IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

DAVID F. EVANS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs. * Case No. 1:07CV739

CITY OF DURHAM, NC, et al.,

Defendants.

_____* Winston-Salem, North Carolina * May 16, 2014

RYAN MCFADYEN, et al., * 10 a.m.

Plaintiffs,

*

vs. * Case No. 1:07CV953

*

DUKE UNIVERSITY, et al.,

TRANSCRIPT OF STATUS CONFERENCE
BEFORE THE HONORABLE JAMES A. BEATY, JR.

APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiffs:

1:07CV739 CHRISTOPHER N. MANNING, ESQUIRE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

CHARLES DAVANT, IV, ESQUIRE

Williams & Connolly, LLP 725 12th Street, NW

Washington, DC 20005

CHRISTOPHER C. FIALKO, ESQUIRE

Rudolf Widenhouse & Fialko 225 East Worthington Avenue

Suite 200

Charlotte, NC 28203

1:07CV953 ROBERT C. EKSTRAND, ESQUIRE

Ekstrand & Ekstrand, LLP 811 Ninth Street, Suite 260

Durham, NC 27701

_	_	
1	For the Defendants:	
2	1:07CV739 & 1:07CV953	REGINALD B. GILLESPIE, JR., ESQUIRE Wilson & Ratledge, PLLC
3		4600 Marriott Drive, Suite 400 Raleigh, NC 27612
4		
5		LINWOOD E. WILSON, PRO SE 6910 Innesbrook Way Bahama, NC 27503
6	1:07CV953	PAUL K. SUN, JR., ESQUIRE
7	1.070,733	Ellis & Winters, LLP Post Office Box 33550
8		Raleigh, NC 27636
9		DIXIE T. WELLS, ESQUIRE Ellis & Winters, LLP
10		333 N. Greene Street, Suite 200 Greensboro, NC 27401
11		DAN J. MCLAMB, ESQUIRE
12		BARBARA B. WEYHER, ESQUIRE ALLISON J. BECKER, ESQUIRE
13		Yates McLamb & Weyher, LLP Post Office Box 2889
14		Raleigh, NC 27602
15	Court Reporter:	Lori Russell, RMR, CRR P.O. Box 20593
16		Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27120
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24	Proceedings recorded by stenotype reporter. Transcript produced by Computer-Aided Transcription.	
25		

PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: Counsel, the Court notes for the record this is a follow-up to an earlier hearing, a status conference report, held in this matter earlier in the year. The Court had given the parties additional time to consider this matter and determine whether or not any resolution could be made as between the various parties.

The Court will note that there are two separate cases for consideration today, the one being the case in 1:07CV739 involving the plaintiffs David Evans, Collin Finnerty, and Reade Seligmann versus the City of Durham and others. The second case is that of McFadyen versus Duke in 1:07CV953.

The Court is aware that certain actions have been taken with respect to some of the Defendants in the Evans matter and I'll address that one first. Then we'll see where we are with respect to the McFadyen case.

Mr. Manning, do you wish to be heard in terms of where we are in the Evans matter?

MR. MANNING: Yes, Your Honor, and good morning.

May it please the Court, as we informed the Court yesterday, we reached a resolution with the City of Durham defendants — those were the two detectives, Detective Himan and Detective Gottlieb — as well as the City of Durham itself. Those claims were dismissed yesterday. We also reached a resolution with Mr. Nifong yesterday and those

claims have been dismissed as well.

sir.

There's one remaining Defendant in the case. That's Mr. Wilson. We spoke briefly before the hearing outside and I believe we've reached an agreement to resolve the claim as to him as well. And so subject to that agreement being finalized, we'd be prepared to file a stipulation of dismissal for Mr. Wilson as early as today, if not next week.

THE COURT: Mr. Wilson, you're representing yourself pro se. To the extent your matters were still pending with respect to joining in a motion for judgment on the pleadings as to the Defendants Gottlieb and Himan and you filed separate motions to dismiss for various bases, are you acknowledging to the Court at this time that your case is to the point of being resolved and just waiting some additional procedure matters in terms of dismissal?

MR. WILSON: Yes, sir. As to the Evans case, yes,

THE COURT: All right, sir.

Anything further, Mr. Wilson or Mr. Manning concerning Evans? If what you're presenting to the Court is correct, and I have no reason to doubt that, then all the matters that were involved in the Evans case would be disposed of by your announcement today.

