

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

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BENEFITS OF INTERNET ACCESS TO DIGITAL AUDIO RECORDINGS

Benefit to Judges:

- instant access to the record without having to wait for transcripts;
- instant access to the record speeds the judicial process while reducing the expense to counsel and litigants;
- quickly refresh recollection of earlier proceedings in a case;
- allow easy substitution of judges in an emergency;
- order lawyers to brief a case with reference to the low/no cost audio recording.

Benefits to the Bar:

- quick and inexpensive access to the record – parties have a free look or pay a \$2.40 flat fee;
- counsel may monitor a case in which they have not formally appeared, or quickly familiarize themselves with the record when appearing midway through the case;
- access to the judge's oral disposition of a matter when counsel is preparing an order following a court hearing.

Benefits to Public and Media:

- transparency and accessibility to court hearings;
- write accurate and complete stories;
- play audio hearing during a news broadcast.

Benefits to Law Schools:

- law professors can use audio recordings to demonstrate what actually goes on in a trial or a hearing.

Benefits to Court Staff:

- provides transparency to the work of the court;
- quick, easy access to court proceedings for case managers.