

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| SHARON BRIDGEWATER,                      | ) |   |
|  | ) |   |
| Plaintiff,                               | ) |   |
|  | ) | Case: 1:17-cv-00056                     |
| v.                                       | ) | Assigned To : Unassigned                |
|  | ) | Assign. Date : 1/11/2017                |
| LORETTA ELIZABETH LYNCH, <i>et al.</i> , | ) | Description: Pro Se Gen. Civil (F Deck) |
|  | ) |   |
| Defendants.                              | ) |   |

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the Court on plaintiff’s application to proceed *in forma pauperis* and her *pro se* civil complaint. The application will be granted, and the complaint will be dismissed.

The Court has reviewed plaintiff’s complaint, keeping in mind that complaints filed by *pro se* litigants are held to less stringent standards than those applied to formal pleadings drafted by lawyers. *See Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Even *pro se* litigants, however, 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 that a complaint contain a short and plain statement of the grounds upon which the Court’s jurisdiction depends, a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks. Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). The purpose of the minimum standard of Rule 8 is to give fair notice to the defendants of the claim being asserted, sufficient to prepare a responsive answer, to prepare an adequate defense and to determine whether the doctrine of *res judicata* applies. *Brown v. Califano*, 75 F.R.D. 497, 498 (D.D.C. 1977).

//

The Court has reviewed the complaint and finds that it fails to meet the standard set forth in Rule 8(a). The plaintiff manages to name 575 defendants in this action, *see generally* Compl. at 1-114, yet fails to articulate a viable claim against any one of them. Absent a statement of cognizable claims showing the plaintiff's entitlement the relief she demands, the complaint will be dismissed. An Order consistent with this Memorandum Opinion is issued separately.

DATE: *January 9, 2017*

*By: A. M. W. C.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
United States District Judge