

# United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

ORDER  
General Docket No. 2026-01

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IN RE:  
APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE ELECTRONIC PUBLIC  
ACCESS FEES BY LAKIA FAISON

This matter is before the Court upon the application and request by Lokia Faison 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 Lokia Faison, a doctoral student at the George Mason University, is researching to identify and compare criminal cases in which defendants claim actual innocence on appeal to determine why some defendants may be more likely to achieve exoneration than other defendants. Additionally, Faison has demonstrated that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information. Accordingly, Faison 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 researching criminal matters to compile accessible legal documents and code them for specific information. Faison will then conduct quantitative analyses of the coded information to investigate two research questions: What (1) legal and/or (2) extra-legal factors influence the likelihood that defendants who claim actual innocence in their petitions for federal habeas corpus review will achieve exoneration. Faison 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 Faison, 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;

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- III. by accepting this exemption, Faison agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption;
- IV. Faison is prohibited from transferring any data obtained as a result of receiving this exemption, including redistribution via internet-based databases;
- V. this exemption is valid until June 31, 2026 and shall be enforced for any research conducted beginning October 2025.

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.

Dated this 12<sup>h</sup> day of January 2026.



LYLE W. CAYCE  
*Clerk of Court*

BY DIRECTION