

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

March 7, 2012

12-09

**DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL ACCOUNT
IT IS NOT MONITORED**

As many of you already know, the United States Marshal Service in coordination with the District Court Chief Judge have increased security awareness at the courts after several recent incidents. There is and has been a requirement for the CSOs to screen all individuals entering the building (with the exception of court employees, DOJ) but that practice has been somewhat lax in the past as it concerns attorneys in general. CSOs have been directed that they are to strictly enforce the screening procedures. Attorneys entering the court are included in the screening requirements, but are allowed to bring in to the court items that the general public are not (i.e. **one** cell phone).

On Tuesday March 6th the CSO on duty at the bankruptcy court implemented a requirement that to enter the court as an attorney, proof of bar membership was required. Unfortunately, the CSOs were directed not to accept the cards issued by the county courthouses that have a picture and indicate that the individual is an attorney and instead required the actual bar card from the Alabama Bar Association. We regret the inconvenience this caused the bar. Clarification has been given to the CSOs that they can either accept the Alabama Bar Association bar card or the county courthouse photo ID indicating attorney, one or the other. You also need to have your driver's license if you use the Alabama Bar Association bar card as it does not have your picture on it.

Remember that there are restrictions on electronic devices in the courthouse and that policy may be reviewed for changes. The current District policy can be seen at [District Court Policy on Electronics in the Courthouse](http://www.alsd.uscourts.gov/documents/forms/STDO31.pdf)<http://www.alsd.uscourts.gov/documents/forms/STDO31.pdf>.

In the future, I will work with the District Court Clerk to get the US Marshal's Service to give us prior notice of change in entry policies. However, due to the recent issues caused by attorneys entering the District Courthouse, I do not see the District Chief Judge changing the US Marshal's current procedures at the District and Bankruptcy courthouses any time soon.

Leonard N. "Chip" Maldonado, Clerk of Court