

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re: :  
 :  
Application for Exemption from the Electronic : General Order M-553  
Public Access Fees by Ashvin Gandhi, :  
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 :  
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This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Ashvin Gandhi (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 dated on July 15, 2020, 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 July 15, 2020 through July 15, 2022.

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: July 30, 2020  
New York, NY

/s/ Cecelia G. Morris  
CECELIA G. MORRIS  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

# PACER Fee Exemption Request

Ashvin Gandhi  
Anderson School of Management, UCLA  
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ashvin.gandhi@anderson.ucla.edu

July 15, 2020

## 1 Why the case information from PACER is needed

I am conducting scholarly research on how healthcare companies utilize Chapter 11 bankruptcy. I will use Chapter 11 bankruptcy docket reports to assess how various motions filed during bankruptcy affect patient and healthcare-employee outcomes. I will summarize my results in scholarly research papers that I will submit to academic journals. This exercise requires a large sample size to get a comprehensive picture of how healthcare companies use the corporate bankruptcy system. It is my understanding that obtaining such a sample of bankruptcy dockets is only possible through PACER.

## 2 How the case information from PACER will be used

Using the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB),<sup>1</sup> I have obtained approximately 5,000 case numbers corresponding to business Chapter 11 cases filed by healthcare companies since 2002. For each of these 5,000 cases, I hope to pull the docket report. In addition, I hope to pull the following documents:

1. For each case, I will pull the filing petition.
2. For each case that concludes with a confirmed plan, I will pull the final confirmed plan.

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<sup>1</sup>See <https://www.fjc.gov/research/idb>.

Given the large number of cases, I will pull this information using web scraping programs. I am happy to cooperate with court employee requests in scraping this data.

Using this information, I will construct a dataset, conduct statistical analysis using the data, and present the results in scholarly papers and presentations. I will eventually submit these papers to academic journals. I will **not** sell the data for profit, transfer it or redistribute it on the internet, or use it for commercial purposes.

### **3 Why an exemption is necessary**

If I pull the docket report, a filing petition, and a plan for each case, that will cost \$9.00 per case (assuming the docket report and each document reaches the \$3.00 limit). It could thus cost as much as \$45,000 to pull this information, which I cannot afford. For this reason, I would be extremely grateful if you would consider my request for an exemption from fees. Thank you so much for considering my request.

Sincerely,  
Ashvin Gandhi  
Assistant Professor  
UCLA Anderson

**Application for Multi-Court Exemption from the  
Judicial Conference's Electronic Public Access (EPA) Fees**

1.) I am requesting an exemption from fees for public access to electronic case records for the courts selected below:

**Courts of Appeal**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Courts of Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Seventh Circuit  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Circuit        | <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth Circuit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second Circuit       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth Circuit    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third Circuit        | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth Circuit    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Circuit       | <input type="checkbox"/> Eleventh Circuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fifth Circuit        | <input type="checkbox"/> D.C. Circuit     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Circuit        | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Circuit  |

**Bankruptcy Appellate Panels (BAP)**

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Circuit - BAP  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sixth Circuit - BAP  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eighth Circuit - BAP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth Circuit - BAP  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth Circuit - BAP  |

**District Courts**

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All District Courts  |   |   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Middle       | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Northern    | <input type="checkbox"/> Nebraska                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Rhode Island           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Northern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Central     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nevada                   | <input type="checkbox"/> South Carolina         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alabama Southern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Southern    | <input type="checkbox"/> New Hampshire            | <input type="checkbox"/> South Dakota           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska               | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana Northern     | <input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Eastern      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona              | <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana Southern     | <input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Middle       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Eastern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa Northern        | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Eastern         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennessee Western      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arkansas Western     | <input type="checkbox"/> Iowa Southern        | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Northern        | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Eastern          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Central   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas               | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Southern        | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Northern         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Eastern   | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Eastern     | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Western         | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Southern         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Northern  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kentucky Western     | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Eastern   | <input type="checkbox"/> Texas Western          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Southern  | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Eastern    | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Middle    | <input type="checkbox"/> Utah                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado             | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Middle     | <input type="checkbox"/> North Carolina Western   | <input type="checkbox"/> Vermont                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut          | <input type="checkbox"/> Louisiana Western    | <input type="checkbox"/> North Dakota             | <input type="checkbox"/> Virgin Islands         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware             | <input type="checkbox"/> Maine                | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Eastern       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Columbia | <input type="checkbox"/> Maryland             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Northern            | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Western       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Middle       | <input type="checkbox"/> Massachusetts        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio Southern            | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Eastern     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Northern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Eastern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Eastern         | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Western     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Florida Southern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Western     | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Northern        | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Northern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Northern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota            | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Western         | <input type="checkbox"/> West Virginia Southern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Middle       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Northern | <input type="checkbox"/> Oregon                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Eastern      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Southern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi Southern | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Eastern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin Western      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guam                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Eastern     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Middle      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wyoming                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii               | <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Western     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania Western     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Idaho                | <input type="checkbox"/> Montana              | <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rico              |   |

