



# The Southern Scoop

U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

[www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov)

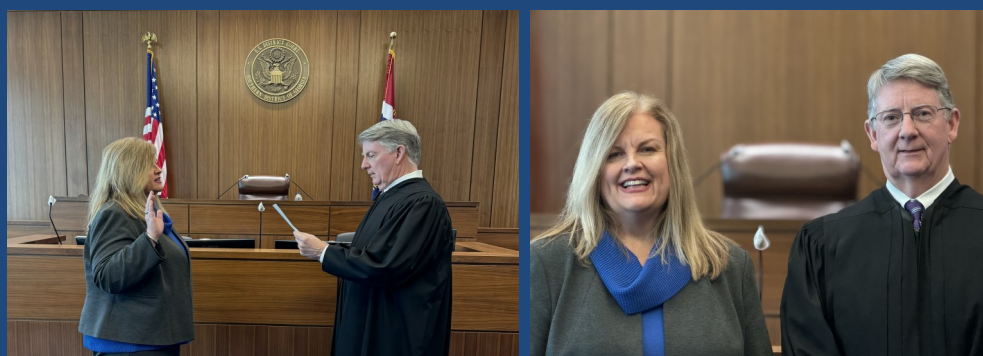
Volume 9, Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2024

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- And More!

## Dana M. Wilson Appointed Clerk of United States Bankruptcy Court



*Pictured above: Dana M. Wilson and Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman, III*

Dana M. Wilson was appointed Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia effective January 15, 2024. Dana has been a member of the court family for 23 years, beginning with her appointment as term law clerk to Judge John S. Dalis in 2000, after which she served as Operations Supervisor for the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office from 2002 to 2007. From 2007 until July 2023, Dana served as career law clerk to Judge Susan D. Barrett. Most recently, Dana has served as Acting Clerk of Court.

Dana graduated with honors from the University of Georgia in 1995 with a major in environmental economics and management, and was a Presidential Scholar and member of the Dean's List. Dana received her Juris Doctor degree (*cum laude*) from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2000, where she was a published editorial member of the Journal of Intellectual Property Law. We look forward to working with Dana in her new position. Well done, Dana!

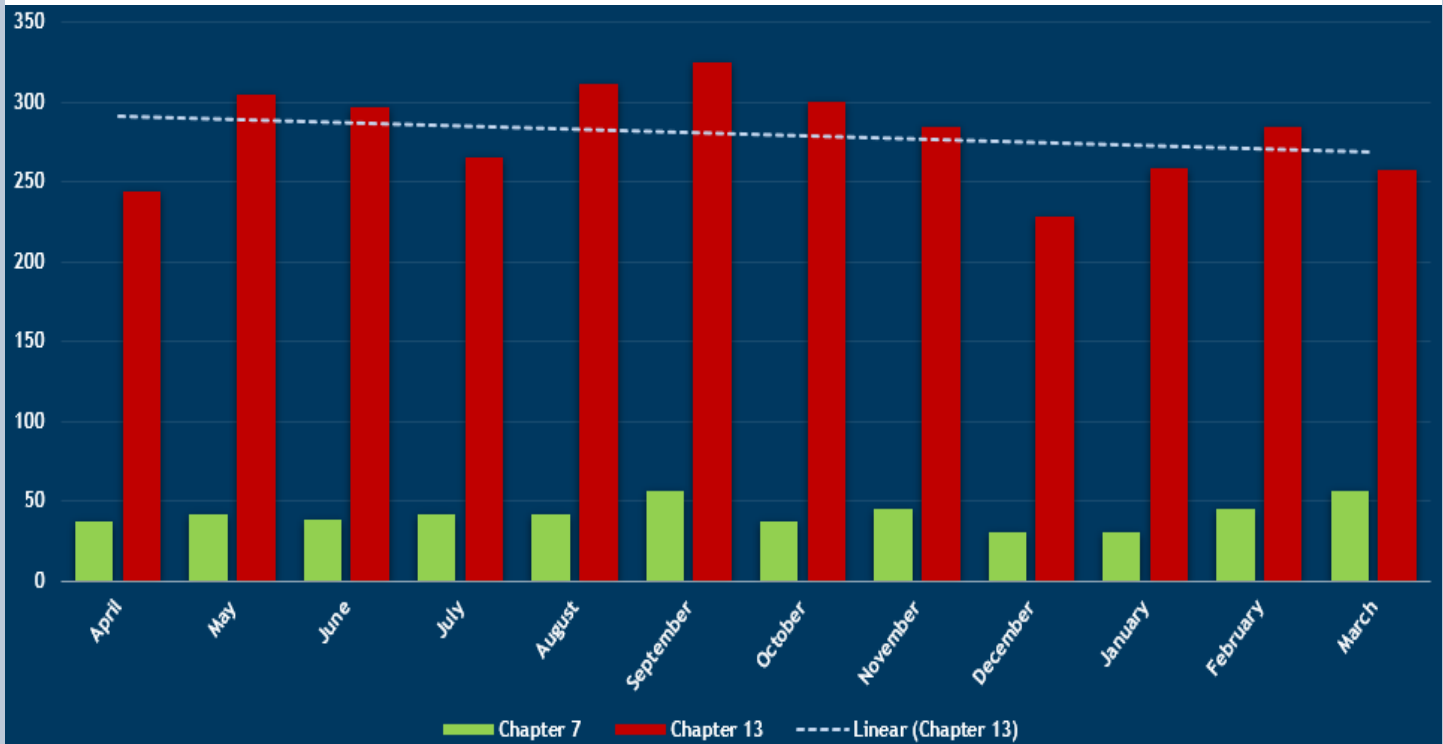
## COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS

*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

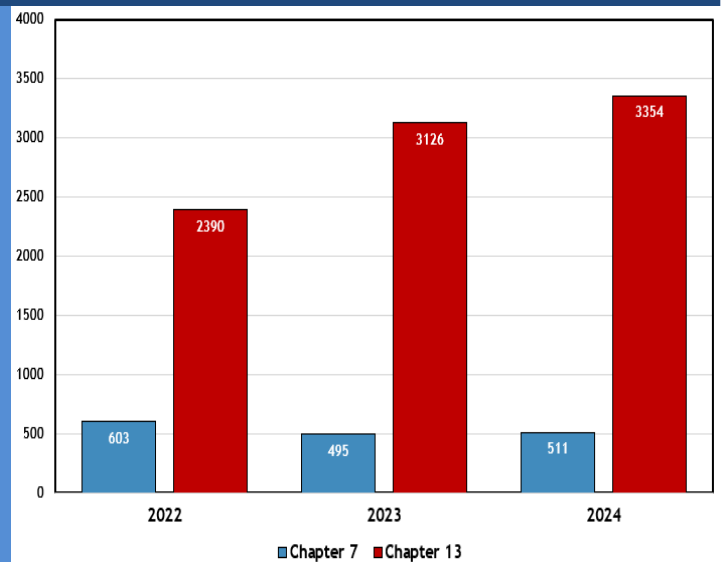
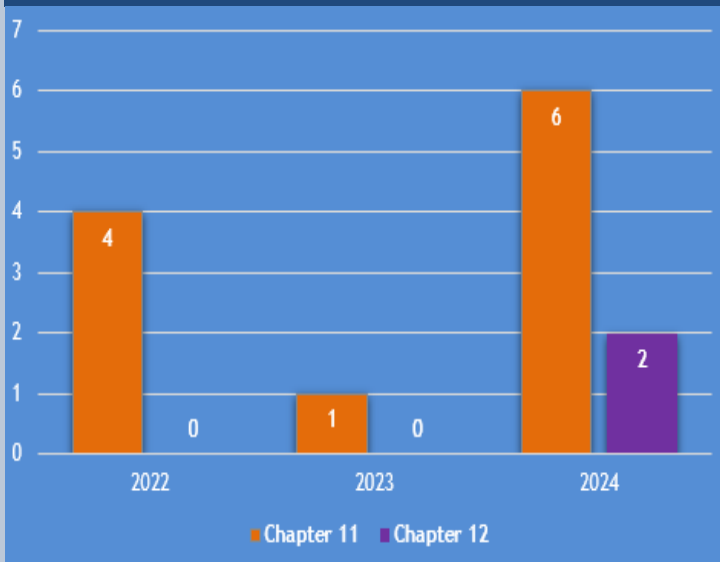
\*Clerk's Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm

United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

## Case Filings by Chapter for 12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2024



## Case Filing Trends 2022-2024 (12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2024)



# United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Georgia

## Recent Caseload Activity

The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia 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, 2024*

### BANKRUPTCY FILINGS

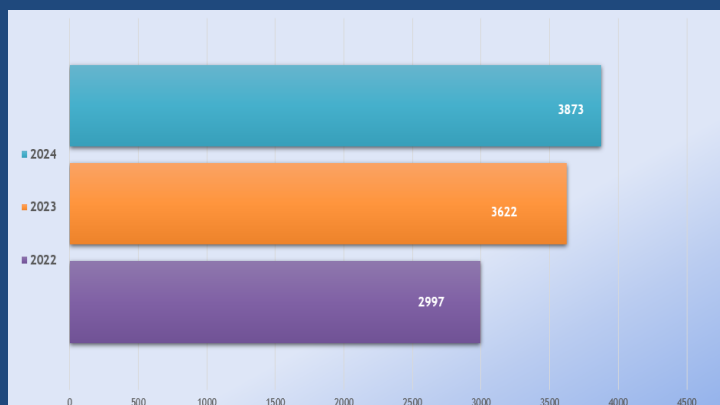
Chapter 7	511
Chapter 11	6
Chapter 12	2
Chapter 13	3354

