

Steven N. Malitz Pro Bono Efforts

Benner v. McAdory (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit) Mr. Malitz prosecuted a Section 1983 claim (8th and 14th Amendments) on behalf of a prisoner where correctional officers were deliberately indifferent to the prisoner's safety by knowingly exposing him to great risk of substantial bodily harm. Defendant correctional officers removed plaintiff from his cell and immediately left him unescorted, with hands cuffed behind his back, in the disciplinary segregation wing of a maximum security prison, where he was scalded with boiling water by an extremely dangerous Gangster Disciple who possessed an illegal heating device. The matter involved substantial discovery, summary judgment briefing and an appeal to the Seventh Circuit.

Goodman v. Carter (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois) Mr. Malitz prosecuted a Section 1983 claim (1st and 14th Amendments and Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act) on behalf of a prisoner who was denied various religious items, and rituals, which were important to his religious practice. The Illinois Department of Corrections and defendant corrections officials banned religious items and rituals claiming that both posed security concerns. After briefing three summary judgment motions and on the eve of trial, Mr. Malitz and his team forced a settlement enabling plaintiff to effectively practice his religion.

Holtje v. Wilmette Real Estate and Management Co. (Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois) Mr. Malitz defended a tenant in a wrongful eviction matter. The tenant was evicted without notice and her personal belongings were destroyed or stolen when placed in the street by the sheriff. Mr. Malitz and his team had the order of possession vacated and obtained a sizeable monetary settlement for the tenant's personal property.

Love v. Ward (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois) Mr. Malitz is currently prosecuting a Section 1983 claim (14th Amendment) on behalf of a pre-trial detainee who was placed in segregation for over one year without a due process hearing and who was denied a medical diet despite a severe stomach ailment. The matter is currently in the discovery phase.

Forcible Entry and Detainer Defense. Mr. Malitz has volunteered extensively on behalf of tenants faced with evictions.

Criminal Defense. Mr. Malitz has volunteered extensively on behalf of criminal defendants faced with felony and misdemeanor charges.