

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
TENNESSEE

Hampton and Taylor v. The Metropolitan Government of Nashville
and Davidson County, Tennessee, et al.

No. 3:24-cv-00863 · No. 3:24-cv-00863 · Decided March 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee granted Defendant Joseph Webb’s motion to dismiss claims arising from the alleged malicious prosecution of Michael Hampton and Toni Taylor. The court held that the complaint did not plausibly allege that Webb made, influenced, or participated in the decision to prosecute, entitling him to qualified immunity on the federal claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The court declined supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining state-law malicious prosecution claims against Webb.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
WRITING FOR THE COURT	William L. Campbell, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee
DECIDED	March 13, 2026
DOCKET	3:24-cv-00863
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant Joseph Webb moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) to dismiss state-law malicious-prosecution claims and 42 U.S.C. § 1983 claims alleging a civil conspiracy to maliciously prosecute the plaintiffs. The court granted the motion as to the § 1983 claims on qualified-immunity grounds and declined supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts factual allegations as true, construes the complaint in the plaintiffs' favor, and determines whether the complaint contains sufficient factual matter to state a facially plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court memorandum and order; not precedential outside the case

TOPICS

motions to dismiss

qualified immunity

section 1983

civil rights

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil rights

civil procedure

constitutional law

municipal law

torts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the revised first amended complaint plausibly alleged that Webb made, influenced, or participated in the decision to prosecute Hampton and Taylor, as required for a Fourth Amendment malicious-prosecution claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
2. Whether Webb was entitled to qualified immunity because the complaint failed to allege a constitutional violation.
3. Whether the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law malicious-prosecution claims after dismissing the federal claims.

HOLDINGS

1. The complaint did not allege sufficient facts to even infer that Webb made, influenced, or participated in the decision to prosecute the plaintiffs; therefore, it failed to plausibly allege a Fourth Amendment malicious-prosecution violation against Webb.
2. Webb was entitled to qualified immunity on the plaintiffs' § 1983 claims because the complaint failed to allege a constitutional violation.
3. The court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining state-law malicious-prosecution claims after dismissing all federal claims against Webb.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Qualified immunity protects government officials performing discretionary functions from liability for civil damages insofar as their conduct does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.” (Analysis)

“There being no remaining claims against Webb arising under federal law, the Court declines to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs’ state law claims against Webb for malicious prosecution.” (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Michael Hampton's companies operated and sought to purchase or develop health-care facilities owned or operated by Metro and the Hospital Authority. After the contracts were terminated, Metro audits and investigations focused on alleged mishandling of resident trust funds, ultimately leading to indictments against Hampton and Toni Taylor. Hampton's indictment was dismissed, and the State dismissed Taylor's case for lack of probable cause. Plaintiffs alleged that Webb, the Hospital Authority's director, accepted and adopted a revised audit and thereby participated in their malicious prosecution.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed suit after the criminal cases against them were dismissed or abandoned, asserting malicious-prosecution and related civil-conspiracy claims. Webb moved to dismiss the revised first amended complaint. The district court concluded that the complaint did not plausibly allege Webb's participation in the decision to prosecute, granted dismissal of the federal claims on qualified-immunity grounds, and declined supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining state claims.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Directv, Inc. v. Treesh, 487 F.3d 471, 476 (6th Cir. 2007)
- Guzman v. U.S. Department of Children's Services, 679 F.3d 425, 429 (6th Cir. 2012)
- Hester v. Chester County, Tennessee, 162 F.4th 780, 784-85 (6th Cir. 2025)
- Johnson v. Moseley, 790 F.3d 649, 654-55 (6th Cir. 2015)
- Osborn v. Haley, 549 U.S. 225, 245 (2007)

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