

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ILLINOIS

Ana M. Otero, also known as Luana v. John P. Hackett and Ronald S.
Motil

Otero · No. 3:26-CV-203-NJR · Decided March 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois denied Ana M. Otero's motion to proceed without prepaying fees or costs after finding that her financial affidavit showed sufficient resources to pay the filing fee. The court dismissed her complaint without prejudice, holding that her claims against state court judges based on their judicial rulings were barred by judicial immunity, and allowed her until

TOPICS

civil procedure pleadings civil rights government liability damages

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure civil rights judicial immunity remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Otero demonstrated indigency sufficient to proceed without prepaying the filing fee under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1).
2. Whether the complaint stated a claim against the defendant judges for damages arising from their rulings in their judicial capacities.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Otero previously filed a small-claims action against the Wood River Police Department, which Judge Motil dismissed with prejudice, and a stalking/no-contact petition against her neighbors, which Judge Hackett denied. Otero then sued both judges in federal court, alleging that they improperly resolved her state-court matters. The district court denied her motion to proceed without prepaying fees or costs and dismissed the complaint without prejudice, allowing her until April 27, 2026, to pay the filing fee and file an amended complaint.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

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