

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Eastern District of Pennsylvania
U.S. Courthouse
Independence Mall West
601 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1797

Audio File Electronic Access Program NOTICE

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania participated in a national Digital Audio File Electronic Access Pilot Program. The pilot program was authorized by the Judicial Conference of the United States and provided digital audio files of court proceedings through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. The Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Court Administration and Case Management selected five pilot courts. The Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the District of Nebraska were the district courts selected to participate in the project. The Eastern District of North Carolina, the Northern District of Alabama and the District of Maine are the bankruptcy courts that were selected to participate in this project.

During the pilot project digital audio recordings of courtroom proceedings were publicly available on PACER upon the approval of the presiding judge. The project enables PACER users to download, in MP3 format, court proceedings that have been recorded using electronic sound recording technology. During the pilot program, access to the digital audio files cost 16 cents; 8 cents for accessing the docket sheet and another 8 cents for selecting the audio file. More than 840,000 subscribers already use PACER to access docket and case information from federal appellate, district and bankruptcy courts.

Digital audio recording has been an authorized method of making an official record of court proceedings since 1999, when it was approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Digital audio recording is used in district and bankruptcy courts in the federal court system. A majority of Eastern District of Pennsylvania district court judges and all magistrate judges use digital audio recordings of court proceedings.

At its March 2010 meeting, the Judicial Conference of the United States voted to allow courts, at the discretion of the presiding judge, to make digital audio recordings of court hearings available online to the public through PACER, for \$2.40 per audio file. Should you have any questions concerning the program, please contact Michael Hearn, Electronic Sound Recording Coordinator, at 267-299-7039.