**PRO SE FILINGS** 121

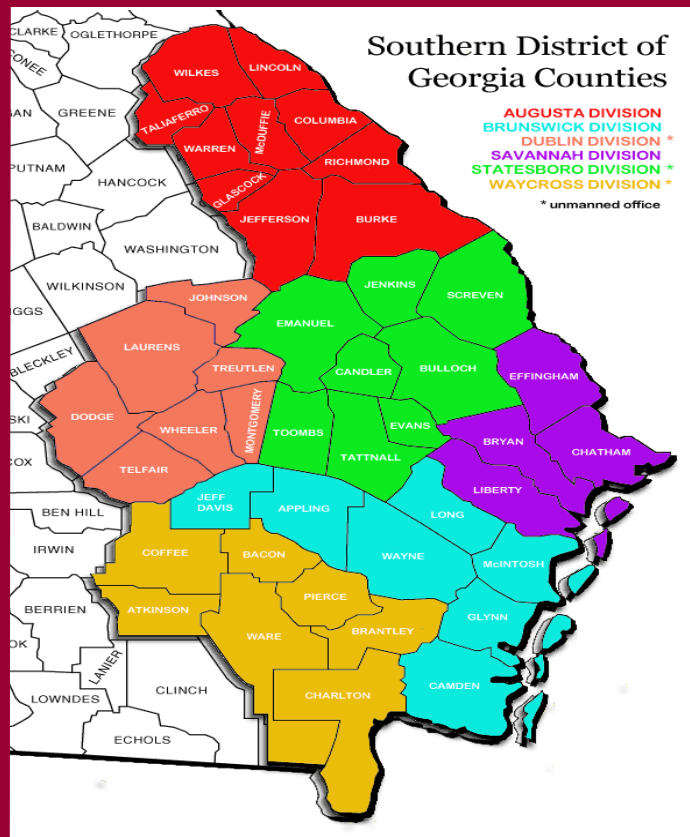
### FILINGS BY DIVISION

Augusta	1022
Brunswick	443
Dublin	198
Savannah	1162
Statesboro	384
Waycross	664

**Total Case Filings (All Chapters) for  
12-Month Period Ending March 31, 2024**



Reopened Cases	42
Conversions	97
Discharges	2694
Dismissals	1633
Adversary Proceedings	44
BK Closings	4638
AP Closings	51



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

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



## National Bankruptcy Filings Rise 16 Percent Over Previous Year

*(Published on the U.S. Court's website April 25, 2024)*

Bankruptcy filings rose 16 percent during the 12-month period ending March 31, 2024. That is a similar rate of acceleration as in the December 31, 2023 quarterly report, but new bankruptcy cases remain significantly 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 bankruptcy filings rose to 467,774 new cases, compared with 403,273 cases reported during the year ending March 31, 2023.

Business filings increased 40.4 percent, from 14,467 in March 2023 to 20,316 in the newest report. Non-business bankruptcy filings rose 15.1 percent, from 388,806 in March 2023 to 447,458 in March 2024.

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

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2024/04/25/bankruptcies-rise-16-percent-over-previous-year>

## Pending Bankruptcy Rules Changes

Below are the proposed amendments projected to go into effect on **December 1, 2024**:

### Amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure

- Bankruptcy Restyled Rules Parts I through IX, Rules 1007, 4004, 5009, 7001, 9006, and proposed new Rule 8023.1

These rules changes, as well as the changes to Appellate Rules 32, 35, 40 and Appendix on Length Limits, and Civil Rule 12, can be viewed on the Pending Rules and Forms Amendments page of the United States Courts website. The [Congressional Package](#) dated April 2024 contains blackline versions of the Rules and Committee Notes for a quick reference of the changes.

*Please visit*

<https://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/pending-rules-and-forms-amendments>

*for more information.*

## Privately Funded Seminar Disclosure Reporting

As part of the Guide to Judiciary Policy, the Privately Funded Educational Seminars Policy (“Seminars Policy”) requires educational program providers and judges to report certain information relevant to the judge’s attendance at privately-funded educational programs. Any organization covered by the Seminars Policy that issues an invitation to a federal judge to attend an educational program as a speaker, panelist, or attendee and offers to pay for or reimburse that judge, in excess of \$480, must disclose financial and programmatic information.

The disclosure information provided by the judge after attending a seminar covered by the Seminars Policy is available to the public on the Court’s website (for *three years from the date of the seminar*) at <https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/judicial-seminar-disclosure/>.

A link to the Private Seminars Disclosure System is also available at <https://www.uscourts.gov/judges-judgeships/privately-funded-seminars-disclosure/log-privately-funded-seminars-disclosure>.

## Recent Legislation and Other Developments

**On January 12, 2024**, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *Kai Hansjurgens v. Donald H. Bailey*, affirming the bankruptcy court's decision to grant a motion to revive a judgment filed by the debtor, and that the debtor did enough to satisfy the Georgia judgment-revival procedure under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 69(a).

\*\*\*\*\*

**On March 14, 2024**, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *The Alabama Creditors v. Rodney Dixon Dorand*, affirming the bankruptcy court's decision that the debtor's retirement account was exempt property of his bankruptcy estate.

