



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE
UNITED STATES COURTS

JAMES C. DUFF
Director

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20544

September 1, 2020

Mr. Michael Lissner
Executive Director
Free Law Project
6432 Raymond Street
Oakland, CA 94609

Dear Mr. Lissner:

I write in response to your letter dated August 18, 2020 to me and Federal Judicial Center Director John S. Cooke, regarding administrative support for enabling PACER RSS feeds in the federal courts. Thank you for the background you provided regarding the courts' use of RSS feeds.

The Administrative Office (AO) has a long history of assisting the courts in enhancing public access to court information and records, including enabling RSS feeds for PACER on their websites. Since 2012, the AO has made the RSS feature available to the courts and has continuously encouraged their participation. As you note in your letter, each court maintains the discretion as to whether and how to use the feature.

In 2019, the AO established the Electronic Public Access Public User Group (User Group) to discuss issues of importance to external users and to make recommendations for expanding and improving services. As you note, at its February 2020 meeting, the User Group asked the AO to encourage courts to turn on the RSS feature and provide full docket entry/activity feeds. Despite the pandemic, the AO has made headway in this regard and we will be sending a survey in the coming weeks to all courts to identify and resolve specific implementation issues and to encourage courts to utilize this valuable public access tool. We are hopeful that this effort will help determine how to assist courts in expanding RSS use.

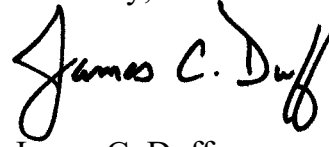
We appreciate the helpful information that you have provided and will work with the appropriate entities in the Judiciary to encourage greater use of the RSS feature.

Mr. Michael Lissner

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If you have any questions further questions on this matter, please contact Jane MacCracken, Chief, Court Programs Division, Court Services Office, at 202-502-1500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James C. Duff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

James C. Duff
Director

cc: Director John S. Cooke
Mr. Robert Lowney