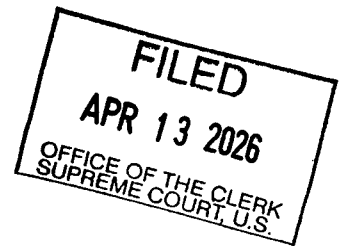


No.
26 - 5075



**IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES**

THOMAS RICHARD WARD, Petitioner,

vs.

BEST BUY STORES, L.P., and CITIBANK, N.A., Respondents.

**ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO
THE SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA**

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

Thomas Richard Ward, *pro se*
8115 Gale Street
Annandale, Virginia 22003
703-470-5047
twconsult1995@gmail.com

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

The petitioner asks leave to the attached petition for a writ of certiorari without prepayment of costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*.

Please check the appropriate lines below:

☐ Petitioner has been previously granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in

☒ Petitioner has not previously been granted leave to proceed in forma

pauperis in any other court. Petitioner submitted Motion in the following SCOTUS matters:

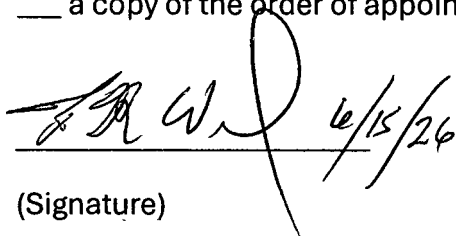
- Supreme Court of the United States Case No. 23-7733 and related filings:
- Non-numbered SCOTUS Certiorari regarding Supreme Court of Virginia Record Nos. 1921-22-4 and 0883-23-4 regarding Fairfax County Circuit Court Case No. CL-2017-03891.
 - To the extent any prior request was denied or required amendment, such circumstances arose from Petitioner's good-faith efforts to file a Motion for Amendment to correct and supplement financial disclosures after discovering minor omissions in previously submitted information with two (2) related SCOTUS Certioraris.
 - Matters referenced during oral argument before the Supreme Court of Virginia on December 2, 2025, in Record No. 250453, and in Petitioner's Affidavit and Certification of Transcripts and Record Materials filed December 21, 2025.

☒ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration in support of this motion is attached hereto.

☐ Petitioner's affidavit or declaration is not attached because the court below appointed counsel in the current proceeding, and:

☐ The appointment was made under the following provision of law: , or

☐ a copy of the order of appointment is appended.


(Signature)

**AFFIDAVIT OR DECLARATION
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

I, THOMAS RICHARD WARD, am the petitioner in the above-entitled case. In support of my motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, I state that because of my poverty I am unable to pay the costs of this case or to give security therefor; and I believe I am entitled to redress.

1. For both you and your spouse estimate the average amount of money received from each of the following sources during the past 12 months. Adjust any amount that was received weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually to show the monthly rate. Use gross amounts, that is, amounts before any deductions for taxes or otherwise.

Income source	Average monthly amount during the past 12 months		Amount expected next month	
	You	Spouse <i>Foreign</i>	You	Spouse
Employment	\$ <u>1,500</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Self-employment	\$ <u>2,600</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>2600</u>	\$ _____
Income from real property (such as rental income)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Interest and dividends	\$ <u>26</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>27</u>	\$ _____
Gifts	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Alimony	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Child Support	\$ <u>-931</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>-931</u>	\$ _____
Retirement (such as social security, pensions, annuities, insurance)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Disability (such as social security, insurance payments)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Unemployment payments	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Public-assistance (such as welfare)	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Other (specify): _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ _____
Total monthly income:	\$ <u>3,195</u>	\$ _____	\$ <u>1,695</u>	\$ _____

2. List your employment history for the past two years, most recent first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
<u>Community Force</u>	<u>44335 Premier Pkwy</u>	<u>Nov 2024</u>	\$ <u>10,774</u>
	<u>ASBURN, VA</u>	<u>March 2025</u>	\$
			\$

3. List your spouse's employment history for the past two years, most recent employer first. (Gross monthly pay is before taxes or other deductions.)

Employer	Address	Dates of Employment	Gross monthly pay
<u>Embassy 9</u>	<u>Quito</u>	<u>Nov 2024</u>	\$ <u>Unknown</u>
<u>Ecuador</u>			\$
			\$

4. How much cash do you and your spouse have? \$ cs 7
Below, state any money you or your spouse have in bank accounts or in any other financial institution.

