

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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In Re
Application for Exemption from
Electronic Public Access Fees

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
2019-05
PACER FEE EXEMPTION ORDER

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The Court received an application request by Joel Putnam, on behalf of the Focus Forward Project, Inc., for exemption from the fees imposed by the Electronic Public Access fee schedule adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts.

The Focus Forward Project, Inc. (“Focus Forward”) is a nonprofit program that runs classes for persons facing federal criminal charges. The classes are held in federal jails and federal district courthouses, including in the Eastern District of New York. Since it was founded in 2012, over 400 men and women have graduated from the program. Focus Forward tracks judicial outcomes of all graduates’ cases to measure the effectiveness of the program and to continue offering services to its graduates. As such, Joel Putnam, the Interim Director of Focus Forward has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that Joel Putnam 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 his educational research in areas related to federal criminal law and the conduct of classes and other educational projects related to participants in the Focus Forward Project.

However, Joel Putnam 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 Joel Putnam 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, Joel Putnam agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
4. this exemption is valid for two years unless revoked earlier.

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 together with a copy of the application.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York
May 14, 2019

/s

Dora L. Irizarry
Chief Judge