No. 26-6007

ORIGINAL

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FILED
OCT 26 2026
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

JORGE L. LEAL, Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Respondent

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

Petitioner Jorge L. Leal, proceeding pro se, respectfully moves for leave to proceed in forma pauperis under Rule 39 of the Rules of this Court and 28 U.S.C. § 1915 in connection with his petition for a writ of certiorari.

1. Petitioner seeks review of the Seventh Circuit's denial of a certificate of appealability in No. 25-3052, arising from his motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 in the Southern District of Illinois, No. 3:24-cv-02254-JPG.

2. Petitioner sought and was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois in No. 3:24-cv-02254-JPG and in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in No. 25-3052.

3. Petitioner has no employment income, Social Security or disability benefits, bank accounts, cash on hand, real estate, vehicle, or other property. He is divorced. His family provides housing and basic necessities and occasionally small amounts of cash for incidental needs. He owes more than $10,000 in federal income taxes (exact balance unknown) and is not currently making payments.

4. Since his release from federal imprisonment on October 15, 2025, Petitioner has been unable to work because of ongoing mental-health difficulties. He remains on home confinement under

RECEIVED
OCT 30 2026
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
SUPREME COURT, U.S.

supervision through Diersen Charities and resides with his parents. His family will assist with the copying and mailing costs for this filing.

5. The accompanying declaration supplies the financial information required by Rule 39 and Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure Form 4. Petitioner believes he is entitled to seek review of the certificate-of-appealability ruling for the reasons stated in his petition.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant leave to proceed in forma pauperis and accept his petition for a writ of certiorari without prepayment of the docketing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Jorge Luis Leal
Jorge L. Leal, Petitioner Pro Se
1286 Wind Crest Drive
Union City, TN 38261
(731) 592-1185

Date: October 26, 2026

ATTACHMENT: Financial declaration in the detail prescribed by Fed. R. App. P. Form 4.

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

JORGE L. LEAL, Petitioner

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Respondent

On Petition for a Writ of Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

FINANCIAL DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

Financial declaration in support of Petitioner's Motion for Leave to Proceed In Forma Pauperis.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the answers I provide below, as completed and corrected before signature, are true and correct. I cannot prepay the Supreme Court docket fee or associated filing costs because of my financial circumstances. I believe I am entitled to the review requested in my petition.

Issues for review:

Whether reasonable jurists could debate the denial of relief on the Sixth Amendment ineffective-assistance claim involving an undercover/deceptive-techniques instruction in an entrapment-defense trial, and whether the certificate-of-appealability standard was properly applied.

1. Monthly income (past 12 months and expected next month)

Divorced; spouse columns: N/A. Current monthly income: $0. Petitioner has no employment or self-employment income and receives no Social Security, disability benefits, unemployment benefits, pensions, or cash public assistance. During the past 12 months, Petitioner received no wages or other regular income. His parents and siblings provide housing, food, and other basic

necessities and occasionally give him small, irregular amounts of cash for lunch or incidental necessities. There is no fixed monthly amount, and the exact total is unknown.

Income category	**Average per month, past 12 months**	**Expected next month**
Employment / self-employment	$0	$0
Rental income / interest / dividends	$0	$0
Gifts / monetary family assistance	Small, irregular family gifts for incidental necessities; exact average unknown	No fixed amount expected
Alimony / child support received	$0	$0
Retirement / Social Security	$0	$0
Disability / unemployment	$0	$0
Public assistance / other income	$0	$0
TOTAL	No regular income; only small, irregular family gifts; exact average unknown	No regular income; no fixed family-gift amount expected

2. Employment history during past two years

No employment during the past two years. Petitioner performed no paid prison work between October 2024 and his release from prison on October 15, 2025, and has had no employment since his release.

3. Spouse's employment history

N/A — divorced.

4. Cash and accounts

Cash: $0. Checking/savings/other financial accounts: none. Spouse: N/A.

5. Assets

No home, real estate, motor vehicle, business ownership, or other assets reported. Value: $0.

Spouse: N/A.

6. Money owed to you

None.

7. Persons relying on you for support

None. Petitioner does not currently provide financial support to any person.

8. Average monthly expenses

$0 personally. Petitioner does not personally pay rent, utilities, food, transportation, insurance, medical expenses, or other regular monthly living expenses. His parents and siblings provide his basic necessities. Medical needs are provided through the reentry arrangement.

Expense category	**Amount you pay monthly**
Housing / utilities / home maintenance	$0
Food / clothing / laundry	$0
Medical and dental	$0
Transportation	$0
Insurance	$0
Taxes (current payments)	$0
Installments / credit cards / loans	$0
Alimony or child support paid	$0
Other / recreation	$0
TOTAL	$0

9. Expected changes within 12 months

No known material financial change is presently expected within the next 12 months. Petitioner remains unemployed and financially dependent on family support for basic necessities.

10. Litigation costs or attorney fees

Yes. Petitioner's family will assist with the printing, copying, and mailing expenses necessary to submit this Supreme Court filing. Petitioner has no personal funds available for those expenses and has paid no attorney fees.

11. Additional explanation

I was released from prison on October 15, 2025. Because of ongoing mental-health difficulties, I have been unable to work since then. I am on home confinement supervised through Diersen Charities in Memphis, Tennessee, and reside with my parents in Union City, Tennessee. My parents and siblings provide my housing, food, and basic necessities and occasionally provide small amounts of cash for incidental necessities. My medical needs are provided through the reentry arrangement. I have no employment income, cash on hand, bank accounts, real estate, motor vehicle, business ownership, or other property. I owe the federal government in excess of $10,000 in unpaid federal income taxes; the exact balance is unknown. I am not currently making payments on that debt, and I have no other debts.

12. Residence and personal information

Legal residence: Union City, Tennessee. Daytime phone: (731) 592-1185. Age: 41. Education: Bachelor's degree (four-year college degree).

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

Executed on: October 26, 2026 at Union City, Tennessee (city/state).

Signature: **/s/Jorge Luis Leal**

Jorge L. Leal