to National Guard members and reserve component members of the United States Armed Forces who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days. The temporary provision is currently set to expire on December 20, 2023.



Unclaimed Funds Locator Available on Court Website

Effective December 1, 2023, amended Bankruptcy Rule 3011 requires clerks to provide searchable access on the court’s website to information about unclaimed funds deposited pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 347(a). Specifically, the rule amendment adds a subsection (b) to Rule 3011, stating: “On the court’s website, the clerk must provide searchable access to information about funds deposited under § 347(a). The court may, for cause, limit access to information about funds in a specific case.”

In the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia, the Clerk has already made available a link to the [U.S. Courts Unclaimed Funds Locator](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information) on the Court’s website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information. The rule requirement to provide searchable access on the bankruptcy court’s website to unclaimed funds is prospective only and applies to funds deposited under § 347(a) on or after December 1, 2023. Accordingly, a clerk is not required to retroactively publish notice of all funds that remain unclaimed; however, a clerk *may* provide access to information about unclaimed funds deposited prior to December 1, 2023. Further, for deposits under § 347(a) made on or after December 1, 2023, the court may enter an order limiting access to information about funds in a specific case for cause. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3011(b) (*as amended*).

For more information concerning unclaimed funds and how to apply for payment of unclaimed funds, please visit the Court’s website at www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information. Questions regarding the procedures for unclaimed funds retrieval may be directed to the Court’s Administrative Analyst at (912) 650-4100.



National Bankruptcy Filings Rise 13 Percent

(Published on the U.S. Court's website October 26, 2023)

Total bankruptcy filings rose 13 percent, and business bankruptcies rose nearly 30 percent, in the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2023. This continues a moderate rebound after more than a decade of sharply dropping totals. According to statistics released by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, annual bankruptcy filings totaled 433,658 in the year ending September 2023, compared with 383,810 cases in the previous year.

Business filings rose 29.9 percent, from 13,125 to 17,051, in the year ending September 30, 2023. Non-business bankruptcy filings rose 12.4 percent to 416,607, compared with 370,685 in September 2022.

Bankruptcy totals for the previous 12 months are reported four times annually.

This is the third straight quarter that total bankruptcy filings have risen, following a decade-plus decline. Bankruptcies fell especially sharply after the pandemic began in early 2020, despite some COVID-related disruptions to the economy.

Even with the recent increases, total filings remain far lower than in September 2010, when filings peaked at just less than 1.6 million.

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

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2023/10/26/bankruptcy-filings-rise-13-percent>

Changes to the Mandatory Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing Threshold

Effective December 1, 2023, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (“AO”) lowered the threshold requirement for certain high-volume paper-notice recipients to receive electronic bankruptcy notices. The Director is authorized under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9036(b)(2)(B) to designate paper-notice recipients who must receive electronic notices.

Due to the seamless transition to mandatory electronic noticing this past year, the AO Director approved lowering the threshold from 50 to 25 notices per month to encourage additional medium to large entities to receive the less expensive electronic notice. Any entity that has been sent **25** or more paper bankruptcy notices by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center (BNC) in a single calendar month will be designated as a high-volume paper-notice recipient pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9036(b)(2)(B) (*as amended effective December 1, 2021*) (the “Rule”).

The threshold number of paper notices that will cause a notice recipient to be designated as a high-volume paper-notice recipient pursuant to the Rule will be reviewed annually and may be adjusted once a year, effective on December 1st of each year.

Proposed Rules and Forms Amendments Published for Comment

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 one new civil rule. The public comment period is open from August 15, 2023 to February 16, 2024.

