

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO



NOTICE FROM THE CLERK

No. 08-08

Advisory Concerning Proper Redaction of Information

The District Court Administration Division has urged Courts to advise attorneys and other CM/ECF filers and end users to ensure documents are properly redacted. Security researchers have reported that the original unmodified text of a PDF document can be uncovered and that PDF content that has been encrypted may be recovered. The reason for this is that when a PDF document is changed, the PDF file is not completely rewritten when saved.

Using the highlighter function in Adobe to redact text in a document by creating a black box over the data merely hides the data or text, which remains imbedded in the black box. The information under the black box appears simply by copying and pasting the black box into a word-processing document. Changing the font color for the redactable information to white is equally ineffective.

The proper technique to redact data, keeping the original text from view in a PDF document, is to make the changes in the original word-processing application, such as Microsoft Word and Corel WordPerfect, before converting, or exporting, to the PDF format.

Contact the CM/ECF Help Desk, 787-772-3449, for assistance or clarification of any doubts concerning CM/ECF filings.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frances Rios de Moran', is written over the typed name.

FRANCES RIOS DE MORAN, ESQ.  
CLERK OF COURT