

Defendants filed a motion to dismiss, which was granted in part and denied in part. As a result of the ruling on the motion to dismiss, the following claims remain: (1) a First Amendment retaliation claim against C/O Rix; (2) Eighth Amendment claims against C/O Rix, C/O Polybank, and unknown C/O's; (3) supervisory liability claims against Defendants Wetzel, Gilmore, and Edmond;² and ADA claims against Defendants DOC, Wetzel, Gilmore, Esmond, and Shawley. *See* Memorandum Opinion and Order filed on 11/28/19. (ECF Nos. 25 and 26).

Thereafter, Defendants filed a timely Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint. (ECF No. 26). With the pleadings closed, Plaintiff filed the instant Partial Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, in which he seeks judgment on his ADA Title II claim and his Eighth Amendment claims.

Standard of Review

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c), a party may move for judgment on the pleadings after the pleadings are closed but within such time as to not delay the trial. Fed.R.Civ.P.12(c). A Rule 12(c) motion is designed to provide a means of disposing of cases when the material facts are not in dispute, and judgment on the merits may be achieved by focusing on the content of the pleadings and any facts of which the Court may take judicial notice.

Such motions, being directed toward a determination of the substantive merits of the controversy, should be granted only where it is clear that the merits of the controversy can be fairly and fully decided in such a summary manner. *Shelly v. Johns-Manville Corp.*, 798 F.2d 93, 94 (3d Cir. 1986). In ruling on a Rule 12(c) motion, the Court is required to view the allegations of the pleadings as true and the facts presented in the pleadings and the inferences to

² The Eighth Amendment supervisory claim against Defendant Shawley was dismissed.

be drawn therefrom in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *Soc'y Hill Civic Ass'n v. Harris*, 632 F.2d 1045, 1054 (3d Cir. 1980).

Discussion

According to Plaintiff, the pleadings establish that (i) the parties agree that the elements of his claim brought pursuant Title II of the ADA have been met and (ii) that he has satisfied the elements for judgment to be granted on his Eighth Amendment claims. Defendants respond that they have sufficiently denied the allegations of the complaint, and asserted affirmative defenses, such that judgment on the pleadings is inappropriate.

After reviewing the relevant pleadings, and the various documents Plaintiff has submitted for review, the Court finds that Plaintiff's motion is without merit as Defendants have not admitted the relevant allegations of the complaint and, in fact, have raised numerous affirmative defenses to Plaintiff's claims. This is not a case in which the material facts are not in dispute, and the merits of the controversy can be fairly and fully decided in a summary manner. Hence, the partial motion for judgment on the pleadings must be denied.

ORDER OF COURT

AND NOW, this 30th day of May, 2019, it is hereby **ORDERED** that Plaintiff's Partial Motion for Partial Judgment on the Pleadings is **DENIED**.

BY THE COURT:

s/Cynthia Reed Eddy

Cynthia Reed Eddy

Chief United States Magistrate Judge

cc: QUINTEZ TALLEY
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