



PACER Case Locator (PCL) API Town Hall

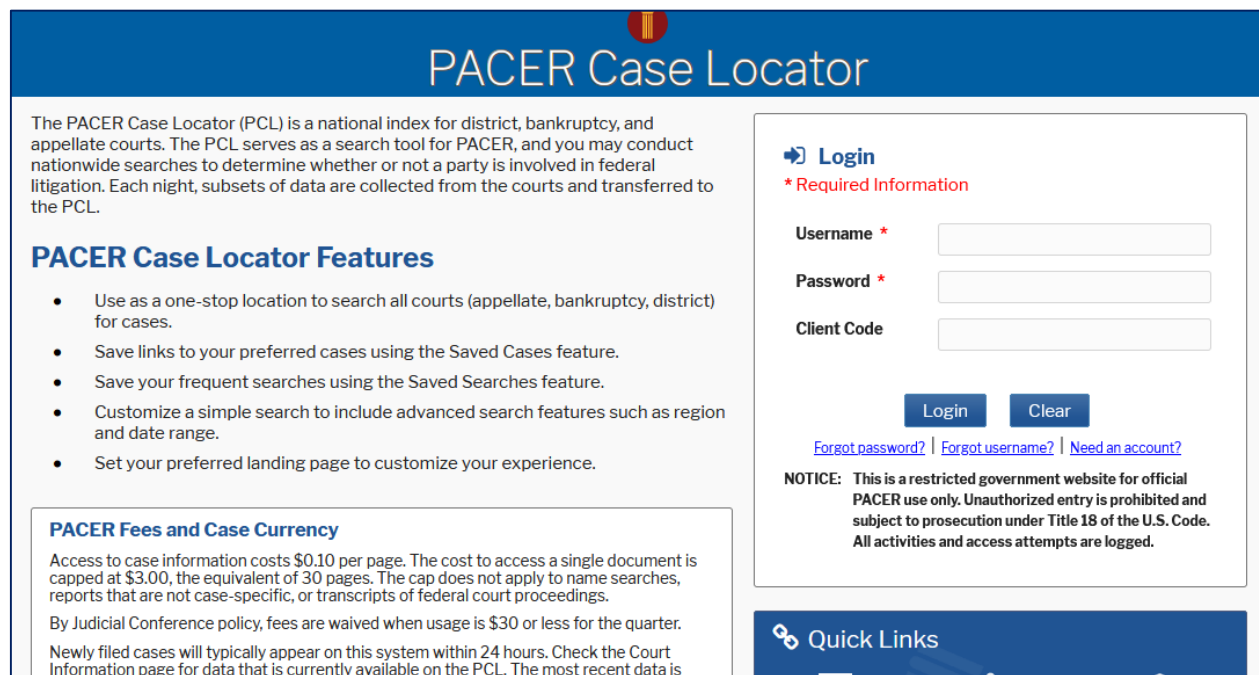
December 2020

PACER



What Is the PACER Case Locator?

- The PACER Case Locator (PCL) allows any [registered user](#) to search a nationwide index of federal court cases. This information is updated once daily.
- The PCL is a one-stop location to search all courts (appellate, bankruptcy, and district) for cases.



The screenshot shows the PACER Case Locator website. The header is blue with the text "PACER Case Locator" in white. Below the header, there is a paragraph explaining the PCL: "The PACER Case Locator (PCL) is a national index for district, bankruptcy, and appellate courts. The PCL serves as a search tool for PACER, and you may conduct nationwide searches to determine whether or not a party is involved in federal litigation. Each night, subsets of data are collected from the courts and transferred to the PCL." To the right of this text is a login form with the heading "Login" and "Required Information". It includes input fields for "Username *", "Password *", and "Client Code", along with "Login" and "Clear" buttons. Below the login form are links for "Forgot password?", "Forgot username?", and "Need an account?". A "NOTICE" box states: "This is a restricted government website for official PACER use only. Unauthorized entry is prohibited and subject to prosecution under Title 18 of the U.S. Code. All activities and access attempts are logged." At the bottom left, there is a section titled "PACER Fees and Case Currency" with text about access costs and a "Quick Links" section at the bottom right.

PACER Case Locator

The PACER Case Locator (PCL) is a national index for district, bankruptcy, and appellate courts. The PCL serves as a search tool for PACER, and you may conduct nationwide searches to determine whether or not a party is involved in federal litigation. Each night, subsets of data are collected from the courts and transferred to the PCL.

PACER Case Locator Features

- Use as a one-stop location to search all courts (appellate, bankruptcy, district) for cases.
- Save links to your preferred cases using the Saved Cases feature.
- Save your frequent searches using the Saved Searches feature.
- Customize a simple search to include advanced search features such as region and date range.
- Set your preferred landing page to customize your experience.

