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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

7 TERI JEAN LACHAPELLE-BANKS,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting
11 Commissioner of Social Security,

12 Defendant.

Case No. 2:16-cv-01956-RBL

ORDER DENYING APPLICATION
TO PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS

13 THIS MATTER comes before the Court on plaintiff's filing of an application to proceed
14 *in forma pauperis* and a complaint to review and set aside a decision of the Social Security
15 Administration under 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). Because plaintiff's application indicates that her
16 household has sufficient income and assets with which to pay the filing fee, the undersigned
17 denies the application.

18 DISCUSSION

19 The district court may permit indigent litigants to proceed *in forma pauperis* upon
20 completion of a proper affidavit of indigency. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). However, the Court has
21 broad discretion in denying an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. *Weller v. Dickson*, 314
22 F.2d 598 (9th Cir. 1963), *cert. denied*, 375 U.S. 845 (1963).

23 By requesting the court to proceed *in forma pauperis*, plaintiff is asking the government
to incur the filing fee because she allegedly is unable to afford the costs necessary to proceed

1 with her cause of action.

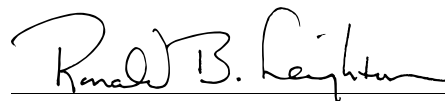
2 In her application, plaintiff indicated that her household receives monthly income of
3 \$1,038.32 in self-employment income, \$3,217.73 in pensions, and \$3,030.00 in disability. Dkt. 1
4 at 1. While the undersigned recognizes that the total of this income does not constitute an overly
5 substantial net income for a four-person household, given that plaintiff and her spouse also have
6 significant assets and savings, it does not seem unreasonable to expect her to pay the required
7 filing fee. *See* Dkt. 1 at 2.

8 CONCLUSION

9 Because it is reasonable for plaintiff to incur the costs to proceed with this cause of
10 action, the undersigned denies her application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Accordingly, the
11 undersigned orders plaintiff to pay the required filing fee within 30 days of the filing of this
12 order.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 DATED this 23rd day of December, 2016.

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17 RONALD B. LEIGHTON
18 United States District Judge
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