- Appellate Rules 6 and 39;
- Bankruptcy Rules 3002.1 and 8006;
- Official Bankruptcy Forms 410, 410C13-M1, 410C13-M1R, 410C13-N, 410C13-NR, 410C13-M2, and 410C13-M2R; and
- Civil Rules 16, 26, and new Rule 16.1

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

Public Record of Professional Fees Awarded

In compliance with Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2013(a), the Clerk of Court maintains a public record listing fees awarded by the Court to trustees and attorneys, accountants, appraisers, auctioneers, other professionals employed by trustees, and examiners. The record includes the name and docket number of the case, the name of the individual or firm receiving the fee, and the amount of the fee awarded. The record is available to the public without charge. Note that under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 2013, these reporting requirements do not apply to Chapter 12 or Chapter 13 trustees. Also, attorneys in the case who are not employed by the trustee will not be listed in the report. Further, compensation to professionals employed by a Chapter 11 debtor-in-possession are not reported; however, compensation paid to professionals employed by Chapter 11 trustees is reported.

Please note that the data from these reports comes from the CM/ECF system and is limited by the methods used to docket pleadings and papers. In addition, professionals are listed by the name(s) used in the CM/ECF docketing process. This may result in separate entries for lawyers with the same law firm, for auctioneers under a personal as well as trade name, and similar anomalies.

CM/ECF users with filing accounts or PACER users can generate a current record of fees awarded in [CM/ECF](#) under **Reports > Professional Fees Awarded**. Alternatively, the record of fees awarded may be viewed on public computer terminals located in the Clerk's Office.

Transcript Rate Increase and Transcript Category Name Changes **Effective October 1, 2023**

Effective October 1, 2023, transcript rates and the names of transcript categories changed as required by the Judicial Conference of the United States. To order a transcript, please visit the Court's Transcript/Audio Requests page at www.gasb.uscourts.gov/transcriptaudio-requests.

MAXIMUM PER PAGE TRANSCRIPT RATES

TRANSCRIPTS	ORIGINAL	FIRST COPY TO EACH PARTY	EACH ADDITIONAL COPY TO THE SAME
30-Day Transcript (Ordinary) A transcript to be delivered within 30 calendar days after receipt of an order.	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$0.70
14-Day Transcript A transcript to be delivered within 14 calendar days after receipt of an order.	\$4.70	\$1.00	\$0.70
7-Day Transcript (Expedited) A transcript to be delivered within 7 calendar days after receipt of an order.	\$5.35	\$1.00	\$0.70
3-Day Transcript A transcript to be delivered within 3 calendar days after receipt of an order.	\$6.00	\$1.20	\$0.85
Next-Day Transcript (Daily) A transcript to be delivered on the calendar day following receipt of an order (regardless of whether that calendar day is a weekend or holiday), prior to the normal opening hour of the clerk's office.	\$6.70	\$1.35	\$1.00
2-Hour Transcript (Hourly) A transcript of proceedings to be delivered within 2 hours from receipt of the order.	\$8.00	\$1.35	\$1.00
Realtime Transcript A draft unedited transcript produced by a certified realtime reporter as a byproduct of realtime to be delivered electronically during proceedings or immediately following receipt of the order.	One feed, \$3.40; two-to-four feeds, \$2.35; five or more feeds, \$1.65. Orders placed on or before the day of the proceeding will be batched together for purposes of determining the number of feeds; and subsequent orders will be charged at the lowest page rate assessed on the previous orders.	N/A	N/A

Recent Legislation and Other Developments

On September 13, 2023, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *City of Jacksonville v. Jacksonville Hospitality Holdings, L.P., et al*, analyzing the stipulated dismissal procedure in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). In its opinion, the Court ruled that the term “all parties” means all parties to the current action who have appeared at some point in the litigation, past or present.

On September 18, 2023, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *Estate of Arlene Townsend, et al v. Steven Berman, et al*. In its opinion, the Court ruled that a lawyer is not disqualified from representing a bankruptcy trustee solely because the firm acted as outside general counsel to a company that had been voluntarily dismissed as a defendant.

