

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

Clervrain v. Raimondo

Clervrain · No. C.A. No. 22-124JJM · Decided May 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island recommends denying Manetirony Clervrain’s motion to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal. The recommendation concludes that the application failed to satisfy Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24(a) and that the appeal was not taken in good faith because it lacked merit.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Patricia A. Sullivan
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island
DECIDED	May 27, 2026
DOCKET	C.A. No. 22-124JJM
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Report and recommendation on Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal from the denial of a motion to reopen the action.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Whether an appeal is taken in good faith under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) is judged by an objective standard: whether the litigant seeks appellate review of any issue that is not frivolous.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Manetirony Clervrain, et al. v. Gina Raimondo, et al.

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- appellate procedure
- in forma pauperis proceedings

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's affidavit satisfied the requirements of Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24(a)(1) and Form 4 for proceeding in forma pauperis on appeal.
2. Whether Plaintiff's appeal was taken in good faith under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3).

HOLDINGS

1. The application should be denied because the affidavit failed to provide the information required by Rule 24(a)(1) and Form 4 concerning Plaintiff's inability to pay, entitlement to redress, and intended appellate issues.
2. The application should be denied because the appeal was not taken in good faith and lacked merit.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Good faith for purposes of § 1915(a)(3) is judged by an objective standard; that is, whether the litigant ‘seeks appellate review of any issue not frivolous.’”

“An appeal is deemed frivolous when it is based on an indisputably meritless legal theory or factual allegations that are clearly baseless.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's underlying complaint had been dismissed as frivolous and for failure to state a claim. After the district court denied a motion to reopen the case, Plaintiff appealed and filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis. His affidavit acknowledged employment and income from a business, profession, or other self-employment but provided no information about the amount of his income, and it did not adequately state his inability to pay, entitlement to redress, or intended appellate issues.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The complaint was summarily dismissed in 2022 for failure to state a claim and as frivolous, and the district court denied Plaintiff's motion to proceed in forma pauperis. Plaintiff later moved to reopen the case; the magistrate judge recommended denial, and the district court adopted that recommendation. Plaintiff filed an appeal in May 2026 and submitted a renewed motion to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal. The magistrate judge recommended that the district court deny the motion because the affidavit failed to satisfy Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 24(a)(1) and because the appeal was not taken in good faith.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Clervrain v. McKee, C.A. Nos. 20-535WES & 22-124WES, 2024 WL 4785142, at *2 (D.R.I. Nov. 14, 2024)
- Clervrain v. Raimondo, C.A. No. 22-124WES, 2022 WL 1157475, at *2 (D.R.I. Apr. 19, 2022)
- De Barros v. From You Flowers, LLC, 566 F. Supp. 3d 149, 152 (D.R.I. 2021)

- *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962)
- *Sanchez v. Brown Univ. Health*, No. 1:25-cv-00075-LM-TSM, 2025 WL 1779157, at *2 (D.R.I. June 27, 2025)
- *Miguel v. Wall*, C.A. No. 15-281ML, 2016 WL 11652896, at *1 (D.R.I. Feb. 16, 2016)
- *Smith v. 6th Div. Dist. Ct.*, C.A. No. 22-131JJM, 2022 WL 2704210, at *1 (D.R.I. June 21, 2022)
- *DuLaurence v. Telegen*, No. 15-1537, 2016 WL 10454553, at *1 (1st Cir. Nov. 30, 2016)
- *Ausar v. Coyne-Fague*, C.A. No. 22-150 WES, 2023 WL 5726382, at *2 (D.R.I. Aug. 9, 2023)
- *Brenner v. Williams-Sonoma, Inc.*, 867 F.3d 294, 297 n.7 (1st Cir. 2017)
- *Santos-Santos v. Torres-Centeno*, 842 F.3d 163, 168 (1st Cir. 2016)

OPINION

Clervrain

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND

MANETIRONY CLERVRAIN, et al., : Plaintiffs, :

: C.A. No. 22-124JJM

v. : GINA RAIMONDO, et al., : Defendants. : _____:

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF MOTION

TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS ON APPEAL

PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN, United States Magistrate Judge. On May 19, 2026, pro se¹ Plaintiff Manetirony Clervrain filed an appeal of my 2024 recommendation (which the Court adopted) that his motion to reopen this and other cases be denied. See *Clervrain v. McKee*, C.A. Nos. 20-535WES & 22-124WES, 2024 WL 4785142, at

*2 (D.R.I. Nov. 14, 2024), adopted by text orders (D.R.I. 22-124WES: Dec. 17, 2024 & 20-

