

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.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	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)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK -----
 -----x Presidential Candidate Number P60005535 “also known as” (aka)
 RONALD SATISH EMRIT, & Presidential Committee/Political Action Committee/Separate
 Segregated Fund MEMORANDUM & ORDER (SSF) Number C00569897 d/b/a United Emrits
 25-CV-2873 (PKC) (TAM) of America, Plaintiff, - against - ERIN BURNETT, Outfront of Cable
 News Network (CNN) Perhaps “Madame President,” The Hypothetical Erin Burnett for President
 2028 Campaign, et al. Defendants. -----x PAMELA K.
 CHEN, United States District Judge: On November 17, 2025, Plaintiff Ronald Satish Emrit,
 proceeding pro se, filed this action against Defendants Erin Burnett; Volodymyr Zelensky; the
 Estate of Alexei Navalny; the Estate of Ruth Bader Ginsberg; and others, including individuals
 residing in Ukraine, Poland, Spain, Colombia, Panama, the Canary Islands, and Florida.

(Compl., Dkt. 1, at ECF1 1.) The Court grants Plaintiff’s application to proceed in forma pauperis
 (“IFP”) for purposes of this decision. (IFP Mot., Dkt. 2.) For the reasons set forth below, Plaintiff’s
 Complaint is dismissed. BACKGROUND Plaintiff’s Complaint contends that Defendant Burnett
 made racist comments, defamed Presidents Trump and Clinton by insinuating that they were on a
 client list maintained by Jeffrey 1 Citations to “ECF” refer to the pagination generated by the
 Court’s CM/ECF docketing system and not the document’s internal pagination.

Epstein, and spent too much time covering stories about Alexei Navalny and Volodymyr Zelensky.
 (Compl., Dkt. 1, at ECF 10–12.) Plaintiff also contends that Burnett made condescending
 comments towards the daughter of Steph and Ayesha Curry. (Id. at ECF 9, 13.) Plaintiff seeks an
 injunction against CNN preventing it from defaming Donald Trump and requiring it to apologize
 for the remarks made about Steph Curry’s daughter.

(Id. at ECF 13) Plaintiff’s Complaint also makes the following allegations: 1) he “wishes that the
 defendant Erin Burnett... would hurry up and run for president in 2028 so that [he] can get back to
 his amazing music career in which he has won awards from American Idol Underground” and
 others; 2) he has filed lawsuits against Elon Musk and Sean Combs, whom “nobody likes”; 3) his
 father won awards from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Rockville, Maryland; 4) he won

an NAACP scholarship; 5) his father played steel pan music for Robert F. Kennedy, the father of the current Health and Human Services director; 6) “cosmic microwave background radiation was discovered in 1965”; 7) Plaintiff has been trying to obtain a patent for “three groundbreaking and novel ideas related to quantum mechanics, astrophysics, special relativity, and general relativity and to a lesser extent, biomedical engineering and electrical engineering”; 8) electron orbitals are in the form of an electron wave, and are connected to the “Captain EO” movie at Epcot, which stars Michael Jackson; 9) a woman named Maria Cherniavska committed intentional infliction of emotional distress by deactivating her WhatsApp account without informing Plaintiff; and 10) “the Hooters restaurant in A1A and Las Olas in Fort Lauderdale... has something to do with cancer genes, oncogenes, retroviruses, and doll eyes.” (Id. at ECF 2–10.)

STANDARD OF REVIEW A complaint must plead sufficient facts to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). A court may dismiss a pro se action sua sponte under certain circumstances. A court may dismiss an IFP action under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) where it is satisfied that the action “(i) is frivolous or malicious; (ii) fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted; or (iii) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.” An action is “frivolous” when either: (1) “the ‘factual contentions are clearly baseless,’ such as when allegations are the product of delusion or fantasy”; or (2) “the claim is ‘based on an indisputably meritless legal theory.’” *Livingston v. Adirondack Beverage Co.*, 141 F.3d 434, 437 (2d Cir.

1998) (citations omitted). “An action is frivolous if it lacks an arguable basis in law or fact—i.e., where it is ‘based on an indisputably meritless legal theory’ or presents ‘factual contentions [which] are clearly baseless.’” *Scanlon v. Vermont*, 423 Fed. Appx. 78, 79 (2d Cir. 2011) (summary order) (quoting *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 327 (1989) (alteration in original)); see also *Denton v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 32–33 (1992) (“[A] finding of factual frivolousness is appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly incredible, whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict them.”).

Separately, a district court may dismiss a pro se complaint sua sponte where it determines that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.”). At the same time, it is axiomatic that pro se complaints are held to less stringent standards than pleadings drafted by attorneys, and the Court is required to read the Plaintiff’s pro se complaint liberally and interpret it as raising the strongest arguments it suggests.

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). At the pleadings stage of the proceeding, the Court must assume the truth of “all well-pleaded, nonconclusory factual allegations” in the complaint. *Kiobel v. Royal Dutch Petroleum Co.*, 621 F.3d 111, 124 (2d Cir.

2010) (citing *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 677 (2009)). DISCUSSION The Court dismisses Plaintiff's Complaint for two, independent reasons. First, the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. Plaintiff's Complaint only alleges tortious conduct by Defendants, (Compl., Dkt. 1, at ECF 10–12), and therefore does not satisfy the requirements for federal question jurisdiction, see 28 U.S.C. § 1331; *Ordonez v. USAA*, No. 11-CV-5286 (HB), 2013 WL 837599, at *3 (S.D.N.Y.

