

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
PENNSYLVANIA

Bronson L. Brown v. Blair County Prison, et al.

No. 3:23-cv-126, United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania (December 3, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania adopted a magistrate judge’s Report and Recommendation without objection. The court granted motions to dismiss claims against Stephen Jacobs and Jacob Wagner with prejudice, terminated them as parties, and left only Eighth Amendment claims against Dave Port and Nathaniel Fogle.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
WRITING FOR THE COURT	William S. Stickman IV
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania
DECIDED	December 3, 2025
DOCKET	3:23-cv-126
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff's second amended complaint and supplement were challenged by two motions to dismiss filed by Defendants Stephen Jacobs and Jacob Wagner. The magistrate judge recommended granting the motions and dismissing the claims against those defendants, as well as any access-to-courts claims, with prejudice. With no objections filed, the district court adopted the Report and Recommendation as its opinion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- motions to dismiss
- motion to amend
- section 1983
- prisoners rights
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil rights
- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the motions to dismiss Brown's second amended complaint and supplement should be granted as to the claims against Stephen Jacobs and Jacob Wagner.
2. Whether Brown should be denied further leave to amend the dismissed claims because amendment would be futile.
3. Whether any access-to-courts claims should be dismissed with prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. The motions to dismiss were granted, and all claims against Stephen Jacobs and Jacob Wagner were dismissed with prejudice.
2. Further amendment of the dismissed claims was denied because it would be futile.
3. Any access-to-courts claims were dismissed with prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“An amendment is futile if it merely restates the same facts as the original complaint in different terms, reasserts a claim on which the court previously ruled, fails to state a legal theory, or could not withstand a motion to dismiss.” (n.1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Brown alleged civil-rights violations arising from events on December 22, 2022, and other unidentified dates while he was a pretrial detainee at Blair County Prison. He had been given numerous opportunities to amend his pleadings, but the court concluded that he could not overcome the pleading deficiencies in the claims against Stephen Jacobs and Jacob Wagner or in any access-to-courts claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pro se Plaintiff Bronson L. Brown brought a civil rights action based on events occurring while he was a pretrial detainee at Blair County Prison. After Brown was permitted numerous amendments, the operative pleadings became his second amended complaint and supplement. Magistrate Judge Kezia O. L. Taylor recommended granting the defendants' motions to dismiss, and the district court adopted that recommendation, dismissed the specified claims with prejudice, terminated Jacobs and Wagner as parties, and left only Brown's Eighth Amendment claims against Dave Port and Nathaniel Fogle.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- In re Burlington Coat Factory Securities Litigation, 114 F.3d 1410, 1434 (3d Cir. 1997)