



Alex Jakubow

**Associate Director for Empirical Research and
Data Support Services**

J. Michael Goodson Law Library

Duke University School of Law

210 Science Drive

Box 90361 • Durham, NC 27708-0361

Phone: 919-613-8560 • Fax: 919-613-7237

jakubow@law.duke.edu

DATE: November 17, 2022
TO: Clarissa Ache Cabello
FROM: Alex Jakubow
RE: ACIS Data Use

Dear Clarissa,

This letter confirms that the ACIS data you would like to use in your research is curated by the J. Michael Goodson Law Library and will be provided to you in accordance with the data management plan specified in the terms of your IRB protocol.

These data were originally provided to us by Michele Easter, Assistant Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and the Behavioral Health Core of the Wilson Center for Science and Justice at Duke School of Law. Dr. Easter purchased these data from the Remote Public Access department of the North Carolina Judiciary in July of 2021. The data were provided to her in the form of a USB drive without restrictions on the terms of use or re-use.

Please find enclosed two separate lines of correspondence with Dr. Easter establishing that 1) The data were initially obtained from the NC Judiciary and 2) The data were provided without (re)use restrictions.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions. We look forward to assisting you with this project!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AJ' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Alex Jakubow

Sean Chen

From: Michele Easter
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 1:09 PM
To: Sean Chen
Subject: FW: Question about data extraction

Here is the record I have.

Even though it lists 12/31/2020 as the last date in their April email, in the emails that follow in July they indicate that I would be getting the updated one, i.e., through June 30.

From: RPA <rpa@nccourts.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:23 AM
To: Michele Easter <michele.easter@duke.edu>
Subject: RE: Question about data extraction

The 5-year statistical extract is being mailed out this afternoon via certified mail. Tracking number 7019 0700 0000 5065 1702

Thanks

Remote Public Access
North Carolina Judicial Branch
O 919-890-2220
F 919-890-1901

From: Michele Easter <michele.easter@duke.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 10:04 AM
To: RPA <rpa@nccourts.org>
Subject: RE: Question about data extraction

Thanks! Just mailed the request.
I appreciate how responsive you all are at this email address.
Michele

From: RPA <rpa@nccourts.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2021 9:47 AM
To: Michele Easter <michele.easter@duke.edu>; RPA <rpa@nccourts.org>
Subject: RE: Question about data extraction

You can mail the payment this month and receive the updated extract.

Thanks

Remote Public Access
North Carolina Judicial Branch
O 919-890-2220
F 919-890-1901

Subject: RE: Hi and VCAP data
Date: Friday, August 19, 2022 at 10:42:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Michele Easter
To: Alex Jakubow
CC: Sean Chen
Attachments: Public Access CIV User Manual Updated April 2017.pdf

Hi Alex,

Thanks for your email!

There are actually two separate data extracts – ACIS is criminal courts and VCAP is civil courts. Both require significant processing to be usable. Sean is working on ACIS now but we did once look at VCAP together with a student.

I would be happy to share the VCAP extract I received, covering 01012017 – 07042021, and I’ve attached a User Manual so you can learn more about it. In a separate email I will forward the file record layout they provide and other information from AOC about this.

I could also obtain for you a more recent extract that would probably go up to about Dec. 31 2021, but I suspect you might rather contact them directly – there is no review or data use agreement, anyone can just pay \$17 to have a flash drive mailed! It’s kind of amazing. That info is in the email I’m forwarding separately.

They update the 5-year extract every 6 months, so assuming their data access rules don’t change the way ACIS rules did, you could plan for future time periods also.

The criminal justice data are less accessible now because of rules about expungement.

To me, it would be great if I could possibly have access to the data after you parse/process/organize it so the rows and columns line up correctly.

Would that work for you?

Thanks,
Michele

From: Alex Jakubow <jakubow@law.duke.edu>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Michele Easter <michele.easter@duke.edu>
Cc: Sean Chen <schen@law.duke.edu>
Subject: Hi and VCAP data

Dear Michele,

I don’t believe we’ve formally ever been introduced, although I have seen you around at various WCSJ events and know you collaborate closely with Sean.

I understand Sean has been helping you process a bunch of ACIS data you obtained from the NC courts. I also understand the data you receive cover civil cases (VCAP).

I am writing because one of our faculty members received a request from a contact in the NC treasurer's office about doing some research on the extent to which hospitals are suing patients.

Here is a typical story: <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/17/us/hospital-lawsuits-pandemic-invs/index.html>

I am writing to inquire whether: 1) you would be willing to share these data with us for the purposes of this research and 2) something to this effect would even be permissible given the terms of use (if any) that apply to the data you received.

We would obviously prefer not to have to submit (and pay) for a separate data extract from the courts if it can be avoided, but we also clearly don't want to put you in an awkward position and/or compromise Duke's relationship with the court system for future studies.

Perhaps a workaround would be to add you as a collaborator on the project? In any event, please let me know your thoughts. I'm happy to schedule a follow-up with all of us and introduce you to the other researchers on the project, as well. Thanks!

Cheers,
Alex

--

Alex Jakubow, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Empirical Research and Data Support Services
Duke Law Data Lab
Duke University School of Law