
SANCTION

Internet Address: *verdictsystems.com*

Sanction is an excellent presentation system designed specifically for courtroom use. Sanction delivers a compelling argument with a powerful multimedia presentation by incorporating audio and video testimony, animations and other demonstrative technology (such as *PowerPoint*), while handy organization and layout tools make jumping in and out of documents a snap.

PROS

Sanction has been acquired by *Lexis* which means the quality is excellent, the support is strong, and it can coordinate with other *Lexis* products, such as *CaseMate* and *Lexis+*.

CONS

Sanction has been acquired by *Lexis* which means it is relatively expensive.

§ 12.4

E-Filing

Convenience

Electronic filing of litigation documents is fast becoming the norm. Many jurisdictions now require that all documents (with a few exceptions) *after the initial summons and complaint* be filed electronically.

As with most of the technological issues we have discussed, the major obstacle for the paralegal (and his or her attorney) is the wide range of software systems used by the various courts. For example, many courts use a system by *Lexis*. The federal courts use tools called CM/ECF and PACER. Others have systems created and designed to suit their individual needs. In other words, proprietary software.

In federal courts, if you want to *file* a document, use CM/ECF (*Case Management/Electronic Case Files*), or NextGen CM/ECF. If you want to *find* a document, use PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records). Only those individuals recognized by specific courts can utilize CM/ECF for those courts, but anyone can use PACER (once they have registered for an account).

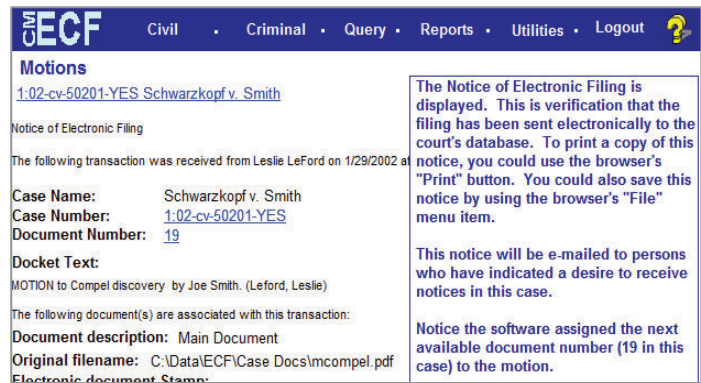
Both are now run under the umbrella of PACER at *pacер.uscourts.gov*.

CM/ECF (FILING DOCUMENTS)

Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) is the federal Judiciary's system that allows case documents, such as pleadings, motions, and petitions, to be filed with the court online. CM/ECF is most often used by attorneys, U.S. Trustees, and bankruptcy trustees.

NEXTGEN CM/ECF (FILING DOCUMENTS)

NextGen CM/ECF is the new interface and system for filing court document in the U.S. Court system. It will allow users (typically attorneys) to use one individual PACER account to file and keep track of any number of cases, even if the attorney switches to a new firm or position.



PACER (VIEWING FILED DOCUMENTS)

The *Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER)* service provides electronic public access to federal court records. PACER provides the public with instantaneous access to more than 1 billion documents filed in federal courts.

While not required, it would be beneficial to sign up for a PACER account. There is no charge. Anyone can request access since court files are almost always public records.



Registered users can:

- Search for a case in the federal court where the case was filed, or
- Search a nationwide index of federal court cases.

As defined by its own Web site, PACER is:

... an electronic public access service that allows users to obtain case and docket information from federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts, and the PACER Case Locator via the Internet. PACER is provided by the federal Judiciary in keeping with its commitment to providing public access to court information via a centralized service.