

Central District of Illinois

Civil prisoner cases needing Pro Bono Counsel – February 2024

Any attorney interested in helping as Pro Bono counsel may contact the Pro Bono Coordinator for the Central District of Illinois, Marleen Cooke at 217-492-5204 or Marleen_Cooke@ilcd.uscourts.gov.

The Central District of Illinois Plan for Recruitment of Counsel has a cap of \$1,000.00 for reimbursement of expenses.

20-cv-1203 Smith v Winemiller

Summary: Plaintiff sues Defendant Lieutenant Winemiller for unconstitutional conditions of confinement under the Eighth Amendment and for First Amendment retaliation. The conditions of confinement issue relates to Plaintiff's allegation that he was housed in a cell with a non-working toilet for 87 days, and that Defendant directed that he be provided a bucket to use as a toilet. The First Amendment retaliation claim relates to Plaintiff's assertion that he filed grievances against Winemiller and an Internal Affairs report against Winemiller regarding the toilet issue, and that Winemiller then continued to refuse to move Plaintiff to a cell with a working toilet in retaliation for Plaintiff engaging in these activities protected under the First Amendment. Plaintiff's requests to admit have been deemed admitted and a directed verdict has been granted in Plaintiff's favor as to liability on Plaintiff's First Amendment retaliation claim. Remaining for jury determination are 1) Defendant's liability on the Eighth Amendment claim and 2) damages on all claims.

21-1296 Freeman v Tilden, et al.

Summary: Plaintiff proceeds pro se from his incarceration in Pontiac Correctional Center. Plaintiff states an Eighth Amendment claim against Dr. Tilden for deliberate indifference to serious medical needs, in particular for alleged chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and other lung problems and elevated blood pressure.