

CM/ECF Version 6.0

A Guide to the New Features for Attorneys and Law Firm Staff



United States District Court, Southern District of Florida
May 16, 2013

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Version 6.0 Enhancements & Changes

INTERNET BROWSERS

Release 6.0 was tested with Internet Explorer 8 and 9, Firefox, and Safari.

NATURE OF SUIT CHANGES

The following nature of suit codes have been eliminated:

- 444 – Civil Rights: Welfare
- 610 – Forfeiture/Penalty: Agriculture
- 620 – Forfeiture/Penalty: Other Food and Drug
- 630 – Forfeiture/Penalty: Liquor Laws
- 640 – Forfeiture/Penalty: R.R. & Truck
- 650 – Forfeiture/Penalty: Airline Regs
- 660 – Forfeiture/Penalty: Occup. Safety
- 730 – Labor: Reporting/Disclosure
- 810 – Selective Service
- 875 – Taxes: Customer Challenge
- 892 – Economic Stabilization Act
- 894 – Energy Allocation Act
- 900 – Appeal of Fee Determination

The following nature of suit codes have been created:

- 367 – Personal Injury: Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability
- 375 – Other Statutes: False Claims Act
- 448 – Civil Rights: Education
- 560 – Prisoner Petitions: Civil Detainee: Conditions of Confinement
- 751 – Labor: Family and Medical Leave Act
- 896 – Other Statutes: Arbitration
- 899 – Other Statutes: Administrative Procedures Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision

The discontinued nature of suit codes will remain in existing reports. The nature of suit dropdown lists will not be affected.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO BANKRUPTCY APPEALS

On September 14, 2010, the Judicial Conference approved a recommendation from the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management to amend the policy on privacy and public access to electronic case files by restricting public access to documents in bankruptcy appeal cases filed in the district courts for bankruptcy cases filed before December 1, 2003.

All documents not flagged as written opinions, filed in cases designated as bankruptcy appeals (Nature of Suit 422 & 423) that have a case filing date prior to December 1, 2003, and a case closure date of one or more years ago, will be automatically restricted to case participants, public terminals, and court staff.

NEW LINKS TO PACER

Two new links allow PACER user to access other courts and the PACER Case Locator from within CM/ECF.

- Links to Other Courts points to a court links page on the PACER Service Center website.
- PACER Case Locator (National Index) points to the PACER Case Locator on the PACER Service Center website.

[Links to Other Courts](#)

[PACER Case Locator \(National Index\)](#)

PACER 30 PAGE LIMIT WARNING

A warning has been added for attorney and PACER users stating that queries are not subject to the 30 page billing cap.

PACER users sometimes are not aware that name and case searches (by file date or last entry date) are not subject to the 30 day billing cap.

The screenshot shows the ECF Query interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ECF logo and menu items: CIVIL, Criminal, Query, Reports, Utilities, Search, and Logout. Below the navigation bar, the word "Query" is displayed. A prominent warning message is enclosed in a red-bordered box: "WARNING: Search results from this screen are NOT subject to the 30 page limit on PACER charges. Please be as specific as possible with your search criteria." Below the warning, the "Search Clues" section is highlighted in yellow. It contains the following fields and options: "Case Number" (text input), "or search by" (text), "Case Status" (radio buttons for Open, Closed, All), "Filed Date" (text input with "to" separator), "Last Entry Date" (text input with "to" separator), "Nature of Suit" (dropdown menu with options: 0 (Zero), 110 (Insurance), 120 (Contract, Marine)), "Cause of Action" (dropdown menu with options: 0 (No cause code entered), 02:0431 (02:431 Fed. Election Commission: Failure Enforce C), 02:0437 (02:437 Federal Election Commission)), "Last/Business Name" (text input with "Exact matches only" checkbox), "First Name" (text input), "Middle Name" (text input), and "Type" (dropdown menu). At the bottom of the search area, there are "Run Query" and "Clear" buttons.

QUERY ENHANCEMENTS

Court users can now run queries with a question mark (?) or an asterisk (*) as the first character, or a question mark (?) between characters for last name searches.

