

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Niche Sanders v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

Sanders · No. 2:25-cv-02428-MDC · Decided December 9, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada grants Niche Sanders’s application to proceed in forma pauperis in a Social Security disability appeal. The court screens the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e), finds that it states a plausible claim challenging the Commissioner’s denial of Disability Insurance Benefits, and directs the complaint to be filed and served.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Maximiliano D. Couvillier, III
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	December 9, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-02428-MDC
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis and a complaint seeking judicial review of the Commissioner's denial of Disability Insurance Benefits. The court screened the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e) and determined that it stated a plausible claim.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e), the court determines whether the complaint is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant. The court accepts material allegations as true and construes them in the light most favorable to the plaintiff; a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter to state a facially plausible claim.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order
PARTIES	Niche Sanders v. Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss
- administrative law
- ada / disability

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

civil procedure

administrative law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Sanders demonstrated that she was unable to pay the filing fee and therefore could proceed in forma pauperis.
2. Whether Sanders's complaint seeking review of the Commissioner's denial of Disability Insurance Benefits stated a plausible claim and invoked the court's jurisdiction.

HOLDINGS

1. Sanders adequately demonstrated that she was unable to pay the filing fee or give security, so the court granted her application to proceed in forma pauperis.
2. The complaint stated a claim upon which relief could be granted because Sanders alleged that the Commissioner's denial of Disability Insurance Benefits and the Administrative Law Judge's decision were unsupported by the evidence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Therefore, the Court finds that plaintiff adequately shows she “is unable to pay such fees or give security therefor.”” (at 1)

“To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sanders alleged that she is disabled within the meaning of the Social Security Act and had applied for Disability Insurance Benefits under Title II. The Commissioner denied the application, and Sanders contended that the Administrative Law Judge's decision was not supported by the evidence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Sanders appealed an unfavorable decision by the Commissioner of Social Security to the District of Nevada. The court granted Sanders's application to proceed in forma pauperis, ordered the complaint filed, and directed service on the Commissioner under Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules for Social Security Actions under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)

- Russell v. Landrieu, 621 F.2d 1037, 1039 (9th Cir. 1980)
- Cato v. United States, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995)

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