

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
NEW YORK

Derrick Lee Cardell-Smith v. Sean John Combs; Sean John Combs
Enterprises; Sean “Puff Daddy” Combs; P. Diddy; Puffy Brother
Love; Fellow Convicted Felon Sean John Combs

Cardell-Smith v. Combs · No. 25cv9743 (LTS) · Decided December 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of New York dismissed Derrick Lee Cardell-Smith’s action against Sean John Combs and related defendants for the reasons stated in a December 2, 2025 order. The court certified that any appeal would not be taken in good faith and denied in forma pauperis status for purposes of an appeal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Laura Taylor Swain
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
DECIDED	December 4, 2025
DOCKET	25cv9743 (LTS)
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The plaintiff brought an action in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The court entered a civil judgment dismissing the action and denied in forma pauperis status for purposes of an appeal.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished
PARTIES	Derrick Lee Cardell-Smith v. Sean John Combs, Sean John Combs Enterprises, Sean “Puff Daddy” Combs, P. Diddy, Puffy Brother Love, Fellow Convicted Felon Sean John Combs

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the action should be dismissed for the reasons stated in the court's December 2, 2025 order.
2. Whether the court should certify under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that an appeal would not be taken in good faith and deny in forma pauperis status for purposes of an appeal.

HOLDINGS

1. The action is dismissed for the reasons stated in the court's December 2, 2025 order.
2. The court certified under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from the judgment would not be taken in good faith and denied in forma pauperis status for purposes of an appeal.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The opinion contains no substantive factual findings beyond identifying the plaintiff, defendants, and nature of the civil action. The court expressly relied on its December 2, 2025 order for the reasons supporting dismissal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

For the reasons stated in the court's December 2, 2025 order, the action was dismissed. On December 4, 2025, the court entered judgment, certified that an appeal would not be taken in good faith under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3), and denied in forma pauperis status for purposes of an appeal.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444-45 (1962)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK DERRICK LEE CARDELL-SMITH, Plaintiff, -against- 25cv9743 (LTS) SEAN JOHN COMBS; SEAN JOHN COMBS ENTERPRISES; SEAN “PUFF DADDY” CIVIL JUDGMENT COMBS; P. DIDDY; PUFFY BROTHER LOVE; FELLOW CONVICTED FELON SEAN JOHN COMBS, Defendants.

For the reasons stated in the December 2, 2025, order, this action is dismissed. The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from the Court’s judgment would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. See *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444-45 (1962). SO ORDERED. Dated: December 4, 2025 New York, New York /s/ Laura Taylor Swain LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN Chief United States District Judge