MR. MANNING: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, sir. To that extent, the Court would ask again of Mr. Wilson, do you understand that, to the extent it's been announced there has been some resolution of your matters, that would be the only thing awaiting the Court's determination, receiving a dismissal? There would not be any additional proceedings regarding any defenses that you have asserted or motions you have asserted.

MR. WILSON: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: You acknowledge that at this time?

MR. WILSON: I do, sir.

THE COURT: With that, that completes the matter of Evans versus Durham and others. I certainly appreciate your diligence in working toward a speedy resolution in that matter.

MR. MANNING: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: With that, unless you have some reason to stay, I would be glad to excuse you at this point.

MR. MANNING: I don't believe we have anything further, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right.

Mr. Wilson, as you're acknowledging, you will stay for the purposes of the McFadyen matter.

MR. WILSON: I'm sorry. I didn't understand.

THE COURT: You will stay for purposes of the

McFadyen matter since you are involved in that.

MR. WILSON: Yes.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

(Mr. Manning, Mr. Davant, and Mr. Fialko left the courtroom.)

THE COURT: In terms of the McFadyen matters, again, we have not had as much resolution as far as I know, but I'll let the parties tell me where you are.

In my review of the matters, it would appear that what's currently before the Court -- and the Court may be prepared to consider some of that fairly shortly. But it would appear that Claim 18 against Defendants Brodhead, Steel, Dzau, and one other defendant that is still before the Court -- that's Burness, I believe -- and Duke University and Duke Systems. Count 21, the breach of contract relating to disciplinary policies to the extent it's alleged Duke did not follow their own policies -- back to Count 18, it would appear it's an obstruction of justice claim, except for Mr. Wilson, which seemed to be tied to the criminal investigation. That and Ms. Levicy is tied to the criminal matter; but as to the other defendants that I named, it seems to be an allegation relating to civil obstruction of justice or affecting civil remedies. As I indicated, Count 21, breach of contract relating to disciplinary matters; Count 24, fraud against the Defendants Graves, Dean, Drummond, Smith, and Duke University to the

extent there is an allegation that -- representation that certain matters had not been presented to the state attorney -- state attorney and investigators; Count 41, to the extent there's some still some constitutional claim against the City.

As you address that from the Plaintiffs' perspective, you can acknowledge whether or not those are the matters based upon your understanding and we'll just go from there. Yes, sir.

MR. EKSTRAND: Yes, sir. Your Honor, Bob Ekstrand on behalf of the Plaintiffs. I think you have essentially the gist of what's remaining. I believe, in addition, there are -- there is a -- the negligent hiring retention --

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. EKSTRAND: -- claim against --

THE COURT: In Count 32.

MR. EKSTRAND: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: I did not include that one.

MR. EKSTRAND: Yes, sir. And with respect to the obstruction of justice, you're correct that there are — there's more than one factual basis for that and I think you've articulated the two that are going forward. There are pending motions with respect to Count 1, which is a — a Section 1983 claim for — arising out of the same facts that give rise to the obstruction of justice claim and the state

constitutional claim. Beyond that, Your Honor, you have the -- you have articulated everything that we have in our material going forward.

THE COURT: Count 1, as I recall, involved a question of whether or not you had earlier conceded that that would go away as a result of the Court of Appeals' decision after the Supreme Court had made some determination. Was that the essence of Count 1?

MR. EKSTRAND: That is the essence of Count 1.

THE COURT: All right, sir. As a summary matter, anything the Defendants wish to say at this point?

MR. SUN: May it please the Court, Paul Sun for the Duke defendants. Your Honor has outlined the case — the claims that remain. There is as to Count 18, and Mr. McLamb will address it for his client, a motion for judgment on the pleadings. But those — those claims recited by the Court are the ones that we understand remain in the case. Thank you.

MR. MCLAMB: Dan McLamb, Your Honor. I concur with Mr. Sun and Mr. Ekstrand. We have 12(c) motions pending with respect to Counts 18 and 32 on behalf my clients.

THE COURT: Have you made any particular filings with respect to that, Mr. McLamb, at this point? It would appear that there's a question over what basis the

constitutional claim remains if there's been some disposition of all individual City defendants. 2 3 MR. MCLAMB: Let me see if I follow the Court. Count 18 is the obstruction of justice claim. Count 32 is 4 5 the negligent retention claim. 6 THE COURT: And I may have been speaking of the 7 City. That's my question for the City next. 8 MR. MCLAMB: Okay. 9 THE COURT: But to the extent -- did you have 10 anything further with respect to Count 18 to the extent 11 that's --12 MR. MCLAMB: It's been fully briefed, Your Honor, 13 and I think we're awaiting the Court's decision. 14 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Yes, I believe I --15 MR. GILLESPIE: Your Honor --16 THE COURT: -- was looking at my notes on the 17 18 City, but I'll let you respond to that. 19 MR. GILLESPIE: Good morning, Your Honor. Reggie 20 Gillespie for the City. The only claim against the City in this case is a state 21 22 law claim under the North Carolina Constitution. That's 23 As to Count 41, the City is the only defendant as Count 41. 24 to that claim. So the City is here for one claim.

state law claim. It's Count 41.

25

THE COURT: Have you filed something particularly with respect to that?

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: Is that currently before the Court?

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes, Your Honor. We filed a

motion for judgment on the pleadings as to that count and
the Plaintiffs filed a response on Tuesday of this week.

THE COURT: All right, sir.

So generally where are we in terms of any efforts to try to resolve this matter? Where are we at this point, Mr. Ekstrand?

MR. EKSTRAND: Your Honor, unfortunately at the same spot. When we left here last, there was a 60-day window where we expressed our interest in discussing any settlement. We actually raised the idea of having all the Defendants join in the discussion together for the first time. We've already gone down that path with the Duke defendants but not yet with the City in the last discovery proceeding on the fraud claim and the breach of contract claim. In the interim, we have -- we have not had any discussion. We've raised it, but we've instead received three different motions that we've had to respond to and haven't had any conversations about settling it during that time. So we're still in the same place, still open to discussion.

THE COURT: In terms of just generally -- and the Court, as I said, fairly shortly will make some rulings. But particularly as to Mr. Wilson in terms of the counts that remain against him, the Court is concerned -- even though you identified Count 5 as being the one that you were conceding, Count 1 seemed to be at issue as well.

But in terms of Count 18 in particular, if it involves obstruction of justice, similar conduct that Gottlieb and Himan were involved in, the Court's analysis — even though Gottlieb and Himan may be out of the case at this point, the Court's analysis of Mr. Wilson's case may, of necessity, discuss Gottlieb and Himan even though they're out just because of his motion to join in to that. Just to make you aware of that.

Do you wish to be heard since -- you've already briefed that somewhat, but do you wish to be heard to the extent the Court is indicating to you that whatever ruling it might have made with respect to Gottlieb and Himan, may also affect the Court's consideration in Mr. Wilson's case?

MR. EKSTRAND: Your Honor, I think -- the only thing I'd what to emphasize is that we did want to have conversations with all the Defendants about their status in the case. Mr. Wilson is included in those. We still would like to do that and we'll -- you know, we intend to have that conversation with Mr. Wilson to the extent that the

Court leaves open that claim against him before we do -- I'm sorry. If the Court were to eliminate that claim against him before we do, obviously that will resolve the case against him, but we still have every intention to have a conversation with him about his continuing status in the case.

But as to the substance, you know, what the Fourth Circuit has ruled with respect to police officers being sued for obstruction of justice, we've briefed that fully and I think our point is essentially there's a limited holding to police officers and obstruction of justice. I don't think that Mr. Wilson qualifies. I also don't think that our North Carolina Supreme Court would carve out that exception. I don't think they've carved it out in the first place, but I don't think that they would extend what the Fourth Circuit has ruled to apply to assistants, to district attorneys who are involved in the obstruction of justice.

THE COURT: Are we talking about initiation or are we talking about participation at this point?

MR. EKSTRAND: Participation.

THE COURT: Do you think that's still open after the Farm Bureau case?

MR. EKSTRAND: I do. I do. I think under -- yes,
I do. I think that his participation in the ongoing
conspiracy as a latecomer is still a viable theory.

I've opened the door for some discussion of that -- and it may involve Ms. Levicy as well. To the extent that -- Count 18 as relates to that allegation or factual pattern, I've opened the door. Mr. Ekstrand, I'll hear from the others as well. I know you've filed briefs, but I'm giving you this opportunity if you wish to follow up somewhat, particularly in view of the argument the Plaintiff is now making.

