

AUG 26 2022

Steven T. Salata, Clerk  
Charlotte Division/CCH

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

In re: )  
 )  
PACER Fee Exemption )  
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\_\_\_\_\_ )

**ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF PACER FEES**

**THIS MATTER** is before the court upon the application and request by Mr. David Zhang 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 David Zhang is an Assistant Professor at Rice University. He is researching how bankruptcy judges make decisions in Chapter 13 cases. He hypothesizes that: (1) judges have heterogenous tolerance for incomplete information/late payments in making dismissal decisions, with consequences for debtor outcomes; and (2) judge experiences with student debt and real estate investment correlate with their decisions. He has narrowed the scope of his request to case metadata, including the case identification number, the judge name, and docket-level information about party filings in Chapter 13 cases.

Mr. Zhang falls within the class of users listed in the fee schedule as being eligible for a fee exemption. Additionally, Mr. Zhang has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information. Accordingly, Mr. Zhang shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this court. Mr. Zhang 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:

- I. this fee exemption applies only to David Zhang, PACER account number 7085787, and is valid only for the purposes stated above;
- II. this fee exemption applies only to the electronic case files of this court that are available through the PACER system;
- III. by accepting this exemption, Mr. Zhang agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
- IV. Mr. Zhang is prohibited from transferring any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption, including redistribution via internet-based databases; and
- V. this exemption is valid through April 13, 2024.

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.

It is so ORDERED.

Date: August 26, 2020

Laura Turner Beyer  
Laura Turner Beyer  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge