

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FILED

SEP 12 2008

NANCY MAYER WHITTINGTON, CLERK
U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Colleen Robertson Workman,

Plaintiff,

v.

The Federal Government *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 08 1566

MEMORANDUM OPINION

This matter is before the Court on its initial review of plaintiff's *pro se* complaint and application for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court will grant the *in forma pauperis* application and dismiss the case because the complaint fails to meet the minimal pleading requirements of Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Pro se litigants must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Jarrell v. Tisch*, 656 F. Supp. 237, 239 (D.D.C. 1987). Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires complaints to contain “(1) a short and plain statement of the grounds for the court's jurisdiction [and] (2) a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a); *see Ciralsky v. CIA*, 355 F.3d 661, 668-71 (D.C. Cir. 2004). The Rule 8 standard ensures that defendants receive fair notice of the claim being asserted so that they can prepare a responsive answer and an adequate defense and determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

Plaintiff, a resident of Washington, D.C., names as defendants “the federal government,” “the local government” and “D.C. businessmen.” Compl. Caption. Her allegations, however, implicate “Wash. Post opportunists” in various misdeeds and unidentified others in unspecified

conduct. Compl. at 1-2. The complaint fails to provide any notice of a claim against the named defendants and thus will be dismissed by separate Order issued contemporaneously with this Memorandum Opinion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Roberts", written in black ink.

United States District Judge

Date: September 5, 2008