

Name: Anonymous 871 Anonymous 871
Title: Community Outreach Fellow
Organization or Agency: The Coalition
Topic: Meeting Date Not Listed
NA

Testimony:

Rulings

The following information are brief summary's of recent judgements in Prisoner's favor in the District of Connecticut.

(1) \$130,000 Punitive Damages in Ad.Seg. Isolation and Nutrition Case -

Baltas v. Erfe, et al., No. 3:19cv01820(MPS)(D.Conn) - Baltas brought a sweeping challenge to confinement in the Conn supermax "Northern." After several years and defeating summary judgment, the court appointed counsel, after which the DOC defendants were granted an exhaustion hearing they had previously waived, wherein the DOC used altered records to successfully make a failure to exhaust claim. Baltas was left with only claims of 23-24 cell confinement/deprivation of out of cell/recreation, inadequate nutrition and deprivation of visual stimuli caused by officials covering his window in mud. Baltas dismissed counsel and attempted to revive the claims dismissed under the fraudulent exhaustion issue, he was unsuccessful. He then received counsel from the firm of Shipman and Goodwin, which included a team of seasoned and fresh attorneys who put on a masterful trial. Numerous inmates testified to the horrific conditions and treatment at Northern, as well as the Nations leading expert on solitary confinement, Dr. Stuart Grassien, PhD. The Plaintiff and counsel were extremely limited by the court in what they could present and were prohibited from using the term "solitary confinement" but despite the handicapping of the court, they prevailed.

After three days of deliberations the jury returned a verdict of \$130,000 in punitive damages against the former Captain/Unit Manager (who was deceased at the time and who's estate was attached), the former Warden/current Deputy Commissioner, and former District Administrator and recently retired Commissioner;

(2) Summary Judgment Granted to Prisoners in Religious Freedoms Case -

Baltas, et al. v. Chapdelaine, et al., No. 3:17cv00242(MPS)(D.Conn) - Baltas retained counsel and brought a multi plaintiff challenge to an off the books disciplinary unit. Counsel sabotaged the case, and Baltas entered a pro se appearance to revive the case in the second circuit obtaining counsel of Paul Weiss. Wherein they reversed on a denial of access to their native american religious freedoms. Upon return to the district they won summary judgment in their favor and now await a hearing on damages;

Friday 6/5/26