SEATTLEU

November 17, 2016

Attention: Stephanie Happold
Data Dissemination Committee
Administrative Office of the Courts
PO Box 41170
Olympia, WA 98504-11

Dear Data Dissemination Committee Members,

The Subprime Mortgage Crisis and resultant foreclosures fomented the ongoing Great Recession. While the impact of these foreclosures has come in the form of decreasing tax revenues for municipal, state, and federal coffers and spurred the current economic crisis, few have examined the impact of the foreclosure crisis on the criminal justice system beyond crime rates and agency budget cuts. One potential impact of the housing crisis on the criminal justice system may involve access to surety bonds to secure release from jail after an arrest. An arrestee without access to sufficient collateral may not qualify for bond. This study seeks to examine the relationship between foreclosure rates and access to surety bonds in Orange County, Florida and King County, Washington, from 2005 to 2011. The information will be used in an academic research study. The data will not be disseminated and will be only used to provide an answer to the above research question. We will report aggregate findings only.

We ask that the Data Dissemination Committee Members approve our data request, which includes financial data (one variable: bond amount). Without this information, we will not be able to answer our research question.

Best Regards,

Peter A. Collins | Ph.D.
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT | SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
901 12th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122-1090
Office: (206) 296-5474 | Email: collinsp@seattleu.edu