

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re: :
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Application for Exemption from the Electronic : General Order M-675
Public Access Fees by Luca Barbato, :
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This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Luca Barbato (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 July 22, 2026, 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 28, 2026 through June 20, 2028.

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: September 8, 2026
New York, NY

/s/ Sean H. Lane
SEAN H. LANE
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

**Application for Multi-Court Exemption from the Judicial Conference's
Electronic Public Access (EPA) Fees
For Individual Researchers Associated with Educational Institutions**

Applicant's Name:	Luca Barbato
Applicant's Title:	PhD Candidate in Economics, London School of Economics
Applicant's Phone Number:	+44 7456 479577
Applicant's Email Address:	l.barbato1@lse.ac.uk
Applicant's Mailing Address:	106, 100 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1 7XB London

1. Are you an individual researcher associated with an educational institution, or a student associated with an educational institution conducting academic research under the supervision of a professor or instructor?

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. Please identify your status. [Certification Requirement] Please attach a letter from the professor/instructor who certifies this research is for a course project, thesis, dissertation, or other academic product.

☐ High School student

☐ Undergraduate Student

☒ Graduate/Professional Student

☐ Faculty/Lecturer

☐ Post-Doctoral Researcher

☐ Certification program student.

3. Please provide the name and type of educational institution you and your research are associated with.

London School of Economics

Name of Institution: _____

☐ Community/Junior College

☒ Four-year college or university

☐ Post-graduate program

☐ Other degree conferring program, including secondary school program.

☐ Professional skills certification program

☐ Other non-degree conferring program. Explain:

4. Is the associated educational institution duly accredited and located in the United States? You may search this site <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home> to determine whether your institution has been accredited in the United States.

☐ Yes

☒ No

5. Do you and/or your affiliated academic institution plan to sell the product of your research?

☐ Yes

☒ No

6. Do you plan to re-distribute the product of your research? If so, please describe the manner in which it will be re-distributed?

No commercial or internet redistribution. The dissertation and any peer-reviewed publications will reference aggregated, derived measures (firm- and lawyer-level statistics, regression results); raw PACER documents will not be re-posted online or shared with third parties.

7. Please describe your research project, including the hypothesis or thesis that your research will support. You may be required to provide additional information.

I am a PhD candidate at the London School of Economics studying the market for legal counsel in U.S. Chapter 11 corporate restructurings and the career formation of the lawyers who staff those engagements. The project tests whether early exposure to large, jointly-administered Chapter 11 cases shapes lawyers' subsequent career trajectories — promotion timing, billing rate progression, and firm mobility — relative to comparable cohorts without such exposure. The work forms part of my doctoral dissertation and is intended for peer-reviewed economics journals. A supervisory letter from Professor Jordi Blanes i Vidal (LSE) is attached.

8. Please describe what resources are needed from PACER and why. Limitation in scope is demonstrated by narrowly tailoring the amount of exempt access requested to meet the needs of the defined research project.

Fee applications filed in a defined set of Chapter 11 cases. Two specific document types are in scope: (i) the final fee application from each case, and (ii) interim fee statements where the final lacks the day-level time detail required for the econometric analysis. Free secondary sources — Internet Archive / RECAP, the major claims-agent web portals — have already been exhausted; the requested PACER access is limited to the residual cases (3,536 jointly-administered cases, listed in the attached case_list_final.xlsx) for which no fee-application PDF has yet been obtained from any free source. Cases for which I already hold at least one fee-application PDF are excluded.

9. Please estimate of the number and type(s) of cases and/or documents needed to accomplish your research.

3,536 jointly-administered Chapter 11 cases, filed 2007 – 2024, with assets or liabilities of \$50 million or more. Document type: fee applications only — one final per case, with the underlying interim fee statements only where the final lacks day-level detail. Based on already-extracted cases from publicly available sources, I anticipate an average of 3–5 documents per case, implying a total volume on the order of roughly 13,000 PDFs. No other docket entry types are in scope. Case list attached

10. Please indicate whether you intend to conduct your research using manual searches or by running a data script or some other computer-aided search and/or retrieval process.

Computer-aided. Cases and target docket entries are identified programmatically from the attached case list; the PDFs themselves are downloaded via PACER, no automated bulk-scraping of the docket-search interface.

11. What is the period of time for which you are requesting the PACER fee exemption? Please note that you must provide a specific timeframe. You may not request an exemption for an indefinite time period.

Until 20 June 2028, expected end of PhD

12. Please select the courts from which you are requesting PACER fee exemptions.

Courts of Appeal

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ☐ All Courts of Appeal | ☐ Fifth Circuit | ☐ Tenth Circuit |
| ☐ First Circuit | ☐ Sixth Circuit | ☐ Eleventh Circuit |
| ☐ Second Circuit | ☐ Seventh Circuit | ☐ D.C Circuit |
| ☐ Third Circuit | ☐ Eighth Circuit | ☐ Federal Circuit |
| ☐ Fourth Circuit | ☐ Ninth Circuit | |

Bankruptcy Appellate Panels (BAP)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ First Circuit - BAP | ☐ Ninth Circuit - BAP |
| ☐ Sixth Circuit - BAP | ☐ Tenth Circuit - BAP |
| ☐ Eighth Circuit - BAP | |

District Courts

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| ☐ All District Courts | ☐ Idaho | ☐ Montana | ☐ Puerto Rico |
| ☐ Alabama Middle | ☐ Illinois Central | ☐ Nebraska | ☐ Rhode Island |
| ☐ Alabama Northern | ☐ Illinois Northern | ☐ Nevada | ☐ South Carolina |
| ☐ Alabama Southern | ☐ Illinois Southern | ☐ New Hampshire | ☐ South Dakota |
| ☐ Alaska | ☐ Indiana Northern | ☐ New Jersey | ☐ Tennessee Eastern |
| ☐ Arizona | ☐ Indiana Southern | ☐ New Mexico | ☐ Tennessee Middle |
| ☐ Arkansas Eastern | ☐ Iowa Northern | ☐ New York Eastern | ☐ Tennessee Western |

