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4 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**
5 **WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON**

6 In re:

7 Requirement that All Electronically Filed
8 Documents be Submitted in a PDF Text
9 Searchable Format

General Order No. 2012-1

10 The Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Washington is a mandatory
11 electronic filing jurisdiction for all attorneys, trustees, examiners and high volume claim
12 filers. See Local Rule W.D. Wash. Bankr. 5005-1 and General Order No. 2011-6. The
13 court's local rules and electronic filing procedures have not previously mandated
14 technical or formatting requirements for electronically filed documents.

15 The court is implementing a full text search function in its Case Management/
16 Electronic Case Filing system (ECF). The judges are using different technology and
17 new applications to review pleadings in preparation for their calendars and trials.
18 Changes in technology increase the need for uniformity in the format of electronic
19 documents submitted to the court. Documents filed in a Portable Document Format
20 (PDF) provide such uniformity. Now, therefore, it is hereby

21 **ORDERED** that effective June 1, 2012, each document filed electronically in
22 ECF, and any exhibits thereto, must be filed as a text-based PDF file, unless otherwise
23 provided in a local bankruptcy rule, general order, electronic filing procedures, or in
24 cases in which the original document could not be electronically created by the ECF
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1 filer. For purposes of this General Order, a text-based PDF file does not include a PDF
2 file created by scanning a paper or electronic document.

3 DATED: April 11, 2012

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5 FOR THE COURT:

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8 Honorable Paul B. Snyder
9 Chief Judge

9 Honorable Marc Barreca
10 Honorable Phillip H. Brandt
11 Honorable Timothy W. Dore
12 Honorable Brian D. Lynch
13 Honorable Karen A. Overstreet