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## **CALIFORNIA DOCKETS ONLINE & ELECTRONIC FILING**

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Over the past few years advances in technology have made docket and court document retrieval faster and easier. While it is not yet perfected, California courts, both at the federal and state level have made strides to incorporate existing technologies to make docket and document retrieval more responsive. Online docket retrieval has been around for a few years at the Federal level first with PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records), which is run by the federal government, and more recently with private companies such as Courtlink, Casestream and CourtExpress.com. The next step in this technological evolution is Electronic Filing of court documents, which leads to online access of those documents, which are filed electronically. Some California jurisdictions are now **Electronic Filing Courts (ECF)**, including the Northern District of California federal court others offer scanned images of court documents or their own electronic filing system. ECF courts follow the Judicial Conference's filing policies for electronic filing and case management. A summary of online docket and document retrieval options follows for California courts.

California Federal Court Information Online Access

### **Northern District of California (ECF)**

- Dockets: <http://pacer.cand.uscourts.gov/>
- Securities Class Actions: <http://securities.stanford.edu/search-advanced.shtml>
- Electronically filed documents: <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl> (Pacer ID will allow you to view documents, only members of the bar can file and must register for an ID to file documents electronically)

### **Northern District of California Bankruptcy (imaged documents available)**

- Dockets: <http://pacer.canb.uscourts.gov/>
- Imaged documents available for only large Ch. 11 cases pending:  
<http://www.canb.uscourts.gov/canb/Documents.nsf/b31bae3c378e003688256959005d61a8?OpenView>

### **Eastern District of California (electronically filed documents available)**

- Dockets: <http://pacer.caed.uscourts.gov/> and <https://racer.caed.uscourts.gov/Perl/bkplg.html>
- Electronically filed documents: <https://racer.caed.uscourts.gov/Perl/bkplg.html> (available since 2/2001 with PACER ID "selected documents only")

### **Eastern District of California Bankruptcy (imaged documents available)**

- Dockets: <http://pacer.caeb.uscourts.gov>

- Document images available: <http://pacer.caeb.uscourts.gov/welcome.html> (from 3/1/1999 to present)

### **Central District of California**

- Dockets at <http://pacer.cacd.uscourts.gov/>

### **Central District of California Bankruptcy (Electronically filed Documents available)**

- L.A. Dockets & Documents: <https://pacerla.cacb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/bkplog.html>
- Northern Division Dockets & Documents: <https://pacernd.cacb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/bkplog.html>
- Riverside Dockets & Documents: <https://pacernd.cacb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/bkplog.html>
- San Fernando Valley Dockets & Documents: <https://pacersv.cacb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/bkplog.html>
- Santa Ana Dockets & Documents: <https://pacersv.cacb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/bkplog.html>

### **Southern District of California (Imaged Documents available)**

- Dockets & Documents: <http://pacer.casd.uscourts.gov/> (imaged documents available since 1996)

### **Southern District of California Bankruptcy (ECF & imaged documents available)**

- Dockets and Imaged Documents: <http://pacer.casb.uscourts.gov/>
- Electronically filed Documents: <https://ecf.casb.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>

### California Court Information Online Access

The state courts in California have limited online access, but more and more jurisdictions are making dockets available online over the Internet. Currently only Alameda and Los Angeles Small Claims offer document images.

### **California Appellate Courts**

- Case information: <http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/>

### **Alameda County Superior Court (imaged documents available)**

- Civil Case information & document images available at <http://www.co.alameda.ca.us/courts/index.shtml> (must know case number)

### **Los Angeles County Superior Court**

- Civil Case information: <http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org/CivilRegister/> (must know case number)

**Los Angeles County Small Claims Court (electronic filing available via WebCourt, registration required)**

- Case and Documents: <http://efiling.co.la.ca.us/efiling/>

**Riverside County Superior Court (registration required)**

- Case information: <http://www.co.riverside.ca.us/depts/courts/online.htm>

**Sacramento County Superior and Municipal Court**

- Case information: <http://www.saccourt.com/indexes/>

**San Diego County Superior Court**

- Case information:  
<http://www.sandiego.courts.ca.gov/superior/online/newfiles/newfile.html>

**Solano County Superior Court**

- Case information: <http://www.solanocourts.com>

**Ventura County Superior Court**

- Case information: <http://www.efile-it.com/ventura/>

Online docket and document retrieval are becoming more widespread both in federal and state jurisdictions. While not every case and every document can be found online, more and more are becoming available allowing legal practitioners and those who support them to efficiently identify and retrieve case information directly from the courts in cyberspace.

**For more information on Online Dockets, ECF and Electronic Filing consult the following:**

Bozzell, J. (1999). Court Docket Services: A comparison of Pacer, CourtLink, CourtExpress.com and CaseStream. on LLRX.com at <http://www.llrx.com/features/dockets3.htm>

Pacer's ECF news site at <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/announcements/general/ecfnews.html>

Pacer's ECF fact sheet <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/documents/press.pdf>

Legal Dockets Online California at <http://ldo.homestead.com/CA.html>

California Courts Website <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/>

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