

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Presidential Candidate Number P60005535 “also known as” (aka) Ronald Satish Emrit, & Presidential Committee/Political Action Committee/Separate Segregated Fund Number C00569897 d/b/a United Emrits of America v. Erin Burnett, Outfront of Cable News Network (CNN) Perhaps “Madame President,” The Hypothetical Erin Burnett for President 2028 Campaign, et al.

Emrit v. Burnett · No. 25-CV-2873 (PKC) (TAM) · Decided November 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The Eastern District of New York dismisses Ronald Satish Emrit’s pro se complaint as frivolous and for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. The court grants in forma pauperis status for purposes of the decision, declines to permit amendment, and orders the plaintiff to show cause why he should not be barred from filing future in forma pauperis actions in the district without prior permission. The court also certifies that any appeal would not be taken in good faith.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Pamela K. Chen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DECIDED               | November 24, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| DOCKET                | 25-CV-2873 (PKC) (TAM)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DISPOSITION           | dismissed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Pro se plaintiff filed an in forma pauperis complaint asserting tort-related allegations and seeking injunctive relief. The district court granted IFP status for purposes of the decision, screened the complaint sua sponte, dismissed it, and ordered plaintiff to show cause why restrictions should not be imposed on future IFP filings. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | On IFP screening, the court may dismiss an action that is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim, or seeks monetary relief from an immune defendant under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). The court may                                                                                                                                       |

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           | also dismiss sua sponte for lack of subject matter jurisdiction under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(h)(3). At the pleading stage, well-pleaded, nonconclusory factual allegations are accepted as true, and pro se pleadings are liberally construed.                                                                                                  |
| <b>PRECEDENTIAL VALUE</b> | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>PARTIES</b>            | Presidential Candidate Number P60005535, also known as Ronald Satish Emrit, Presidential Committee/Political Action Committee/Separate Segregated Fund Number C00569897 d/b/a United Emrits of America v. Erin Burnett, Outfront of Cable News Network (CNN), Volodymyr Zelensky, Estate of Alexei Navalny, Estate of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Other defendants |

## TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction civil procedure motions to dismiss injunctions sanctions

## PRACTICE AREAS

federal civil procedure federal jurisdiction in forma pauperis screening sanctions and filing restrictions  
torts

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the complaint established federal question jurisdiction.
2. Whether the complaint established diversity jurisdiction when plaintiff alleged an amount in controversy of zero.
3. Whether the complaint was frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).
4. Whether plaintiff should be granted leave to amend.
5. Whether plaintiff should be required to show cause why restrictions should not be imposed on future in forma pauperis filings.

## HOLDINGS

1. The complaint did not establish federal question jurisdiction because it alleged only tortious conduct and did not assert a cause of action arising under federal law.
2. The complaint did not establish diversity jurisdiction because plaintiff alleged an amount in controversy of zero, below the statutory threshold.
3. The complaint was frivolous because its allegations lacked an arguable basis in law or fact and included allegations that were delusory or irrational.
4. Leave to amend was properly denied because amendment would be futile where the substance of the claim was frivolous on its face.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

“The Court dismisses Plaintiff’s Complaint for two, independent reasons.” (Discussion)

“Plaintiff’s Complaint, filed in forma pauperis, is dismissed as frivolous.” (Conclusion)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The complaint alleged that Erin Burnett made racist or condescending comments, defamed Presidents Trump and Clinton by implying that they appeared on a Jeffrey Epstein client list, and devoted excessive coverage to Alexei Navalny and Volodymyr Zelensky. Plaintiff also asserted unrelated allegations concerning his music career, his father, scientific concepts, a patent, a restaurant, and alleged intentional infliction of emotional distress based on the deactivation of a WhatsApp account. He sought an injunction requiring CNN to stop defaming Donald Trump and apologize for remarks concerning Steph Curry’s daughter.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action on November 17, 2025. The court granted the application to proceed in forma pauperis for purposes of screening and dismissed the complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and, alternatively, as frivolous under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). The court declined to grant leave to amend because amendment would be futile, ordered plaintiff to show cause regarding a prospective filing injunction, stayed further proceedings pending the show-cause period, and denied IFP status for any appeal.

## DISPOSITION

dismissed

## CASES CITED

- Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)
- Livingston v. Adirondack Beverage Co., 141 F.3d 434, 437 (2d Cir. 1998)
- Scanlon v. Vermont, 423 F. App’x 78, 79 (2d Cir. 2011) (summary order)
- Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 327 (1989)
- Denton v. Hernandez, 504 U.S. 25, 32–33 (1992)
- Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007)
- Hughes v. Rowe, 449 U.S. 5, 9–10 (1980)
- McLeod v. Jewish Guild for the Blind, 864 F.3d 154, 156–57 (2d Cir. 2017)
- Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co., 621 F.3d 111, 124 (2d Cir. 2010)
- Ordonez v. USAA, No. 11-CV-5286 (HB), 2013 WL 837599, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 6, 2013)
- Surgicore of Jersey City v. Anthem Life & Disability Insurance Co., No. 19-CV-3482 (BMC), 2020 WL 32447, at \*2 n.1 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 2, 2020)
- Soto v. Tesla Inc., No. 25-CV-1544 (LLS), 2025 WL 1591794, at \*3 (S.D.N.Y. June 4, 2025)
- Taylor v. Securus Technologies, Inc., No. 25-CV-1416, 2025 WL 1181713, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. Apr. 23, 2025)
- Emrit v. Combs, No. 24-CV-0213, 2024 WL 168331, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 16, 2024)

- *Dolan v. Connolly*, 794 F.3d 290, 295 (2d Cir. 2015)
- *Chavis v. Chappius*, 618 F.3d 162, 170 (2d Cir. 2010)
- *Salahuddin v. Cuomo*, 861 F.2d 40, 42 (2d Cir. 1988)
- *Hill v. Curcione*, 657 F.3d 116, 123–24 (2d Cir. 2011)
- *Emrit v. Musk*, No. 25-CV-0060, 2025 WL 307139, at \*2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 27, 2025)
- *Hong Mai Sa v. Doe*, 406 F.3d 155, 158 (2d Cir. 2005)
- *In re Sassower*, 20 F.3d 42, 44 (2d Cir. 1994)
- *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962)

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