

## NOTICE TO THE BAR

### MANDATORY ELECTRONIC FILING IN THE TAX COURT

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

As set forth in the attached August 10, 2015 Order, the Supreme Court has approved a two-phase approach to implement mandatory electronic filing of all Tax Court pleadings and other documents in local property tax matters through the New Jersey Judiciary's eCourts system. In order to file documents electronically and view electronic case jackets, attorneys must first register with the Judiciary. Instructions on the three-step registration and use of eCourts, as well as the Attorney Access Request Form, are available at [njcourts.com/eCourts](http://njcourts.com/eCourts).

#### Phase I

1. In local property tax matters, electronic filing via eCourts of all pleadings and other documents will be required of all attorneys associated with a law firm that filed forty (40) or more local property tax complaints in the Tax Court in calendar year 2014;
2. In local property tax matters, electronic filing via eCourts will be mandatory for all pleadings and other documents filed on behalf of a taxing district named as a party in forty (40) or more local property tax Complaints in the Tax Court in calendar year 2014;
3. The Tax Court Clerk will identify and contact all law firms that meet the first criterion in sufficient time to allow for eCourts registration by September 15, 2015. A list of taxing districts meeting the second criterion is attached. For all other attorneys electronic filing will be optional but encouraged.
4. Attorneys who file paper pleadings and documents that should have been filed electronically will have those documents returned stamped "Received but Not Filed – Must be eFiled via eCourts." The attorney must be registered with eCourts and must electronically file the returned documents within 15 days in order to retain the original submitted date as the actual filed date.
5. Exemptions to these requirements may be granted by leave of court if extraordinary circumstances prevent an attorney or law firm from utilizing eCourts to file a document.

#### Phase II

1. Phase II is to be implemented at a later date and will require all attorneys to file local property tax appeal pleadings and other documents electronically via eCourts. Advance notice will be given prior to implementation of mandatory electronic filing to enable registration for eCourts.



Patrick DeAlmeida, P.J.T.C.

Dated: August 14, 2015

**Effective September 15, 2015**  
**Taxing Districts Required to Electronically File all Pleadings and**  
**Other Documents in Local Property Tax Complaints**

**Atlantic**

Atlantic City  
 Egg Harbor Township

**Bergen**

Bergenfield Borough  
 Carlstadt Borough  
 Cliffside Park Bor  
 East Rutherford Bor  
 Englewood City  
 Englewood Cliffs Borough  
 Fair Lawn Borough  
 Garfield City  
 Hackensack City  
 Little Ferry Borough  
 Lodi Borough  
 Lyndhurst Township  
 Mahwah Township  
 Moonachie Borough  
 Paramus Borough  
 Ridgefield Park Village  
 Ridgewood Village  
 Rochelle Park Twp  
 Rutherford Borough  
 Saddle Brook Township  
 South Hackensack Twp  
 Teaneck Township  
 Tenafly Borough  
 Westwood Borough  
 Wyckoff Township

**Burlington**

Mount Laurel Township

**Cumberland**

Vineland

**Essex**

Belleville Twp  
 Bloomfield Township  
 East Orange City  
 Fairfield Township  
 Irvington Township  
 Livingston Township  
 Millburn Township  
 Montclair Township  
 Newark  
 Orange City  
 South Orange Vlg Twp  
 West Caldwell Township  
 West Orange Township

**Gloucester County**

All municipalities

**Hudson**

Bayonne City  
 Hoboken City  
 Jersey City  
 Kearny Town  
 North Bergen Township  
 Secaucus Town

**Mercer**

Trenton

**Middlesex**

Carteret Borough  
 East Brunswick Twp  
 Edison Township  
 Monroe Township  
 New Brunswick City  
 Perth Amboy City  
 Piscataway Township  
 South Brunswick Twp  
 South Plainfield Bor  
 Woodbridge Township

**Monmouth**

Freehold Township  
 Howell Township  
 Long Branch City  
 Marlboro Township  
 Middletown Township  
 Ocean Township  
 Red Bank Borough  
 Rumson Borough  
 Wall Township

**Morris**

East Hanover Township  
 Hanover Township  
 Madison Borough  
 Montville Township  
 Morristown Town  
 Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp  
 Rockaway Township

**Ocean**

Brick Township  
 Jackson Township  
 Lakewood Township  
 Toms River Township

**Passaic**

Clifton City  
 Hawthorne Borough  
 Passaic City  
 Paterson City  
 Totowa Borough  
 Wayne Township  
 West Milford Township

**Somerset**

North Plainfield  
 Franklin Twp.

**Union**

Elizabeth  
 Hillside Township  
 Linden City  
 Plainfield City  
 Rahway City  
 Roselle Borough  
 Scotch Plains Twp  
 Summit City  
 Union Township  
 Westfield Town

**SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS the New Jersey Judiciary has successfully implemented the eCourts electronic filing system in the Tax Court for all local property tax matters, permitting attorneys to file pleadings and all other documents electronically and to view electronic case jackets;

And the Supreme Court having approved a proposal to move towards making the use of eCourts mandatory for all attorneys:

IT IS ORDERED pursuant to N.J. Const. (1947), Art. VI, §2, par. 3, that effective September 15, 2015 and until further order:

1. In local property tax matters, electronic filing via eCourts of all pleadings and other documents will be required of all attorneys associated with a law firm that filed forty (40) or more local property tax complaints in the Tax Court in calendar year 2014.
2. In local property tax matters, electronic filing via eCourts will be mandatory for all pleadings and other documents filed on behalf of a taxing district named as a party in forty (40) or more local property tax complaints in the Tax Court in calendar year 2014.
3. Rule 1:5-6(c) is supplemented and relaxed such that attorneys in the matters identified in paragraphs 1 and 2 above who file paper pleadings and documents that should have been filed electronically will have those documents returned stamped "Received But Not Filed – Must be eFiled via eCourts." The attorney must be registered with eCourts and must electronically file the returned documents within 15 days in order to retain the original submitted date as the actual filed date.
4. The supplemented and relaxed Rules of Court as provided for in the Court's January 21, 2015 Order remain in effect.
5. Exemptions to these requirements may be granted by leave of court if extraordinary circumstances prevent an attorney or law firm from utilizing eCourts to file a document.

For the Court,



Chief Justice

Dated: August 10, 2015