

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

**In re:** )  
)  
**Application for Exemption from the** ) **Misc. Proc. #21-217**  
**Electronic Public Access Fees** )  
**by Qianyang Zhang** )

**ORDER**

This matter is before the Court upon the request of Qianyang Zhang for exemption from the fees imposed by the Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule (the "Fee Schedule") adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts.

The Court finds that Qianyang Zhang is a PhD student in Economics at Columbia University, who is studying the spillover effects of retail bankruptcies (Chapter 7 and Chapter 11) on other existing competitor's and new entrants' innovation activities and quality upgrading of products/services. The Court further finds that Ms. Zhang is within the class of users listed in the *Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule* as being eligible for a discretionary fee exemption. Additionally, Ms. Zhang has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information, and she has shown that the research project is intended for scholarly research, is limited in scope, and is not intended for commercial purposes.

**AND NOW**, this 27th day of October, 2021, it is hereby **ORDERED** that:

1. Qianyang Zhang shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this Court, solely to the extent that such use is incurred in the course of Ms. Zhang's research for her project, which focuses on the spillover effects of retail bankruptcies (Chapter 7 liquidation and Chapter 11 reconstruction) on other existing competitor's and new entrants' innovation activities and quality upgrading of products/services. Her study will involve accessing 1174 retail bankruptcy cases between 2008 and 2019. She has used secondary sources to identify those cases. She will follow the method by Bernstein et al. (2020) to use an instrumental approach that explores the facts that the U.S. assigns cases to judges using a blind rotation system, which quasi-randomizes the assignment of similar companies to liquidation or reorganization. The data will be used exclusively for academic research purposes and will not be made available to other researchers. Ms. Zhang shall not be exempt from the payment of fees incurred in connection with other uses of the PACER system in this Court.

2. Additionally, the following limitations apply:

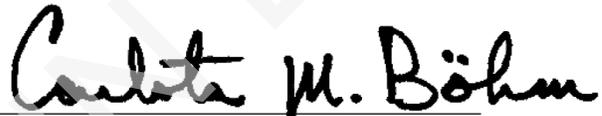
a. This fee exemption applies only to Ms. Qianyang Zhang, PACER Account No. 6912681, and is valid only for the purposes stated above;

b. This fee exemption applies only to the electronic case files of this Court that are available through the PACER system;

c. Ms. Zhang shall not sell, transfer, redistribute, or use for commercial purposes any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption; and,

d. This exemption is valid until October 31, 2023, unless terminated earlier by the Court.

3. This exemption may be revoked at the discretion of the Court at any time. The Clerk shall send a copy of this Order to the PACER Service Center.



CARLOTA M. BÖHM, CHIEF JUDGE  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT