

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.

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