

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Barber v. District of Columbia Government

Barber · No. Civil Action No. 2017-0620; Case No. 17-cv-620 (JMC) · Decided December 31, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia partially grants and partially denies defendants’ motion for summary judgment in Claudia A. Barber’s claims against the District of Columbia Government and Eugene Adams. The court allows certain DCHRA and Title VII discrimination and retaliation claims concerning failure to appoint Barber to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016 to proceed, while granting summary judgment on the remaining claims and on the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act claim. The court schedules a status hearing for January 27 at 2:30 p.m. to provide its reasoning and set a trial date.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jia M. Cobb
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Columbia
DECIDED	December 31, 2025
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 2017-0620; Case No. 17-cv-620 (JMC)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought claims for discrimination and retaliation under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, Title VII, and the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act. Defendants moved for summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment standard not stated in the order.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published district court order; no precedential treatment or reporter citation is stated in the opinion.

TOPICS

- employment discrimination
- retaliation
- title vii
- whistleblower
- summary judgment

PRACTICE AREAS

- employment law
- civil rights
- federal employment law
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Defendants were entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff's discrimination and retaliation claims under the District of Columbia Human Rights Act.
2. Whether the District was entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff's discrimination and retaliation claims under Title VII.
3. Whether Defendants were entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff's retaliation claim under the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendants' motion for summary judgment was denied as to Plaintiff's DCHRA discrimination and retaliation claims concerning her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016, and granted as to the remaining DCHRA claims.
2. The District's motion for summary judgment was denied as to Plaintiff's Title VII discrimination and retaliation claims concerning her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016, and granted as to the remaining Title VII claims.
3. Defendants' motion for summary judgment was granted on Plaintiff's retaliation claim under the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“For the reasons that the Court will provide on the record at an upcoming hearing, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendants’ motion for summary judgment, ECF 62, is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part as follows:” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Claudia A. Barber asserted discrimination and retaliation claims arising from failures to appoint her to PALJ and acting PALJ positions, including appointments before February 2016. She also asserted a retaliation claim under the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act. The order does not provide additional factual findings or analysis.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The District of Columbia and Eugene Adams moved for summary judgment. The court granted the motion in part and denied it in part, preserving specified claims concerning Plaintiff's failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016. The court scheduled a status hearing to provide its reasoning on the record and set a trial date.

DISPOSITION

other

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CLAUDIA A. BARBER, Plaintiff, Case No. 17-cv-620 (JMC) v. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT, EUGENE ADAMS, Defendants. ORDER For the reasons that the Court will provide on the record at an upcoming hearing, it is hereby ORDERED that Defendants' motion for summary judgment, ECF 62, is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part as follows: For Count I, Discrimination in violation of the District of Columbia Human Rights Act (DCHRA) against Defendants District of Columbia and Eugene Adams, the motion is DENIED with respect to Plaintiff's claims regarding her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016 and GRANTED with respect to Plaintiff's remaining claims.

For Count II, Retaliation in violation of the DCHRA against the District and Adams, the motion is DENIED with respect to Plaintiff's claims regarding her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016 and GRANTED with respect to Plaintiff's remaining claims.

For Count III, Discrimination in violation of Title VII against the District, the motion is DENIED with respect to Plaintiff's claims regarding her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016 and GRANTED with respect to Plaintiff's remaining claims. 1 For Count IV, Retaliation in violation of Title VII against the District, the motion is DENIED with respect to Plaintiff's claims regarding her failure to be appointed to PALJ and acting PALJ positions before February 2016 and GRANTED with respect to Plaintiff's remaining claims.

For Count V, Retaliation in violation of the D.C. Whistleblower Protection Act against the District and Adams, the motion is GRANTED. It is further ORDERED that the Parties shall appear for a status hearing for the Court to provide its reasoning on the record and set a date for trial, on January 27, at 2:30 PM.

The conference will be on the record before Judge Jia M. Cobb and conducted via Zoom. The Court's Deputy Clerk will provide the information necessary to access the conference. SO ORDERED. _____ JIA M. COBB United States District Judge Date: December 31, 2025 2