

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Jamie Lee Saunders v. Albertsons/Safeway, LLC, and United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local #7

Saunders · No. 1:24-cv-00814-PAB-SBP · Decided December 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Colorado denied Plaintiff Jamie Lee Saunders’s motion to vacate the order permitting her former attorney to withdraw. The court also declined to appoint pro bono counsel, order a case-file accounting or specified document production, or grant requested financial and protective relief.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Colorado
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Susan Prose
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Colorado
DECIDED	December 10, 2025
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00814-PAB-SBP
DISPOSITION	denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court ruled on Plaintiff's motion to vacate the order permitting her former attorney to withdraw, appoint pro bono counsel, obtain additional case-file materials, require a financial accounting, and issue protective relief.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court considered whether Plaintiff had shown grounds to vacate or reconsider the prior order and whether the requested relief was legally justified. The opinion does not identify a formal standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order with no reported citation
PARTIES	Jamie Lee Saunders v. Albertsons/Safeway, LLC, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local #7

TOPICS

- motion for reconsideration
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should vacate the order permitting Plaintiff's former attorney to withdraw and appoint pro bono counsel.
2. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to an order requiring former counsel to provide a specific accounting or additional materials from her case file.
3. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to a financial accounting or protective relief against alleged retaliation or procedural disadvantage by former counsel.

HOLDINGS

1. The court denied the request to vacate the withdrawal order and appoint pro bono counsel because Plaintiff identified no basis to reconsider the withdrawal order and did not show that the legal issues were sufficiently complex to justify appointed counsel.
2. The court denied the request because Plaintiff did not identify specific missing materials or establish an entitlement to an accounting of the case file's contents.
3. The court denied the requests because Plaintiff did not explain with specificity why a court-ordered financial accounting was necessary or justified, how former counsel might retaliate, or what protective relief she sought.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“*[T]he right to counsel in a civil case is not a matter of constitutional right under the Sixth Amendment.*”
(Analysis)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's former attorney withdrew after an apparent irreconcilable conflict, and Plaintiff proceeded pro se as a result. Plaintiff alleged that former counsel engaged in unethical behavior and sought appointment of pro bono counsel, access to an organized and complete case file, a financial accounting, and protection against alleged retaliation or procedural disadvantage. The court found that Plaintiff had not shown uniquely complex legal issues, identified specific missing case materials, justified a financial accounting, or specified the protective relief sought.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff's former attorney moved to withdraw, and the court entered an order permitting the withdrawal. Plaintiff subsequently filed a motion to vacate that order and requested appointment of pro bono counsel, return or accounting of case-file materials, a financial accounting, and protective relief. The motion was referred to Magistrate Judge Susan Prose under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1), and the court denied it in its entirety.

DISPOSITION

denied

CASES CITED

- MacCuish v. United States, 844 F.2d 733, 735 (10th Cir. 1988)
- Sinclair Wyo. Ref. Co. v. A & B Builders, Ltd., 989 F.3d 747, 783 (10th Cir. 2021)
- Morales-Fernandez v. INS, 418 F.3d 1116, 1119, 1122 (10th Cir. 2005)

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