

Lawyer says: Just Be Patient

Being a "jailhouse lawyer" in prison can be very time consuming and dangerous when as a prisoner you are trying to exercise your legal rights in a court of law. It becomes dangerous and stressful when the defendants are prison staff of all ranks and the top prison administrative officials whom have so much control over me and my life in this prison doing a life sentence for my first felony conviction with no parole. One has to be courageous and intrepid in the pursuit of justice and holding public employees accountable when they violate the Constitution and a legally binding settlement agreement contract that was agreed to by the South Dakota Department of Corrections in the previous civil rights lawsuit case: *Shane Bell v. Darin Young et al.*, Civ. 16-4046 (8th Cir. 2016).

Most of the high-ranking officials in the above civil rights lawsuit were fired or were suspended, then retired by the Governor of South Dakota last year. Since I have filed another lawsuit for breach-of-contract and further Constitutional violations, I have to deal with the vindictive prison staff and their inmate minions whom constantly label me, talk of putting me in the SHU daily while openly talking of stealing my property and "gaslighting" me, my lawyer just tells me to be patient as the present breach-of-contract for the above mentioned settlement agreement contract and new Constitutional violations in the active case: *Bell v. Young et al.*, Civ. 21-4134 (8th Cir. 2021).

You would think that public employees and administration of the South Dakota State Penitentiary would follow the legally binding contract that was signed and agreed to in a court of law, but here the prison employees function as if the settlement contract doesn't matter and they are above the law or any accountability. Lately it has become so bad here that prison staff are not staying at the prison to work and there is a prison staff shortage, that says alot.

I will just do as my lawyer advises and "just be patient" as I wait for the Federal court to rule so I can proceed to a public trial-by-jury and hold the public prison staff accountable for their continued official oppression and enforcement of the agreed to "promised under the terms of the settlement agreement to refrain from any 'unlawful adverse effect' visited upon Mr. Bell by prison officials as a result of his filing the instant lawsuit." Time will tell and I have no choice but to intrepidly carry-on and be patient as my case proceeds in Court. As I see it, every "illegal adverse effect" visited on me is just more evidence to support my lawsuit.

Exercising your legal rights in prison as a prisoner is never easy and it takes great courage to proceed with it. I encourage all "jailhouse lawyers" to continue to courageously exercise their legal rights in courts to promote the positive changes and accountability that is needed in the U.S. prison system.

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