



**Judge Judith L. Kreeger, Chair**  
**Florida Courts Technology Commission**  
**c/o Office of the State Courts Administrator**  
**500 S. Duval Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900**

June 29, 2011

The Honorable Karen E. Rushing  
Sarasota County Clerk of Court  
2000 Main Street  
Post Office Box 3079  
Sarasota, Florida 34230-3079

**RE: Request for implementation of electronic filings in all court divisions using the statewide electronic filing portal and continued relief from paper follow-up filing requirement – Sarasota County, Twelfth Judicial Circuit**

Dear Ms. Rushing:

Supreme Court Opinion No.SC10-241, In re: Amendments to the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration – Rule 2.236 (July 1, 2010) provides that the Florida Courts Technology Commission “evaluate all such applications to determine whether they comply with the technology policies established by the Supreme Court and the procedures and standards created pursuant to this rule, and approve those applications deemed to be effective and found to be in compliance.”

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on June 27, 2011 the Electronic Filing Committee (EFC) reviewed and recommended approval of your request to integrate Sarasota County’s current electronic filing system with the statewide electronic filing portal. The Supreme Court approved implementation of electronic filing in all court divisions in February 2003 by entering AOSC03-9. The Court subsequently approved discontinuing the paper case filing requirement for attorneys on April 29, 2009 by entering AOSC09-9. Sarasota County has established a system that is efficient, reliable, and meets the demands of all users.

As Chair of the Florida Courts Technology Commission I hereby approve your request to continue filing electronically in Sarasota County by way of the statewide e- filing portal, as well as granting attorneys relief from the paper follow-up filing requirement that was required by AOSC03-9.

Approval of this electronic initiative is contingent upon compliance with the policy considerations and directives regarding the development and application of new technological standardization and enhancements as set forth by the Supreme Court and is subject to the following terms and conditions. Violation of any of the following conditions shall constitute grounds for revocation of the approval to implement electronic filing in Sarasota County.

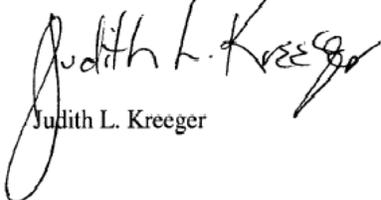
- a. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court may implement the aforementioned technology procedures in accordance with the approved plan effective on the date of this letter and must adhere to the statewide standards for electronic access to the courts as outlined in In re: Statewide Standards for Electronic Access to the Courts, AOSC09-30 (Fla. July 1, 2009).
- b. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall ensure that there is no possibility for vendors to release or distribute court data to third parties and that the clerk of court retains the designation as custodian of the court records.
- c. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall ensure that contract provisions prohibit any vendor from extracting, data mining, or engaging in similar activities with regard to information from original court filings and other court records or any associated databases containing court records in the circuit for commercial or other non-court related uses.
- d. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall ensure that no fees other than statutorily required fees are assessed or collected by the clerk of court.
- e. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall ensure that the data is backed up and is recoverable. The clerk of court will ensure that remote data backups are stored in a protected environment a minimum of 50 miles from the primary production location of the court record or at a certified hardened facility, and that the circuit complies with established data backup standards as they are revised and updated.
- f. This approval does not constitute an approval of any electronic forms that may be used in this process.
- g. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall abide by In re: Revised Interim Policy on Electronic Release of Court Records, AOSC07-49 (Fla. Sept. 7, 2007).
- h. The E-Filing Court Records Portal, developed by the Florida Association of Court Clerks Services Group (FACCSG), has been identified as the statewide e-filing portal. To ensure equal access to electronic filing across the state, the Supreme Court has directed that the Florida Courts Technology Commission make implementation of the statewide system a priority of the judicial branch. All local electronic filing systems must be compatible with the statewide e-filing portal and approval of each of the above electronic filing systems is contingent on the system's compatibility with the statewide portal. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court must now migrate to the statewide e-filing portal.

- i. At the present time, the Supreme Court is considering enhancements to current electronic filing practices throughout the State. There is a possibility that these enhancements may include the development and application of new business practices and technology standardization. Because these enhancements may occur in the near future, it will be the responsibility of the clerk of court for the respective county to ensure that functionality of the proposed system related to electronic court records will also be made compliant with these new technological enhancements.
- j. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court must continue to provide paper to the judiciary until the chief judge authorizes the elimination of paper files. At such time, the Sarasota County Clerk of Court must convert all documents, beginning on the date of Supreme Court or Florida Courts Technology Commission (FCTC) approval, to a searchable document.
- k. The Sarasota County Clerk of Court shall continue to accept paper filings at no charge, other than statutorily required fees.

In addition to the foregoing enumerated terms and conditions, the chief judge may, pursuant to the chief judge's constitutional and statutory responsibility for administrative supervision of the courts within the circuit, impose electronic filing system or related requirements by local administrative order that are consistent with the terms and conditions of this approval letter.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
Judith L. Kreeger

JLK: js

cc: The Honorable Manuel Menendez, Jr., Chair, Electronic Filing Committee  
The Honorable Lee E. Haworth, Chief Judge, Twelfth Judicial Circuit  
Walt Smith, Trial Court Administrator, Twelfth Judicial Circuit  
Dennis Menendez, Court Technology Officer, Twelfth Judicial Circuit  
Christina Blakeslee, Office of the State Courts Administrator