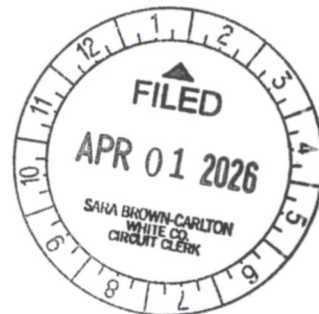


FROM: Lynch,

SUBJECT: RE: White County Judicial Recusal & Venue Change Pt 1
DATE: 01/02/2026 07:51:04 PM



JASON MATTHEW LYNCH,
Plaintiff / Pro Se Movant
Reg. No. 07405-510

v.

WHITE COUNTY JAIL; WHITE COUNTY COMMISSION;
CLAYTON EDWARDS; THE WHITE COUNTY SHERIFF;
JOHN AND JANE DOES, et al.,
Defendants

Case No. _____
PRO SE MOTION FOR JUDICIAL RECUSAL

AND FOR CONSIDERATION AND RULING BY A NEW OR ASSOCIATE JUDGE ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR CHANGE OF VENUE

(28 U.S.C. §§ 144, 455(a), 455(b), 455(b)(1);
Arkansas Constitution; Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure;
Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct)

I. INTRODUCTION AND NATURE OF MOTION

COMES NOW Jason Matthew Lynch, appearing pro se, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court for mandatory judicial recusal of the presiding White County Circuit Court Judge from all matters involving Mr. Lynch, followed by assignment to a new or associate judge for the purpose of considering and ruling upon Plaintiff's pending Motion for Change of Venue.

This Motion is brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 144, 28 U.S.C. § 455(a), (b), and (b)(1), the Arkansas Constitution, the Arkansas Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct, and is supported by specific, material, non-conclusory facts demonstrating actual bias, probability of bias, and at minimum an appearance of partiality that would cause a reasonable person to question the Court's impartiality.

This motion concerns state-law tort claims and state-law violations arising from actions by White County Jail, White County officials, and associated actors, and is necessary to protect the fundamental constitutional right to a fair and unbiased tribunal, due process, and the integrity of judicial proceedings.

II. GOVERNING LEGAL STANDARDS

A. Federal Recusal Statutes (Applicable by Persuasive Authority)

Under 28 U.S.C. § 144, a judge must recuse where a party submits a timely and sufficient affidavit showing that the judge harbors a personal bias or prejudice. The judge's role is limited strictly to determining legal sufficiency, not credibility.

In re Martinez-Catala, 129 F.3d 213, 218 (1st Cir. 1997)

United States v. Vespe, 868 F.2d 1328, 1340 (3d Cir. 1989)

Davis v. Bd. of Sch. Comm'rs of Mobile Cnty., 517 F.2d 1004, 1051 (5th Cir. 1975)

Under 28 U.S.C. § 455(a), recusal is required where a judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

Under § 455(b)(1), recusal is mandatory where the judge has personal bias, personal knowledge of disputed facts, or extrajudicial involvement.

As the Second Circuit held:

> "Alleged facts are sufficient if they create reasonable doubt concerning the judge's impartiality in the mind of a reasonable person."

United States v. Bernstein, 533 F.2d 775, 784 (2d Cir. 1976)

B. Due Process and Constitutional Principles

The Due Process Clause is violated when a judge cannot reasonably be expected to free himself from personal knowledge, institutional entanglement, or conflicting interests.

In re Murchison, 349 U.S. 133, 136 39 (1955)

Tumey v. Ohio, 273 U.S. 510, 522 (1927)

III. FACTUAL BASIS DEMONSTRATING ACTUAL AND APPARENT BIAS

The following facts are specific, material, repeated, documented, and non-speculative, and must be accepted as true for purposes of this motion.

1. FEDERAL COURT FINDINGS OF MERIT FOR RETALIATION AND REPRISAL

A United States District Court in the Eighth Circuit has recently found merit sufficient to allow claims to proceed under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1985, specifically retaliation and reprisal, arising directly from actions taken against Jason Matthew Lynch and his wife, Kirsten Lynch, for the purpose of chilling, suppressing, and punishing protected court filings and civil litigation.

These federal findings do not exist in isolation. They arise out of the same nucleus of facts, the same actors, the same institutional setting, and the same retaliatory pattern now before this Court under state law.

