In the United States Court of Federal Claims

(Pro Se)

THEODORE HAUGLAND, Plaintiffs, v. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Defendant.	)	No. 25-710 (Filed: May 27, 2025)

ORDER

Plaintiff Theodore Haugland, proceeding pro se, filed this civil action against the United States on April 24, 2025. Compl., Docket No. 1. Mr. Haugland also submitted an application to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP") pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915. Mot. for Leave to Proceed IFP, Docket No. 2. "[P]roceeding in forma pauperis . . . is a privilege, not a right. Bryant v. United States, 618 Fed. Appx. 683, 685 (Fed. Cir. 2015) (Mem.) (alterations in original) (quoting White v. Colorado, 157 F.3d 1226, 1233 (10th Cir. 1998)). The decision to allow a litigant to proceed in such status is committed to the court's sound discretion. See id.; see also Chamberlain v. United States, 655 F. App'x 822, 825 (Fed. Cir. 2016) (stating 28 U.S.C. § 1915 "permits but does not require, a court to allow a party to proceed without paying the requisite fees").

On February 6, 2024, Mr. Haugland filed a similar action against the United States in the United States District Court for the District of Hawai'i. Compl., Haugland v. United States, No. 24-062 (D. Haw. Feb. 6, 2024), Docket No. 1. Mr. Haugland also filed an IFP application. Mot. to Proceed IFP, Haugland v. United States, No. 24-062 (D. Haw. Feb. 6, 2024), Docket No. 2. In that application, Mr. Haugland stated that for the previous twelve months he had an average monthly income of $17,909, including $5,300 from employment. Order at 2, Haugland v. United States, No. 24-062, 2024 WL 553992 (D. Haw. Feb. 12, 2024), ECF No. 9. Mr. Haugland further stated that in the next month he expected a total income of $47,916. Id. Mr. Haugland also stated that he had three minor-dependents and average monthly expenses of $18,784. Id. Based on these statements, the court denied Mr. Haugland's IFP application and ordered him to pay the required filing fee. Id. at 4. The court also found that Mr. Haugland's statements contradicted each other and concluded that "[Mr.] Haugland has been less than fully candid." Id.

In the instant application, however, Mr. Haugland states that he was last employed in December 2023 and had a monthly income of $8,392. Mot. to Proceed IFP at 2. Mr. Haugland also states that he has two minor-dependents and average monthly expenses of $2,678. Id. The Court takes note of the inconsistencies between the instant application and Mr. Haugland's

application before the District of Hawai‘i. Therefore, Mr. Haugland has not demonstrated to this Court that he would be unable to pay the cost of the proceedings.

Accordingly, Mr. Haugland’s motion to proceed IFP is **DENIED**. The Court orders Mr. Haugland to pay the $405 filing fee on or before **June 26, 2026**, or his complaint will be dismissed for failure to prosecute pursuant to RCFC 41(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

ELAINE D. KAPLAN
Judge