



# VCU

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Brian A. Jackson, Chief Judge  
 Middle District of Louisiana  
 777 Florida Street, Suite 375  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70801

**L. Douglas Wilder School  
 of Government and Public Affairs**

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Dear Honorable Chief Judge Jackson,

We are professors at Virginia Commonwealth University with an established record of research on various aspects of crime and justice, and request your assistance. The NIJ funded our grant starting January 1, 2016—[NIJ 2015-IJ-CX-0007]. In our current research plan, we will be collecting the court documents on past public corruption convictions from April 1, 2016 through June 1, 2017.

Our request: we request to have the fees waived to search, access and download the public corruption indictments and sentencing information on cases that resulted in convictions in recent years from April 1, 2016 through June 1, 2017. We can obtain these documents via Pacer and/or CM/ECF (new system), but their costs add up quickly. We plan to review several hundred completed cases, so simply obtaining the documents via Pacer would cost thousands of dollars. We hope to avoid these costs, so our time and costs can be focused on reviewing the documents themselves. All documents retrieved during our research will only be related to the research and not be used for personal purposes or sold commercially.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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