

Electronic Public Access Public User Group Meeting

October 3, 2024

EPA Public User Group Members Present:

Jaime Miguel El Koury, Student, Harvard Law School
Brian R. Gallagher, Director of Content Acquisition, Thomson Reuters
Dana S. Griffin Robinson, Regional Docket Manager, Jones Day
Mark Harris, Investigative Technology Journalist, *Wired*, *The Guardian*, *IEEE Spectrum*, and *The Economist*
Roksana D. Moradi-Brovia, Partner, RHM Law
Lindsay A. Owen, Assistant Managing Clerk, White & Case
Robert Patrick; Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri
Janet Peros, Senior Research Analyst, Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
Anna Liese Price, Senior Legal Reference Librarian, Law Library of Congress
Blayne V. Scofield, Senior Product Manager/Dockets, Bloomberg Industry Group

EPA Public User Group Members Not Present:

Benton C. Martin, Deputy Defender, Federal Community Defender Office, Detroit, Mich.

Administrative Office of the United States Courts

Lucien Adam	Group Chair and Chief, Programs Division, Court Services Office
Linda Melchor	Program Analyst, EPA Section, Court Services Office
Sukanya Somasundaram	Program Analyst, Case Management Branch, Court Services Office
Roger Jacobson	Chief, National Programs Branch, Court Services Office
Kristin Baczynski	Attorney Advisor, EPA Section, Court Services Office
Jaculine Koszczuk	Public Information Officer, Office of Public Affairs
James Vilt	Clerk of Court, Western District of Kentucky

Meeting Summary

Lucien Adam, Public User Group Chair and Division Chief within the Court Services Office, welcomed the Electronic Public Access (EPA) Public User Group members and called the meeting to order. He informed the Group that Mr. Ken Rodriguez was unable to extend his term. Thus, he used his discretion to select a replacement to serve during the extension period ending on December 31, 2024: Mr. Robert Patrick, a former member of the Group. Unfortunately, in early September, Mr. Michael Lissner decided to leave the Group. Since the extension period had already begun, his spot will not be backfilled.

Unified Search Project Update

The Administrative Office (AO) provided a status update on the Unified Search Project—an initiative to replace PACER search and reporting functionality. The goal of the project is to provide a modern, intuitive, user-friendly search interface, allowing public users to easily search across the federal judiciary for near real-time court data in cases, documents, and docket entries.

Case Preview Feedback – District Civil and Criminal *

Previously, the members discussed the feedback provided for Bankruptcy and Adversary Proceedings. Since several members were unable to attend the previous session, they were provided with a brief recap. The AO also responded to an outstanding question regarding the difference between debtor disposition and debtor discharge. Debtor disposition is the outcome (e.g., standard discharge, dismissed for abuse, plan confirmed, dismissed for failure to make plan payments, case converted) for the debtor in a bankruptcy case, while debtor discharge is when a court order releases the debtor from personal liability for certain types of debts. Debtor discharge is a possible disposition of the case.

The members then continued discussing Case Preview by focusing on District Civil and Criminal. The Group was provided with a quick refresher on Case Preview, a feature that will provide a snapshot of a case in the new PACER interface. The snapshot will provide key case information to help users determine immediately whether the desired case was found and to allow users to view the most recent activity in the case without having to scroll through a full docket report. Case Preview is a more affordable way to view case information than viewing the full docket report, but it will not replace the docket report. Users will be able to access both the Case Preview and the full docket report from the search results page.

Product Owners for the Unified Search Project presented the findings of analysis of the Group's feedback on the District Civil and Criminal Case Preview feature. Members discussed the analysis and provided additional information to the AO. In this way, the AO obtained a deeper understanding of all Group members' needs, whether individuals, law firms, automated script users, or academics. Capturing the views of the various users is critical to ensuring the product delivered will meet the needs of all PACER users.

**Details of this discussion will be posted after an award is made in the Unified Search Project procurement.*

Q&A

- A member asked if there would be other meetings in addition to the in-person meeting in December. The AO responded that there would be one more virtual meeting to discuss

additional fields requested by members for Case Preview. The AO is expecting to host an in-person meeting in Washington, DC during the week of December 10th.

- A member asked whether the Group would be able to review mockups of Case Preview prior to their term ending. The AO explained that it would depend on the solicitation progress and when an award is made. However, the AO is planning to share mockups and demos with the Group and the public when they become available to get validation and additional feedback prior to going live.

Next Steps

- The AO will schedule one more virtual call to discuss additional fields requested by members for Case Preview. The AO will also begin planning for the in-person meeting in December. Members will be provided with information and instructions as they become available.