535WES: Feb. 21, 2025). Plaintiff's motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP") in this district court action had been denied based on the summary dismissal of the complaint for failure to state a claim and as frivolous in 2022. *Clervrain v. Raimondo*, C.A. No. 22-124WES, 2022 WL 1157475, at *2 (D.R.I. Apr. 19, 2022), adopted by text order (D.R.I. May 10, 2022). Seemingly in connection with the 2026 appeal, Plaintiff has filed a motion for leave to proceed IFP, which has been referred to me.² ECF No. 19. Because my determination is that it should be 1 In considering Plaintiff's arguments, the Court has afforded Plaintiff the leniency due to any pro se litigant. See *De Barros v. From You Flowers, LLC*, 566 F. Supp. 3d 149, 152 (D.R.I. 2021). 2 Plaintiff is subject to an order barring additional filings in this district court action. Text Order of Dec. 17, 2024. Because I have interpreted the IFP motion as related to Plaintiff's appeal, I have not directed that it be returned but rather recommend that it be considered by the Court. denied, I am proceeding by report and recommendation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B). When a litigant

was not permitted to proceed in forma pauperis in a district court action, the Court may authorize an appeal “without prepayment of fees or security therefor,” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), when a litigant follows the procedural requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(1) by submitting an affidavit to the district court that (A) shows “the party’s inability to pay or to give security for fees and costs; (B) claims an entitlement to redress; and (C) states the issues that the party intends to present on appeal.” To proceed IFP on appeal without paying fees or costs, the litigant’s appeal must also be taken in good faith. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a); see *Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 445 (1962); *Sanchez v. Brown Univ. Health*, No. 1:25-cv-00075-LM-TSM, 2025 WL 1779157, at *2 (D.R.I. June 27, 2025), approved, 2025 WL 2262895 (D.R.I. Aug. 7, 2025). Rule 24(a)(1)(A) requires that the affidavit conform to the detail required by Form 4 of the Appellate Rules Appendix of Forms. The first reason why Plaintiff’s IFP motion should be denied is the failure of his proffered affidavit to supply the information required by Form 4 and Fed. R. App. P. 24(a)(1) about his inability to pay, his entitlement to redress and his issues on appeal. Indeed, far from establishing the inability to pay, Plaintiff’s affidavit acknowledges that he is employed and has income from a business, profession or other self-employment yet it supplies no information regarding his income. ECF No. 19 at 1-2. Based on these material deficiencies, I recommend that the Court deny Plaintiff’s motion to proceed IFP on appeal. The second reason is more substantive – Plaintiff’s IFP motion should be denied because the appeal lacks merit and is not taken in good faith. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a); *Miguel v. Wall*, C.A. No. 15-281ML, 2016 WL 11652896, at *1 (D.R.I. Feb. 16, 2016), adopted, 2016 WL 11652898 (D.R.I. Mar. 25, 2016). “Good faith for purposes of § 1915(a)(3) is judged by an objective standard; that is, whether the litigant ‘seeks appellate review of any issue not frivolous.’” *Smith v. 6th Div. Dist. Ct.*, C.A. No. 22-131JJM, 2022 WL 2704210, at *1 (D.R.I. June 21, 2022) (quoting *DuLaurence v. Telegen*, No. 15-1537, 2016 WL 10454553, at *1 (1st Cir. Nov. 30, 2016)), adopted by text order (D.R.I. July 15, 2022), affirmed, No. 22-1329, 2022 WL 19763141 (1st Cir. Dec. 5, 2022). “An appeal is deemed frivolous when it is based on an indisputably meritless legal theory or factual allegations that are clearly baseless.” *Ausar v. Coyne-Fague*, C.A. No. 22-150 WES, 2023 WL 5726382, at *2 (D.R.I. Aug. 9, 2023) (internal quotation marks omitted), adopted by text order (D.R.I. Aug. 24, 2023), certificate of appealability denied, No. 23-1550 (1st Cir. Aug. 12, 2025). In this case, the Court has found that Plaintiff’s complaint was frivolous. *Clervrain*, 2022 WL 1157475, at *2. Similarly, the Court denied Plaintiff’s motion to reopen following dismissal because the motion was hopelessly out of time and consisted of “rambling and incomprehensible allegations similar to those the Court previously dismissed as frivolous[.]” with “nothing that discernably could be interpreted as grounds for reopening these cases.” *Clervrain*, 2024 WL 4785142, at *2. Accordingly, I recommend that the IFP motion be denied because the appeal is not taken in good faith. Based on the foregoing, I recommend that the Court find that Plaintiff’s IFP application fails to conform to Fed. R. App. P. 24(a) and that his appeal is not taken in good faith and deny his IFP motion (ECF No. 19). Any objections to this report and recommendation must be specific and must be served

and filed with the Clerk of the Court within fourteen days of service of this report and recommendation. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); DRI LR Cv 72. Failure to file specific objections in a timely manner constitutes waiver of the right to review by the District Court and the right to appeal the District Court's decision. See *Brenner v. Williams-Sonoma, Inc.*, 867 F.3d 294, 297 n.7 (1st Cir. 2017); *Santos-Santos v. Torres-Centeno*, 842 F.3d 163, 168 (1st Cir. 2016). /s/ Patricia A. Sullivan

PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN

United States Magistrate Judge May 27, 2026