\*\*\*\*\*

**On April 3, 2024**, the 11th Circuit issued an opinion in *Talel Qais Abdulmunem Al Zawawi v. Colin Diss, et al*, affirming the bankruptcy court's determination that, under the 11th Circuit's precedent, § 109(a) does not apply to Chapter 15 cases and does not establish a prerequisite for the recognition of a foreign proceeding under § 1517.

\*\*\*\*\*

Unless Congress passes legislation to preserve the **existing debt limits** for **Subchapter V** and **Chapter 13** debtors before they sunset on **June 21, 2024**, the limits will revert to the amounts in effect in March 2020, subject to adjustment for inflation.

## Recent Opinions Published in the Southern District of Georgia

- **23-30121-SDB *Marquis Quintell Johnson***; Opinion and Order Granting Debtor's Application to Waive Filing Fee, Denying Debtor's Motion for Exemption or Waiver of Credit Counseling Requirement, Denying Debtor's Motion to Reconsider Dismissal, and Denying Debtor's Request to Seal Case, entered by Judge Susan D. Barrett on December 26, 2023.
- **23-02005-MJK *Dill v. Gandy***; Opinion and Order entered by Judge Michele J. Kim on February 20, 2024. The Court denied the Motion to Enforce Settlement filed by Plaintiff and Cross-Motion to Enforce Settlement filed by Defendant. The parties, through their attorneys, had reached a settlement as to a large portion of Plaintiff's unsecured claim against Defendant, but the settlement was silent as to the treatment of the remainder of Plaintiff's claim. Plaintiff urged that it would be treated as unsecured; Defendant contended it would be released. The Court concluded that the treatment of the remainder of the unsecured claim was an essential term of the settlement, and the parties did not reach an agreement on this term. Accordingly, because the parties did not agree on all essential terms of the purported settlement, no settlement was reached and the parties' motions were denied.
- **21-40749-EJC *Rodney Allen Gibson and Debora Minerva Gibson***; Opinion on Motion to Reconsider Order Granting Motion for Sanctions entered by Judge Edward J. Coleman, III on March 27, 2024. The Court found that it was not clear whether Ms. Sheppard and Recovery Law Group violated § 504(a), and that the \$1,838.00 sanction previously imposed was calculated incorrectly and therefore reduced the sanction to \$1,500.00.



## No Funds Available for Additional Chapter 7 Trustee Payments

*(Published on the U.S. Court's website May 3, 2024)*

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has advised the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts that it has no funds available to transfer to the Judiciary to make additional payments to eligible chapter 7 bankruptcy trustees for fiscal year 2023. Trustees interested in receiving the additional payments for fiscal year 2024 should still file payment eligibility certifications.

The Bankruptcy Administration Improvement Act of 2020 (BAIA) established an additional payment for eligible chapter 7 trustees for fiscal years 2021 to 2026. The payments are funded by excess collections in the DOJ's U.S. Trustee System Fund. Eligible chapter 7 trustees received an additional payment of \$60 for each applicable case in fiscal year 2021. However, the DOJ has lacked sufficient funds for any additional payments in fiscal year 2022 and 2023 cases.

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

<https://www.uscourts.gov/news/2024/05/03/no-funds-available-additional-chapter-7-trustee-payments>

## Notice Regarding Credit Rating and Reports

The Bankruptcy Court has no jurisdiction over credit reporting agencies. You must resolve any dispute you have with a credit agency or your credit report directly with that agency.

The Bankruptcy Clerk's Office is not responsible for credit reports and does not provide information to credit reporting agencies. Bankruptcy records are public records and the information contained in them can be retrieved by anyone. Credit reporting agencies regularly collect information from the petitions filed and report the information on their credit reporting services. Bankruptcies normally will remain on your credit report for up to ten (10) years and may be taken into consideration by any person reviewing a credit report for the purpose of extending credit in the future. The decision whether to grant you credit in the future is strictly up to the creditor and varies from creditor to creditor depending on the type of credit requested.

The Bankruptcy Clerk's Office will not respond to written inquiries pertaining to credit ratings and will not docket them on the public record.

## Revised Orders on Relief from Stay (Local Form B55)

The following form orders have been revised (*to include a space for the trustee's bar number*) and are available to the public on the Court's website at [www.gasb.uscourts.gov/local-forms](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/local-forms):

- [Order on Affidavit of Default - eOrder version](#)
- [Order on Motion for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay - eOrder version](#)
- [Order on Motion for Relief from Stay - eOrder version](#)
- [Order on Motion for Relief from Stay \(Pro Se Use Only\)](#)

Please use the revised forms when submitting an eOrder on a Motion for Relief from Stay or Motion for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay. See also [General Order 2017-1](#), which requires use of the Court's order (*Local Form B-55*) in Chapter 13 cases and Chapter 7 cases. Use of Local Form B-55 is permitted, but not required, in Chapter 11, Chapter 12, and non-consumer Chapter 7 cases.

