**Attorney Network Internet Policy**
**Northern District of Alabama**
**Revised: May 12, 2011**

Below is the Internet usage policy for the Attorney wireless network. Please read and accept terms before proceeding.

**Courtroom Internet Policy**

For the convenience of the attorneys, Internet access is available in the courtrooms. This Internet access is to be used for business reasons only, specifically business related to the court case. This includes e-mail, electronic case filing (CM/ECF) and PACER access. Also, due to the high consumption of band-width, multi-media streaming of music and video is not permitted unless it pertains to the court case. In addition, users are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and refrain from accessing and/or transmitting documents or e-mail which contain indecent or obscene materials, profanity, or any form of discrimination or sexism. Violating this policy may result in sanctions.

This policy is to advise users of acceptable use of internet access in the courtrooms and provide the user with a description of security procedures required by the court. Direct access to the internet can be fraught with danger of viruses, spyware, theft and destruction. This document should raise awareness of computer security, assist the user in recognizing potential problems, and provide guidance to the user in diagnosing problems.

Users are expected to use their private laptop or notebook computer in the courtroom; the Court will not provide such equipment. While the Court's IT staff can be available to assist you in accessing the internet, due to liability issues, they will not be able to assist in specific problems with the user's equipment. Special precautions for preventing the spread of computer viruses and spy-ware, as discussed in this policy, must be employed.

**Requirements:**

In order to access the Internet from the courtroom, the user must have the following:

Notebook computer with Virus Protection Software. Computers with cameras and/or microphones are not allowed. (Note: check with your own IT department to make sure your internet connection is set to obtain an IP address automatically.)

Power cable (if needed)

**Login/Password:**

Users will establish access to the court internet using their CM/ECF login id and password.


**Viruses and Spyware:**

A virus is an executable file that replicates itself and attaches to other executable programs or macros in an unsolicited manner. It may do no apparent damage, but may spread to diskettes or other files across a network. A virus can destroy data, may damage data integrity, deny access to service, and spread problems to other computers.

Spyware, also known as adware, refers to a broad category of malicious software designed to intercept or take partial control of a computer's operation without the informed consent of that machine's owner or legitimate user. Spyware differs from viruses in that it does not self-replicate. Typical tactics include delivery of unsolicited pop-up advertisements; theft of personal information monitoring of Web-browsing activity for marketing purposes; or routing of web-site requests to advertising sites.

To protect your computer, and the Court's internet access delivery system, you must have reputable Anti-virus software installed such as Symantec (Norton) Anti-Virus, McAfee Anti-virus, AVG Anti-virus or PC-Cillin (by MicroTrend). Subscription services offered by each of these companies will keep your virus protection up to date. Antispyware programs are also available from Symantec, McAfee and MicroTrend.

(Note: Inclusion in this publication of any software product or company does not indicate any endorsement or evaluation by this Court.)


Signs of a Virus
• Computer is sluggish or locks up
• New filenames appear, files grow or are lost
• Unexpected messages appear
• Memory capacity decreases
• Hard disk crashes

Signs of Spyware
• Pop-up advertisements inundate your computer
• Internet Home Page has changed and won't change back
• Web browser contains additional components that you didn't download
• Computer is sluggish or locks up.

Techniques for Avoiding Viruses and Spyware
• Ensure that all files are scanned for viruses and potentially unwanted programs (PUPs).
• Do not download unknown software from the Internet
• Never open files from unfamiliar sources.
• Never answer "Yes" to an unfamiliar pop-up that asks if you'd like to "optimize your Windows" or "scan your computer

Click "I Accept" only if you wish to accept these terms and continue, or otherwise select "Cancel".