Once a superior federal court has found legally sufficient evidence of retaliation connected to court-related activity, continued adjudication by a court institutionally intertwined with those same actors creates an unconstitutional risk of bias.

2. REPEATED OCCURRENCES NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT

The conduct at issue reflects a pattern, not an anomaly:

Timely filed motions ignored or not ruled upon

Procedural deviations favoring Defendants

Docket manipulation inconsistent with neutral administration

Mr. Lynch being called out of docket order, contrary to standard practice, while other inmates from his housing pod were delayed for hours

Officers expressly stating they were "just doing what they were told"

A pattern of irregularities is legally significant and supports recusal. Bias need not be proven beyond doubt only that a reasonable person would conclude neutrality is compromised.

3. OUTSIDE INFLUENCE AND FAILURE TO ADDRESS DISCLOSED CONFLICTS

Mr. and Ms. Lynch received explicit text communications from their former landlord, stating that he was a personal friend of the Judge and would "see to it the book was thrown at them" regarding a disputed rent balance that arose solely because of Mr. Lynch's arrest and detention.

This communication constitutes:

Evidence of extrajudicial influence

Evidence of personal relationships intersecting with judicial action

A disclosed conflict that was never addressed or cured

Failure to act upon such disclosure itself supports recusal.

4. IGNORED TIMELY MOTIONS AND PROCEDURAL DEVIATIONS

The Court's failure to address properly filed motions particularly those implicating constitutional rights, retaliation, and conflicts of interest constitutes further evidence of partiality and violates:

Ark. R. Civ. P. 1 (fairness, efficiency, justice)

Ark. R. Civ. P. 40 (neutral docket management)

5. RELATED PROCEEDINGS MAGNIFY THE CONFLICT

These matters do not exist in a vacuum. Multiple related proceedings state and federal name or implicate:

White County officials

Jail administrators

County policymakers

Individuals who work daily with the Court and judicial staff

Individuals who will likely be named defendants after discovery

When judicial officers and staff are institutionally, professionally, and personally intertwined with parties to litigation, recusal is mandatory.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL ENTANGLEMENT AND PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE

The White County Circuit Court is physically and administratively co-located with the White County Jail. The presiding Judge and judicial staff:

See the named Defendants daily

Communicate with them professionally and administratively

Have personal knowledge of internal jail operations

Have administrative roles overlapping county functions

Have worked alongside these parties for 15+ years

Under *In re Murchison*, due process is violated where a judge cannot free himself from personal knowledge of disputed facts. That standard is met here.

V. LEGAL SUFFICIENCY UNDER FEDERAL AND ARKANSAS LAW

Under *Henderson v. Dep't of Pub. Safety & Corr.*, 901 F.2d 1288, 1296 (5th Cir. 1990), allegations are sufficient if they:

1. Are material and particular
2. Would convince a reasonable person that bias exists
3. Show bias that is personal, not merely judicial

All three prongs are satisfied.

Arkansas law likewise requires judges to avoid both actual bias and the appearance of impropriety.

Arkansas Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 1

Canon 2 (impartiality and avoidance of impropriety)

VI. NECESSITY OF CHANGE OF VENUE

For the same reasons compelling recusal, venue in White County is untenable. The Defendants:

Live in White County

Work in White County

Interact daily with court staff

Exercise influence within the same institutional ecosystem

Mr. Lynch respectfully prays for transfer to a neutral venue, such as Pulaski County (Little Rock) or another non-adjacent county, to ensure fairness, due process, and public confidence.

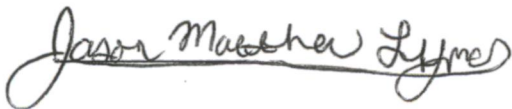
VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Jason Matthew Lynch, pro se, respectfully prays that this Court:

1. Order immediate judicial recusal of the presiding Judge from all matters involving Mr. Lynch;
2. Assign a new or associate judge with no institutional or personal ties to the parties;
3. Direct the newly assigned judge to consider and rule upon Plaintiff's Motion for Change of Venue;
4. Grant such other and further relief as justice requires.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jason Matthew Lynch
Jason Matthew Lynch
Reg. No. 07405-510
Pro Se Plaintiff

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Matthew Lynch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underneath the name.