



NYSCEF NEWS

Information on developments in the Electronic Filing System of the New York State Unified Court System

Statewide Coordinator's Message

This summer Governor Paterson signed into law a bill making NYSCEF permanent in the 17 counties where it has previously been authorized for Supreme Court, the five where it has been authorized for Surrogate's Court, and the previously authorized Albany District Court of Claims. (A map of permanent e-filing counties appears on page 3.) Permanent program status, which renders legislative action unnecessary hereafter, puts NYSCEF in a much better position than before to take advantage of the technological transformations that are already making our courts increasingly efficient in the 21st Century.

The bill also authorizes the Chief Administrative Judge, in consultation with the Bar and subject to some other conditions, to institute a new pilot program for mandatory e-filing in certain case types in New York and Westchester Counties and an upstate county to be designated. This new pilot program reflects e-filing's increasing momentum as members of the Bar — and all professionals — work increasingly online,

enjoying gains in both efficiency and cost effectiveness.

As e-filing expands, it is more important now than ever for attorneys and legal staff to learn the simple NYSCEF software. A great way to do this is to take the free training offered by the Unified Court System ("UCS") Electronic Filing Resource Center (for more information, see the bottom of this page). Seats are filling fast, so make your reservation now.

The legislation the governor signed, Chapter 416 of the Laws of 2009, is not the only thing that's new. This issue of NYSCEF NEWS covers a number of other developments, including NYSCEF's new Filing Agent option (Page 2). Please keep reading these pages for the latest updates. And, as always, we value and encourage your suggestions.

Jeffrey Carucci

*Statewide Coordinator for E-Filing
New York State Unified Court System*

Learn the NYSCEF System in a *Free 2-Hour Training Session*

The UCS E-filing Resource Center at 60 Centre Street will teach you to use the NYSCEF software free of charge in a hands-on training session that covers all the basics in two hours and awards attorneys who complete the class **two free CLE credits**. Although given at the 60 Centre Street courthouse in Manhattan, the weekly training is open to attorneys and legal staff from

anywhere in the State. As a participant you'll learn to navigate our Practice System, virtually identical to the real system, e-file a summons and complaint and motion on notice, serve your adversary, and use the other simple features of the program. Class size is limited to allow for plenty of individual attention from Training Center faculty. Reserve your seat now!

Reserve your seat now to attend a training session!
Phone the Resource Center at 646-386-3033, or e-mail us at efile@courts.state.ny.us

For details on training sessions to be held in other authorized counties this fall and winter, keep reading NYSCEF NEWS and watch our website (www.NYCourts.gov/efile).

CURRENTS – Recent Developments

NASSAU COUNTY SMALL CLAIMS ASSESSMENT REVIEW (SCARs) E-FILING.

With the enthusiastic support of Nassau County Clerk Maureen O'Connell and her staff, NYSCEF went live for the Nassau Small Claims Assessment Review (SCARs) April 2009 filing period. This NYSCEF initiative permitted e-filing of residential tax challenges in Nassau County and received extremely positive feedback from both filers and court personnel. This collaborative effort among the Courts, the County Clerk and the legal community streamlined filing requirements and reduced paper consumption, resulting in 24,284 SCAR petitions commenced through NYSCEF out of a total 35,798 filings (over two-thirds of filings). County Clerk O'Connell is planning outreach to Nassau's villages to encourage further participation as their filing period approaches, which could increase NYSCEF-commenced actions by 8,000 petitions.

NEW YORK STATE COURT OF CLAIMS

Electronic filing has taken off with great success in the Court of Claims, too. With over 40 claims in the live system and plans in progress for all Albany District judges to participate, the program is growing rapidly. A CLE training session given on August 25, 2009 was the third of its kind to be hosted by the Court of Claims and conducted by UCS Resource Center staff. In addition to quarterly training sessions, the E-filing unit at the Court of Claims offers hands-on training for attorneys and staff interested in commencing or converting claims in the NYSCEF system. For availability and scheduling, please contact the Court of Claims at 518-432-3411.