- Each instance of a question mark is treated as a single wild card character.
- When a question mark (?) or an asterisk (*) is in the first position of the search string, two non-special characters must be placed in the second and third positions (?AB, *AB). This type of search will return hyphenated names. (Example: Rodriguez-Smith)
- When a question mark (?) is in the second position of the search string, a non-special character must be placed in the third position (A?B). This type of search will return company names that are acronyms entered with spaces between each letter. (Example: A B C Corporation)
- Court users will now also receive results when running queries for party names that contain a pound sign (#) as part of the name. (Example: Account # 123456789)

The screenshot shows the ECF Query interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ECF logo and menu items: Civil, Criminal, Query, Reports, Utilities, and Search. Below the navigation bar, the page title is "Query".

The main content area is titled "Search Clues" and contains several search filters:

- Case Number:** A text input field.
- or search by:** A section with radio buttons for Case Status: Open, Closed, All.
- Filed Date:** Two text input fields with "to" between them.
- Last Entry Date:** Two text input fields with "to" between them.
- Nature of Suit:** A dropdown menu with options: 0 (Zero), 1 0 (Insurance), and 120 (Contract: Marine).
- Cause of Action:** A dropdown menu with options: 0 (No cause code entered), 02:0431 (02:431 Fed. Election Commission: Failure Enforce C), and 02:0437 (02:437 Federal Election Commission).
- Last/Business Name:** A text input field, which is circled in red. To its right is a checkbox labeled "Exact matches only".
- First Name:** A text input field.
- Middle Name:** A text input field.
- Type:** A dropdown menu.
- Prisoner ID:** A text input field.

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: "Run Query" and "Clear".

QUERY ENHANCEMENTS (cont.)

An “Exact matches only” check box is now included.

- If this option is checked, the results include only exact matches to the string entered in the Last/Business Name field.

The screenshot displays the ECF (Electronic Case Filing) system's Query interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ECF logo and menu items: Civil, Criminal, Query, Reports, Utilities, and Search. The main heading is "Query".

The "Search Clues" section contains several input fields and options:

- Case Number: [Text Input]
- or search by
- Case Status: Open Closed All
- Filed Date: [Text Input] to [Text Input]
- Last Entry Date: [Text Input] to [Text Input]
- Nature of Suit: [Dropdown Menu] with options: 0 (Zero), 110 (Insurance), 120 (Contract: Marine)
- Cause of Action: [Dropdown Menu] with options: 0 (No cause code entered), 02:0431 (02:431 Fed. Election Commission: Failure Enforce C), 02:0437 (02:437 Federal Election Commission)
- Last/Business Name: [Text Input] Exact matches only
- First Name: [Text Input] Middle Name: [Text Input]
- Type: [Dropdown Menu] Prisoner ID: [Text Input]

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: "Run Query" and "Clear". The "Exact matches only" checkbox is circled in red in the original image.

PARTY ROLES DISPLAYED IN QUERY RESULTS

Party roles are now displayed beside listed party names on the query results screen.

- The party role will now appear in brackets after the pty designation for each party on the “Select A Person” screen.
- When the user selects a party on the “Select A Person” screen, the sub-header on the “Select A Case” screen will now include the role type information also.

Select A Person

There were 18 matching people.

Smith, Bubba J	(pty) [thirdparty defendant]
Smith, Bubba J	(pty) [defendant]
Smith, Bubba J	(pty) [plaintiff]
Smith, Fred	(pty) [defendant]
Smith, Fred	(pty) [plaintiff]
Smith, Henry M	(pty) [defendant]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [thirdparty defendant]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [thirdparty plaintiff]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [counter claimant]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [defendant]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [petitioner]
Smith, Joe	(pty) [plaintiff]
Smith, L. J.	(pty) [defendant]
Smith, Will	(aty)
Smith, William B.	(aty)
Smith, William B.	(aty) [cross claimant]
Smith, William B.	(aty) [defendant]
Smithmarkham, Xavier J	(pty) [defendant]

Select A Case

L. J. Smith is a defendant in 2 cases.

1:07-cr-14150	USA v. Smith et al	filed 04/13/07
1:07-cr-14150-1	L. J. Smith	filed 04/13/07

MOBILE QUERY

The mobile PACER Case Locator (PCL) is now linked to the District CM/ECF application.

