

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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Electronic docket in CM/ECF will now include internet citations in judicial opinions

Chicago, Ill.- As of October 1, 2017, each new judicial opinion from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois containing a reference to a website now includes a PDF of the internet citation in the case's electronic docket on CM/ECF.

Since January 2007, whenever a Northern District of Illinois judge has issued a decision referencing an internet link, the Seventh Circuit Library has located the internet site, archived a PDF copy of the citation to preserve current information, and loaded the PDF to the library web page. Effective October 1, 2017, the library began uploading PDFs of those citations into CM/ECF.

"The issue of the instability of internet citations in court opinions is an important one. With this initiative, the Library of the U.S. Courts is assisting the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in preserving that information for future reference and enabling researchers to access the same information judges used to inform the opinion," said Gretchen Van Dam, Circuit Librarian at the Library of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

"We want to commend Circuit Librarian Gretchen Van Dam and the Seventh Circuit librarians for the work they have done and continue to do to preserving each case record with historically accurate web citations. Making these citations more readily available allows greater accessibility for all users," said Thomas G. Bruton, Clerk of Court for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

PDFs of the web citations will be entered into the electronic docket as a unique entry, following the decision in which they appeared. Each time a PDF is loaded into a CM/ECF case docket, a notice will be sent to all case participants.

The library will also continue to post the archived documents to the web page below:

<http://www.lb7.uscourts.gov/ArchivedIntro.html>

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