

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
NORTH CAROLINA, WESTERN DIVISION

Taurean Small v. Federal Trade Commission, et al.

Small · No. 5:25-cv-00330-M · Decided March 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina adopts a magistrate judge’s Memorandum and Recommendation recommending dismissal of Taurean Small’s complaint against the Federal Trade Commission and other defendants. Because no objections were filed and the court found no clear error, the complaint was dismissed for failure to state a viable claim, and the Clerk was directed to close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Western Division
DECIDED	March 20, 2026
DOCKET	5:25-cv-00330-M
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Memorandum and Recommendation recommending dismissal of the complaint for failure to state a viable claim. No objections were filed.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Absent a specific and timely objection to a magistrate judge's recommendation, the district court reviews for clear error and need not provide an explanation for adopting the recommendation. Portions to which objection is made are reviewed de novo under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Taurean Small v. Federal Trade Commission, et al.

TOPICS

- pleadings
- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

federal civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should review the magistrate judge's Memorandum and Recommendation for clear error when no timely objections were filed.
2. Whether the complaint should be dismissed for failure to state a viable claim.

HOLDINGS

1. When no specific and timely objection is filed, the district court reviews the magistrate judge's recommendation for clear error and may adopt it without providing an explanation.
2. The complaint was dismissed for failure to state a viable claim.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Absent a specific and timely objection, the court reviews only for "clear error" and need not give any explanation for adopting the recommendation."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion provides no substantive facts concerning the underlying dispute or the claims against the Federal Trade Commission. Plaintiff filed a complaint and sought to proceed without paying a filing fee. The magistrate judge recommended dismissal for failure to state a viable claim, and the district court adopted that recommendation after finding no clear error.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Magistrate Judge Robert T. Numbers II allowed Plaintiff to proceed without paying a filing fee and recommended dismissal of the complaint. The recommendation was issued on October 14, 2025, and objections were due October 31, 2025. After receiving the recommendation for disposition on November 14, 2025, the district court found no clear error, adopted the recommendation, dismissed the complaint, and directed the Clerk to close the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Mathews v. Weber, 423 U.S. 261, 271 (1976)
- Diamond v. Colonial Life & Accident Ins. Co., 416 F.3d 310, 315 (4th Cir. 2005)