It is optimized for display on mobile devices:

- iPad
- iPhone
- Android devices (V2.2 or higher)

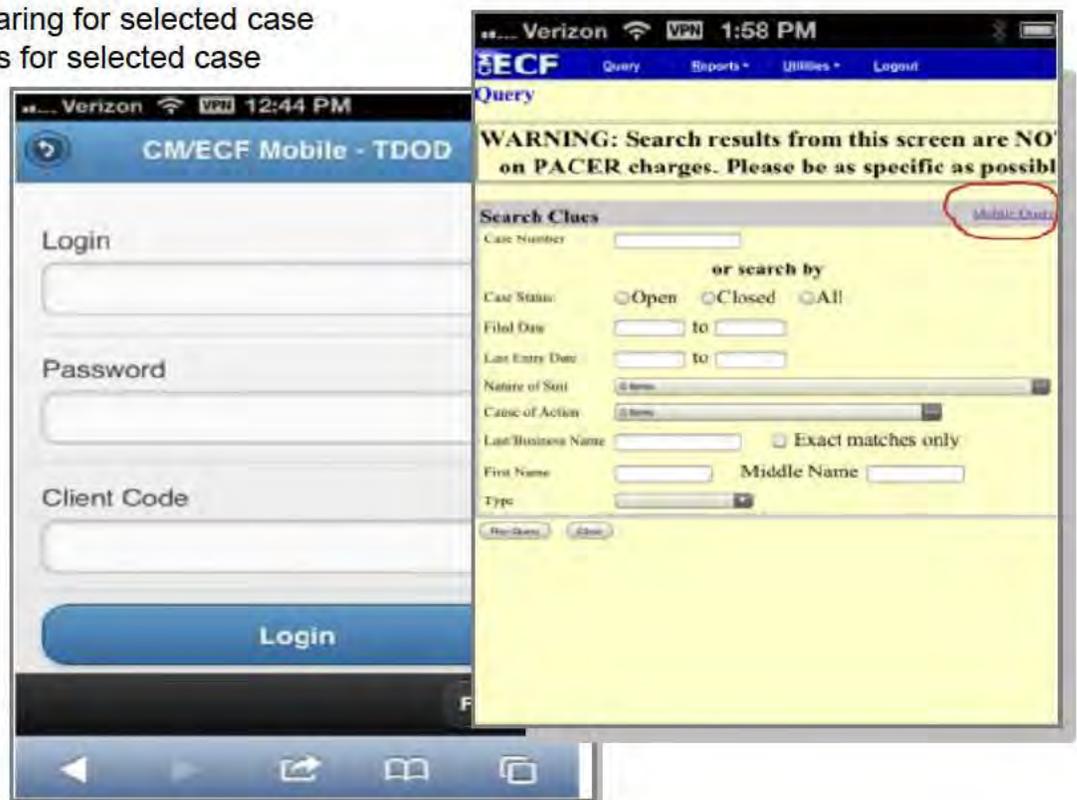
Mobile query interface includes the following elements on each page:

- Back button
- Title
- Logout button
- Court home page button
- Search field for party name or case number.

The access restrictions are the same as in the main CM/ECF application.