PACER Fees and Case Currency

Access to case information costs \$0.10 per page. The cost to access a single document is capped at \$3.00, the equivalent of 30 pages. The cap does not apply to name searches, reports that are not case-specific, or transcripts of federal court proceedings.

By Judicial Conference policy, fees are waived when usage is \$30 or less for the quarter. Newly filed cases will typically appear on this system within 24 hours. Check the Court Information page for data that is currently available on the PCL. The most recent data is

Login

* Required Information

Username *

Password *

Client Code

Login Clear

[Forgot password?](#) | [Forgot username?](#) | [Need an account?](#)

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Quick Links

PACER Case Locator Search

New Search ▾

Saved Items ▾

Court Information

Settings ▾

PACER User ▾

 Party Search

Party Information

* Required information

[Advanced Party Search](#) | [Bankruptcy Search](#)

Party

Quick

A

?

Last Name or Entity Name *

First Name

Middle Name

Exact Matches Only ?

Party Role

▾ ?

Court Type

Bankruptcy ▾ ?

NOTE: Newly filed cases will typically appear on this system within 24 hours. Check the [Court Information](#) page for data that is currently available on the PCL. The most recent data is available directly from the court.

Search


Clear

Make this my PCL home page.






PACER Case Locator Results

New Search ▾ Saved Items ▾ Court Information Settings ▾ Pacer User ▾





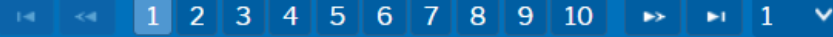
Home > Party Search > Search Results

Search Criteria: Party Search; Jurisdiction Type: [Bankruptcy]; Last Name: [Quick]; First Name: [A] 

Result Count: 656

[Icon Legend](#)

(1 of 13) 					
Party Name	Case Number	Case Title	Court	Date Filed	Date Closed
 Quick, A (db)	☆ 3:2007bk11111	A Quick	Florida Southern Bankruptcy Court	02/13/2007	09/10/2007
 Quick, A (db)	☆ 3:2015bk91067	A Quick	Texas Northern Bankruptcy Court	11/15/2015	02/10/2016
 Quick, A (db)	☆ 3:2005bk91067	A Quick	Texas Southern Bankruptcy Court	09/01/2005	01/11/2006
(1 of 13) 					

PACER Service Center **Receipt** 12/03/2020 09:49:25 611640






User csotestuser10

Client Code

Description Bankruptcy Party Search
All Courts; Name Quick, A; Jurisdiction BK; All Courts; Page: 1

Billable Pages 1 (\$0.10) [Print Receipt](#)

Icon Legend

-  Save search to Saved Searches
-  Sort search results
-  Choose columns to display
-  Refine the current search
-  Download search results

What Is an API?

- An application programming interface (API) is a set of services that allow communications between separate systems.
- An API defines standard methods for accessing a system without a user interface.
 - Types of requests
 - How to make the requests
 - Data formats
 - Expected responses and return data

PCL API Search Request

Method: POST

Content type: application/json

```
{  
  "firstName": "A",  
  "lastName": "Quick",  
  "jurisdictionType": "BK"  
}
```

PCL API Search Results

Content type: application/json

```
{
  "receipt": { ... },
  "pageInfo": { ... },
  "content": [
    {
      "courtId": "flsbk",
      "caseId": 888888,
      "caseYear": 2007,
      "caseNumber": 11111,
      "lastName": "Quick",
      "firstName": "A".....
    }
  ]
}
```

Benefits of the New API

- Provides a standard way to search PCL data from other systems
- Offers a variety of data formats and search options for easy integration
 - JSON
 - XML
- Increases search efficiency for a large volume of searches
- Provides an easier way to automate PCL searches

Beta Testing Opportunity

- 45 volunteers needed
- Start date: January 19, 2021
- Duration: 2–3 months
 - 3 rounds of testing:
 - First round: 4 weeks
 - Second round: 2–4 weeks
 - Third round: 2–4 weeks

Beta Tester Requirements

Beta testers should have:

- Development experience consuming web services (restful APIs).
- Development experience automating access to PACER or the legacy PCL.
- A PACER account in the QA environment (<https://qa-pacer.uscourts.gov>).
- One representative per organization or group.

How to Sign Up

- Send an email request to PACER_Feedback@ao.uscourts.gov by January 6, 2021.
- The email should include:
 - Name/POC.
 - Organization/company.
 - PACER account number (for QA environment).
 - IP addresses.



Questions?

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