

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
MICHIGAN

John W. Miller v. Andrea R. Wood, et al.

Miller v. Wood · No. 2:25-cv-12594 · Decided March 11, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan granted six federal judges’ motion to dismiss John W. Miller’s complaint. The court held that the defendants were entitled to absolute judicial immunity because the challenged conduct involved judicial acts, dismissed the complaint with prejudice, and denied the remaining motions as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Susan K. DeClercq
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
DECIDED	March 11, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-12594
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed suit in Wayne County Circuit Court against six federal judges. One defendant removed the action to federal court under 28 U.S.C. § 1442(a)(1), and all defendants moved to dismiss. The district court granted the motion under Rule 12(b)(6), dismissed the complaint with prejudice, and denied the remaining motions as moot.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true and draws reasonable inferences in the plaintiff's favor, but need not accept legal conclusions. The complaint must contain sufficient factual matter to state a plausible claim for relief.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	John W. Miller v. Andrea R. Wood, Jamal Whitehead, Patricia Tolliver Giles, John Cronan, Edward Myers, Robyn Tarnofsky

TOPICS

- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure
- pleadings
- intellectual property

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

intellectual property

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the defendants' judicial-immunity defense should be analyzed under Rule 12(b)(6) rather than Rule 12(b)(1).
2. Whether absolute judicial immunity barred Miller's claims against the federal judges.
3. Whether Miller's motions to amend the case caption and the defendants' motion to stay should be denied as moot after dismissal.

HOLDINGS

1. Absolute judicial immunity barred Miller's claims because the challenged acts—denial of motions, dismissal of cases, and management of dockets—were judicial acts, and the complaint alleged neither that the acts were nonjudicial nor that they were performed in the absence of jurisdiction.
2. The court treated the judicial-immunity defense as arising under Rule 12(b)(6), rather than Rule 12(b)(1), because the Sixth Circuit directs courts to consider the availability of absolute judicial immunity in the Rule 12(b)(6) context.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[j]udicial immunity extends even to judicial acts performed maliciously, corruptly, in bad faith, or in error.”
(389 F.3d at 617)

“Finally, it is ORDERED that Plaintiff’s Complaint, ECF No. 1 at PageID.10–12, is DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE.” (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Miller sued six federal judges based on their handling of cases involving a patent or copyright allegedly owned by AppProved Software Corporation. He characterized the defendants' rulings, docket management, and treatment of motions and filings as judicial sabotage and a federal RICO conspiracy. The complaint did not allege that any defendant acted outside a judicial role or without jurisdiction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Miller filed a short complaint in state court alleging that six federal judges engaged in judicial sabotage, docket manipulation, and related misconduct concerning cases involving a patent or copyright. Defendant Edward Myers removed the action to the Eastern District of Michigan under the federal-officer removal statute. The defendants jointly moved to dismiss; Miller did not respond but filed motions to amend the caption and remove personally identifying information. The court granted dismissal based on absolute judicial immunity and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678–79 (2009)
- Lambert v. Hartman, 517 F.3d 433, 439 (6th Cir. 2008)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)
- 16630 Southfield Ltd. v. Flagstar Bank, F.S.B., 727 F.3d 502, 503 (6th Cir. 2013)
- Winnett v. Caterpillar, Inc., 553 F.3d 1000, 1005 (6th Cir. 2009)
- Leech v. DeWeese, 689 F.3d 538, 541 (6th Cir. 2012)
- Harris v. Sec’y of State, No. 23-5833, 2024 WL 4225713, at *3 (6th Cir. May 29, 2024)
- Tatar v. Nugent, No. 2:25-CV-10296, 2025 WL 2463148, at *2 (E.D. Mich. Aug. 26, 2025)
- Orta v. Repp, No. 23-3034, 2023 WL 5666161, at *2 (6th Cir. Sept. 1, 2023)
- Norfleet v. Renner, 924 F.3d 317, 319 (6th Cir. 2019)
- Brookings v. Clunk, 389 F.3d 614, 617 (6th Cir. 2004)

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