

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

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION  
FROM THE ELECTRONIC PUBLIC  
ACCESS FEES BY REBECCA FORDON

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Administrative Order  
No. 20-MS-090

This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Rebecca Fordon 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 Rebecca Fordon, a law librarian at UCLA Law School, falls within the class of users listed in the fee schedule as being eligible for a fee exemption. Additionally, Fordon has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

Accordingly, Fordon 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 the answer times in Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) cases. Specifically, Fordon anticipates accessing approximately 1750 FOIA cases nationwide that were filed in 2018 and 2019. She will use this information to inform the Advisory Committee on Civil Rules, which is contemplating an amendment to Rule 12(a) to account for statutory reductions in the time to answer civil complaints.

Fordon 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 Fordon (PACER Account # 6594516), 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, Fordon agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
4. Fordon 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 November 30, 2021.

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: December 8, 2020

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ROBERT J. JONKER  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE