

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION  
FROM THE ELECTRONIC PUBLIC  
ACCESS FEES BY CASEY DOUGAL

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Administrative Order  
No. 21-MS-061

This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Casey Dougal 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 that Casey Dougal, an assistant professor at Florida State University, falls within the class of users listed in the fee schedule as being eligible for a fee exemption. Additionally, Dougal has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

Accordingly, Dougal 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 the course of researching data to classify federal civil rights cases where a public corporation is a defendant into those that claim harassment as the primary complaint (i.e., racial, sexual, or otherwise) and those which do not. Dougal has narrowed the scope of his research to 59,722 federal court cases and is seeking access to only the plaintiffs' first complaint in each case. Dougal's goal from this research is to publish a scholarly paper analyzing whether claimed discrimination in public corporations is driven by firm culture or profit-maximizing behavior.

Dougal 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 Dougal (PACER Account # 6876273), 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, Dougal agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
4. Dougal is prohibited from transferring any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption, including redistribution via internet-based databases;
5. This exemption is valid until August 31, 2022.

This Order 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.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

FOR THE COURT:



Dated: September 9, 2021

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ROBERT J. JONKER  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE