

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION**

<b>FAITH BLAKE,</b> <b>(No. 73053-279),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-807-P</b>
<b>TIFFANY SNODGRASS,</b> <b>(No. 20160-043),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-852-P</b>
<b>BARBARA CARNAHAN,</b> <b>(No. 281221-045),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-853-P</b>
<b>SHELLY MIXON,</b> <b>(No. 12079-480),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-854-P</b>
<b>PEGGY CHAFFIN,</b> <b>(No.70653-061),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-856-P</b>
<b>VICTORIA MARTINEZ,</b> <b>(No. 77453-479),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-858-P</b>
<b>ARIEL BISHOP,</b> <b>(No. 27411-009),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-871-P</b>
<b>BRANDI MOORE,</b> <b>(No. 37492-480),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-873-P</b>
<b>STEPHANIE WALKER,</b> <b>(No. 27266-078),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-879-P</b>
<b>GEORGIA GREGG,</b> <b>(No. 09223-479),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-880-P</b>
<b>GENESIS GONZALEZ,</b> <b>(No. 19703-480),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-881-P</b>
<b>JULIANA LOURDE,</b> <b>(No. 28023-078),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-882-P</b>
<b>TESA KEITH,</b> <b>(No. 58769-177),</b>	§ §	<b>Civil Action No. 4:20-CV-885-P</b>





**ORDER APPOINTING/NAMING COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS and ,  
PROVIDING TIME FOR COUNSEL TO REVIEW AND UPDATE PLEADINGS**

All of these pending cases were filed, *pro se*, by inmates at the Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) FMC-Carswell facility in Fort Worth, Texas. Each of the plaintiffs has filed the requisite in forma puperis documents<sup>1</sup> to maintain their cases under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. As all of the plaintiffs are prisoners proceeding under the in forma pauperis statute, these cases remain subject to the Court's substantive screening and review authority under both 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) and § 1915A. Each of the plaintiffs has filed a complaint or amended complaint that includes the same or similar allegations arising from their conditions of confinement at FMC-Carswell during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. By a separate Order issued in these cases, the Court has now dismissed without prejudice, under authority of §§ 1915(e)(2)(B) and 1915A, each plaintiff's claim related to the service of her respective sentence for lack of jurisdiction.

As to the plaintiffs' remaining claims in these cases, the Court has determined that it would benefit both the plaintiffs and the Court to appoint counsel. The Court is authorized under the in-forma-pauperis statute to "request an attorney to represent any person unable to afford counsel." 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Thus, in this unique circumstance with numerous inmate plaintiffs asserting similar claims arising from the same operative facts, the Court has

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<sup>1</sup> In case number 4:20-CV-902-P, inmate plaintiff Candice Klein paid the full filing and administrative fees, but her claims are still subject to the Court's substantive screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a).

concluded that appointment of counsel is necessary. Appointed counsel will assist these plaintiffs' in the investigation and presentation of their remaining claims. The Court has now located counsel interested in taking the appointment in these cases.

As counsel will now be appointed, the Court also concludes that it is appropriate to provide an extension of time to allow appointed counsel to investigate and prepare amended pleadings on behalf of these plaintiffs.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that Jay K. Wieser, Edwin M. Buffmire, Paul C. Watler, and Jackson Walker, LLP, 777 Main Street, Suite 2100, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 are appointed as *pro-bono*<sup>2</sup> counsel for all of these plaintiffs.<sup>3</sup> It is further **ORDERED** that Professor James C. George and the Texas A&M Law School Civil Clinic are also appointed to allow the Clinic's law students to assist the appointed attorneys in this case in accordance with the applicable Texas Rules of Disciplinary Conduct.

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<sup>2</sup> The Court notes that 28 U.S.C. § 1915 does not authorize payment for counsel. The representation of these plaintiffs will thus essentially be *pro bono*, except for the possibility of appointed counsel entering into a contingent fee agreement with any plaintiff, and/or the possibility of a statutory recovery of attorney's fees if any plaintiff is ultimately successful on the merits of her claims. The Court will provide appropriate contact information to assist these attorneys in contacting the plaintiffs.

<sup>3</sup> Attorneys Wieser, Buffmire, and Watler, and the firm of Jackson Walker, LLP, along with Professor James C. George and the Texas A&M Law School Civil Clinic, are expressly appointed for these pending cases only, and these plaintiffs are expressly directed *not* to seek or request legal assistance from these attorneys, from other lawyers of Jackson Walker, LLP, or from the Texas A&M Law School Civil Clinic, in the filing of any other civil action or habeas-corpus action, or as to any other matters.

It is further **ORDERED** that appointed counsel shall, by no later than **April 1, 2021**, file updated pleadings, either by filing a First Amended Complaint in each of these separate cases, or if appointed counsel determines it is appropriate under the facts and law applicable to these cases, by filing a motion to consolidate with a consolidated First Amended Complaint.

**SO ORDERED** this **22nd day of December, 2020**.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark T. Pittman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mark T. Pittman  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE