

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Ronald Satish Smith v. Bill Gates, et al.

Smith v. Gates · No. 25-cv-3641-AGS-AHG · Decided January 27, 2026

OPINION

Gates

PER CURIAM.

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3 Ronald Satish SMITH, Case No.: 25-cv-3641-AGS-AHG 4 Plaintiff,

ORDER GRANTING IFP MOTION

5 v. (ECF 2) AND DISMISSING

COMPLAINT

6 Bill GATES, et al., 7 Defendants. 8 Plaintiff Ronald Smith moves to proceed without paying the
usual \$405 in court 9 fees. See *Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1176, 1177 (9th Cir. 1999) (“An
action may proceed 10 despite failure to pay the filing fees only if the party is granted IFP [in
forma pauperis] 11 status.”); 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a) (“filing fee of \$350”); Judicial Conference
Schedule of Fees, 12 District Court Misc. Fee Schedule, § 14 (eff. Dec. 1, 2023) (“Administrative
fee” of “\$55”). 13 Smith has no assets, and his disability payments hardly exceed his expenses
(see ECF 2), 14 so he need not pay the filing fees. See *Blount v. Saul*, No. 21-CV-0679-BLM,
2021 WL 15 1561453, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 21, 2021) (“[A] party need not be completely destitute
to 16 proceed IFP.”). 17 Next, the Court must screen the complaint and dismiss it if it is
“frivolous” or “fails 18 to state a claim.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). Smith seeks “500 billion
dollars” from—and 19 “an injunction and/or declaratory judgment” against—the defendant
corporations and 20 corporate leaders, “The Mythical Bavarian Illuminati as Urban Legend,” Pope
Leo XIV, 21 and others. But he does not have Article III standing to sue. To have standing, a
plaintiff 22 “must have suffered” a “concrete and particularized” “injury in fact.” *Lujan v.*
Defenders 23 of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). Smith alleges that defendants “have
committed 24 industrial espionage” and both “read the minds of” and “spy on” consumers. (ECF
1, at 25 8–9.) But he does not allege that he owns or has consumed any of defendants’ products or
26 that he has otherwise been the alleged misbehavior’s subject. So, he lacks standing. 27 Smith’s
IFP request is GRANTED, and his complaint is DISMISSED without 28 1 || prejudice and with
leave to amend. Any amended complaint is due February 27, 2026. 2 Dated: January 27, 2026 4
Hon. Andrew G. Schopler 5 United States District Judge 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