Mobile Query incorporates the following functionality:

- Search interface
- Party selection from party name search results list
- Case selection from case search results list based on case or party name search
- Attorney information for selected case
- Party information for selected case
- Forfeiture of collateral
- Deadlines/hearing for selected case
- Docket entries for selected case
- PACER login

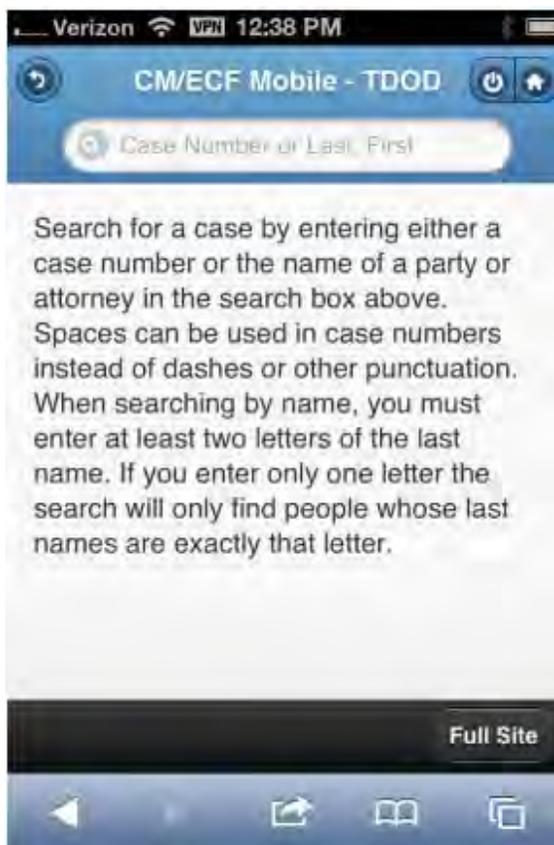


Users can access the mobile query via one of the following locations:

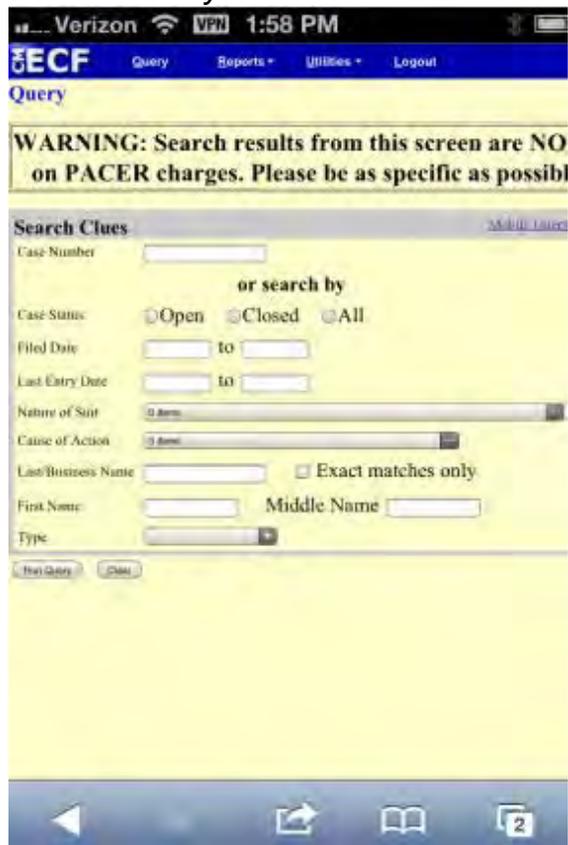
- the Mobile Query link on the Query selection criteria page
- a case link from the mobile PACER Case Locator (PCL)
- the Mobile Query link on the Query results page

The default search screen contains one text field that allows users to search by case number, party name, or attorney. However, the mobile query site is optional, and users can choose to access the full CM/ECF site from their mobile devices. At the bottom of each page, a **Full Site** button provides access to the standard-formatted application interface page, equivalent to the current mobile query page. If the user clicks the **Full Site** button, the full site is set as the default for as long as the browser cookie called *uiexperience* persists, which is roughly twelve hours.

Default Search Screen



Full Site Query Criteria Screen



Name Searches

For name searches, the required format is *Last Name, First Name*, where a comma separates the two parts. The first name is optional. When searching by name, the user must enter at least two letters of the last name. If only one letter is entered, the search will only find parties or attorneys whose last names are exactly that letter.

If a party name search returns more than one possible match based on the criteria provided, the mobile interface presents the user with a list of all matching names and requires the user

to select a specific name. If more than eight results are returned on any query page (excluding the docket entries page), above the list, an on-page filter allows the user to search the results already downloaded to the browser. This does not affect PACER billing.