On November 2, 2023, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *PRN Real Estate & Investments, Ltd. v. William W. Cole, Jr.* In its opinion, the Court affirmed rulings that debtor’s conduct did not amount to concealment of estate property or constitute false oaths necessary to bar discharge under section 727. The 11th Circuit adopted “to knowingly withhold information about property or to knowingly prevent its discovery” as the definition for concealment for purposes of section 727(a). The Court affirmed that the creditor lacked standing to pursue fraudulent transfer claims settled by the trustee. However, the creditor alleged a viable 523(a)(2)(A) claim, which was not preempted by the trustee’s avoidance action.

Recent Opinions Published in the Southern District of Georgia

- **23-10189-SDB *Gwendolyn Diane Williams***; Opinion and Order Reconverting Case to Chapter 7 entered by Judge Susan D. Barrett on August 23, 2023. The Court, after a hearing and testimony, citing *Marrama v. Citizens Bank of Mass.*, 549 U.S. 365 (2007), sustained the trustee’s objection to the conversion, finding the Debtor engaged in bad faith conduct.
- **21-01008-SDB *Hoffman v. WBL SPO I, LLC et al***; Opinion and Order Granting Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff’s Seventh Amended Complaint entered by Judge Susan D. Barrett on August 28, 2023. The Court found that the complaint failed to state a claim for procedural unconscionability.
- **22-30002-SDB *Matthew H Callier***; Opinion and Order entered by Judge Susan D. Barrett on September 29, 2023. The Court found, under the totality-of-circumstances, there were no bad faith grounds to dismiss Debtor’s bankruptcy under § 707(a). The Court also found, given the facts in this case, the creditor had failed to carry its burden of proof under Bankruptcy Rule 4003(c) to show a pistol and rifle were not exempt as household goods under O.C.G.A. § 44-13-100(a)(4). Finally, the Court found Debtor could only partially avoid the creditor’s judicial lien pursuant to § 522(f)(1)(A), as Debtor did not carry his burden in proving the existence of “other liens” on a vehicle, as required by § 522(f)(2)(A)(ii).

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) 650-4139
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) 280-1378

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 August 7, 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 Digits
Becky (RED)	(912) 280-1375	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	MJK Case Mgmt Digits: 00 - 49 Case Open Digits: 0,1,2,3,4
Tory (TGG)	(912) 280-1369	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	67 - 99 Bwk / Way	6, 7, 8, 9 Bwk / Way	MJK Case Mgmt Digits: 50 - 99 Case Open Digits: 5,6,7,8,9
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

TIPS & TRICKS

To obtain Notices of Electronic Filing issued to your CM/ECF email address for a specific date:

- 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**.



Update Your Contact Information

When your contact information (*mailing address, email address, phone number, etc.*) changes, please be sure to update the information in your [PACER](#) account, and apply those changes as necessary to your CM/ECF account via PACER.

Reporting Phone Scams

Phone and text scams are a common threat to information security, by attempting to persuade you to give out your sensitive information, such as passwords or credit card information. The Federal Trade Commission makes it easy to report phone scams; it takes just a few minutes to report a number and doing so may help reduce the likelihood of future attacks. Visit [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud) to report and help fight fraud.

When to Use the Generic Motion Docket Event

When filing in CM/ECF, be sure to use the [Search](#) feature in the blue menu bar before docketing the motion generic event. The **Search** tool helps you locate menus and events in CM/ECF that are applicable to your pleading.

Need assistance with filing?

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

Augusta: (706) 823-6000

Brunswick: (912) 280-1376

Savannah: (912) 650-4100

Reminders Regarding the **Voluntary Petition Form B101**

When filing a bankruptcy case, it is important that the answers to the questions on the forms be as complete and accurate as possible so that the case proceeds smoothly. A person filing bankruptcy who gives false information could be charged with a federal crime or could lose all the benefits of filing for bankruptcy.

Please read the instructions carefully when completing [Official Form B101, Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy](#); the instructions are contained within the form, and every question should be answered. When completing Part 1 of the petition, **please note the following:**

Your full name

The name entered on the petition should be the name that is on the debtor's government-issued picture identification (*for example, driver's license or passport*). Bring the picture identification to the 341 meeting of creditors.