Mar. 6, 2013) (concluding that, because a plaintiff “brings only state tort claims and does not bring any cause of action implicating federal law,” the court lacked federal question jurisdiction). Nor does Plaintiff's Complaint meet the requirements for diversity jurisdiction, as he admits that he is seeking an amount in controversy of \$0. (Compl., Dkt. 1, at ECF 6–7); 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) (establishing an amount in controversy requirement of \$75,000); *Surgicore of Jersey City v. Anthem Life & Disability Ins.*

Co., No. 19-CV-3482 (BMC), 2020 WL 32447, at *2 n.1 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 2, 2020) (determining the court lacked diversity jurisdiction because the alleged amount in controversy was less than \$75,000). Thus, the Court must dismiss the action. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3).

Second, and in the alternative, the Court must dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint as frivolous. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Although the Court must grant Plaintiff's complaint the most liberal interpretation, Plaintiff's allegations concerning his music career, his father, Hooters, and electrons are exactly the kinds of delusory allegations courts have refused to entertain.

See *Soto v. Tesla Inc.*, No. 25-CV-1544 (LLS), 2025 WL 1591794, at *3 (S.D.N.Y. June 4, 2025) (dismissing as frivolous a plaintiff's allegations that “Elon Musk, Rupert Murdoch, and their companies have experimented on him, directed others to harass and intimidate him, and sent him inappropriate videos”); see also *Taylor v. Securus Techs., Inc.*, No. 25-CV-1416, 2025 WL 1181713, at *2 (E.D.N.Y.

Apr. 23, 2025) (dismissing the complaint as frivolous in light of the plaintiff's allegations that “a group of civilians hacked Securus Technologies' servers and exploited the surveillance system, publicly broadcasting Plaintiff's private experiences on social media”); *Emrit v. Combs*, No. 24-CV-0213, 2024 WL 168331, at *2 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 16, 2024) (dismissing a plaintiff's complaint upon finding it lacked an arguable basis in law or fact), appeal dismissed, No. 24-406, 2024 WL 3858937 (2d Cir.

July 26, 2024). The Court thus concludes that Plaintiff's allegations are meritless and lack a basis in reality. Generally, a court should not dismiss a pro se complaint “without... granting leave to amend at least once when a liberal reading of the complaint gives any indication that a valid claim might be stated.” *Dolan v. Connolly*, 794 F.3d 290, 295 (2d Cir.

2015) (quoting *Chavis v. Chappius*, 618 F.3d 162, 170 (2d Cir. 2010)). But a court has inherent power to dismiss without leave to amend or plead “where... the substance of the claim pleaded is

frivolous on its face,” see *Salahuddin v. Cuomo*, 861 F.2d 40, 42 (2d Cir. 1988), or where amendment would otherwise be futile, *Hill v. Curcione*, 657 F. 3d 116, 123–24 (2d Cir.

2011). Because the Court concludes that granting leave to amend would be futile, the Court declines to do so. ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE REGARDING FILING INJUNCTION In dismissing this action, the Court takes judicial notice of the fact that Plaintiff has filed over one thousand cases in the federal courts across the country.² The Court has previously warned Plaintiff that “filing of repetitive, vexatious, and frivolous litigation may result in the imposition of an injunction prohibiting him from making future filings seeking in forma pauperis status without leave of the Court.” See *Emrit v. Musk*, No. 25-CV-0060, 2025 WL 307139, at *2 (E.D.N.Y.

Jan. 27, 2025); *Emrit v. Combs*, 2024 WL 168331, at *2. Given Plaintiff’s litigation history, he is ordered to show cause by written affirmation within 30 days of this Order, why he 2 See PACER, www.pacer.gov (last visited Nov. 18, 2025); see *Emrit v. Combs*, 2024 WL 168331, at *2 (taking judicial notice of Plaintiff’s “multitude of federal complaints”). should not be barred from filing any future IFP actions in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York without first obtaining permission from the Court to do so.

If Plaintiff fails to show cause within 30 days of the entry of this Order or should his affirmation fail to set forth good cause why an injunction should not be entered, he will be barred from filing any further IFP actions in this Court without prior Court permission. See *Hong Mai Sa v. Doe*, 406 F.3d 155, 158 (2d Cir. 2005) (“If a litigant has a history of filing ‘vexatious, harassing or duplicative lawsuits,’ courts may impose sanctions, including restrictions on future access to the judicial system.” (citation omitted)); *In re Sassower*, 20 F.3d 42, 44 (2d Cir.

1994) (“With respect to civil litigation, courts have recognized that the normal opportunity to initiate lawsuits may be limited once a litigant has demonstrated a clear pattern of abusing the litigation process by filing vexatious and frivolous complaints.”); *Emrit v. Musk*, 2025 WL 307139, at *2. CONCLUSION Plaintiff’s Complaint, filed in forma pauperis, is dismissed as frivolous.

See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Plaintiff is ordered to show cause by written affirmation, within thirty (30) days of the entry of this Order, why he should not be barred from filing any further IFP actions in this Court without first obtaining permission from the Court to do so. All further proceedings shall be stayed until the Plaintiff’s time to file his written affirmation has expired.

The Court certifies pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this Order would not be taken in good faith and therefore denies IFP status for the purpose of an appeal. See *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962).

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff and note the mailing on the docket. SO ORDERED. /s/ Pamela K. Chen Pamela K. Chen United States District Judge Dated:

November 24, 2025 Brooklyn, New York

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