If any specific page generates a PACER billing receipt, a summary form of the billing information is displayed in the black bar along the bottom of the page.

Default Search Results



Default Search Results Using Filter



If only one case is linked to a specific name, the case query result for that case is returned.

Full Site Query Result Screen



If one name matches the initial search but is linked to multiple cases, or if a user selects a name from the result list of a multi-response search, a list of cases associated with that party is displayed. When a case is selected from this list, the case query result page is displayed.

Multiple Cases in Search Results



Case Searches

Entering a numeric search term triggers a case number search; if an alphanumeric search term is entered, it triggers a party or attorney name search. If a case number search returns no results, the system automatically runs a name search using the same terms. Spaces can be used in case numbers instead of dashes or other punctuation.

The access restrictions used to search for a case are the same in the mobile query application as in the main CM/ECF application. Therefore, if users do not have access to a case, they will see the same error messages or additional information as they would if accessing the main CM/ECF application.

If a case search returns more than one possible match based on the criteria provided, the mobile interface presents the user with a list of all matching cases and requires the user to select a specific case before proceeding to the case query result screen. When a case is selected from this list, the case query result for that specific case is displayed.

If only one case matches the case criteria provided, the case query result page is displayed.

The case number search does not generate a PACER billing receipt, since the standard query application does not bill for the case number lookup. In the mobile query interface, there is no in-line case number lookup like in the standard query interface. The interim case selection page is therefore provided to facilitate this process, but does not bill.

Case Query Results

When a search is run, the Mobile Query displays results in the case query result. This screen presents the following information:

- case number, short title, and date filed;
- link to see attorney information in the case;
- link to see party information in the case;
- link to see deadline/hearing information in the case;
- link to show all docket entries, and the number of docket entries that will be shown;
- search icon that brings up a search box to find docket entry information that matches the text entered.

The Case Query Results screen is comparable to the full site Query result page, which does not produce a PACER billing receipt. Billing will occur based on additional selection from this page.

Case Query Result



Docket Entry Text Search



Detailed Case Information Displays

Attorneys, parties, deadlines, and docket entries are listed in similarly formatted lists that wrap to fit on small screens.

Each list header shows the case number, item listed, and the number of matches. If more than eight items appear in the list, a *Filter Items* search box at the top of the list allows the user to narrow down the list. This *Filter Items* search box is available on all case details except for docket entries. The user is billed for receiving the total data, not for using this filter to hide data already received.

Attorney Information



Party Information



Deadline/Schedule Information



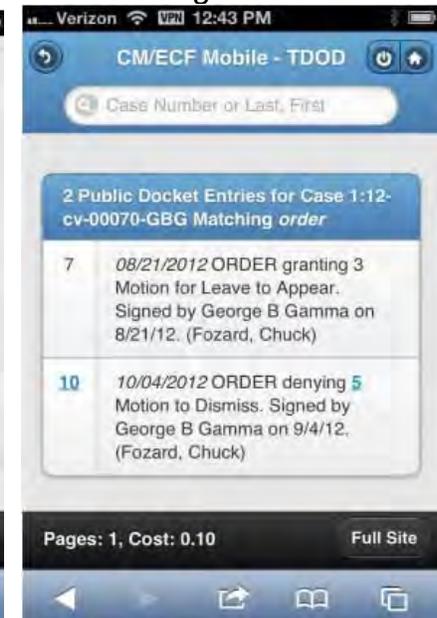
Entries Information



Entries w/Embedded Links



Entries Using Text Search



The docket entry information includes document numbers, the filed date, and the docket text. For documents, the document number appears in its own cell on the left. The entire cell is clickable to make clicking the link easier on small screens. Clicking on a document takes the user to familiar CM/ECF screens to view the document.

Query Result—Viewing a PDF



The mobile query ignores PACER billing display preferences and displays PACER receipts via the standard CM/ECF PACER interface.

Viewing the PACER Receipt

