

*United States District Court  
Northern District of Ohio  
Cleveland, Ohio, 44113-1834*

*Paul D. Katia  
Chief Judge*

*Phone: (216) 357-7100  
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December 20, 2002

To: All Counsel in the Northern District of Ohio Maritime Asbestos Litigation (MARDOC)

Since January 1996, attorneys involved in maritime asbestos litigation cases filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio by the Jacques Admiralty Law Firm have been able to file and retrieve documents electronically through the Court's maritime asbestos electronic case file (ECF) system. Although the ECF system has proven to be very useful to the Court and the parties, it has now become outdated and increasingly difficult to access. The Court is now using a more advanced Case Management / Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system for all other civil matters and we intend to move the cases now in the maritime asbestos litigation system into the newer CM/ECF system as time permits. In addition, beginning January 1, 2003, all newly filed maritime asbestos cases will be placed into the newer CM/ECF electronic filing system, along with all other civil cases.

Because maritime asbestos litigation attorneys will now need to access the newer CM/ECF system, you will need:

- 1) a CM/ECF login id and password (the id and password you use to access the original ECF maritime asbestos system will not work in the newer system; however, if you are already registered to file electronically with this Court in traditional civil cases, you do not need to register again since you will already have been provided with a login id and password). To obtain a CM/ECF password and id please complete the attached Attorney Registration form.
- 2) a separate PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) password and id. It is likely that you, or your firm, already has a PACER account, but if you don't, PACER accounts can be established by contacting:

PACER Service Center  
P.O. Box 780549  
San Antonio, TX 78278  
(800) 676-6856  
(210) 301-6440  
<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/>  
Email: [pacer@psc.uscourts.gov](mailto:pacer@psc.uscourts.gov)

During the transition, maritime asbestos cases filed before January 1, 2003 will continue to be maintained in the older ECF maritime system and cases filed January 1, 2003 and later will

be maintained in the newer CM/ECF system with all other civil cases.

If you, or your staff, are unfamiliar with how the newer system operates, you can find a wealth of material on our web site ([www.ohnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ohnd.uscourts.gov)) including:

- 1) the Electronic Filing Policies and Procedures Manual,
- 2) a User's Guide, and
- 3) an online tutorial

Management of the maritime asbestos litigation remains the same. All Orders continue to apply, including the limitations on motion practice and discovery imposed by Administrative Order No. 5 (MARDOC) issued by MDL Judge Charles R. Weiner on February 8, 1995 and OAL Order No. 165 issued in this district by Judge George W. White on May 13, 1996 which relieves the parties in the MARDOC asbestos litigation from the duty of filing their answers until further notification.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Chris Malumphy, chief deputy clerk, at 216-357-7080.

We believe that when the transition to the newer CM/ECF system is complete, attorneys involved in the maritime asbestos litigation will be provided with more reliable access to the documents in these cases.

Sincerely,



Paul R. Matia  
Chief Judge

attachment  
PRM/cm

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
ELECTRONIC FILING ATTORNEY REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is used to register for an account on the Northern District of Ohio Electronic Filing System (the system). Registered attorneys will have privileges to electronically submit documents and to view the electronic docket sheets and documents. By registering, attorneys consent to receiving electronic notice of filings through the system. The following information is required for registration:

**PLEASE TYPE**

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. (circle one)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ If appropriate circle one: Senior / Junior / II / III

Highest state court admitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently in good standing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Firm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you relocated to this address within the past year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Voice Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Internet Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Attorneys seeking to file documents electronically must be admitted to practice in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio pursuant to Local Rule 83.5.**

Date admitted to practice in this Court: \_\_\_\_\_

If admitted pro hac vice: Date motion for pro hac vice granted: \_\_\_\_\_ in case number: \_\_\_\_\_

If Attorney of Record in MDL action indicate case number: \_\_\_\_\_

**By submitting this registration form, the undersigned agrees to abide by all Court rules, orders and policies and procedures governing the use of the electronic filing system. The undersigned also consents to receiving notice of filings pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(b) and 77(d) via the Court's electronic filing system. The combination of user id and password will serve as the signature of the attorney filing the documents. Attorneys must protect the security of their passwords and immediately notify the court if they learn that their password has been compromised. Electronic filing is only permissible in cases approved by the Court.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Registrant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Submit completed Registration Form to: Geri M. Smith, Clerk  
United States District Court  
Attention: Electronic Filing System Registration  
801W. Superior Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44113-1830

Once your registration is complete, you will receive notification by U.S. Mail as to your user id and password needed to access the system. Procedures for using the system will be available for downloading when you access the system via the Internet. You may contact the Electronic Filing Help Desk in the Clerk's Office at 1-800-355-8498 if you have any questions concerning the registration process or the use of the electronic filing system.