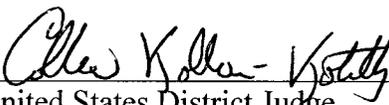




liable . . . in accordance with the law of the place where the act or omission occurred.” 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b)(1); *see Hornbeck Offshore Transp., LLC v. United States*, 569 F.3d 506, 508 (D.C. Cir. 2009). “[T]he District of Columbia has long recognized an absolute privilege for statements made preliminary to, or in the course of, a judicial proceeding, so long as the statements bear some relation to the proceeding.” *Finkelstein, Thompson & Loughran v. Hemispherx Biopharma, Inc.*, 774 A.2d 332, 338 (D.C. 2001) (affirming dismissal of defamation claim against lawyer for statements made out of court and prior to litigation), *overruled on other grounds by McNair Builders, Inc. v. Taylor*, 3 A.3d 1132 (D.C. 2010); *see also Arneja v. Gildar*, 541 A.2d 621, 623 (D.C. 1988). Insofar as the allegedly false statements were made in the context of litigation, judicial privilege bars plaintiff’s claim. *See Ginsberg v. Granados*, 963 A.2d 1134, 1140 (D.C. 2009); *Geier v. Jordan*, 107 A.2d 440 (D.C. 1954). Accordingly, the complaint will be dismissed. An Order accompanies this Memorandum Opinion.

DATE: *April 14, 2012*

  
United States District Judge