## Unclaimed Funds Locator Updated

On June 3, 2024, the Unclaimed Funds Locator (UCFL) was updated to Version 3.0.3, to implement recommendations by the Unclaimed Funds Working Group and the Bankruptcy Clerks Advisory Group. The release includes the following modifications:

- \* Removes the ability to search by the **Amounts Less Than** search line.
- \* Requires users to enter a minimum of three characters in the **Creditor Name** and/or **Debtor Name** lines to run a search.
- \* Requires users to successfully complete a challenge-response authentication [Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart (CAPTCHA)] to run a search.

The screenshot shows the 'U.S. Courts Unclaimed Funds Locator' web form. It includes a 'Home' and 'About' link in the top right. The form has several input fields: 'Court' (a dropdown menu), 'Creditor Name\*' (a search bar with 'Search By Creditor Name' text), 'Debtor Name\*' (a search bar with 'Search By Debtor Name' text), 'Case Number' (a search bar with 'Search By Case Number' text), and 'Entered On or After' (a date picker). Below these is a 'Captcha' section with a visual puzzle and a 'Captcha Text' input field. At the bottom are 'Clear' and 'Search' buttons. A small disclaimer at the bottom states: '\* Either the Creditor Name OR the Debtor Name field must have a minimum of 3 characters.' A larger disclaimer at the very bottom explains that the system is for official judiciary business only and that users consent to system monitoring.

Any claimant desiring to recover unclaimed funds deposited in the United States Treasury may do so by filing:

- An Application and Proposed Order for Payment of Unclaimed Funds;
- Certificate of Service showing service of a copy of the application and supporting documentation to the U.S. Attorney (*mailing address is on the application form*) and upon any other party who may have an interest in the funds. If the Claimant is a Successor Claimant, the certificate of service must reflect service of a copy of the application and supporting documentation upon all previous owners of the claim at their current addresses, or Applicant must enclose a statement explaining why the Applicant was not able to do so or why service was not necessary; and
- Required supporting documentation listed in the procedures attached to the Application for Payment of Unclaimed Funds.

**The Court will not accept any documents which appear to have been altered in any material way.** Documentation should include original signatures and should **not** be on facsimile paper. Additional documentation may be required under certain circumstances (*e.g., original creditor has merged with another entity, etc.*).

**Questions regarding unclaimed funds** should be directed to the Court's Administrative Analyst at 912-650-4100. The above requirements may also be found at [www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information).

**To search for Unclaimed Funds for the Southern District of Georgia**, click [HERE](#) to obtain access to the U.S. Bankruptcy Unclaimed Funds Locator national database.

## Case Management Modernization Project Underway

The Judiciary is currently engaged in Case Management Modernization (CMM), which aims to build a better case manager system by the Judiciary and for the Judiciary. The goals of CMM include modernizing the case management system used by the federal courts; increasing security of court files and private data stored within the system; improving searchability to make case information easier to find; facilitating the transfer of information between courts; making filing, managing, and maintaining cases easier for all involved; and resolving issues with the current system.

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts is leading the effort in coordination with representatives from appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts, public entities, and partner agencies. This project is expected to last for several years; the new system will be delivered and available to users in incremental stages, and the system will be continuously improved in response to the court community's needs.

The District Court and Bankruptcy Court Subject Matter Experts (SME) have already completed several workflows, which have two main goals: to identify opportunities to standardize certain case management processes by focusing on “common pathways” for each type of court, and to identify large “building blocks” of tasks that the future case management system will need to perform.

The CMM project is being developed using agile methodology, which necessitates a complete change in the way department across the Administrative Office operate. Agile embraces transparency, keeping users in the loop throughout the process, and promotes accountability, holding the project team responsible for delivery high-quality results. For more information on agile methodology, please visit:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2016/05/09/the-benefits-of-using-agile-software-development/?sh=78ca37adb0f8>

<https://medium.com/@nandkishor204/what-is-agile-methodology-in-simple-words-741ee44ede51>



Credit: ImageFlow // Shutterstock



## Updated Case Management Digit Assignments

The following case management digit assignment list was revised on May 28, 2024, and is subject to change periodically. Current case management digit assignments are also available on the Court's website at [www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov) under *Court Info > General Information > Phone Directories and Case Management Digit Assignments*.

Case Administrator	Phone Number	Ch. 13 (including adversaries)	Ch. 7 (including adversaries)	Ch. 7 and 13 Case Opening	Ch. 11 and 12 (including adversaries)
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: 00-49 Case Open: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 ***** All SDB
Tory (TGG)	(912) 280-1369	67-99 Bwk/Way	67-99 Bwk/Way	6, 7, 8, 9 Bwk/Way	MJK: Case Mgmt: 50-99 Case Open: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
Holly (HKB)	(912) 650-4123	00-19 Sav/Stb	00-19 Sav/Stb		
Rena (RTC)	(912) 650-4132	20-59 Sav/Stb	20-59 Sav/Stb	0, 1, 2, 3, 4 Sav/Stb	
Laura (LLE)	(912) 650-4140	60-99 Sav/Stb	60-99 Sav/Stb	5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Sav/Stb	
Cherish (CAH)	(912) 650-4102				All EJC
Charlene (CCB)	(706) 823-6456	00-24 Aug/Dub	00-24 Aug/Dub	00-24 Aug/Dub	All SDB
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	75-99	75-99	All SDB
Jacqueline (JWB)	(706) 823-6021				All SDB

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

**Please note:** attorneys registering for CM/ECF access must be admitted to practice in the Southern District of Georgia, or admitted to appear pro hac vice, before full filing access can be granted.

