

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

PHILIP A. BRALICH,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Civil Action No. 20-3248 (UNA)
	)	
FOX NEWS NETWORK, LLC, <i>et al.</i> ,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the Court on the plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, his *pro se* civil complaint and motion for appointment of counsel.

Generally, the plaintiff laments the “hate speech” and derogatory language used by the current President of the United States, national political parties, and media outlets when speaking of the indigent, the disabled, and other members of this society who may not be belong to a “recognized” minority group, since the administration of former President Ronald Reagan. The plaintiff considers himself a target of such speech. He demands an award of \$24 million and injunctive relief.

The Court has reviewed the 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 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). The purpose of the minimum standard of Rule 8 is to give fair notice to the defendants of the claim 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).

This complaint fails to meet the minimal pleading standard set forth in Rule 8(a). Its factual allegations are so broad and so vague that the pleading does not give the named defendants fair notice of the claims asserted against them. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE: November 19, 2020

/s/  
KETANJI BROWN JACKSON  
United States District Judge