

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Moon v. Whetstone

Moon · No. Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-00782 (UNA) · Decided May 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia grants the plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis and dismisses the complaint as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) (i). The court concludes that the complaint's allegations of an expansive criminal conspiracy are irrational, wholly incredible, and insufficient to invoke subject matter jurisdiction.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Christopher R. Cooper
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
DECIDED	May 8, 2026
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 1:26-cv-00782 (UNA)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	On initial review of a pro se complaint and an application to proceed in forma pauperis, the court granted in forma pauperis status and dismissed the complaint as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) (i).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On initial review under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i), the court considered whether the complaint was frivolous and whether it stated a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published district court memorandum opinion; no reporter citation appears in the source.

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- pleadings
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint stated a plausible claim for relief.
2. Whether the complaint was frivolous or malicious because its allegations lacked an arguable basis in law or fact, were irrational or wholly incredible, and were plainly abusive of the judicial process.
3. Whether dismissal was required under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

HOLDINGS

1. A complaint is frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis in law or fact or alleges irrational, wholly incredible, or wholly fanciful events; a complaint that is plainly abusive of the judicial process is malicious. Plaintiff's complaint fell into both categories.
2. A complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim for relief that is plausible on its face; Plaintiff's complaint did not satisfy that standard.
3. Federal courts lack power to entertain claims that are so attenuated and unsubstantial as to be absolutely devoid of merit; because the complaint was frivolous and malicious, the court could not exercise subject matter jurisdiction over it.
4. The court dismissed the complaint and the case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’”

“A complaint that lacks “an arguable basis either in law or in fact” is frivolous”

“The instant Complaint falls into both categories; accordingly, the court cannot exercise subject matter jurisdiction over it.”

“For the foregoing reasons, the Complaint, ECF No. 1, and this case, are dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(i).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Adrian Damico Moon filed a pro se complaint alleging that the defendant and numerous other persons and entities, including judges and a spiritual being, engaged in a criminal conspiracy against him. He alleged that the conspiracy was intended to dismiss his federal lawsuits and deny him the opportunity to intervene in other federal cases, along with allegations of domestic terrorism and other wrongdoing. The pleading also contained sweeping religious proclamations and was described by the court as rambling and largely incomprehensible.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a pro se complaint against Leah Whetstone and an application for leave to proceed in forma pauperis. The district court granted the application after initial review but dismissed the complaint and the case as frivolous because the allegations were rambling, largely incomprehensible, irrational, and plainly abusive of the judicial process.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989)
- Crisafi v. Holland, 655 F.2d 1305, 1307-09 (D.C. Cir. 1981)
- Hagans v. Lavine, 415 U.S. 528, 536-37 (1974)
- Newburyport Water Co. v. Newburyport, 193 U.S. 561, 579 (1904)
- Tooley v. Napolitano, 586 F.3d 1006, 1010 (D.C. Cir. 2009)
- Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 33 (1992)
- Ibrahim v. Dist. of Columbia, Nos. 93-0002, Civ. A. 93-0060, 1993 WL 30814, at *1 (D.D.C. Jan. 29, 1993)
- Ibrahim v. D.C. Dep't of Corrections, No. 93-7029, 1993 WL 328110 (D.C. Cir. July 7, 1993) (per curiam)

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