Please review the Attorney Filer Registration and Attorney E-Filing Terms and Conditions at <https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/cmecf-registration-information>.

For attorney admission procedures, please visit <https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/attorney-admission-procedures>.

For information regarding appearing pro hac vice, please visit <https://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/attorney-admission-pro-hac-vice>.

## 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](https://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>.

*\*\*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](https://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
Motions/Applications	<b>Motion for Relief from Co-Debtor Stay</b>	This event has been modified so that a 21-day deadline will NOT set in a Chapter 12 case, while the deadline will continue to be set in all other chapters.
Miscellaneous	<b>Withdrawal</b>	This event has been modified to add a prompt to answer the question "Are you withdrawing a proof of claim?" Answering yes will stop the docketing process and notify the filer of where to find the proper event for a Withdrawal of Claim.
Limited Misc Events (or Claim Actions)	<b>Withdrawal of Claim</b>	This event has been added to the Miscellaneous menu for easier access; the event is also located under the Claim Actions menu.
Limited Misc Events (or Motions/ Applications)	<b>Motion to Appear Pro Hac Vice</b>	This event has been added to the Limited Miscellaneous events menu so that limited-access filers may file this motion in CM/ECF.
Limited Misc Events (or Miscellaneous)	<b>Appearance of Child Support Creditor or Representative</b>	This event has been added to the Limited Miscellaneous events menu so that limited-access filers may file this document in CM/ECF.
Motions/Applications	<b>Motion to Extend Time to File Tax Returns</b>	This matter must be handled on an expedited basis. Using the proper docket event will ensure the matter is appropriately scheduled.

### 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)*

# TIPS & TRICKS

- ✓ **Case trustee's signature is required on all proposed consent orders**, even if the property has been abandoned by the trustee.
- ✓ **When amending a pleading**, remember to relate the entry to the previous filing's docket number.
- ✓ **Offices with multiple attorneys should ensure the proper user log-in and password are being used to file documents.** Per [ECF Local Rule 8](#), the name of the filing user under whose log-in and password the document is submitted should match the "s/" signature or wet signature of the attorney who signed the document.
- ✓ **Attorneys wishing to appear via [Pro Hac Vice admission](#)** will only be granted limited filing privileges to file the Pro Hac Vice motion and pay the fee. Once approved, full filing privileges will be granted for that case.
- ✓ **A Notice of Change of Name must include** a certificate of service showing service upon all creditors and parties in interest.
- ✓ **Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(b)(2)(C), the automatic stay is not in effect** for domestic support obligations. Therefore, the Court will not issue Stop Garnishment Orders for domestic support obligations, and the request will be terminated.
- ✓ **The Clerk's Office is prevented from issuing a Chapter 7 discharge order** until 10 days have passed after the conclusion of the 11 U.S.C. § 341 meeting of creditors.
- ✓ **When withdrawing a Proof of Claim**, please use the proper event in CM/ECF located under **Bankruptcy > Claim Actions (or Limited Misc Events) > Withdrawal of Claim**. This will ensure the withdrawal is related to the proper claim and appears on the claims register. You may also use the [Electronic Proof of Claim Module \(ePOC\)](#) located on the Court's website to file, amend, or withdraw a claim. You must have a PDF of your claim withdrawal to use the module, or a PDF of any supporting documents (*if needed*) to file a proof of claim (*Form B410—Proof of Claim will be created through the module when filing a claim using ePOC*).

## More Filing Tips....

### Certificates of Credit Counseling

When filing a Certificate of Credit Counseling, please ensure that the debtor's name on the certificate matches what is listed on the petition and in CM/ECF. Note that a debtor name with a suffix in the last name, such as Sr., Jr., II, III, should include the suffix in the name listed on the certificate of credit counseling.

### Requests for Leave of Court

Please note that beginning **May 1, 2024**, all requests for leave of court should be submitted to **Courtroom**

**Deputy Jacqueline Bauknight** at:

[jacqueline\\_w\\_bauknight@gas.uscourts.gov](mailto:jacqueline_w_bauknight@gas.uscourts.gov)

Please refer to [General Order 1995-5](#) for the procedures.

### Update Your Contact Information

It is the attorney's responsibility to keep his/her contact information updated - this is accomplished via [PACER](#) and Maintain Your PACER Account. Visit <https://pacer.uscourts.gov> to update your contact information and email preferences.

### Correcting a Chapter 13 Plan

When a Chapter 13 plan needs to be corrected/amended, even if the plan has already been amended, please file an Amended Chapter 13 Plan with Certificate of Service instead of withdrawing the plan.