Type of account (e.g., checking or savings)	Amount you have	Amount your spouse has
<u>Bank Fund Federal Credit Union</u>	\$ <u>308.50</u>	\$ <u>121.91</u>
	\$	\$
	\$	\$

cs 7
End
May 2026

5. List the assets, and their values, which you own or your spouse owns. Do not list clothing and ordinary household furnishings.

☐ Home
Value 351,000

☐ Other real estate
Value _____

☐ Motor Vehicle #1
Year, make & model 2014 HONDA CRU
Value 1,210 196,000
Miles

☐ Motor Vehicle #2
Year, make & model _____
Value _____

☐ Other assets
Description _____
Value _____

6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed.

Person owing you or your spouse money	Amount owed to you	Amount owed to your spouse
<u>BANK FUNDING CU</u>	\$ <u>275,809 Mortgage</u>	\$ _____
<u>Mom</u>	\$ _____	\$ _____
<u>CITI BANK credit CARD</u>	\$ <u>35,872</u>	\$ _____

7. State the persons who rely on you or your spouse for support. For minor children, list initials instead of names (e.g. "J.S." instead of "John Smith").

Name	Relationship	Age
<u>KTW</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>AMW</u>	<u>Daughter</u>	<u>12</u>
_____	_____	_____

8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, or annually to show the monthly rate.

	You	Your spouse
Rent or home-mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home)	\$ <u>3225.74</u>	\$ _____
Are real estate taxes included? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
Is property insurance included? ☒ Yes ☐ No		
Utilities (electricity, heating fuel, water, sewer, and telephone)	\$ <u>476</u>	\$ _____
Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep)	\$ <u>350</u>	\$ _____
Food	\$ <u>421</u>	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ <u>59</u>	\$ _____
Laundry and dry-cleaning	\$ <u>15</u>	\$ _____
Medical and dental expenses	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ _____

	You	Your spouse
Transportation (not including motor vehicle payments)	\$ <u>125</u>	\$ _____
Recreation, entertainment, newspapers, magazines, etc.	\$ <u>15</u>	\$ _____
Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
Homeowner's or renter's	\$ _____	\$ _____
Life	\$ _____	\$ _____
Health	\$ _____	\$ _____
Motor Vehicle	\$ <u>185</u>	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)		
(specify): _____	\$ <u>1,125</u>	\$ _____
Installment payments		
Motor Vehicle	\$ _____	\$ _____
Credit card(s)	\$ <u>2,500</u>	\$ _____
Department store(s)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to others <i>included in Alimony</i>	\$ <u>-931</u>	\$ _____
Regular expenses for operation of business, profession, or farm (attach detailed statement)	\$ <u>500</u>	\$ _____
Other (specify): _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total monthly expenses:	\$ <u>8996</u>	\$ _____

Excluding child support (931) to avoid double counting

9. Do you expect any major changes to your monthly income or expenses or in your assets or liabilities during the next 12 months?

☒ Yes ☐ No If yes, describe on an attached sheet.

Hope to find full time work (w2) Increase in taxes.

10. Have you paid – or will you be paying – an attorney any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how much? _____

If yes, state the attorney's name, address, and telephone number:

11. Have you paid—or will you be paying—anyone other than an attorney (such as a paralegal or a typist) any money for services in connection with this case, including the completion of this form?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, how much? _____

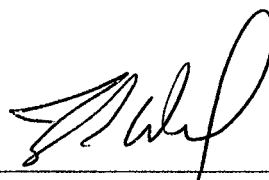
If yes, state the person's name, address, and telephone number:

12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you cannot pay the costs of this case.

*Please see attached below.
ADA - Dyslexia tendencies*

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on: June 15, 2026



(Signature)

I, Thomas Richard Ward, Petitioner in the above-captioned matter, respectfully move for leave to file the attached Petition for a Writ of Certiorari without prepayment of fees and costs and to proceed *in forma pauperis*. In support of this Motion, I also state as follows:

I. Prior Grants of In Forma Pauperis Status

Petitioner has seemingly previously been permitted to proceed *in forma pauperis* or has been found financially eligible for such status in various judicial proceedings, including matters before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Supreme Court of Virginia, Court of Appeals of Virginia, and the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Relevant and related proceedings include, among others:

- Supreme Court of the United States Case No. 23-7733 and related filings:
 - Non-numbered SCOTUS Certiorari regarding Supreme Court of Virginia Record Nos. 1921-22-4 and 0883-23-4 regarding Fairfax County Circuit Court Case No. CL-2017-03891.
- Matters referenced during oral argument before the Supreme Court of Virginia on December 2, 2025, in Record No. 250453, and in Petitioner's Affidavit and Certification of Transcripts and Record Materials filed December 21, 2025.