MR. SUN: May it please the Court, let me advise -- because the Court asked about settlement discussions. As we advised the Court before, we did go through and the Court is aware of a mediation process; and our mediator, Mr. Harkavy, declared an impasse. But at the Court's encouragement at the last status conference hearing, we contacted Mr. Harkavy promptly and invited him to reinitiate discussions because that's the -- that's the best way we thought to see if there were discussions worth having and we've heard nothing in that regard substantively in response to that. So I wanted to let the Court know that.

And with the Court's permission, I think Mr. McLamb is the one properly to address the county team legal arguments for Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. McLamb, I keep passing over you. I'll hear from you.

MR. MCLAMB: And you can hear from me, Your Honor,

only to the extent you ask that you need to hear from me. I do think we fully briefed our position on that. Was there a particular question that the Court has?

THE COURT: No, sir. Just giving you an opportunity to respond to anything Mr. Ekstrand might have added.

MR. MCLAMB: No, sir. I'm content. I'll be happy to address any questions you have, but I think we've argued that in our briefs. I don't hear anything specific from him that relates to our arguing that motion.

THE COURT: Yes, sir. Anything further, Mr. Gillespie?

MR. GILLESPIE: Well, Your Honor, Count 18 is not directed to the City, so I don't have anything to add or subtract from that. The Court did have a question earlier I think relating to -- I want to make sure I fully answer the Court's question as to Count 41, at least I've attempted to, as far as its status. Did the Court have a question about that? That is the only count pending against the City.

appearing, I've indicated, to the extent the matter is remaining, what the trial date may be. In the interim, to the extent there's any need for discovery matters, you should take care of that before that time. The trial date has been set. As to any matters remaining, the Court may

continue to rule on this matter.

And I may have made inadvertent reference to Farm

Bureau h\as relates to these matters, but I believe that

related to the malicious prosecution charge in terms of the

elements there.

All right. Gentlemen, anything further? Gentlemen or ladies, anything further?

MR. GILLESPIE: Your Honor, I just wanted the Court to be aware, with regard to the City's participation and role in this case, this case was stayed as to the City until just recently. There's been no discovery whatsoever as to the count asserted against the City.

We view the City's -- the case against the City on a decidedly different track than the remainder of this case; and based on that and for other reasons, we have filed a motion to sever the count as to the City. That motion was filed a few weeks ago. I don't think the deadline for response has run yet. I simply wanted the Court to be aware of that. From the City's perspective, like I said, we think we're on a very different track. An October trial date is certainly not feasible from our perspective. We think the appropriate resolution for that is for a severance, and so we have filed a motion and brief in support of that.

THE COURT: Yes, sir, I'll hear from you.

MR. EKSTRAND: We will -- we'll brief the motion

to sever, our opposition to it, but I think, Your Honor, this case has been alive and at notice to the City. They've had notice of all the allegations for quite some time. I think that an October trial date will, I'm sure, test all of us, but we stand prepared to proceed through discovery and do what we need to do so that we are ready. We expect all the Defendants to do the same to the extent the Court --

THE COURT: Will your response in writing be substantially different than that, Mr. Ekstrand, in terms of motion to sever?

MR. EKSTRAND: Hopefully it will be a little more articulate, but we will oppose it and we'll deal more with the authorities with respect to severing a defendant at this stage.

THE COURT: I was trying to give you a hint. If you said you've said enough, then I'm prepared to rule on that at this time. I've considered what the Defendant City has said, but this matter has been ongoing for some time and I would not intend to sever the City.

You'll just have to pick up speed a little bit in terms of filing any discovery that you need to file. You can pursue that with the magistrate judge to the extent you need expedited discovery. But just since you're all here, for the record, I would deny your motion to sever.

MR. GILLESPIE: Your Honor, we certainly respect

and appreciate the Court's consideration. We hope the Court would look at the reasons for it. In this court, Middle District itself, severance is appropriate to avoid confusion and prejudice; and we think we've made the case for that in our motion and brief; and we hope the Court would take a look and consider that before it denies the motion. We obviously yield gracefully to whatever ruling this Court makes, and we'll respect and adhere to that.

But we are in a position, we believe, of prejudice given the way the case is. It's not our fault that the Plaintiffs made a -- filed a 428 page, 1,300 allegation complaint that largely has been disposed of. It took seven years to do that, but ultimately the bulk of this case has gone away as to the City. There's never been anything going forward on discovery, so we do want an opportunity to defend ourselves. Again, though, we respect and yield gracefully to whatever ruling this Court makes.

