

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re: :  
: :  
Application for Exemption from the : General Order M-371  
Electronic Public Access Fees by Robert :  
Howard :  
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This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Robert 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 from the Applicant, dated February 9, 2009, 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. He 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 the date of this order through December 31, 2009.

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  
March 2, 2009

/s/ Stuart M. Bernstein  
STUART M. BERNSTEIN  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

**Mailing Address:**

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February 5, 2009

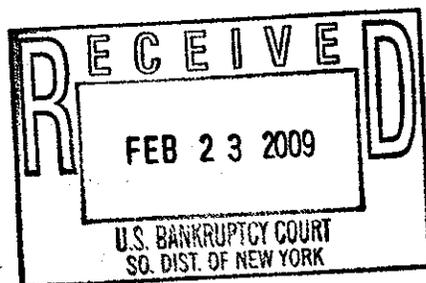
Honorable Stuart Bernstein  
Chief Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court  
Southern District of New York  
New York, NY 10004

Dear Judge Bernstein:

My name is Dr. Robert Howard, and I am an associate professor of political science at Georgia State University. Based on my present research, I would like to request an academic exemption from the payment of fees incurred by accessing PACER pursuant to the Guides to Judiciary Policies and Procedures.

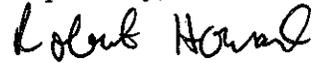
My graduate research assistant, Shenita Brazelton, and I are conducting research in the area of bankruptcy law. Particularly, my research question examines the differences in the judicial decision-making of judges who sit on the U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeal and those who sit on bankruptcy courts and Bankruptcy Appellate Panels. Additionally, I would like to inquire, among other things, whether litigants engage in a type of forum shopping, whether there are significant differences in litigants who appeal to the Federal District Court or to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel, and what type of litigants, i.e., individuals or corporations, litigate in different courts.

An exemption of fees incurred from the use of PACER would allow my research assistant and I access to various pleadings and petitions in order to ascertain the aforementioned and additional research questions. Such questions would be aptly aided by obtaining documents through PACER.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by telephone, (404) 413-6163, or by email at [polrmh@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:polrmh@langate.gsu.edu). You may also contact my graduate research assistant, Shenita Brazelton by telephone, (256) 337-4674, or by email at [sbrazelton1@student.gsu.edu](mailto:sbrazelton1@student.gsu.edu). I am grateful for your time and consideration regarding this matter.

Respectfully,



Robert Howard, J.D., Ph.D.  
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Director of Undergraduate Studies  
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