

DECLARATION OF LAURA ORR

I, Laura Orr, declare as follows:

1. I am an Oregon public law library director in a position I have held since 2002. I have personal knowledge of the matters stated in this declaration and could competently testify to them if called as a witness.

2. I am a member of the national Self-Represented Litigant Network (SRLN), Law Librarian Working Group and serve with lawyers and law librarians around the country on a wide range of access to justice endeavors.

3. I am the founder, owner, and content creator of the 9-year old Oregon Legal Research Blog, a popular online service that posts legal research tips and answers to common legal reference questions. The website and blog may be viewed at the following URL: <http://www.oregonlegalresearch.com>

4. My county law library serves a diverse population including self-represented litigants, attorneys, judges, elected officials, state, local and federal government employees, legal researchers and writers, reporters, and students of all ages.

5. Our law librarians provide legal reference and research training to public library employees and patrons, lawyers, and law and judicial office employees.

6. Access to electronic research tools are the most frequently requested services in our law library. However, like most public law libraries, we have access to only a fraction of the services that law firm libraries and major law schools are able to provide their patrons. In 2012, I documented this fact by surveying public, law firm, and law school library database collections around the country and tabulating the results. This survey may be viewed at the following URL:

http://www.co.washington.or.us/LawLibrary/upload/Adapted_Fantasy_Reality_Grid_test.pdf

7. Access to PACER is the most important federal legal research tool, but access is highly restricted because of the cost of the service. Our patrons who need PACER access are instructed first to look for other Internet resources that might have federal court documents (however incomplete or out of date those resources may be) and then to go to a federal courthouse (the nearest is in another city) where they can only hope they will find someone to assist them. As a last resort, patrons may fill out a form and agree to pay all PACER charges, at which point the search will be conducted by a member of our staff, which may compromise the patron's privacy. The form that patrons must fill out prior to such a search may be found at the following URL:

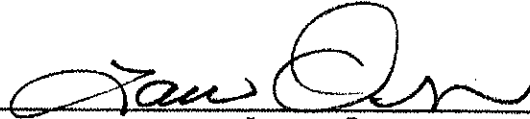
http://www.co.washington.or.us/lawlibrary/upload/pacer_policy_final.pdf

8. Less restrictive and more affordable access to the PACER system would be of great utility and value to our legal researchers who require access to officially filed federal court documents. Limited access to PACER means we are unable to provide affordable legal research tools to the public and the solo and small law office legal community.

9. For these reasons, this affidavit is submitted in support of the Public Resource fee exemption request, which would make the full proceedings of one or more courts available for access by the public we serve.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct and this declaration was executed this 7th day of April, 2015 at Hillsboro, Oregon.

By



Laura Orr