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FILED
Aug 17 2017
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS

**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**

No. 16-CV-1213

KEITH RODERICK BROADNAX,
Appellant,

v.

2016 CA2 5893

IDA WILLIAMS,
Appellee,

and

No. 16-CV-1214

RODNEY RYAN GRAVES,
Appellant,

v.

2016 CA2 5892

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Appellee.

BEFORE: Fisher and Thompson, Associate Judges,
and Nebeker, Senior Judge.

Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

J U D G M E N T

On consideration of appellees' motion for summary affirmance, appellants' opposition thereto, appellants' brief and appendix, and the record on appeal, it is

ORDERED that appellants' motion for summary affirmance is granted. *See Oliver T. Carr Mgmt., Inc. v. Nat'l Delicatessen, Inc.*, 397 A.2d 914, 915 (D.C. 1979). Accepting all of the allegations in the complaint as true and construing all facts and inferences in favor of the appellant, as we must, *see Murray v. Wells Fargo Home Mortg.*, 953 A.2d 308, 316 (D.C. 2008), we conclude that the trial court did not err in granting appellees' motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim and lack of standing. Appellants' complaint fails to contain sufficient factual allegations to allow the trial court to draw the reasonable inference that appellees are liable under appellant's theory. *See Potomac Dev. Corp. v. District of Columbia*, 28 A.3d 531, 543 (D.C. 2011) (observing that "to survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face") (citation and internal quotation marks omitted); Super. Ct. Civ. R. 8 (a). Furthermore,

Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

inasmuch as appellants cannot demonstrate the existence of a written or oral agreement between the parties or other evidence establishing an agency or contractual relationship, appellants lack standing because they are unable to demonstrate injury-in-fact, causation, and redressability. *See Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-561 (1992). Lastly, the trial court did not err in denying appellants' request to compel the Recorder of Deeds to accept appellants' birth certificates for recordation because birth certificates do not fall within the class of instruments that the Recorder of Deeds is statutorily authorized to record. *See D.C. Code § 1-15-11 (III)(1) (2012 Repl.)*. It is

FURTHER ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the orders on appeal are hereby affirmed.

ENTERED BY DIRECTION OF THE COURT:

s/ Julio A. Castillo

JULIO A. CASTILLO

Clerk of the Court

Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

Copies to:

Honorable Thomas J. Motley

Quality Review Branch, Civil Division

Keith Roderick Broadnax

11407 Trillum Street

Bowie, MD 20721

Rodney Ryan Graves

P.O. Box 31714

Capitol Heights, MD 20731

Copies e-served to:

Todd S. Kim, Esq.

Solicitor General for DC

cml

**The Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Civil Division**

Keith Roderick Broadnax,
Plaintiff,

Case Number: 2016 CA 5893

vs.

Ida Williams,
Recorder of Deeds
Defendant,

Order

This matter comes before the Court in Judge-in-Chambers on a “Petition for Declaratory Judgment.” In the body of his petition, Keith Roderick Broadnax (“Petitioner”) appears to seek clarification and compensation from the District of Columbia Government on several issues. Petitioner did not allege danger of irreparable injury, request and form of injunctive relief, or represent facts regarding an emergency situation within the purview of Judge-in-Chambers. Therefore, this case is to be assigned to an associate judge, to be handled in the ordinary course.

WHEREFORE, it is by the Court this 30th
day of August 2016, hereby
ORDERED, that the above captioned case is
to be assigned to an associate judge.

s/ Curtis E. von Kann
Senior Judge von Kann
[Superior Court Seal
over Judge's name]

Copies To:

Keith Roderick Broadnax
Plaintiff

Ida Williams, Recorder of Deeds
Defendant

**The Superior Court of the District of Columbia
Civil Division**

Rodney Ryan Graves,
Plaintiff,

Case Number: 2016 CA 5892

vs.

Government of the District of Columbia,
Defendant,

Order

This matter comes before the Court in Judge-in-Chambers on a “Petition for Declaratory Judgment.” In the body of his petition, Rodney Ryan Graves (“Petitioner”) appears to seek clarification and compensation from the District of Columbia Government on several issues. Petitioner did not allege danger of irreparable injury, request and form of injunctive relief, or represent facts regarding an emergency situation within the purview of Judge-in-Chambers. Therefore, this case is to be assigned to an associate judge, to be handled in the ordinary course.

WHEREFORE, it is by the Court this 30th
day of August 2016, hereby
ORDERED, that the above captioned case is
to be assigned to an associate judge.

s/ Curtis E. von Kann
Senior Judge von Kann
[Superior Court Seal
over Judge's name]

Copies To:
Rodney Ryan Graves
Plaintiff

The Government of the District of Columbia
Defendant

Filed
D.C. Superior Court
11/04/2016 14:48PM
Clerk of the Court

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
Civil Division**

KEITH RODERICK BROADNAX,
Plaintiff,

v. Civil Action No. 2016 CA 5893 2
Judge Thomas J. Motley
Civil II – Cal. 5

IDA WILLIAMS,
Defendant,

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION
TO DISMISS**

Upon consideration of Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support thereof, plaintiff's Opposition; and for reasons stated on the record at the November 3, 2016 hearing, defendant's motion is granted.

On August 10, 2016, Keith Broadnax filed a Petition for Declaratory Judgment against "Keith Roderick Broadnax, as registered organization/state agency of the Government of the District of Columbia," and the government of the District of

Columbia, along with Ida Williams in her official capacity as the Recorder of Deeds. The complaint is virtually incomprehensible, but seeks to have the District of Columbia's Recorder of Deeds "record" certain "Instruments." Plaintiff also request that the District of Columbia (1) pay and discharge all public and private debts in his name; (2) compensate him in the amount of \$4,200,000.00; and (3) compensate him in the amount of \$200,000.00 annually, for life.

The District of Columbia has filed a motion to dismiss the petition with prejudice and plaintiff has filed an opposition. On November 3, 2016, this Court held a hearing on defendant's motion.

Plaintiff's petition does not allege facts that show that defendant is liable to plaintiff for declaratory relief or remuneration. *See Adams v. Dep't of Treasury*, 2014 U.S. Dist. Lexis 3992*3 (D.D.C. Jan. 13, 2014) (dismissing *pro se* plaintiff's request for declaratory judgment or writ of mandamus because "[a] complaint that is excessively long, rambling, disjointed, incoherent, or full of irrelevant and confusing material does not meet [Rule 8's] pleading requirements, even when they are liberally construed in a *pro se* litigant's favor."). As detailed by defendant, plaintiff has failed to state a facially plausible claim of action under agency law, fiduciary duty law, contract law, or the United States Constitution. *See Ashcraft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662 (2009).

This Court also agrees that plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that he has a right to have the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds accept his birth certificate or other item as an instrument for filing.

Finally, and more fundamentally, plaintiff has failed to meet the standing requirements under *Lujan v. Defender of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992). Because plaintiff has not demonstrated an injury-in-fact, causation, or redressability, this Court agrees with the determination made by the District Court in *Keith Roderick Broadnax, et al. v. District of Columbia, et al.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. Lex 79687 (D.D.C. June 20, 2016), that the plaintiff lacked standing.

Therefore, it is this 4th day of November, 2016, hereby

ORDERED, that the Motion to Dismiss is **GRANTED**; and it is further **ORDERED** that this matter is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

s/ Thomas J. Motley
THOMAS J. MOTLEY
Associate Judge

Keith Roderick Broadnax
11407 Trillum Street
Bowie, MD 20721

David Fisher
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Assistant Attorney General
for the District of Columbia

Filed
D.C. Superior Court
11/04/2016 14:54PM
Clerk of the Court

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
Civil Division**

RODNEY RYAN GRAVES,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 2016 CA 5892 2

Judge Thomas J. Motley

v.

Civil II – Cal. 5

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA,
Defendant,**

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT'S MOTION
TO DISMISS**

Upon consideration of Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support thereof, plaintiff's Opposition; and for reasons stated on the record at the November 3, 2016 hearing, defendant's motion is granted.

On August 10, 2016, Keith Broadnax filed a Petition for Declaratory Judgment against "Rodney Ryan Graves, as registered organization/state agency of the Government of the District of Columbia," and

the government of the District of Columbia, along with Ida Williams in her official capacity as the Recorder of Deeds. The complaint is virtually incomprehensible, but seeks to have the District of Columbia's Recorder of Deeds "record" certain "Instruments." Plaintiff also request that the District of Columbia (1) pay and discharge all public and private debts in his name; (2) compensate him in the amount of \$6,800,000.00; and (3) compensate him in the amount of \$200,000.00 annually, for life.

The District of Columbia has filed a motion to dismiss the petition with prejudice and plaintiff has filed an opposition. On November 3, 2016, this Court held a hearing on defendant's motion.

Plaintiff's petition does not allege facts that show that defendant is liable to plaintiff for declaratory relief or remuneration. *See Adams v. Dep't of Treasury*, 2014 U.S. Dist. Lexis 3992*3 (D.D.C. Jan. 13, 2014) (dismissing *pro se* plaintiff's request for declaratory judgment or writ of mandamus because "[a] complaint that is excessively long, rambling, disjointed, incoherent, or full of irrelevant and confusing material does not meet [Rule 8's] pleading requirements, even when they are liberally construed in a *pro se* litigant's favor."). As detailed by defendant, plaintiff has failed to state a facially plausible claim of action under agency law, fiduciary duty law, contract law, or the United States

Constitution. See *Ashcraft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662 (2009).

This Court also agrees that plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that he has a right to have the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds accept his birth certificate or other item as an instrument for filing.

Finally, and more fundamentally, plaintiff has failed to meet the standing requirements under *Lujan v. Defender of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992). Because plaintiff has not demonstrated an injury-in-fact, causation, or redressability, this Court agrees with the determination made by the District Court in *Keith Roderick Broadnax, et al. v. District of Columbia, et al.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. Lex 79687 (D.D.C. June 20, 2016), that the plaintiff lacked standing.

Therefore, it is this 4th day of November, 2016, hereby

ORDERED, that the Motion to Dismiss is **GRANTED**; and it is further **ORDERED** that this matter is **DISSMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.

s/ Thomas J. Motley
THOMAS J. MOTLEY
Associate Judge

Rodney Ryan Graves
P.O. Box 31714
Capitol Heights, MD 20731

David Fisher
Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Assistant Attorney General
for the District of Columbia

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
Civil Division**

KEITH RODERICK BROADNAX,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 2016 CA 5893 B

Judge Thomas J. Motley

v.

Civil II – Cal. 5

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *et al.*

Defendant,

**ORDER (1) DENYING MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION AND (2) DENYING
AMENDED MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION**

This matter comes before this Court on the Plaintiff's Amended Motion to Reconsider, Vacate Order and Default Judgment, filed December 2, 2016. This motion amends plaintiff's November 14, 2016 motion. Defendant District of Columbia filed an Opposition on December 1, 2016.

In this motion, plaintiff request that this Court reconsider it November 4, 2016 Order granting the District of Columbia's motion to dismiss, and grant plaintiff another opportunity to discuss the underlying issues in this case before the Court. For

reasons stated in the opposition filed by the District of Columbia, this Court is not inclined to grant the motion to reconsider.

Accordingly, it is this 28th day of December 2016, hereby

ORDERED, that Plaintiff's Amended Motion to Reconsider, Vacate Order and Default Judgment is **DENIED**; and it is further **ORDERED** that the Motion to Reconsider and Vacate Order is **DENIED**.

s/ Thomas J. Motley

Thomas J. Motley
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

Copies to:

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11407 Trillum Street
Bowie, MD 20721

David Fisher
Deputy Attorney General
District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
Civil Division**

RODNEY RYAN GRAVES,

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 2016 CA 5892 B

Judge Thomas J. Motley

v.

Civil II – Cal. 5

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, *et al.*

Defendant,

**ORDER (1) DENYING MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION AND (2) DENYING
AMENDED MOTION FOR
RECONSIDERATION**

This matter comes before this Court on the Plaintiff's Amended Motion to Reconsider, Vacate Order and Default Judgment, filed December 2, 2016. This motion amends plaintiff's November 14, 2016 motion. Defendant District of Columbia filed an Opposition on December 1, 2016.

In this motion, plaintiff request that this Court reconsider its November 4, 2016 Order granting the District of Columbia's motion to dismiss, and grant plaintiff another opportunity to discuss the underlying issues in this case before the Court. For

reasons stated in the opposition filed by the District of Columbia, this Court is not inclined to grant the motion to reconsider.

Accordingly, it is this 28th day of December 2016, hereby

ORDERED, that Plaintiff's Amended Motion to Reconsider, Vacate Order and Default Judgment is **DENIED**; and it is further **ORDERED** that the Motion to Reconsider and Vacate Order is **DENIED**.

s/ Thomas J. Motley

Thomas J. Motley
ASSOCIATE JUDGE

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David Fisher

Deputy Attorney General

District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General

[File stamp]
FILED
Oct 17 2017
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS

**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**

No. 16-CV-1213

KEITH RODERICK BROADNAX,
Appellant,

v.

2016 CA2 5893

IDA WILLIAMS,
Appellee.

BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge;
Glickman, Fisher, Thompson, Beckwith, Easterly,
and McLeese, Associate Judges.

O R D E R

On consideration of appellants' petition for rehearing *en banc*; and it appearing that no judge of this court has called for a vote on the petition for rehearing *en banc*, it is

Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

ORDERED that appellant's petition for rehearing *en banc* is denied.

PER CURIAM

Copies to:

Honorable Thomas J. Motley

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Quality Review Branch

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11407 Trillum Street
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Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

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Solicitor General for DC

pii

[File stamp]
FILED
Oct 17 2017
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COURT OF APPEALS

**District of Columbia
Court of Appeals**

No. 16-CV-1214

RODNEY RYAN GRAVES,
Appellant,

v.

2016 CA2 5892

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Appellee.

BEFORE: Blackburne-Rigsby, Chief Judge;
Glickman, Fisher, Thompson, Beckwith, Easterly,
and McLeese, Associate Judges.

O R D E R

On consideration of appellants' petition for rehearing *en banc*; and it appearing that no judge of this court has called for a vote on the petition for rehearing *en banc*, it is

Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

ORDERED that appellant's petition for rehearing *en banc* is denied.

PER CURIAM

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Director, Civil Division
Quality Review Branch

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Nos. 16-CV-1213 & 16-CV-1214

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