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Arkansas Western | ☐ Iowa Southern | ☐ New York Northern | ☐ Texas Eastern |
| ☐ California Central | ☐ Kansas | ☐ New York Southern | ☐ Texas Northern |
| ☐ California Eastern | ☐ Kentucky Eastern | ☐ New York Western | ☐ Texas Southern |
| ☐ California Northern | ☐ Kentucky Western | ☐ North Carolina Eastern | ☐ Texas Western |
| ☐ California Southern | ☐ Louisiana Eastern | ☐ North Carolina Middle | ☐ Utah |
| ☐ Colorado | ☐ Louisiana Middle | ☐ North Carolina Western | ☐ Vermont |
| ☐ Connecticut | ☐ Louisiana Western | ☐ North Dakota | ☐ Virgin Islands |
| ☐ Delaware | ☐ Maine | ☐ Northern Mariana Islands | ☐ Virginia Eastern |
| ☐ District of Columbia | ☐ Maryland | ☐ Ohio Northern | ☐ Virginia Western |
| ☐ Florida Middle | ☐ Massachusetts | ☐ Ohio Southern | ☐ Washington Eastern |
| ☐ Florida Northern | ☐ Michigan Eastern | ☐ Oklahoma Eastern | ☐ Washington Western |
| ☐ Florida Southern | ☐ Michigan Western | ☐ Oklahoma Northern | ☐ West Virginia Northern |
| ☐ Georgia Middle | ☐ Minnesota | ☐ Oklahoma Western | ☐ West Virginia Southern |
| ☐ Georgia Northern | ☐ Mississippi Northern | ☐ Oregon | ☐ Wisconsin Eastern |
| ☐ Georgia Southern | ☐ Mississippi Southern | ☐ Pennsylvania Eastern | ☐ Wisconsin Western |
| ☐ Guam | ☐ Missouri Eastern | ☐ Pennsylvania Middle | ☐ Wyoming |
| ☐ Hawaii | ☐ Missouri Western | ☐ Pennsylvania Western | |

Bankruptcy Courts

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ☐ All Bankruptcy Courts | ☒ Idaho | ☒ Montana | ☒ Puerto Rico |
| ☒ Alabama Middle | ☒ Illinois Central | ☒ Nebraska | ☒ Rhode Island |
| ☒ Alabama Northern | ☒ Illinois Northern | ☒ Nevada | ☒ South Carolina |
| ☒ Alabama Southern | ☒ Illinois Southern | ☒ New Hampshire | ☒ South Dakota |
| ☒ Alaska | ☒ Indiana Northern | ☒ New Jersey | ☒ Tennessee Eastern |
| ☒ Arizona | ☒ Indiana Southern | ☒ New Mexico | ☒ Tennessee Middle |
| ☒ Arkansas Eastern | ☒ Iowa Northern | ☒ New York Eastern | ☒ Tennessee Western |
| ☒ Arkansas Western | ☒ Iowa Southern | ☒ New York Northern | ☒ Texas Eastern |
| ☒ California Central | ☒ Kansas | ☒ New York Southern | ☒ Texas Northern |
| ☒ California Eastern | ☒ Kentucky Eastern | ☒ New York Western | ☒ Texas Southern |
| ☒ California Northern | ☒ Kentucky Western | ☒ North Carolina Eastern | ☒ Texas Western |
| ☒ California Southern | ☒ Louisiana Eastern | ☒ North Carolina Middle | ☒ Utah |
| ☒ Colorado | ☒ Louisiana Middle | ☒ North Carolina Western | ☒ Vermont |
| ☒ Connecticut | ☒ Louisiana Western | ☒ North Dakota | ☒ Virgin Islands |
| ☒ Delaware | ☒ Maine | ☒ Northern Mariana Islands | ☒ Virginia Eastern |
| ☒ District of Columbia | ☒ Maryland | ☒ Ohio Northern | ☒ Virginia Western |
| ☒ Florida Middle | ☒ Massachusetts | ☒ Ohio Southern | ☒ Washington Eastern |

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☒ Florida Northern | ☒ Michigan Eastern | ☒ Oklahoma Eastern | ☒ Washington Western |
| ☒ Florida Southern | ☒ Michigan Western | ☒ Oklahoma Northern | ☒ West Virginia Northern |
| ☒ Georgia Middle | ☒ Minnesota | ☒ Oklahoma Western | ☒ West Virginia Southern |
| ☒ Georgia Northern | ☒ Mississippi Northern | ☒ Oregon | ☒ Wisconsin Eastern |
| ☒ Georgia Southern | ☒ Mississippi Southern | ☒ Pennsylvania Eastern | ☒ Wisconsin Western |
| ☐ Guam | ☒ Missouri Eastern | ☒ Pennsylvania Middle | ☒ Wyoming |
| ☒ Hawaii | ☒ Missouri Western | ☒ Pennsylvania Western | |

National Courts

- ☐ Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation
- ☐ U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- ☐ U.S. Court of International Trade

13. In support of this application, I certify 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. I understand that any authorized 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.
- c. I agree that any data I receive 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; and
- d. I declare that all the information I have provided on this application is true, and I understand that a false statement may result in termination of my exempt access and an assessment of Electronic Public Access usage fees.
- e. I certify that I have read the [instructions](#) and am aware of the available resources to obtain judicial opinions and data on case filings outside of PACER and that additional information from PACER is required to accomplish my research objective.

Signature

