



# PACER Fee Exemption Request

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## 1 Why the case information from PACER is needed

I am conducting scholarly research on the efficiency of Chapter 11 corporate bankruptcy. I will use Chapter 11 bankruptcy docket reports to assess how various motions filed during bankruptcy affect bankruptcy outcomes. I will also analyze how firm locations correlate with bankruptcy 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 the efficiency of 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

My exercise will compare bankruptcies filed in a firm's home state to bankruptcies filed outside of a firm's home state. For this exercise to work, I thus need a sample of all corporate bankruptcies. Using the Federal Judicial Center's Integrated Database (IDB),<sup>1</sup> I have obtained 147,843 case numbers corresponding to Chapter 11 cases. Since individuals use Chapter 7 and Chapter 13, I believe these correspond to business bankruptcies. For each of these 147,843 cases, I hope to pull the docket report.

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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.<sup>2</sup> 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, that will cost up to \$3.00 per case. It could thus cost as much as \$443,000 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,  
Samuel Antill

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<sup>2</sup>For an example, see [https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3383227](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3383227).

**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              |   |



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: 08/30/2022 - 08/30/2023

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)

Samuel Antill

Applicant's Printed Name

Assistant Professor

Applicant's Title

*Samuel Antill*

Applicant's Signature

(413)-519-4130

Applicant's Phone Number

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Applicant's email address

Baker Library Office 259, 25 Harvard Way

Applicant's Mailing Address

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City

MA

State

02163

Zip Code

08/17/2022

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.\*\***