

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

McKeeman v. Chany

Civil Action No. 26-1273 (UNA) (D.D.C. June 1, 2026) · No. Civil Action No. 26-1273 (UNA) · Decided June 1, 2026

OPINION

McKeeman v. Chaney

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

RITA McKEEMAN,)

) Plaintiff,)) v.) Civil Action No. 26-1273 (UNA))) DICK CHANY, et al.,)) Defendants.)

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter is before the court on plaintiff’s application to proceed in forma pauperis, ECF No. 2, and pro se complaint, ECF No. 1. The Court grants the application and dismisses the complaint without prejudice. The Court holds a pro se complaint to a “less stringent standard[]” than is applied to a pleading drafted by a lawyer. *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Still, a pro se litigant must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Jarrell v. Tisch*, 656 F. Supp. 237, 239 (D.D.C. 1987). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires that a complaint contain a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the court’s jurisdiction depends, a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). It “does not require detailed factual allegations, but it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quotations omitted). The Rule 8 standard ensures that defendants receive fair notice of the claim being asserted so that they can prepare a responsive answer, mount an adequate defense, and determine whether the doctrine of res judicata applies. See *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977). 1 The Court dismisses the complaint for the simple reason that there are no factual allegations supporting an actual legal claim, see Compl. at 4, or this Court’s jurisdiction over it, see *id.* at 3. Missing, too, is a demand for relief. See *id.* at 4. As drafted, the complaint falls well short of Rule 8’s minimal pleading standard, and the Court will dismiss it without prejudice. A separate order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion. DATE: June 1, 2026 /s/

CHRISTOPHER R. COOPER

United States District Judge 2