

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN

**Willie C. Simpson v. Joshua Kaul, Andrea L. Omanson, Paula Stoudt,
D. Goff, S. Ellis, Ellen Ray, Jaden McCullick, Daniel Leffler, Julie
Payne, Co Fredrick, Thomas Taylor, Co Turner, Co Halverson, Co
Johnston, Co VanHauen, C. Tom, Co Kropp, Sgt. Mazzenette, Sgt.
Sherman, Co Rose, Co Klatt, Co Buzzelli, and A. Titlbach; Willie C.
Simpson v. Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Tony Evers, Jared
Hoy, Paula Stoudt, Jaden L. McCullick, and Joshua Kaul; Willie C.
Simpson v. Warden Paula Stoudt**

No. 25-cv-994-jdp; 26-cv-25-jdp; 26-cv-44-jdp, United States District Court for the Western District of
Wisconsin (March 27, 2026)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin denied Willie C. Simpson’s motions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) to alter or amend judgments dismissing three lawsuits. The court held that Simpson had not shown newly discovered evidence or a manifest error of law or fact and could not challenge filing-bar sanctions imposed by the Seventh Circuit.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
WRITING FOR THE COURT	James D. Peterson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin
DECIDED	March 27, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-994-jdp; 26-cv-25-jdp; 26-cv-44-jdp
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e) to alter or amend judgments dismissing three lawsuits under filing-bar sanctions previously issued by the Seventh Circuit.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A Rule 59(e) motion requires the movant to present newly discovered evidence or establish a manifest error of law or fact.

PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order
PARTIES	Willie C. Simpson v. Joshua Kaul, Andrea L. Omanson, Paula Stoudt, D. Goff, S. Ellis, Ellen Ray, Jaden McCullick, Daniel Leffler, Julie Payne, Co Fredrick, Thomas Taylor, Co Turner, Co Halverson, Co Johnston, Co VanHauen, C. Tom, Co Kropp, Sgt. Mazzenette, Sgt. Sherman, Co Rose, Co Klatt, Co Buzzelli, A. Titlbach, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Tony Evers, Jared Hoy, Jaden L. McCullick, Warden Paula Stoudt

TOPICS

motion for reconsideration

sanctions

civil procedure

prisoners rights

due process

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

constitutional law

civil rights

prisoners rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Simpson satisfied the Rule 59(e) standard for altering or amending the judgments dismissing his three cases.
2. Whether dismissal under the Seventh Circuit's filing-bar sanctions violated Simpson's right to a jury trial.
3. Whether the district court could determine that the Seventh Circuit's filing-bar sanctions orders were unconstitutional or otherwise overrule them.

HOLDINGS

1. Simpson was not entitled to relief under Rule 59(e) because he presented neither newly discovered evidence nor a manifest error of law or fact.
2. The district court could not overrule the Seventh Circuit's sanctions decisions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To win on this motion, Simpson “must present either newly discovered evidence or establish a manifest error of law or fact.””

“And in any event, this district court cannot overrule the court of appeals’ sanctions decisions.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Simpson, proceeding without counsel, filed three lawsuits alleging unconstitutional conditions at the Wisconsin Secure Program Facility and asserting that he was unlawfully imprisoned because criminal statutes underlying his convictions had later been repealed. The district court dismissed the cases under filing-bar sanctions imposed

by the Seventh Circuit. Simpson sought reconsideration, asserting that the dismissals disregarded his right to a jury trial and that the sanctions orders were unconstitutional.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Simpson filed three lawsuits concerning prison conditions and the legality of his imprisonment. The district court dismissed each action pursuant to Seventh Circuit filing-bar orders that prohibited Simpson from filing specified papers until he paid monetary fines. Simpson then moved to alter or amend the judgments under Rule 59(e), arguing that dismissal violated his right to a jury trial and that the underlying sanctions orders were unconstitutional. The district court denied the motion.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Simpson v. Litscher, No. 20-3293, 2021 WL 2206439 (7th Cir. Mar. 19, 2021)
- Simpson v. Boughton, No. 23-2638 (7th Cir. Sept. 18, 2023)
- Oto v. Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., 224 F.3d 601, 606 (7th Cir. 2000)

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