

NONPRECEDENTIAL DISPOSITION

To be cited only in accordance with FED. R. APP. P. 32.1

United States Court of Appeals

For the Seventh Circuit

Chicago, Illinois 60604

Submitted October 21, 2025*

Decided October 24, 2025

Before

CANDACE JACKSON-AKIWUMI, *Circuit Judge*

JOSHUA P. KOLAR, *Circuit Judge*

NANCY L. MALDONADO, *Circuit Judge*

No. 24-3171

MICHAEL A. MAXIE,
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

DAMON R. LEICHTY, et al.,
Defendants-Appellees.

No. 24-3187

MICHAEL A. MAXIE,
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

Appeal from the United States District
Court for the Northern District of
Indiana, South Bend Division.

No. 3:24-CV-741-GSL-SJF

Gretchen S. Lund,
Judge.

Appeal from the United States District
Court for the Northern District of
Indiana, South Bend Division.

* The appellees were not served with process and are not participating in this appeal. We have agreed to decide the case without oral argument because the brief and record adequately present the facts and legal arguments, and oral argument would not significantly aid the court. FED. R. APP. P. 34(a)(2)(C).

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, et al.,
Defendants-Appellees.

No. 3:24-CV-267 DRL-MGG

Damon R. Leichty,
Judge.

ORDER

After a state court in St. Joseph, Indiana, ruled against him in his eviction proceedings, Michael Maxie filed suit in federal court seeking reversal of the state court judgment. *See Maxie v. St. Joseph County*, No. 3:24-cv-267-DRL-MGG (N.D. Ind.). The district court dismissed Maxie's complaint for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. Maxie then filed a second action in federal court suing the state and federal judges involved in the first proceeding. *See Maxie v. Leichty*, No. 3:24-cv-741-GSL-SJF (N.D. Ind.). The district court screened his complaint, *see* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), and dismissed it for failure to state a claim. Maxie appealed. We consolidate Maxie's two appeals for disposition, and because he has not shown error in either decision, we affirm.

In fall 2022, when Maxie refused to sign a lease renewal, his landlord sought to evict him via a "Final Order of Possession" from a state court in St. Joseph, Indiana. After a hearing at which Maxie appeared, the court granted the eviction order. As a result of his eviction, Maxie lost housing assistance from the Housing Authority of South Bend, which had been paying his rent, and became homeless. Maxie then filed a state-court suit claiming that his apartment's property manager and a representative of that company discriminated against him. The state court concluded that Maxie failed to prove discrimination and ruled in favor of the property manager.

Maxie then turned to federal court. His first federal suit claimed that the parties involved in his state-court proceedings conspired against him and caused him to become homeless. The district court dismissed Maxie's claim for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction and later denied his motion for relief from judgment under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b). Maxie then filed a second suit against three judges for their decisions in the foregoing state and federal cases. The district court dismissed that case at screening after determining that absolute immunity shielded the judges from liability. Maxie appealed in both cases.

As to the case dismissed for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction, Maxie argues that the district court erred in dismissing his complaint, contending that his lawsuit alleged constitutional violations that fell within the court's jurisdiction. But Maxie's notice of

appeal was timely only as to the Rule 60(b) motion. Accordingly, we entered an order limiting the scope of the appeal to review of that order.

Rule 60(b) allows a district court to reopen an order as “an extraordinary remedy ... granted only in exceptional circumstances.” *Eskridge v. Cook County*, 577 F.3d 806, 809 (7th Cir. 2009). When reviewing the denial of a motion under Rule 60(b) concerning a district court’s jurisdictional determination, we reverse only if the court made an “egregious” mistake and there is “no plausible basis for the district court’s” decision. *Word Seed Church v. Vill. Of Hazel Crest*, 111 F.4th 814, 823 (7th Cir. 2024). Maxie has not identified anything in the record suggesting there was no plausible basis for the district court’s conclusion that it lacked jurisdiction to review a state-court eviction order. *Id.* at 824. Maxie is correct that due process applies in state-court proceedings. *See Fuentes v. Shevin*, 407 U.S. 67, 80 (1972). But Congress has not empowered lower federal courts to review final state-court judgments. *Rooker v. Fidelity Trust Co.*, 263 U.S. 413, 416 (1923); *District of Columbia Court of Appeals v. Feldman*, 460 U.S. 462, 482 (1983). Instead, Maxie should have challenged the state court’s judgment by appealing to the state appellate court and, if necessary, sought review in the Supreme Court of the United States. 28 U.S.C. § 1257. We discern no error in the district court’s judgment, much less an “egregious” error that would justify relief under Rule 60(b).

As to Maxie’s suit against the judges, we discern no error in the district court’s judgment. Maxie complains of judges’ actions that involved the exercise of judicial functions in the context of judicial proceedings. The district court correctly concluded that each of the judges was immune from suit. *Dawson v. Newman*, 419 F.3d 656, 661 (7th Cir. 2005).

AFFIRMED