To the extent any prior request was denied or required amendment, such circumstances arose from Petitioner's good-faith efforts to file a Motion for Amendment to correct and supplement financial disclosures after discovering minor omissions in previously submitted information with two (2) related SCOTUS Certioraris – No. 25-7733, and another related but not provided a case number.

II. Financial Inability to Pay

Petitioner is unable to pay the filing fees, printing costs, and other expenses associated with this proceeding without substantial hardship. Petitioner has experienced prolonged financial difficulties arising from the matters underlying these proceedings and has been unable to secure stable employment despite continuous efforts. Although Petitioner previously held senior advisory and consulting positions with governmental and private-sector organizations, he currently earns only limited and intermittent income through temporary and contract-based work.

Petitioner's available income is largely consumed by ordinary living expenses, mortgage obligations, child-support obligations, transportation costs, and expenses associated with

ongoing litigation. Payment of the costs required to prosecute this proceeding would impair Petitioner's ability to meet basic necessities.

III. Assets and Liabilities

Petitioner maintains only limited liquid assets, consisting primarily of funds derived from retirement-account withdrawals and tax-refund proceeds that are needed for housing, support obligations, and living expenses. Petitioner owns a 2014 Honda CR-V with approximately 200,000 miles and modest market value.

Petitioner's retirement savings have been substantially depleted by living expenses, support obligations, and litigation costs. Petitioner also carries approximately \$35,943.63 in unsecured consumer debt and has limited access to additional credit.

IV. Dependents

Petitioner remains financially responsible for two dependent children, ages fourteen and twelve, including court-ordered child-support obligations and related expenses. His limited resources must therefore be devoted primarily to housing, transportation, support obligations, and basic necessities.

V. Employment Efforts

In light of two (2) other SCOTUS proceedings, such as Record No. 23-7733, the Petitioner continues to actively seek employment and regularly applies for positions consistent with his education and professional experience. Despite these efforts, he has been unable to obtain stable employment sufficiently to meet his financial obligations and the costs associated with another Supreme Court review.

VI. Lack of Counsel

Petitioner had to proceed pro se and lacks the financial resources necessary to retain counsel or other legal assistance.

VII. Legal Basis

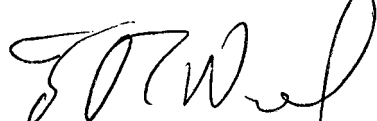
This Motion is submitted pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and Supreme Court Rule 39. An applicant need not be destitute to qualify for *in forma pauperis* status; rather, relief is appropriate where payment of court costs would deprive the litigant of the necessities of life. *Adkins v. E.I. DuPont de Nemours & Co.*, 335 U.S. 331, 339–40 (1948). The Court has likewise recognized that meaningful access to the courts should not depend solely upon a

litigant's financial means. Adkins, 335 U.S. at 342-43; Boddie v. Connecticut, 401 U.S. 371, 380-81 (1971).

VIII. Request for Relief

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioner respectfully requests that the Court grant leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*, waive prepayment of fees and costs, and permit the filing and consideration of the accompanying Petition for a Writ of Certiorari without the financial burdens required by the Court's rules.

Respectfully submitted,



6/15/26

Thomas Richard Ward

Petitioner, Pro Se

8115 Dale St
Annandale, VA 22003

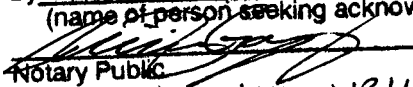
703-470-504
TWCONSULT1995@gmail.com

County/City of Fairfax

Commonwealth/State of Virginia

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and
Sworn before me this 15 day of June 2026,

by Thomas Richard Ward
(name of person seeking acknowledgement)


Notary Public

My commission expires: 01/31/2029

