NOTICE TO COUNSEL OF MANDATORY E-FILING IN THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2005

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5(e) authorizes the federal district courts to establish practices and procedures for the filing, signing and verification of documents by electronic means. Pursuant to that authority the Southern and Northern District Courts of Iowa implemented Local Rules 5.1(d) and 5.3; Local Criminal Rule 55.2; the Northern District Administrative Order 04-AO-0001-P, "Procedures Electronically Serving, Filing, Imaging and Accessing Documents in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa," and the Southern District's "Procedures Electronically Serving, Filing, Imaging and Accessing Documents," the latter two of which require, with few exceptions, that every document submitted to the Clerk of Court for filing in a civil or criminal case pending in the district be filed in an electronic file using the district's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) system.

CM/ECF is an Internet-based document filing system.

CM/ECF is user-friendly and offers many benefits to the public, attorneys, and the court. By using this system, entries are immediately placed on the docket. Registrants have internet

access to the docket and most of the court file at relatively low cost. Electronic filing has been mandatory in the Northern District since May 26, 2004. It is desirable for the Southern and Northern districts to follow similar CM/ECF procedures. Many attorneys who practice in the Northern District have extended experience with the CM/ECF system and are also registrants in the Southern District.

To promote the efficient and convenient use of court services by the court and the public, uniformity of court procedures, and accessibility of court records, the district judges of the Southern District of Iowa have decided to make electronic filing of court documents mandatory in this district effective April 1, 2005, subject to applicable rules of civil procedure and exceptions provided by local rules and procedures. Equipment requirements, attorney registration materials, and training information can be found on the court's website at www.iasd.uscourts.gov.