### Applications to Employ

When filing an Application to Employ an attorney, a Notarized Affidavit or a Verified Statement must be included for each attorney wishing to be employed. The verified statement must substantially conform to the language as set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1746:

If executed within the United States, its territories, possessions, or commonwealths:

*"I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date)."*

### Filing a Motion for Refund



When filing a Motion for Refund of Court Fees, be sure to include in the motion and proposed order:

- the receipt number of the overpayment; and
- the method by which the refund should be issued (i.e., same credit card used to pay the fee).

### Substitution of Counsel

Motions to Substitute Counsel should comply with [Local Rule 83.7](#). In most instances, a motion and proposed consent order signed by both attorneys and the client can be submitted in lieu of a hearing being scheduled. Please [contact the Court](#) to obtain directives if a mass substitution is anticipated.

### 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



## Public Access to Case Information and Copy Requests

A new link is now available on the Court's website ([www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov)) with information regarding public access to cases, obtaining copies of documents, and archived cases. Visit the Court's website at [www.gasb.uscourts.gov/case-information](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/case-information) which includes the information below.

### **Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER)**

PACER is an electronic public access service that provides the public with electronic access to case and docket information from federal appellate, district, and bankruptcy courts. PACER is provided by the federal judiciary in keeping with its commitment to providing public access to court information via centralized service. To register for a PACER account or for more detailed information about PACER, please visit <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/> or call 800-676-6856.

### **Multi-Court Voice Case Information System (McVCIS)**

McVCIS is a free service that provides general case information over the telephone, including debtor name, case number, assigned judge, filing date, chapter, asset/no asset designation, attorney, trustee, and current case status. This voice case information system can be accessed from any touch tone telephone and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, except during system maintenance. To access this service, call toll free at **1-866-222-8029** and follow the prompts for Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Court. **Please note** that McVCIS is not the official court record.

### **Clerk's Office**

Public computer terminals are located in the Clerk's Office of each of the Court's three divisional offices (*Augusta, Brunswick, Savannah*). The public may view, without charge, online dockets and documents in the Clerk's Office.

### **Obtaining Copies of Documents**

The cost to print documents from the public computer terminals located in the Clerk's Office is **\$0.10** per page.

The cost for copies requested in person at the Clerk's Office at any of our three divisional offices, or by mail, is **\$0.50** per page. The request must include the case number and the document copies requested; if mailing the request, it must also include a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage affixed for mailing the copies, as well as a money order or certified check (*made payable to Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court*) for the exact amount due. The Clerk's Office will also accept personal checks for pro se filer, with the exception of debtors with active bankruptcy cases. Certified copies are an additional **\$12.00** per certified document. **Note:** the Clerk's Office will only certify documents from a case filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

If you do not have a case number and are requesting a records search, a fee of **\$34.00** will apply.

### **Archived Case Information**

For more information and instructions on how to order copies directly from the National Archives and Records Administration, go to <https://www.archives.gov/research/court-records/order-copies>.

**Before ordering copies from NARA:** you will need some basic information concerning the case, including the case number, accession number, location number, and box number. To obtain this information, [contact the United States Bankruptcy Court Clerk's Office](#).

# Employee News

## Congratulations to Elizabeth and Blake



On April 11, 2024, the Savannah Clerk's Office hosted a baby shower for **Elizabeth Bonanni**, Courtroom Deputy to Chief Judge Edward J. Coleman, III. The day was full of fun and laughter as we celebrated the coming arrival of baby girl Isabella this June. Elizabeth and her husband Blake are thrilled, and we are all excited to welcome little Isabella into the world. We wish Elizabeth and Blake the very best as they begin their new adventure into parenthood.



## Best Wishes to Cherish and Anthony!

Best wishes to Savannah Divisional Manager Cherish Hayes on her recent marriage to Anthony Howard. The Savannah Clerk's Office celebrated Cherish and Anthony's nuptials with a bridal luncheon on May 3, 2024. We are so happy for Cherish and wish her and Anthony much love and happiness in their marriage.



## Celebrating Laura and Randall



On February 28, 2024, the Savannah Clerk's Office hosted a bridal brunch for Savannah Case Administrator Laura Edenfield. Laura wed Randall Brewster in a private ceremony in Forsyth Park on February 23, 2024. We wish them the very best and much happiness as they start their life together.

## Happy Retirement to Betty Way



Betty Way retired on May 31, 2024, after 26 years of dedicated service to the Federal Judiciary.

After moving to Georgia from Florida, Betty began her career with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Georgia on February 17, 1998. Starting in case opening, she was promoted to Case Administrator in the Augusta division. Over the past two decades, Betty witnessed and was part of many changes in the courts, including the progression from docketing paper filings to managing virtual case files through electronic filing.

Betty is now spending her free time enjoying her five grandchildren, ranging from 7 to 12 years of age. She and her husband, Bruce, will be celebrating their 2nd anniversary this summer and are building a new house in South Carolina. Her plans also include pursuing volunteer work and enjoying travelling.

We will miss Betty's pleasant attitude and encouraging words, and wish her lots of happiness in her retirement!

