



**United States District Court  
Southern District Of New York**

**Colleen McMahon**  
*Chief Judge*

**Ruby J. Krajick**  
*Clerk of Court*

**NOTICE TO THE BAR**

**CONTACT:**

March 27, 2019

Help Desk: 212-805-0136

**SDNY Cautions Users to Protect ECF Accounts  
When Dealing with Third Party Service Providers**

Electronic Case Filing (ECF) users should be aware of the potential to inadvertently reveal sealed or restricted case information when dealing with third-party service providers (e.g., PACER Pro, DocketBird, CourtDrive, RECAP, etc.). Failure to take proper precautions to protect the confidentiality of such information could be a violation of an order of the court.

Sharing your ECF/PACER account credentials with a third-party service provider or designating that provider as a secondary recipient of a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) will give it access to any sealed or restricted case information available to the user. The provider might resell or republish the information that they obtain. It is recommended that users avoid use of third-party services when accessing sealed or restricted case information to avoid any unauthorized disclosure.

In addition, fee exempt (e.g., CJA, court order, etc.) users should not share the documents they obtain from PACER under the exemption, unless expressly authorized by the court. Any unauthorized sharing would constitute a violation of the terms of the fee exemption.

You are urged to use caution in your computer security practices. Attorneys should also review state bar rules to determine if sharing PACER account credentials or NEF's with a third-party service is a violation of confidentiality or other obligations.

Questions may be directed to the ECF Help Desk at [helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov), or by calling (212) 805-0136 during business hours.

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