

## Court Information Release



### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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### **District Court Revamps Its Website In Response to Survey of Lawyers**

In response to an e-mail survey of approximately 5,000 lawyers, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois has revised its website to make it more user-friendly. The current website can be viewed at [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov), with the new version scheduled to go "live" on Saturday, March 1, 2008. "As the virtual gateway to our Courthouse, it is imperative that our Court's website be responsive to lawyers' needs, easy-to-use, informative, and up-to-date," said Chief Judge James F. Holderman.

Last fall, in addition to the approximately 5,000 registered e-filing lawyers surveyed, additional copies of the survey were sent to the docketing and IT staff of 80 Chicago-area law firms and a modified version of the survey was sent to every member of the Court staff. The purpose of the survey was to learn where website users encountered problems and areas where improvements could be made. Overall, "the responses were very favorable," reports Ted Newman, Judicial Support Manager. "Most of the suggestions for changes highlighted ways to improve a resource that was already seen as very valuable," he added. The upcoming website changes were designed in response to the survey's results.

For example, in response to the question regarding reasons for visiting the website, 89.8% of those surveyed said it was "to check a judge's motion call or calendar procedure," 68.3% said "to consult the Local Rules or Internal Operating Procedures," 66.1% said it was "to find a phone number for Clerk's Office or chambers staff," and 62.5% said "to check the Court's daily calendar." In response to the needs articulated by those surveyed, the new website lists each of these items prominently on a menu bar located directly underneath the court's logo, with a special callout box for the Court's daily calendar. Other items of interest are categorized under "Tools & Information," "Quick Links," "Court Information," and "What's New?" A separate callout box links directly to information about CM/ECF, the court's electronic filing system. Links to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and the William J. Campbell Library are easily accessible from the court's new homepage.

The new website will also be available in a mobile version, enabling lawyers on the go to access vital court information—such as phone numbers, motion calls, and judges' procedures—through hand-held devices. The Northern District of Illinois is the first district court in the country to offer this type of mobile service to its practitioners. Chief Judge Holderman would like to thank all Court personnel who worked on the website conversion and especially note the efforts of Michael Dobbins, Ted Newman, Nelida Finch, Mark Tortorici, Michael Gombosi, and Arnold Dizon in making this project a success.