

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

A'KINBO J. S. HASHIM, a/k/a JOHN D. TIGGS,
VENCENT D. WHITAKER, JONATHAN P. COLE,
ANDREW B. COLLETTE, BRYSE L. GARRETT,
ALPHONCY DANGERFIELD, ANOTHY BODDIE,
NORMAN C. GREEN, JR., KENTA M. FINKLEY,
TERRY COMMODORE, EUGENE L. CHERRY,
SAMMY J. GATES, GLENN OWENS,
BARRELL FREEMAN, ERIC M. WASHINGTON,
TINGIA WHEELER, MICHAEL THOMAS,
MICHAEL A. SCIORTINO, MICHAEL OBUCHOWSKI, ORDER
MICHAEL ADAMS, DANIEL L. SMITH,
RONALD C. JACKSON, MICHAEL S. JOHNSON, 01-cv-705-bbc
RUFUS LAJUAN LYNCH, TONY EPPENGER,
AMOS T. CRAIG, AL AMIN AKLAR-BEY,
AMOS BRANIGAN, BARON L. WALKER, SR.,
WALTER BROWN, SR., JOEDDIE SMITH,
JAMES P. BURBA, DENNIS W. GONZALEZ,
WILLIAM MADINA, KYLE BONER, RONALD LOZANO,
TIMOTHY REED, DAVID HUDSON, ANDRE TURNER,
ANTHONY SANDIFER, JOHN E. BACHER,
GUY DUNWALD, XAVIER J. RUIZ, STACY T. HAYNES,
MARCUS Y. PORTER, GARFIELD COOLEY, DENNIS E. JONES'EL,
RODOSOVALDO POZO, DU-YUL THAMES, GLENN TERELL TURNER,
DONALD CAMBELL-LEE, RAYNELL MORGAN, TONY ALLEN DAVIS,
RASHID TALIB, CHIP BRANCH-BEY, ROBERT COLLINS-BEY,
CHRISTOPHER BERRY, FRANK ANASTASIA, JOSE ROSA,
MOSES COLLINS, MONTELL HORTON, MICHAEL BLACKBURN,
TODD JONES, MAURICE GREER, MAURICE DAVIS,
ABEL SILVA, FOUNTAINE GORDON, MATHEW SCHUMACHER,
JAMES D. TOWNS, AGUSTIN VELEZ, ANTONIO MENDEZ,
COURTNEY FIEDLER, DERRICK A. SANDERS,

EZRA CHARLES MARTIN, JR., LAMONT BROWN,
CORNELIUS MADDOX and GERALD A. TUCKER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

GERALD A. BERGE,

Defendant.

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In an order entered on April 15, 2002, I barred plaintiff A’Kinbo Hashim, a/k/a John D. Tiggs, from litigating in this court any future lawsuit in which he names anyone other than himself as a plaintiff. I issued this sanction under Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(b) as a result of Tiggs’s failure to obtain the original signatures of all the plaintiffs on the complaint he prepared and filed, failure to obtain the permission of all of the co-plaintiffs to be a part of his lawsuit and his lack of candor in representing to the court that he had served the other plaintiffs with copies of his filings in this case. Dkt. #60. In particular, I stated:

[P]laintiff Tiggs boasts an unabashed and proud conviction that he is entitled to control the filings of others who join him in a complaint, even to the extent of directing them to ignore orders of the court requesting their direct participation. His lack of appreciation for the responsibilities he has as a lead plaintiff in a lawsuit and his willingness to deceive the court in representing either explicitly or implicitly that the co-plaintiffs he names are participating meaningfully in the lawsuit, constitute adequate grounds for dismissing this lawsuit without prejudice to each plaintiff’s filing a separate lawsuit raising his own claims and for barring plaintiff Tiggs from litigating in this court any new lawsuit in which he names anyone other than himself as a plaintiff.

Id.

Now plaintiff Tiggs has filed a motion for clarification of the meaning of the April 15, 2002 order. He states that he has been given a memorandum from prison staff indicating that he will not be allowed to possess any legal materials concerning another inmate. In particular, plaintiff notes that the memorandum states, “Due to the order of the . . . federal court, there is no legitimate purpose for you to possess any legal materials pertaining to anyone but yourself.” Tiggs wants the court to confirm that the sanction order “does not disallow him from assisting others with legal research, analysis and preparation of legal documents.”

Tiggs does not seek monetary or injunctive relief and would not be allowed to do so without filing a new case. To the extent that plaintiff seeks only clarification of the sanctions order, I will grant his request. The sanctions order precludes Tiggs from “litigating in this court any new lawsuit in which he names anyone other than himself as a plaintiff.”

Id. This means that he cannot file a group lawsuit with other plaintiffs. Nothing in the sanctions order forbids Tiggs from acting as a “jailhouse lawyer,” that is, assisting another prisoner with legal research and preparation of documents. In addition, this sanctions order is limited to filings in this court. This court does not have the authority to tell Tiggs what litigation he can and cannot pursue in other courts.

Although the previous order did not bar plaintiff Tiggs from assisting other prisoners

so long as he does not make them part of a joint complaint, it does not protect him from discipline or sanctions if he violates other prison rules or regulations while acting as a jailhouse lawyer.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the motion for clarification submitted by plaintiff A'Kinbo Hashim, a/k/a John D. Tiggs, dkt. #67, is GRANTED and the order entered in this case on April 15, 2002 is clarified as barring plaintiff only from bringing group complaints.

Entered this 31st day of January, 2012.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

BARBARA B. CRABB

District Judge