

PACER Quarterly Newsletter

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NextGen Complete: Final Three Courts Convert in Q3

In the third quarter, three courts implemented the next generation case management/electronic case files (NextGen CM/ECF) system:

- Texas Western District
- Texas Northern District
- North Carolina Eastern District

All courts have now converted to NextGen CM/ECF. Use these helpful tips to ensure that you smoothly transition along with your court:

- If you have a PACER account, make sure it is upgraded. Log in to Manage Your Account at pacer.uscourts.gov.
- If you do not have a PACER account, use this link to create one: pacer.uscourts.gov/register-account.
- Remember to link your e-filing account to your PACER account.
 - ◆ For an overview on linking, go to: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/file-case/get-ready-nextgen-cmefc>.
 - ◆ For instructions on linking accounts, go to: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/cmefc>.

NextGen Resources

The PACER website offers a wealth of information on converting to NextGen CM/ECF. The NextGen section of the site walks users through the steps you should take now that your court has upgraded.

Go to pacer.uscourts.gov and click **Move to NextGen CM/ECF**. Then select **Get Ready for NextGen CM/ECF** to find out more about:

- The benefits of NextGen.
- How to smoothly transition to NextGen.
- Changes to PACER Administrative Accounts (PAAs).

PACER Case Locator (PCL) Website: Update to Login Feature

Users may notice a change this month on the PACER Case Locator (PCL) website. At pcl.uscourts.gov, the **Log in to PCL** button at the top right of the screen has replaced the Username, Password, and Client Code login fields. This new button will now take you to the PACER Login page (pacer.login.uscourts.gov), where you can enter your information and use the PCL.

For additional information on how to use and navigate the PCL, visit the How to Use PACER section of the PACER website (pacer.uscourts.gov) and click on the PCL User Manual.

Sign Up for PACER Announcements

Users can sign up on the PACER website to receive PACER announcements by email. Visit pacer.uscourts.gov and go to the Email Updates section on the bottom right.

Enter your email address and click **Sign up** to get the latest PACER news delivered to your inbox.

Legacy PCL Retired

The legacy PCL retired in February. The updated site (pcl.uscourts.gov), which launched in December 2017, is now the only source for PCL access.

If you use automated scripts to scrape data from the legacy PCL, consider transitioning to the new PCL application programming interface (API), available on the [Developer Resources](#) page.

For more PCL API information, check out the Q&A here:

https://pacer.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/files/PCL_API_TownHall_QAs_Dec2020.pdf. In addition, the PCL API User Guide is available here:

<https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/pacer/pacer-case-locator-pcl-api-user-guide>.

User Tips & Reminders

Help with Login Issues

If you are having problems logging in to PACER, try these quick tips:

- Confirm you entered your credentials correctly (remember that passwords are case-sensitive).
- Delete your internet browser cookies/clear your cache and then restart your browser.
- Try a different browser.
- Use a different network.
- Call the helpdesk at 800-676-6856.
- Visit the PACER FAQs at: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/faqs>.

Enhanced PACER Website Messaging

You can dismiss alerts on the PACER website. If a message appears at the top of pacer.uscourts.gov, you can click Dismiss, and the message will not reappear—even on subsequent logins on the same day.

Getting Faster, More Efficient PSC Support Via Email

When you contact the PACER Service Center (PSC) for help, please include the following information in your message to ensure you get the help you need, when you need it:

- Account number and username
- Specific federal court, if applicable
- Your specific issue (e.g., login reset questions)

NOTE: The PSC cannot locate accounts by state bar number.

PACER, PCL APIs Available

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) has released the application programming interfaces (APIs) for the PACER Case Locator (PCL) and PACER authentication. The new APIs will simplify access to PACER and PCL data for automated script users.

- PCL API: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/pacer/pacer-case-locator-pcl-api-user-guide>
- PACER Authentication API: <https://pacer.uscourts.gov/help/pacer/pacer-authentication-api-user-guide>

APIs in QA

The new APIs and documentation are available in the QA environment at <https://qa-pacer.uscourts.gov>. This allows users to test scripts as part of their development life cycle process. To use QA, you need a PACER account in that environment. If you do not have one, register for a test account at <https://qa-pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/pscof/registration.jsf>. You may skip the credit card portion of the registration, as there is no charge to search in QA. Your account will be activated overnight.

NOTE: QA is a testing site that may occasionally be unavailable due to maintenance. In addition, there may be features in QA that are not currently available in the Production environment.

Existing Authentication Endpoint

If you are an automated script user who has written authentication requests to automatically log in to PACER and/or CM/ECF, you must update these requests to meet new technical specifications and security requirements outlined in the [PACER Authentication API User Guide](#) (also available on the [Developer Resources](#) page); otherwise, your existing authentication will fail.

Billing Information

- PSC accepts Discover, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Log in to Manage Your Account at pacer.uscourts.gov to pay by credit card.
- PSC federal tax ID: 74-2747938.
- A fee of \$53 will be assessed if your payment is returned.
- Accounts with credit cards on file will be auto-billed up to 7 days prior to the due date.

PSC Holidays

PSC hours are 8 a.m.–6 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday. The PSC is closed for holidays on the following dates:

Columbus Day: October 11
Veterans Day: November 11
Thanksgiving: November 25
Christmas (obs.): December 26