NEW DOCUMENT SCREENS SPEED ACCESS TO EVEN THE LONGEST DOCUMENT LISTS

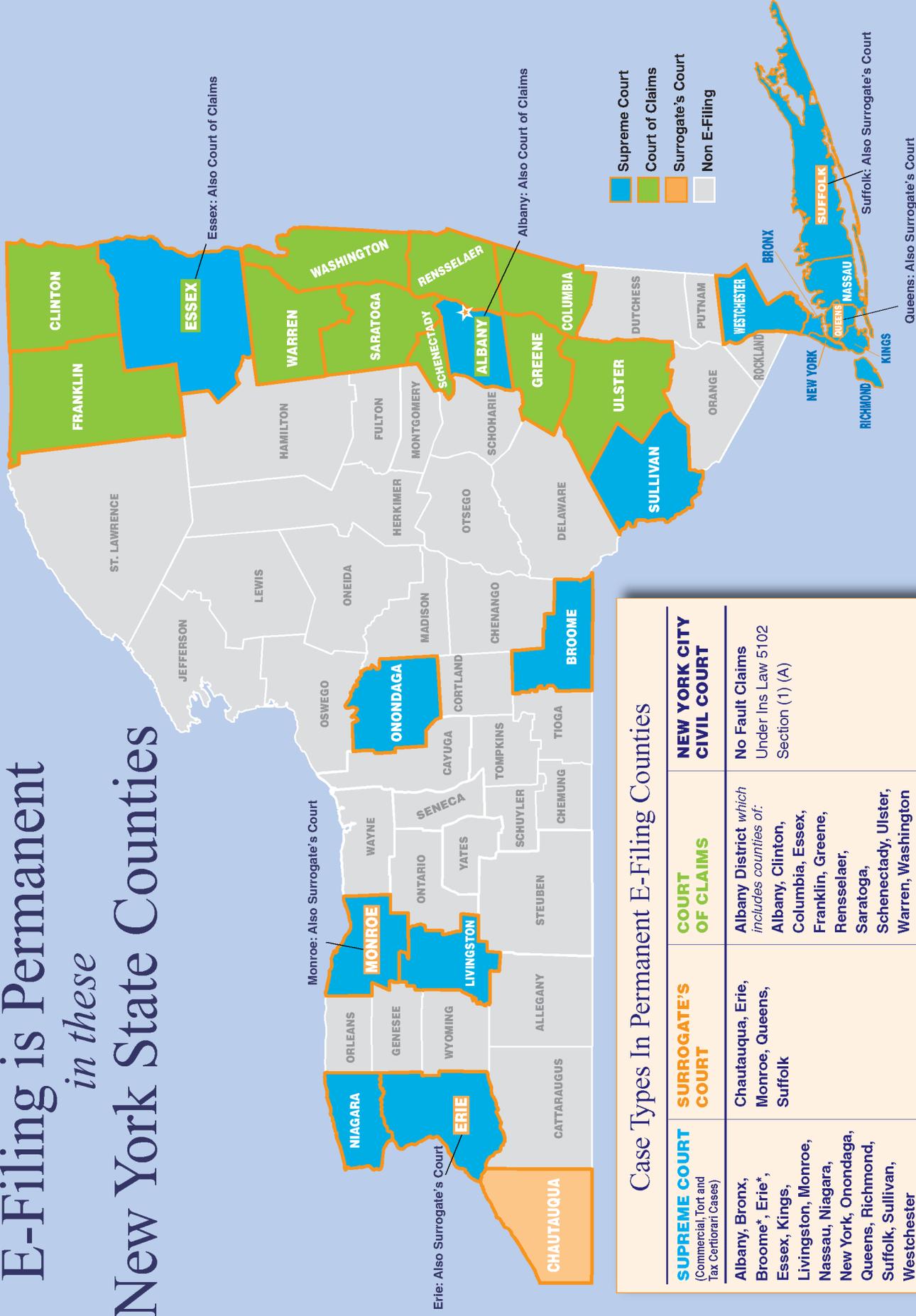
Even in cases with thousands of documents the Document List pops up quickly on new screens that display documents in groups of 25 at a time — soon to be 50 at a time. Users move through the screens with a mouse click and page back and forth with ease. There is no delay in retrieving the list if the User toggles away from NYSCEF to work on other programs.

IN PROCESS – *Coming Soon*

NEW FILING AGENT OPTIONS WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE

Attorneys using NYSCEF have always been able to authorize a paralegal or other staff member to file a document on their behalf using the attorney's User Identification and password. Soon, attorney-service companies as well as law firm support personnel will be able to obtain their own IDs and passwords and use them to file documents for attorneys. This will allow e-filers to enjoy the convenience of using attorney-service firms exactly as paper filers do. Any attorney-service firm you currently use for paper filings will be able to e-file for you as long as the firm registers as an authorized filing agent User. Authorization forms for attorneys and service firms will be available on the NYSCEF Forms page as soon as the option is available.

E-Filing is Permanent in these New York State Counties



Case Types In Permanent E-Filing Counties

SUPREME COURT (Commercial, Tort and Tax Certiorari Cases)	SURROGATE'S COURT	COURT OF CLAIMS	NEW YORK CITY CIVIL COURT
Albany, Bronx, Broome*, Erie*, Essex, Kings, Livingston, Monroe, Nassau, Niagara, New York, Onondaga, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk, Sullivan, Westchester	Chautauqua, Erie, Monroe, Queens, Suffolk	Albany District which includes counties of: Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Ulster, Warren, Washington	No Fault Claims Under Ins Law 5102 Section (1) (A)

*All Case Types Eligible

IN PROCESS — *cont.*

Chautauqua County Surrogate's Court. This Fall Chautauqua County Surrogate's Court will join its neighbor to the East, Erie County Surrogate's Court, as an e-filing court. Chautauqua Surrogate Hon. Stephen W. Cass looks forward to going live with the program, and notes that all the work that Erie Surrogate Hon. Barbara Howe and her staff put into their pilot project has helped pave the way for Chautauqua, the State's westernmost county.

REMEMBER— Attorneys Earn Two Free CLE Credits for Completing a Training Session.



**Resource Center training session at New York State
Supreme Court, New York County,
60 Centre Street Courthouse.
Training seats fill fast so reserve now at 646-386-3033 or
efile@courts.state.ny.us.**

NYSCEF NEWS is a publication of the E-Filing Resource Center of the New York State Unified Court System. Editors are Jeffrey Carucci (Resource Center), Steve Kubinec (County Clerk Staff), and Loren Schwartz (Court Staff). Special thanks to: Barbara Brudie, Chief Deputy County Clerk, Nassau County; Lydia Romer, Chief Clerk, Surrogate's Court, Chautauqua County; Anne E. Thompson, NYSCEF Coordinator, and Erin E. Scott, Assistant NYSCEF Coordinator, NYS Court of Claims.