

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