

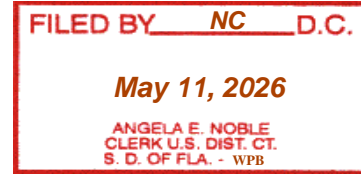
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 2026-37

IN RE:

EXEMPTION OF FEES TO ACCESS PACER  
FOR PROFESSOR BRIAN FITZPATRICK

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The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida maintains case information online with the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) website. The Court desires to encourage the public's use of the database, continue to promote public access, and avoid unreasonable burdens on both users and court staff in retrieving data.

Professor Brian Fitzpatrick, an individual researcher associated with an educational institution, falls within the class of users listed in the fee schedule as being eligible for a fee exemption. Additionally, Professor Fitzpatrick has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary to avoid unreasonable burden and to promote public access to information. Therefore, it is

**ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that Professor Fitzpatrick is 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 his research study aimed at simplifying the calculation of attorney's fees in cases with fee-shifting provisions, between March 5, 2026, and March 5, 2027, including dockets, charging indictments, convictions and sentencing. Professor Fitzpatrick is not exempt from the payment of fees incurred in connection with other uses of the PACER system.


Additionally, the following limitations apply:

1. this fee exemption applies only to and is valid only for the purposes stated above;
2. this fee exemption applies only to the electronic case files of the Court that are available through the PACER system;

3. by accepting this exemption, Professor Brian Fitzpatrick agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
4. Professor Fitzpatrick is prohibited from transferring any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption, including redistribution via internet-based databases; and
5. this exemption is valid retroactively from March 5, 2026, through March 5, 2027.

This exemption may be revoked at the discretion of the Court at any time. The Clerk of Court for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida shall provide the PACER Service Center with any detailed information the Center may require to implement this Order.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Miami, Florida, this 11th day of May 2026.

  
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**CECILIA M. ALTONAGA**  
**CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

c: Angela E. Noble, Court Administrator · Clerk of Court  
Todd McGhie, Chief Deputy Clerk · Administration  
PACER Service Center  
Michelle Gardner, Attorney Advisor, Multi-Court Exemptions, Administrative Office  
of the U.S. Courts