Part 1: Identify Yourself		
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.	About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
	First name	First name
	Middle name	Middle name
	Last name	Last name
	Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)	Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

All other names you have used in the last 8 years

Include the debtor's married or maiden names and any assumed, trade names, and doing business as names.



Remember!

Do NOT list the name of any separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC that is not filing this petition.

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.	First name	First name
	Middle name	Middle name
	Last name	Last name
	First name	First name
	Middle name	Middle name
	Last name	Last name
	Business name (if applicable)	Business name (if applicable)
	Business name (if applicable)	Business name (if applicable)
	Business name (if applicable)	Business name (if applicable)
	Business name (if applicable)	Business name (if applicable)

Secondary Email Addresses in CM/ECF

To add or modify secondary email addresses to your CM/ECF account, go to **Utilities > Maintain Your ECF Account > Email information**.

On the Email information screen, enter the secondary email address, click the checkbox for “**to the secondary addresses**,” and click **Return to Account** screen. At the **Maintain User Account** Screen, be sure to click **Submit** for the changes to take place.

Please note that any changes to your account’s main email address should be made via [PACER](#).



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 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 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	Notes
Miscellaneous	Copy Fee	
Miscellaneous	Certification Fee	
Miscellaneous	Power of Attorney/Signatory Verification	Prompt added reminding filers to submit original documents to the Clerk's Office.
Motions/Applications	Motion to Determine Amount of Secured or Priority Claim Pursuant to BR 3012	
Motions/Applications	Motion to Reconsider Dismissal Order and to Reinstate Case	This docket event combines 2 previous events, Motion to Reconsider Dismissal and Motion to Reinstate Case.
Motions/Applications	Motion to Reconsider	Prompt added reminding filers to use the event for Motion to Reconsider Dismissal order and to Reinstate Case when requesting reconsideration of a dismissal.
Motions/Applications	Motion to Vacate	Prompt added reminding filers to use Motion to Reconsider Dismissal and to Reinstate Case when requesting the dismissal be vacated.
Miscellaneous	Request for Transcript or Audio CD	Added display message to this event to notify filers that they will be contacted by the Clerk's Office for the amount due.
Motions/Applications	Motion to Extend Time	Prompt added to require filers to select the type of motion to extend being filed.
Trustee/US Trustee	Motion to Disgorge	
Motions/Applications	Motion to Sell or Lease Property	Event renamed and prompt added for filers to use the correct event for filing a motion to sell.
Motions/Applications	Motion to Sell Free and Clear of Liens	Event renamed and prompt added to select whether an application to defer the fee is included.

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

Employment Opportunities with the Court

Position: Term Law Clerk to United States Bankruptcy Judge Susan Barrett

Duty Station: Augusta, Georgia

Closing Date: Open until filled.

[Click here to view the full position announcement.](#)

Position: Career Law Clerk to United States Bankruptcy Judge Susan Barrett

Duty Station: Augusta, Georgia

Closing Date: Open until filled.

[Click here to view the full position announcement.](#)

*Celebrating **milestones** in federal service this year:*

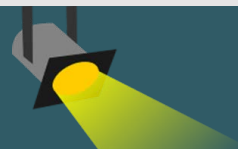


- * Shannon Auvil, Law Clerk
- * Crystal DeLaurentis, Administrative Analyst



- * Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman, III
- * Judge Michele J. Kim

Employee Spotlight



As of August 2023, T. Alec Chappell has clerked for Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman, III, for seven years. Born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, Alec moved to Macon in 2008 to attend Mercer University, where he majored in political science and minored in economics. In 2011, he received Mercer's Outstanding Junior in Political Science Award. In 2012, he received his B.A. from Mercer, graduating *summa cum laude*. He then spent a year working as an administrative assistant in the Macon workers' compensation firm Murphy & Sibley P.C. (now Levy, Sibley, Foreman & Speir, LLC) under the guidance of Mercer Law alumni R. Napier Murphy, Phillip A. Sibley, and Adam J. Hand.

In 2013, Alec enrolled in Mercer's Walter F. George School of Law. There, he served on the Mercer Law Review, participated in the Hugh Lawson Moot Court Competition, and served as notetaker for students with special needs in two classes: Evidence in Fall 2014 and Payment Systems in Spring 2016. He received 13 Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction ("CALI") Excellence for the Future Awards for the highest grade in a class: Contracts I, Torts, Introduction to Legal Research, American Constitutional System, Evidence, Secured Transactions, Torts II, Workers' Compensation, Family Law, Bankruptcy, Income Tax, Payment Systems, and Consumer Bankruptcy Practice (taught by Judge Paul W. Bonapfel of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Georgia). He also received the D. Meade Feild Workers' Compensation Award and was admitted to the Brainerd Currie Honor Society. In 2016, Alec received his J.D. *summa cum laude* and received the George Waldo Woodruff Award of Excellence for having the highest grade point average in his class.

After his 1L year, Alec interned with Judge Edgar W. Ennis, Jr., of the Bibb County Superior Court, Macon Judicial Circuit. After his 2L year, he interned with Judge C. Ashley Royal of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia. Judge Royal then hired Alec to serve a one-year term as his law clerk, from August 2016 to August 2017. Judge Royal knew of Alec's interest in bankruptcy law and encouraged him to apply for a bankruptcy law clerk position, which resulted in his current clerkship with Judge Coleman. Alec began as Judge Coleman's term clerk on August 7, 2017, and was promoted to career clerk on April 12, 2018.

Outside of clerking, Alec serves in several legal and community organizations. He is currently President of the Young Lawyers Division of the Savannah Bar Association for the year 2023-24 and has edited the SBA's newsletter, *The Citation*, since 2020. He also serves on the 2023-24 Board of Directors of the State Bar of Georgia's Young Lawyers Division. As a member of the W. Homer Drake, Jr. Georgia Bankruptcy American Inn of Court, he mentors law students who are interested in bankruptcy. Since 2022, he has served as a comment adviser for the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal's* Notes and Comments Advisory Committee. Every spring, he judges high schoolers in the Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition. Currently he also serves as a Director of the Savannah Jaycees. He has published several articles in the *Mercer Law Review* and the State Bar's *YLD Review*.

In spring 2024, Alec will be traveling frequently, as he was admitted to the State YLD's Leadership Academy program, which will hold a total of six sessions in Atlanta, Macon, Young Harris, Augusta, and Fernandina Beach. He has also been asked to teach Mercer Law's Advanced Writing Group in the spring semester and therefore will be making weekly trips to Macon. In his free time (such as it is), you can find Alec reading non-fiction, traveling the U.S., watching classic films, working out in the gym, and kayaking.



Alec Chappell

*Career Law Clerk to
Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman III
Savannah, GA*



Celebrating the Bill of Rights

The **Bill of Rights** - the First Ten Amendments to the United States Constitution - is celebrated on its anniversary December 15th and throughout the month. The United States Courts works to raise awareness of the rights that have a direct impact on the quality of American life every day with educational resources on the rule of law and its impact on individual rights.

Visit <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/bill-rights-day> for more information.

The Bill of Rights

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.


PACER

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT ELECTRONIC RECORDS

For assistance in creating new PACER accounts, upgrading your current account, or linking your upgraded PACER account to your CM/ECF account, 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.gasb.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, December 25, 2023

Monday, January 1, 2024

Monday, January 15, 2024

Monday, February 19, 2024

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

Crystal DeLaurentis

Cherish Hayes

Christyne Murray

April Rowe

Lainie Saul

Carla Wilbourn

Dana Wilson

*Thank
You!*



*Pictured above: Lock and dam at the headwater of the Augusta Canal on the Savannah River
(www.visitaugusta.com/things-to-do/attractions/augusta-canal)*

Augusta is Georgia's second-oldest city, serving as the state capital twice in history.

Established in 1736 by General James Edward Oglethorpe, the city is named after Princess Augusta of Wales.

**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!