

## NEWS FROM U.S. DISTRICT COURT

January 10, 2020

**NEXTGEN CM/ECF:** All the federal courts are in the process of transitioning from CurrentGen CM/ECF to NextGen CM/ECF, the latest iteration of CM/ECF. CM/ECF or *Case Management/Electronic Case Files* is the comprehensive system used by federal courts to maintain electronic civil and criminal case files and offer electronic filing to attorneys and some pro se parties. Some courts have already transitioned to NextGen CM/ECF, including the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, South Dakota Bankruptcy Court, Minnesota District Court, Nebraska District Court, and North Dakota District Court. These courts are known as NextGen courts. The District of South Dakota is still a CurrentGen court but will be transitioning to NextGen CM/ECF later this year.

**CENTRAL SIGN-ON:** Central Sign-On is a major feature of NextGen CM/ECF that allows public users to have one login and password to access PACER and NextGen CM/ECF courts. In other words, attorneys and pro se parties with e-filing privileges will no longer be required to maintain a PACER account and additional CM/ECF accounts to e-file documents in different federal courts.

**PACER:** *Public Access to Court Electronic Records* (PACER) is an online service that provides public access to documents and case information stored in CM/ECF. Attorneys and pro se parties with e-filing privileges have always been required to have a PACER account to access certain restricted documents and other information stored in CM/ECF. In the past, attorneys within the same law firm could share a joint PACER account. NextGen CM/ECF requires users to have individual PACER accounts. If you do not already have an individual PACER account, now is a great time to register for one on the PACER Service Center website located at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov).

**UPGRADED PACER ACCOUNTS:** In addition to requiring users to have individual PACER accounts, NextGen CM/ECF requires PACER account holders to upgrade their legacy (older) PACER accounts. Upgraded PACER accounts allow for self-service login retrieval and password reset. If you have a legacy PACER account, you may have upgraded it when the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals or another federal court transitioned to NextGen CM/ECF. If you register for a new PACER account now or have registered for a new PACER account within the last five years, you automatically have an upgraded PACER account.

If you haven't already upgraded your legacy PACER account, you are encouraged to do so now on the PACER Service Center website located at [www.pacer.gov](http://www.pacer.gov). Click on **Manage My Account** in the upper right-hand corner of the PACER Service Center home page. Enter your legacy PACER account username and password and follow the instructions. You will be required to associate with your account a valid e-mail address, security questions and answers, and a date of birth. After your PACER account is upgraded, you can use it to access restricted documents and e-file documents in any federal court that has granted you e-filing privileges and has transitioned to NextGen CM/ECF. **You will continue to use your CurrentGen CM/ECF login and password to e-file documents in South Dakota District Court until this district court transitions to NextGen CM/ECF sometime later this year.**