

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re: :
: :
Application for Exemption from the : General Order M-420
Electronic Public Access Fees by Jialan :
Wang, Tal Gross, and Matthew :
Notowidigdo. :
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This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Jialan Wang, Tal Gross, and Matthew Notowidigdo (the "Applicants") for the extension of a prior exemption, granted by order dated August 13, 2008, 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 Applicants, dated June 3, 2011, that the Applicants have demonstrated that the extension of the exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

Accordingly, the Applicants 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. They 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 Applicants, 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 Applicants agree 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 June 16, 2012.

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
June 17, 2011

/s/ Arthur J. Gonzalez
ARTHUR J. GONZALEZ
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge

June 3, 2011

Southern District of New York
One Bowling Green
New York, NY 10004

Dear Sir or Madam,



This letter is sent on behalf of Professors Jialan Wang, Tal Gross, and Matthew Notowidigdo. We would like to request a PACER fee waiver for academic research. Prof. Wang previously received a waiver from this court in 2008 for a different research project.

We are currently conducting a research project on the effect of tax rebates on non-business bankruptcy filings. A draft of our research paper is available at <http://apps.olin.wustl.edu/faculty/wang/bankruptcy.pdf>. This project requires data on all consumer bankruptcies in the US between 1998 and 2008, and we currently include data from 53 bankruptcy courts. However, in order to obtain unbiased and precise results to complete our research paper, we require the full sample of all bankruptcies in the US.

We are academics with limited research budgets. Hence, the large number of filings in our dataset makes the costs of obtaining the remaining data prohibitive for us. Having to pay the normal PACER fees would greatly hinder our ability to conduct thorough and rigorous research. Furthermore, a fee waiver would promote public access to court information as publications resulting from access to these documents would be available to the public at no charge, would increase public awareness of data availability, and promote a better understanding of the bankruptcy filing behavior of households.

Per the PACER guidelines (<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov/faq.html#GP18>), a court may exempt persons from the electronic public access fees "in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to such information." Consistent with Judicial Conference policy, courts may exempt individual researchers associated with educational institutions from payment of these fees. We believe that the necessity of obtaining data from thousands of bankruptcy proceedings represents an unreasonable burden for academics conducting research toward the public good, and that our research would promote public access to court information. Furthermore, over half of all bankruptcy courts in the nation have already agreed to grant us fee waivers per the guidelines above.

We request a fee waiver for the period from June 2011 to June 2012 to ensure adequate time for the completion of our research. If an exemption is granted, we agree not to sell for profit any data obtained from PACER or to share it with any legal professionals or other persons who stand to financially gain from such data. We will access data only in the evenings and weekends during non-business hours. Upon completion of our research, we will provide the court with a copy of our findings.

If a waiver is deemed appropriate, please notify the PACER service center to grant a waiver of access fees for your district for account number jw3336. In addition, please send an electronic or paper copy of the waiver to Jialan Wang at the email address or address below.

PACER Service Center
P.O. Box 780549
San Antonio, TX 78278
(800) 676-6856, (210) 301-6440

Sincerely,



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