

Dear Website Visitor:

Over the past several years, the federal district courts in the nation have been converting to electronic case filing. No doubt many of you have practiced in courts that have already converted to “CM/ECF” – electronic case management (docketing)/electronic case filing. Now it is our turn in the Eastern District to convert to CM/ECF. We are scheduled to go on line with CM/ECF in January of 2005.

Electronic filing permits filing of briefs and pleadings by internet connection with pdf formatted documents. It also permits electronic access to all filings in the public docket. New procedures will be required to address privacy considerations, service by e-mail, filing, docketing, sealing etc.

The judges of the district court have authorized the CM/ECF committee to disseminate the attached draft policies for comment. These policies are being circulated in draft to permit public comment before any approval by the court. The policies will guide the clerk’s office and the court, and ultimately will be reflected in local rules where appropriate.

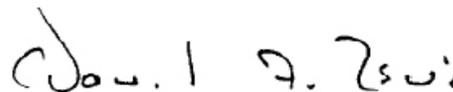
The policies are not designed as a comprehensive document but should give sufficient information such that attorneys and others may comment on their adequacy, fairness, and practicality.

The court requests that you broadly disseminate the attached policies with our request for comment.

Comment is requested by April 9, 2004. The comments should be in writing and preferably sent by e-mail to Magistrate Judges Hollows (Sacramento) and Beck (Fresno), [ghollows@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:ghollows@caed.uscourts.gov) and [dbeck@caed.uscourts.gov](mailto:dbeck@caed.uscourts.gov), respectively.

In addition to this request for comment, our district plans to perform other activities to make the bar aware of electronic filing in the Eastern District. Once the policies are finalized, all-day training sessions will also be scheduled.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to your comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F. Levi". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Chief Judge David F. Levi