

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
NEW YORK

Jalen Holmes v. Mastraccio and Ciano

Holmes · No. 9:24-CV-1005 (LEK/DJS) · Decided March 13, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of New York adopts a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation concerning Plaintiff Jalen Holmes’s constitutional claims against Defendants Mastraccio and Ciano. The court dismisses the Eighth Amendment sexual assault claim, the Eighth Amendment excessive force claim arising from the May 1, 2024 incident, and the Fourteenth Amendment due process claim against Ciano. The defendants’ motion is granted in part and denied in part, and their summary judgment motion is denied with leave to refile.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of New York
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Lawrence E. Kahn
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of New York
DECIDED	March 13, 2026
DOCKET	9:24-CV-1005 (LEK/DJS)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed a magistrate judge's Order and Report-Recommendation concerning defendants' motion to dismiss and motion for partial summary judgment, in the absence of objections, for clear error.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Clear-error review of the portions of the magistrate judge's report and recommendation to which no timely objections were made.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum-decision and order from a federal district court.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- motions to dismiss
- summary judgment
- prisoners rights
- due process

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the district court should review the unobjected-to Report and Recommendation for clear error.
2. Whether the district court should adopt the magistrate judge's recommendations to dismiss the Eighth Amendment sexual-assault claim, the Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim concerning the May 1, 2024 incident, and the Fourteenth Amendment due-process claim against Ciancio.
3. Whether defendants' motion for partial summary judgment based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies should be denied with leave to refile.

HOLDINGS

1. When no timely objections are filed, the district court reviews the Report and Recommendation for clear error and may adopt it if no clear error appears on the face of the record.
2. The Eighth Amendment sexual-assault claim, the Eighth Amendment excessive-force claim concerning the May 1, 2024 incident, and the Fourteenth Amendment due-process claim against Ciancio are dismissed.
3. Defendants' motion for partial summary judgment based on failure to exhaust administrative remedies is denied, with leave to refile.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“No party objected to the Report and Recommendation within fourteen days after being served with a copy of it. See generally Dkt. Accordingly, the Court reviews the Report and Recommendation for clear error.” (IV)

“Accordingly, it is hereby: ORDERED, that the Report and Recommendation, Dkt. No. 51, is APPROVED and ADOPTED in its entirety” (V)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Jalen Holmes alleged that defendants violated his constitutional rights in connection with incidents occurring while he was incarcerated, including alleged sexual assault and excessive force. The action also included First Amendment retaliation and Fourteenth Amendment due-process claims. The district court's opinion relies on the factual and procedural background set out in the magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff commenced a prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and was granted in forma pauperis status. The district court previously dismissed official-capacity claims but allowed Eighth Amendment excessive-force claims, First Amendment retaliation claims, and Fourteenth Amendment due-process claims to proceed. Defendants later moved to dismiss for failure to state a claim and moved for partial summary judgment for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. Magistrate Judge Daniel J. Stewart recommended partial

dismissal, denial of the summary-judgment motion with leave to refile, and denial of plaintiff's motion to appoint counsel. No objections were filed, and the district court adopted the recommendation in its entirety.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- A.V. by Versace, Inc. v. Gianni Versace, S.p.A., 191 F. Supp. 2d 404, 405 (S.D.N.Y. 2002)
- A.V. by Versace, 191 F. Supp. 2d at 406
- Nambiar v. Cent. Orthopedic Grp., LLP, No. 24-1103, 2025 WL 3007285, at *3 (2d Cir. Oct. 28, 2025)
- Nutt v. New York, No. 12-CV-385, 2012 WL 4006408, at *1 (N.D.N.Y. Sept. 12, 2012)
- DiPilato v. 7-Eleven, Inc., 662 F. Supp. 2d 333, 339 (S.D.N.Y. 2009)
- N.Y.C. Dist. Councils. of Carpenters Pension Fund v. Forde, 341 F. Supp. 3d 334, 336 (S.D.N.Y. 2018)
- Molefe v. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, 602 F. Supp. 2d 485, 487 (S.D.N.Y. 2009)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK JALEN HOLMES Plaintiff, -v- 9:24-CV-1005 (LEK/DJS) MASTRACCIO and CIANCIO, Defendants. MEMORANDUM-DECISION AND ORDER I. INTRODUCTION On August 16, 2024, Plaintiff Jalen Holmes commenced this action by filing a Complaint alleging that Defendants F. Mastraccio and Ciancio violated his constitutional rights.

Dkt. No. 1 (“Complaint”). Plaintiff also filed a motion to proceed in forma pauperis (“IFP Motion”). Dkt. No. 2. On October 23, 2024, this Court issued a Memorandum-Decision and Order granting Plaintiff’s IFP Motion, dismissing Plaintiff’s claims against Defendants in their official capacities, and finding Plaintiff’s Eighth Amendment excessive force claims, First Amendment retaliation, and Fourteen Amendment due process claims survived and required a response.