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



*Charlene Burke, Case Administrator*

*Laura Edenfield, Case Administrator*



*Christyne Murray, Judicial Assistant to  
Judge Coleman*

## Employment Opportunity with the Court



**Position:** Term Law Clerk to United States Bankruptcy Judge

**Duty Station:** Augusta, Georgia (in person)

**Closing Date:** Open until filled.

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

*The United States Bankruptcy Court is an equal opportunity employer.*

## Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Participates in 13th Annual Legal Food Frenzy



Georgia Southern Bankruptcy Court joined forces with Georgia's legal community to help fight hunger across the state by participating in this year's 13th Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy, which was held from April 15th to April 26th. The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy is an annual two-week fundraising competition created in collaboration with the Young Lawyer's Division of the State Bar of Georgia, Office of the Attorney General, and Feeding Georgia, all in support of Georgia's regional food banks.

During this year's competition, our Court staff raised \$773, which helps to provide approximately 3,751 meals for children, senior citizens, and families in Georgia. Together with other local firms and organizations, we helped raise \$30,527.55 for Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia and Augusta's Golden Harvest Food Bank!

*For more information regarding the Georgia Legal Food Frenzy and how to get involved, please visit their website at [GALegalFoodFrenzy.org](http://GALegalFoodFrenzy.org).*





## Celebrating Flag Day



June 14 is Flag Day in the United States. The flag of the United States is the emblem of our identity as a sovereign nation, which the United States of America has been for more than 200 years<sup>1</sup>. It is a symbol of respect, honor, and patriotism. On June 22, 1942, Congress passed a joint resolution, later amended on December 22, 1942, that encompassed what has come to be known as the U.S. Flag Code, which directs how to properly display the American flag.

<sup>1</sup>Article and photo courtesy of: <https://www.almanac.com/us-flag-etiquette-rules-and-guidelines>

## Juneteenth is celebrated on June 19

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is the oldest -known celebration marking the end of slavery in the United States, first recognized by the state of Texas, when in 1865, Union General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation aloud in Galveston, Texas, effectively liberating enslaved people in the state, which had thus far been beyond control of the Union Army. Slavery in the United States would be formally abolished with the ratification of the 13th Amendment on December 6, 1865. June 19th was established as a federal holiday by the Juneteenth National Independence Act, signed into law on June 17, 2021.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Article courtesy of:

<https://www.almanac.com/juneteenth>



*"Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave."*

**Harriet Tubman** (1820–1913), American abolitionist and political activist.

## Be **PREPARED** for Severe Weather

The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to September 30. Hurricanes are not just a coastal problem—rain, wind, water, and even tornadoes could happen far inland from where a hurricane or tropical storm makes land-fall. Be ready - take action TODAY to be better prepared for when the worst happens. 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.

### COURT EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

In the event of court closures or rescheduling of hearings due to inclement weather, an announcement will be posted to the Court's website at [www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov), and a GovDelivery message will be transmitted to all subscribers. Stay subscribed, keep your contact information updated, and check our website often for updates during a disaster situation, such as severe weather. See page 19 of this newsletter for instructions on how to subscribe to receive GovDelivery updates.




**PACER**

PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT ELECTRONIC RECORDS

For assistance in creating new PACER accounts, upgrading your current account, or linking your upgraded PACER account to your CM/ECF account, contact the:

### [PACER Service Center](#)

[pacer@psc.uscourts.gov](mailto: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](http://www.uscourts.gov)

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

[www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov)

### United States Trustee Region 21:

[www.justice.gov/ust-regions-r21](http://www.justice.gov/ust-regions-r21)

### 11th Circuit Court of Appeals:

[www.ca11.uscourts.gov](http://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](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/unclaimed-funds-information)

### Transcript/Audio Requests:

[www.gasb.uscourts.gov/transcriptaudio-requests](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/transcriptaudio-requests)

### Debtor Electronic Bankruptcy Noticing (DeBN):

[www.gasb.uscourts.gov/debtor-electronic-bankruptcy-noticing-debn](http://www.gasb.uscourts.gov/debtor-electronic-bankruptcy-noticing-debn)



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[www.gasb.uscourts.gov](http://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.



*Have a great summer!*

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

**Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

**Thursday, July 4, 2024**

**Monday, September 2, 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*\*:

*Elizabeth Bonanni*

*Renae Creel*

*Leigh Cribbs*

*Crystal DeLaurentis*

*Laura Edenfield*

*Cherish Hayes*

*Christyne Murray*

*Carla Wilbourn*

*Dana Wilson*

**Thank You!**



*Pictured above: Lover's Oak located in Historic Downtown Brunswick, GA  
(<https://discoverbrunswick.com/top-attractions/>)*

The city of Brunswick, founded in 1771, is located on the southeast coast of Georgia. It is known for its vibrant Old Town Historic District and the huge, centuries-old Lover's Oak tree, among its other attractions. Causeways link the city to the 4 barrier islands of the Golden Isles.

*\*For questions, comments, corrections, or suggested articles regarding this newsletter, please email: [courtney\\_neibel@gas.uscourts.gov](mailto:courtney_neibel@gas.uscourts.gov)  
We look forward to your feedback!*