

United States District Court Northern District of California

ECF Registration Information Handout

Electronic Case Filing (ECF or “e-filing”) is mandatory for all civil cases in this court. Please refer to Civil Local Rule 5-1 for the Court’s rules pertaining to electronic filing. Special procedures apply to initiating documents (complaints; notices of removal); after that, attorneys must e-file in this case.

Parties who are representing themselves pro se (without attorney representation) are not required to e-file and, in fact, may e-file only with the permission of the assigned judge.

Please review and attend to the following important notes and tasks:

- Serve this ECF Registration Information Handout on all parties in the case along with the complaint or removal notice and the other documents generated by the court upon filing.
- Email (DO NOT E-FILE) the complaint or removal notice and all attachments, in PDF format, within ten (10) business days, to the assigned judge’s PDF email address. Find the judge’s email address at cand.uscourts.gov/judges; find more information on this step at cand.uscourts.gov/ECF. Include in the subject line of the email:
 - Case number
 - Judge’s initials
 - Type of document(s) you are sending (e.g., “Complaint & TRO”)

Do not separately e-file these documents; court staff will perform this task. All other documents from this point forward in the case must be e-filed, including the returned summons.

- If not already registered, each attorney in the case must register to become an e-filer at cand.uscourts.gov/ECF. Your ECF registration is valid for life in this district; please do not register more than once.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: by signing and submitting to the court a request for an ECF user id and password, you consent to entry of your email address into the court’s electronic service registry for electronic service on you of all e-filed papers, pursuant to rules 77 and 5(b)(2)(d) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

- If you are a party and do not have an attorney and would like to e-file in the case, please visit cand.uscourts.gov/ECF/proseregistration for instructions and information. Unless and until the assigned judge has given you permission to e-file, you are required to file and serve papers in hard copy (paper) form.
- Access dockets and documents using your PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records) account. If your firm already has a PACER account, please use that account. It is not necessary to have individual PACER accounts for each user in your office. To set up an account, visit: pacer.gov or call (800) 676-6856.

ECF interactive tutorials, instructions for e-filing and other information are available at: cand.uscourts.gov/ECF.