

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**FILED**

JUN 26 2012

Clerk, U.S. District & Bankruptcy  
Courts for the District of Columbia

MAURICE CEASAR,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 12-758

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the Court on plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and his *pro se* complaint. The Court will grant the application and dismiss the complaint.

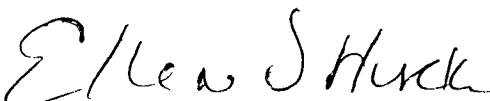
Federal district courts have jurisdiction in civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1331. In addition, federal district courts have jurisdiction over civil actions where the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000, and the suit is between citizens of different states. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). Plaintiff purports to bring a civil rights claim against a private entity, and thus fails to present a federal question under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 because this provision applies only to "person[ s] who [act], under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia."

*Id.* Because all the parties are in the District of Columbia, plaintiff fails to establish diversity jurisdiction. Accordingly, the complaint will be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

An Order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

DATE:

6/24/12

  
United States District Judge