

**FILED**

**APR 12 2018**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

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

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MICHAEL LAWRENCE PACK,

Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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Civil Action No. 1-18-CV-00541-UNA

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

The Court has reviewed plaintiff's complaint, keeping in mind that complaints filed by *pro se* litigants are held to less stringent standards than those applied to formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Even *pro se* litigants, however, must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Jarrell v. Tisch*, 656 F. Supp. 237, 239 (D.D.C. 1987). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that a complaint contain a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the Court's jurisdiction depends, a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a); *see Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678-79 (2009). The purpose of the minimum standard of Rule 8 is to give fair notice to the defendants of the claims being asserted, sufficient to prepare a responsive answer, to prepare an adequate defense and to determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

Rather than factual allegations to support a cognizable legal claim, plaintiff's complaint appears only to express plaintiff's apparent disapproval of the actions of the current President of

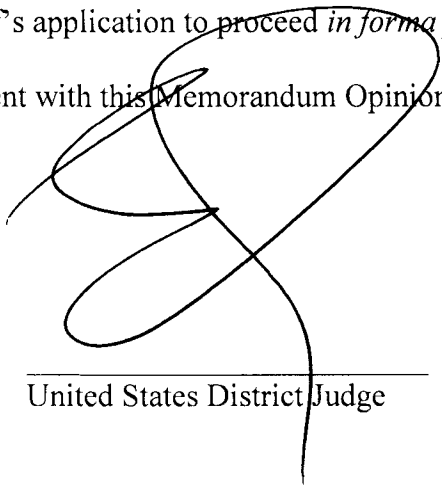
the United States. As drafted, the complaint fails to meet the minimum pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a).

Furthermore, pursuant to plaintiff's complaint, he is attempting to bring a class action lawsuit. As a general rule applicable here, a pro se litigant can represent only himself or herself in federal court. See 28 U.S.C. § 1654; *Georgiades v. Martin-Trigona*, 729 F.2d 831, 834 (D.C. Cir. 1984). Additionally, Mr. Pack is the sole listed Plaintiff in this matter.

Therefore, the Court will grant the plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and will dismiss the complaint. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE:

4/11/18



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United States District Judge