See generally Dkt. No. 8. On June 9, 2025, Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss for failure to state a claim as well as a Motion for Partial Summary Judgement for failure to exhaust administrative remedies. See Dkt. No. 39.

On February 2, 2026, the Honorable Judge Daniel J. Stewart, United States Magistrate Judge, issued an Order & Report-Recommendation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) and Local Rule 72.3(c), recommending that the Motion be granted in part and denied in part. Dkt. No. 51 (“Report and Recommendation”). Specifically, Judge Stewart recommended that Plaintiff’s Eighth Amendment sexual assault claim, Eighth Amendment excessive force claim (regarding the incident on 05/1/2024), and Fourteenth Amendment due process claim against Defendant Ciancio be dismissed.

Id. at 21. He further recommended that Defendants' Summary Judgement Motion be denied, with leave to refile, Id. at 19, and that Plaintiff's Motion to Appoint Counsel be denied. Id. at 19–21. No party has filed objections to the Report and Recommendation.

For the reasons that follow, the Court adopts the Report and Recommendation in its entirety. II. BACKGROUND The Court assumes familiarity with the factual and procedural background detailed in the Report and Recommendation. See R. & R. at 2–4. III. LEGAL STANDARD “Rule 72 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Title 28 United States Code Section 636 govern the review of decisions rendered by Magistrate Judges.” A.V. by Versace, Inc. v. Gianni Versace, S.p.A., 191 F. Supp. 2d 404, 405 (S.D.N.Y.

2002); see also 28 U.S.C. § 636; Fed. R. Civ. P. 72. Review of decisions rendered by magistrate judges are also governed by the Local Rules. See L.R. 72.1. 28 U.S.C. § 636 states: Within fourteen days after being served with a copy [of the Magistrate Judge's report and recommendation], any party may serve and file written objections to such proposed findings and recommendations as provided by rules of court.

A judge of the court shall make a de novo determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made. A judge of the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge.

The judge may also receive further evidence or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). When written objections are filed and the district court conducts a de novo review, that “de novo determination does not require the Court to conduct a new hearing; rather, it mandates that the Court give fresh consideration to those issues to which specific objections have been made.” A.V. by Versace, 191 F. Supp. 2d at 406 (emphasis in original). “A proper objection must be specific.” *Nambiar v. Cent.*

Orthopedic Grp., LLP, No. 24- 1103, 2025 WL 3007285, at *3 (2d Cir. Oct. 28, 2025). To be ‘specific,’ the objection must, with particularity, ‘identify [1] the portions of the proposed findings, recommendations, or report to which it has an objection and [2] the basis for the objection.’” *Nutt v. New York*, No. 12-CV-385, 2012 WL 4006408, at *1 (N.D.N.Y. Sept.

12, 2012) (quoting N.D.N.Y. L.R. 72.1(c)). “The district court may adopt those portions of a report and recommendation to which no timely objections have been made, provided no clear error is apparent from the face of the record.” *DiPilato v. 7-Eleven, Inc.*, 662 F. Supp. 2d 333, 339 (S.D.N.Y. 2009). “When a party makes only conclusory or general objections... the Court will review the [report and recommendation] strictly for clear error.” N.Y.C.

Dist. Councils. of Carpenters Pension Fund v. Forde, 341 F. Supp. 3d 334, 336 (S.D.N.Y. 2018) (quoting *Molefe v. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines*, 602 F. Supp. 2d 485, 487 (S.D.N.Y. 2009)). IV.

DISCUSSION No party objected to the Report and Recommendation within fourteen days after being served with a copy of it. See generally Dkt.

Accordingly, the Court reviews the Report and Recommendation for clear error. See DiPilato, 662 F. Supp. 2d at 339. After carefully considering Judge Stewart's well-reasoned Report and Recommendation, the Court finds no clear error.

Thus, the Court approves and adopts the Report and Recommendation in its entirety. V. CONCLUSION Accordingly, it is hereby: ORDERED, that the Report and Recommendation, Dkt. No. 51, is APPROVED and ADOPTED in its entirety; and it is further, ORDERED, that the Motion (Dkt. No. 39) is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part; and it is further, ORDERED that the following claims be dismissed: 1) Eighth Amendment sexual assault claim; 2) Eighth Amendment excessive force claim regarding an incident on May 1, 2024; and 3) Fourteenth Amendment due process claim against Defendant Ciancio; and it is further, ORDERED, that the Clerk serve a copy of this Memorandum-Decision and Order on all parties in accordance with the Local Rules.

IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: March 13, 2026 Albany, New York AWRENCE E. KAHN United States District Judge