C O U R T N O T I C E

US Bankruptcy Court
District of Rhode Island

Warning: Recorded Audio Available Over the Internet

Notice to Attorneys:

Beginning April 1, 2009, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island began participating in a pilot program to make digital audio recordings of court proceedings available to the public over the internet through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system. During the pilot, audio files of all court proceedings held in this courtroom, unless otherwise specified by the judge, will be uploaded to the Case Management/Electronic Case Files (CM/ECF) system.

Limiting Personal Information

If information subject to the court's privacy policy is stated on the record, *see* LBR 9004-1, it will be available in the audio files placed on CM/ECF and accessible through PACER. Since counsel and the parties are solely responsible for guaranteeing that pleadings and testimony comply with the court's rules requiring redaction of personal data identifiers, the better practice is to avoid introducing personal data identifiers and other sensitive information into the record in the first place, unless absolutely necessary to prove an element of the case. Also, be advised that courtroom deputies cannot redact audio files before they are placed on CM/ECF. Please take this into account when questioning witnesses or making other statements in court.

Counsel and witnesses should refrain from uttering personal data identifiers (social security numbers, names of minor children, dates of birth, financial account numbers) during court proceedings

If private information is mentioned during a hearing or trial, you may move the court to seal, restrict or otherwise prohibit placement of the digital audio file of the hearing or trial on the Internet through the PACER system.

Privacy policy

The judiciary's privacy policy restricts the publication of certain personal data identifiers in documents filed with the court. The policy requires limiting the disclosure of Social Security and financial account numbers to the last four digits, using only initials for the names of minor children, and limiting dates of birth to the year. However, if such information is elicited during testimony or other court proceedings, it will become available to the public.