THE COURT: I will review it and particularly will give -- how much time do you need to file any additional response, Mr. Ekstrand? I would want to expedite that so the Court could consider this matter in a timely fashion.

MR. EKSTRAND: If you could give me until -- well, through Wednesday, I believe I could have it fully briefed to you by then.

THE COURT: All right, sir. The Court will delay

any formal ruling, but just giving you an indication of how the Court feels at this point in terms of this matter having been continued against all the parties. There's been no surprises here in terms of what the arguments are, but if —with the Plaintiff agreeing to have until Wednesday, the 21st, to file its response, then the Court will allow that as an expedited time frame and would consider formally the motion to sever at that time.

MR. SUN: Your Honor, may I address two other points briefly with regard to the trial?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. SUN: One, with respect I think to both parties, we would benefit to the extent the Court is able to give us a specific trial date. I'll speak first for the Duke defendants and Mr. Ekstrand can certainly speak for his clients. There are, obviously, a number of individual defendants remaining on the specific counts, including the president of the university; and so just for planning purposes — and I know the Court has other things to balance as well, but I'd ask that too. Again, I know Mr. Ekstrand can speak to that, but he's got a client — one of his clients, at least the last I knew, was in the military. So those kind of things take some planning and the like. So to the extent the parties could ask for that, we would.

And then, second, Your Honor, as the Court has -- has

acknowledged in going through this process and setting up the sequence of events, the -- the pending motion on the Count 18, obstruction of justice claim, will obviously affect what discovery goes forward. And so, again, the Court has recognized that in the way it's sequenced things. We're set up with our 26(f) conference with Judge Peake next Friday and I -- again, the parties would clearly benefit from guidance from the Court on -- to the extent we get further comments from the Court on the claims that are going forward and specifically Count 18.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right, sir. Mr. Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Yes, sir. In respect to my Count 18, just a clarification. The motions that have been filed on that, are they to be heard today or at another time or --

THE COURT: As indicated at the suggestion of the other parties, the Court is in the process of making a determination as to those claims and will be filed as a part of the order. Everyone may not have come prepared today for argument — any specific argument on that, but the Court will be prepared shortly to enter an order as to all matters that are pending.

MR. WILSON: All right. Thank you, sir.

THE COURT: Anything further, counsel?

MR. GILLESPIE: Your Honor, with regard to the

City's pending judgment for motion on the pleadings, I just want to make the Court aware that is almost ripe for consideration. I certainly could today, if the Court wanted to, provide a reply orally. We can formally file a reply shortly on that as well, however the Court wants to proceed, but we do want the Court to be aware we do have a dispositive Rule 12(c) motion pending.

THE COURT: All right, sir. Has the -- I'll let you proceed as you're proceeding now and I'll consider that to the extent I need to do anything further as a part of a written order to you.

MR. GILLESPIE: I take it you want me to go ahead and file a written response.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes, sir, Your Honor. We'll be glad to do that.

THE COURT: Anything further, counsel?

MR. SUN: Nothing for the Duke defendants, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. McLamb.

MR. MCLAMB: Nothing further, Your Honor. I would echo Mr. Sun's comments. Obviously, my involvement in the case is on those two claims, 18 and 32, so the Court's ruling will have a big impact on what I do in the next few months.

THE COURT: All right, sir. Thank you very much. 1 2 Counsel, again, thank you for reporting back to the 3 Court. We will proceed as we have been. I understand you 4 have a meeting with or hearing before Judge Peake. It is my 5 intention to address those matters in a timely fashion so 6 that you can know what's before you at that time. Anything 7 further? 8 MR. MCLAMB: Nothing here, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: We'll be in recess until further 10 notice. 11 MR. EKSTRAND: Thank you, Your Honor. 12 (Proceedings concluded at 10:32 a.m.) 13 14 <u>C E R T I F I C A T E</u> 15 I, LORI RUSSELL, RMR, CRR, United States District Court Reporter for the Middle District of North Carolina, DO 16 HEREBY CERTIFY: 17 That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings had in the within-entitled action; that I 18 reported the same in stenotype to the best of my ability and thereafter reduced same to typewriting through the use of 19 Computer-Aided Transcription. 20 21 Date: 6/16/14 22 Lori Russell, RMR, CRR

Official Court Reporter

23

24

25