## Bankruptcy Courts

All Bankruptcy Courts

Alabama Middle

Alabama Northern

Alabama Southern

Alaska

Arizona

Arkansas Eastern

Arkansas Western

California Central

California Eastern

California Northern

California Southern

Colorado

Connecticut

Delaware

District of Columbia

Florida Middle

Florida Northern

Florida Southern

Georgia Northern

Georgia Middle

Georgia Southern

Guam

Hawaii

Idaho

Illinois Northern

Illinois Central

Illinois Southern

Indiana Northern

Indiana Southern

Iowa Northern

Iowa Southern

Kansas

Kentucky Eastern

Kentucky Western

Louisiana Eastern

Louisiana Middle

Louisiana Western

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan Eastern

Michigan Western

Minnesota

Mississippi Northern

Mississippi Southern

Missouri Eastern

Missouri Western

Montana

Nebraska

Nevada

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New Mexico

New York Eastern

New York Northern

New York Southern

New York Western

North Carolina Eastern

North Carolina Middle

North Carolina Western

North Dakota

Northern Mariana Islands

Ohio Northern

Ohio Southern

Oklahoma Eastern

Oklahoma Northern

Oklahoma Western

Oregon

Pennsylvania Eastern

Pennsylvania Middle

Pennsylvania Western

Puerto Rico

Rhode Island

South Carolina

South Dakota

Tennessee Eastern

Tennessee Middle

Tennessee Western

Texas Eastern

Texas Northern

Texas Southern

Texas Western

Utah

Vermont

Virgin Islands

Virginia Eastern

Virginia Western

Washington Eastern

Washington Western

West Virginia Northern

West Virginia Southern

Wisconsin Eastern

Wisconsin Western

Wyoming

## National Courts

Judicial Panel on  
Multidistrict Litigation

U.S. Court of  
Federal Claims

U.S. Court of  
International Trade

2.) I am an individual associated with

3.) Please summarize why the case information from the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) service is needed and how it will be used. Also, please explain why an exemption from the courts identified is necessary. If you need more space, please provide in an attachment.

Please see the attached document for details. Thanks for considering this request!

4.) In support of this application, I affirm the following:

a) An exemption from the Judicial Conference's EPA Fee is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

b) That the exemption will be for a definitive period of time:

c) I understand that this fee exemption will apply only to me, will be valid only for the purposes stated above, and will apply only to the electronic case files of the court(s) indicated above that are available through the PACER service.

d) I agree that any data received through this exemption will not be sold for profit, will not be transferred, will not be used for commercial purposes, and will not be redistributed via the Internet.

**Declaration:** I declare that all the above information is true and understand that a false statement  may result in termination of my exempt access and an assessment of Electronic Public Access usage fees. (The box must be marked or your request will not be considered)

Applicant's Printed Name

Applicant's Title

Applicant's Signature

Applicant's Phone Number

Applicant's email address

Applicant's Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Date

Please submit your completed, signed request via email to [Multi-CourtExemptions@ao.uscourts.gov](mailto:Multi-CourtExemptions@ao.uscourts.gov) or by mail to:

Attention: Multi-Court Exemptions  
Court Programs Division  
DPS-CSO-PRGD  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20544

**\*\* Requests sent through the US mail may take up to two weeks to clear security.\*\***