

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re: :
: :
Application for Exemption from the Electronic : General Order M-483
Public Access Fees by Margaret Howard, :
: :
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This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Margaret Howard (the "Applicant") for exemption from the fees imposed by the Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts.

The Court finds, based upon the attached letter received on April 27, 2015, that the Applicant has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

Accordingly, the Applicant shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this Court to the extent such use is incurred in connection with the project described in the attached letter and application. The Applicant shall not be exempt from the payment of fees incurred in connection with other uses of the PACER system in this Court.

Additionally, the following limitations apply:

1. This fee exemption applies only to the Applicant, and is valid only for the purposes stated above.
2. This fee exemption applies only to the electronic case files of this Court that are available through the PACER system;
3. By accepting this exemption, the Applicant agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption.
4. This exemption is valid from May 20, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

This exemption may be revoked at the discretion of the Court at any time. A copy of this Order shall be sent to the PACER Service Center.

Dated: New York, New York
May 20, 2015


CECELIA G. MORRIS
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge



WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

April 27, 2015

Hon. Cecelia G. Morris
Chief Bankruptcy Judge
New York Southern Bankruptcy Court
United States Courthouse, Suite J
355 Main Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Re: Request for Pacer Fee Exemption

Dear Judge Morris:

Last year, I requested an exemption from payment of PACER per page fees for the first phase of a research project, funded by the American Bankruptcy Institute, on which I serve as Reporter. Your court graciously granted that request, effective until May 30, 2015. My collaborators and I are now ready to launch the second phase and I am again requesting a waiver of PACER fees.

As I explained previously, I am a member of the faculty of Washington and Lee University School of Law. My collaborators on this project are Professor Richard Hynes, Principal Investigator, who serves on the law faculty at the University of Virginia, and Professor Anne Lawton, Associate Investigator, from Michigan State University. (Professor Lawton has been conducting similar research and we all realized that working together would produce more informative results.) All of us qualify under the PACER rules as individual researchers associated with academic institutions. I am requesting this exemption, applicable to account number wl1719—the account dedicated to this project—through March 31, 2016.

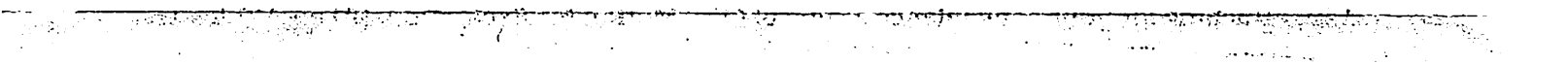
This project is supported by a grant from the American Bankruptcy Institute Endowment Fund, and focuses on Chapter 11 cases filed by individual debtors. Our pilot project allowed us to test our methodology in anticipation of the second phase. In our study, we are gathering two different sets of data. One is based on a reading of randomly-selected case files. The other data set is drawn from information reported by the bankruptcy courts, made available through PACER. The second data set allows us to analyze information on a massive number of cases.

We expect to gather data during the summer of 2015, and to complete a Final Report of the study's findings during the 2015-16 academic year. The Final Report will provide a complete textual and quantitative description of individual chapter 11 cases, along with comparisons to chapter 13 cases and corporate chapter 11s. The data and analysis will further a better understanding of the bankruptcy system and the difficulties of applying chapter 11, as currently



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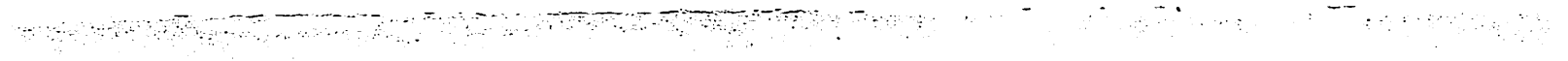
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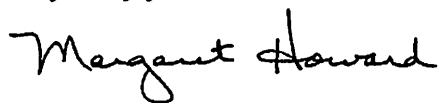
drafted, to such disparate types of cases. It is hoped that the findings, and recommendations based on them, can be used to inform policy decisions and proposals for reform, with the objective of improving the judicial administration of individual bankruptcy cases and proceedings.

My collaborators and I agree neither to sell for profit the data obtained, nor to transfer data obtained as the result of a fee exemption. The only persons who will access PACER data through the indicated account are ourselves and our research assistants.

I am attaching for your convenience a copy of (1) a Motion for Exemption, (2) an Affidavit attesting to my eligibility for the exemption, and (3) a proposed Order granting the exemption.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Howard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Margaret Howard
Law Alumni Association Professor of Law
Washington and Lee University School of Law