



DISTRICT OF MONTANA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2, JULY 2011

Availability of Filings

The PACER Case Locator is a national index for U.S. District, Bankruptcy, and Appellate Courts. Information on the PACER system is available for viewing within 24 hours after filing. The most current data is available directly through the Court's website. Access to the District of Montana's CM/ECF site is available at <https://ecf.mtd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/ShowIndex.pl>.

Training Database

Would you like to experiment with CM/ECF without the danger of pressing the "submit" button and actually filing a document in a live case?

The District of Montana is offering attorneys and their staffs the opportunity to practice e-filing in a training database. Contact Nancy O'Brien at 406-247-4472 for more information.

New CM/ECF Dictionary Events

- Criminal Notice of Defendant's Fifth and Sixth Amendment Rights
- Criminal Notice of Intent to Proceed to Trial
- Civil and Criminal Proposed Verdict Form

Fax Filings:

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The Clerk of Court's Office will no longer allow the commencement of a new civil case to be initiated by fax. Additionally, the Clerk's Office will no longer open a civil case for counsel to electronically file the initiating documents later.

There are two options available for filing a new civil case:

- 1) Counsel may use the "shell case" procedure to file initiating documents which allows 24-hour access to filing when paying by credit card. For detailed instructions on initiating a new civil case using the shell case, view the electronic learning module (ELM) available on our website at <http://www.mtd.uscourts.gov/efiling.html#training>.
- 2) Initiating documents for a new civil case may be also be filed conventionally with the Clerk's Office. Conventionally filed initiating documents must include counsel's original signature. Please see the Administrative Procedures Manual located on our website for further instructions at <http://www.mtd.uscourts.gov/pdf/Administrative%20Procedures%20Manual.pdf>.

Jury Evidence Recording Management System (JERS)

Jury Evidence Recording Management System (JERS for short) is here in the District of Montana. JERS has been installed in all courtrooms across the district and was utilized for the first time in Missoula at a criminal trial held the end of June. JERS was developed by the Western District of North Carolina. It provides a number of advantages to court personnel, the jury and the attorneys. JERS provides ready access to the evidence during deliberation through the use of a touch screen kiosk, reducing the need for the courtroom deputy and jury to handle physical evidence. The jury can view the evidence multiple times, rewind videos, and zoom in on pictures. This benefits attorneys by allowing evidence to be viewed in the most persuasive way possible. In future versions, JERS will sync with CM/ECF and exhibits will be able to docketed at the conclusion of trial.

Clerk of Court Divisional Offices

Billings: 247-7000	Questions about filing electronically?
Butte: 782-0432	CM/ECF Electronic Learning Modules
Great Falls: 727-1922	(ELMs) are available at:
Helena: 441-1355	http://www.mtd.uscourts.gov/efiling.html#training
Missoula: 542-7260	

NOTICE: Browser Compatibility Issues

Internet Explorer 9 and Mozilla Firefox 4 are not supported browsers with CM/ECF.

District of Montana Website:
www.mtd.uscourts.gov