

## **JUDICIAL CONFERENCE AUTHORIZES INCREASE IN PACER FEES**

An increase in the electronic public access (EPA) fee, from \$.08 to \$.10 per page, is needed to continue to support and improve the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system, and to develop and implement the next generation of the Judiciary's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system.

The EPA fee has not been increased since 2005. As mandated by Congress, the EPA program is funded entirely through user fees set by the Conference. Implementation of the two-cent per page increase will take a minimum of six months.

The Conference was mindful of the impact such an increase could have on other public entities and on public users accessing the system to obtain information on a particular case. For this reason, local, state, and federal government agencies will be exempted from the increase for three years. Moreover, PACER users who do not accrue charges of more than \$15 in a quarterly billing cycle would not be charged a fee. (The current exemption is \$10 per quarter.) The expanded exemption means that 75 to 80 percent of all users will still pay no fees.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has set an effective date of April 1, 2012 for the fee change.

(Please refer to [www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov) for additional information on actions by the Judicial Conference.)