

26-5676
No. _____

ORIGINAL

In the

Supreme Court of the United States

FILED

SEP 02 2026

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

RUSSELL LEE LAIRD—PETITIONER

VS.

THE STATE OF TEXAS—RESPONDENT

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS*

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

Petitioner, Laird, has previously been granted leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* in the following court(s):

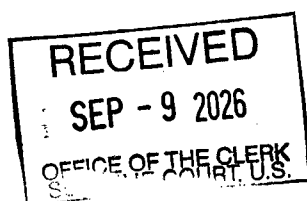
The Supreme Court of Texas; Austin, Texas; No. 26-0167

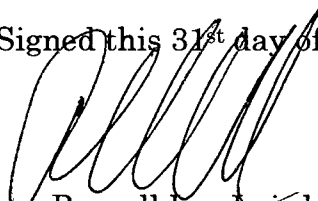
The Texas Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Houston, Texas, No. 14-24-000555-CV

The 179th Judicial District Court of Texas, Harris County, Houston, Texas, No. 0965079-0101Z

Petitioner's Declaration in support of this motion is attached hereto.

Signed this 31st day of August, 2026




Russell Lee Laird

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF
MOTION TO PROCEED *IN FORMA PAUPERIS***

I, Russell Lee Laird, 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 that I am entitled to redress.

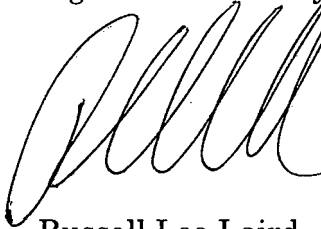
I am an unmarried, single person. The amount of money that was received, per month, over the past twelve (12) months from each of the following sources is as follows:

- | 1. Income Source: | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Employment | \$0.00 |
| Self-employment | \$0.00 |
| Income from real property | \$0.00 |
| Interest and dividends | \$0.00 |
| Gifts | \$0.00 |
| Alimony | \$0.00 |
| Child Support | \$0.00 |
| Retirement | \$0.00 |
| Disability | \$0.00 |
| Unemployment payments | \$0.00 |
| Public assistance | \$0.00 |
| Other(specify) | \$0.00 |
| Total monthly income: | \$0.00 |
2. I have had no employment history for the past 27 + years.
 3. Spouse's income N/A
 4. The amount of cash I have is: \$0.83
(see enclosed TCCC Finance Clerk's "Account Certification"
w/ most recent "Resident Statement")
 5. I have no substantial assets.
 6. I have no debtors.
 7. I have no one that relies upon me for support.
 8. I am a ward of the State of Texas and, therefore, I have no monthly expenses.
 9. I do not expect any changes to my monthly income in the next twelve (12) months.

10. I am not paying (and do not expect to pay) an attorney for any services in connection with this case.
11. I am not paying (and do not expect to pay) anyone for any services in connection with this case.
12. I have been unemployed since my arrest in September, 1998. I accepted a plea agreement wherein the sentence of record was 32-years, Then, upon my anticipated release to parole, I was civilly committed on May 15, 2024, where I remain unemployed.

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

Signed this 31st day of August, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Russell Lee Laird', written in a cursive style.

Russell Lee Laird