



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

## Bankruptcy Courts

All Bankruptcy 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              |   |

## 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 Rice University

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.

I am an academic researcher interested in the determinants of judicial decisions in consumer bankruptcy cases. Access to the PACER service is needed in order to obtain information about bankruptcy cases filed, judges, and decisions. A fee exemption is necessary for this research to be feasible as I will need to look at many cases in order to draw conclusions, which would be cost prohibitive with the normal search fees.

This research is in the public interest in that consumer bankruptcy is an important social safety net provided by law, and so understanding how it is implemented in practice is of particular interest.

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

Digitally signed by Zhang, David  
Date: 2022.04.13 18:56:58 -04'00'

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.\*\***