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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 Ms. Maria Loumioti 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 Maria Loumioti is an Associate Professor of Accounting at the University of Texas at Dallas. She is researching whether the permission to abandon wells during oil and gas companies' bankruptcies increases the likelihood that these companies will pollute more after they emerge from bankruptcy. Further, she is investigating whether companies owning neighboring wells are more likely to pollute (i.e., avoid cleaning the wells) when court decisions signal that they can likely avoid their environmental liabilities (i.e., plugging the wells) during bankruptcy. Ms. Loumioti requires access to bankruptcy filings across multiple

districts to identify cases where: i) the court decision allowed companies to write off/transfer plugging obligations during bankruptcy; and ii) the court decision suggests that the plugging obligation remains current post bankruptcy. She plans to conduct her searches manually.

Ms. Loumioti falls within the class of users listed in the fee schedule as being eligible for a fee exemption. Additionally, Ms. Loumioti has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information. Accordingly, Ms. Loumioti shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this court. Ms. Loumioti 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 Maria Loumioti, PACER account number 6071150, 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, Ms. Loumioti agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;

IV. Ms. Loumiotis 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 June 30, 2023.

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: November 9, 2007   
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Laura Turner Beyer  
Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge