

FILED

United States Court of Appeals

For the Eleventh Circuit

2007 APR -9 AM 10: 36

No. 06-14466

District Court Docket No.
06-00680-CV-CV-IPJ

KEVIN DANLEY,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
versus

JACKIE RIKARD, RONNIE WILLIS, RUBY ALLYN,
Defendants-Appellants.

FILED
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS
ELEVENTH CIRCUIT
Mar 8, 2007
THOMAS K. KAHN
CLERK

No. 06-14808

District Court Docket No.
06-00680-CV-3-IPJ

KEVIN DANLEY,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
versus

STEVE WOODS,
Defendant-Appellant.

A True Copy - Attested
Clerk U.S. Court of Appeals,
Eleventh Circuit
By: *[Signature]*
Deputy Clerk
Atlanta, Georgia

No. 06-15580

District Court Docket No.
06-00680-CV-IPJ

KEVIN DANLEY,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
versus

JEFF WOOD,
Defendant-Appellant.

Appeals from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Alabama

J U D G M E N T

It is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the attached opinion included herein by reference is the judgment of this Court.

ISSUED AS MANDATE
APR 06 2007
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS
ATLANTA, GA.

Entered: March 8, 2007
For the Court: Thomas K. Kahn, Clerk
By: Jackson, Jarvis

Kevin DANLEY, Plaintiff–Appellee,

v.

Ruby ALLEN, et al., Defendants,

Jackie Rikard, Ronnie Willis, Ruby Allyn, Defendants–Appellants.

Kevin Danley, Plaintiff–Appellee,

v.

Steve Woods, Defendant–Appellant.

Kevin Danley, Plaintiff–Appellee,

v.

Jeff Wood, Defendant–Appellant.

**Nos. 06–14466, 06–14808 and 06–15580
Non–Argument Calendar.**

United States Court of Appeals,
Eleventh Circuit.

March 8, 2007.

Background: Pretrial detainee brought § 1983 action against detention officers, alleging that he was subjected to excessive force and then denied medical treatment when they sprayed him with pepper spray. Officers moved to dismiss on the basis of qualified immunity. The United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama, Nos. 06-00680-CV-CV-IPJ, 06-00680-CV-3-IPJ, and 06-00680-CV-IPJ, Inge P. Johnson, J., entered orders denying the motions to dismiss. Officers appealed.

Holding: The Court of Appeals held that the district court’s one-sentence orders, which were devoid of any facts and any legal analysis, wholly failed to provide the

court with an opportunity to conduct meaningful appellate review.

Vacated and remanded.

1. Federal Civil Procedure ⇨928

District court orders should contain sufficient explanations of the courts’ rulings so as to provide the Court of Appeals with an opportunity to engage in meaningful appellate review.

2. Federal Courts ⇨947

District court’s one-sentence summary denials of defendant detention officers’ motions to dismiss pretrial detainee’s § 1983 action on the basis of qualified immunity wholly failed to provide the Court of Appeals with an opportunity to conduct meaningful appellate review, thus requiring remand for the district court to enter reasoned orders, where the district court’s orders were devoid of any facts and any legal analysis and perfunctorily stated that the district court had considered the motions and was “of the opinion defendants’ motions are due to be denied.” 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983.

3. Federal Courts ⇨947

On defendants’ motion to dismiss § 1983 action on the basis of qualified immunity, it is the responsibility of the district court in the first instance, and not the Court of Appeals on appeal, to review the record and applicable case law and render a reasoned decision on the qualified immunity issue. 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983.

Appeals from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

Synopsis, Headnotes and Key Number Classification
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The Synopsis, Headnotes and Key Number Classification constitute no part of the opinion of the court.

Before HULL, WILSON and PRYOR,
Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

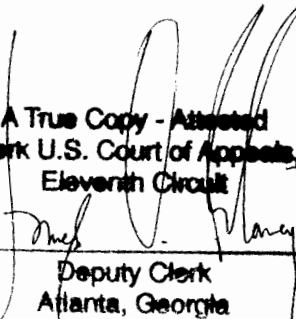
In this 42 U.S.C. § 1983 case, the district court summarily denied defendant-appellants' motions to dismiss plaintiff-appellee Kevin Danley's second amended complaint. Danley contends that he was subjected to excessive force and then denied medical treatment when, as a pretrial detainee, detention officers sprayed him with pepper spray. The defendant-appellants contend that they are entitled to qualified immunity from Danley's claims. The district court entered one-sentence orders denying each of the various motions to dismiss. The district court's one-sentence orders perfunctorily stated that the district court had considered the motions and was "of the opinion defendants' motions are due to be denied." The orders are devoid of any facts and any legal analysis.

[1] Many times, and in many contexts, this Court has admonished district courts that their orders should contain sufficient explanations of their rulings so as to provide this Court with an opportunity to engage in meaningful appellate review. See *Clay v. Equifax, Inc.*, 762 F.2d 952, 957-58 (11th Cir.1985) (collecting cases in which the Supreme Court and this Court's predecessor Court "urged the district court to state the reason for its decision and the underlying

predicate"); see also *Serra Chevrolet, Inc. v. General Motors Corp.*, 446 F.3d 1137, 1151 (11th Cir.2006) (in imposing sanctions, district court must clearly state its reasons so that meaningful review may be had on appeal); *In re Ford Motor Co.*, 345 F.3d 1315, 1317 (11th Cir.2003) (granting petition for writ of mandamus where district court "provided no substantive explanation" for its discovery ruling); *Broadwater v. United States*, 292 F.3d 1302, 1303 (11th Cir.2002) (in view of size of record and number of allegations, summary denial of 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion was inappropriate).

[2, 3] In this case, we conclude that the district court's one-sentence summary denials of defendant-appellants' motions to dismiss wholly fail to provide this Court with an opportunity to conduct meaningful appellate review. While this Court certainly could review the record and applicable case law and render a reasoned decision on the qualified immunity issue, this is the responsibility of the district court in the first instance. Accordingly, we vacate the district court's orders denying the defendant-appellants' motions to dismiss and remand the case to the district court to consider the case in full and to enter reasoned orders which discuss the facts alleged in the second amended complaint and detail the legal analysis used by the district court to reach its conclusions regarding the motions to dismiss.

VACATED AND REMANDED.

A True Copy - Attested
Clerk U.S. Court of Appeals,
Eleventh Circuit
By: 
Deputy Clerk
Atlanta, Georgia

United States Court of Appeals

Eleventh Circuit
56 Forsyth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Thomas K. Kahn
Clerk

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2007 APR 9 11:36
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April 06, 2007

Sharon Harris
Clerk, U.S. District Court
1729 5TH AVE N STE 140
BIRMINGHAM AL 35203-2050

Appeal Number: 06-14466-AA
Case Style: Kevin Danley v. Ruby Allen
District Court Number: 06-00680 CV-CV-IPJ

The enclosed certified copy of the judgment and a copy of this court's opinion are hereby issued as the mandate of this court.

Also enclosed are the following:

Original record on appeal or review, consisting of: one volume

The clerk of the court or agency shown above is requested to acknowledge receipt on the copy of this letter enclosed to the clerk.

A copy of this letter, and the judgment form if noted above, but not a copy of the court's decision, is also being mailed to counsel and pro se parties. A copy of the court's decision was previously mailed to counsel and pro se parties on the date it was issued.

Sincerely,

THOMAS K. KAHN, Clerk

Reply To: James O. Delaney (404) 335-6113

Encl.

United States Court of Appeals

Eleventh Circuit
56 Forsyth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Thomas K. Kahn
Clerk

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2007 APR 10 10:26
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April 06, 2007

Sharon Harris
Clerk, U.S. District Court
1729 5TH AVE N STE 140
BIRMINGHAM AL 35203-2050

Appeal Number: 06-14808-AA

Case Style: Kevin Danley v. Ruby Allen

District Court Number: 06-00680 CV-3-IPJ

The enclosed certified copy of the judgment and a copy of this court's opinion are hereby issued as the mandate of this court.

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Eleventh Circuit
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April 06, 2007

Appeal Number: 06-14466-AA
Case Style: Kevin Danley v. Ruby Allen
District Court Number: 06-00680 CV-CV-IPJ

TO: Sharon Harris

CC: Bart Harmon

CC: Daryl L. Masters

CC: Henry F. Sherrod, III

CC: Administrative File

Sharon Harris
Clerk, U.S. District Court
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April 06, 2007

Appeal Number: 06-14808-AA
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TO: Sharon Harris

CC: Bart Gregory Harmon

CC: Daryl L. Masters

CC: Henry F. Sherrod, III

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Sharon Harris
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District Court Number: 06-00680 CV-IPJ

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