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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN E. WEST,

Plaintiff,

v.

WARDEN JAMES YATES, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 1:05-CV-01554-OWW-SMS-P

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

(Doc. 4)

Plaintiff John E. West (“plaintiff”) is a state prisoner proceeding pro se in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On January 9, 2006, plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel.

The court cannot require an attorney to represent plaintiff. Mallard v. United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). In certain exceptional circumstances, the court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991). Without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, this court will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. “A finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both ‘the likelihood of success of the merits and the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.’” Terrell, 935 F.2d at 1017 (citations omitted).

In the present case, the court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Even if it is assumed that plaintiff is not well versed in the law and that he has made serious allegations which, if proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. This court is faced with

1 similar cases almost daily. At this early stage in the proceedings, the court cannot make a
2 determination that plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits, and based on a review of the record
3 in this case, the court does not find that plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his claims.¹ Terrell,
4 935 F.2d at 1017.

5 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel, filed January
6 9, 2006, is HEREBY DENIED, without prejudice.

7
8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

9 **Dated:** January 27, 2006
10 i0d3h8

/s/ Sandra M. Snyder
11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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¹ Plaintiff has not yet paid the filing fee in full or filed an application to proceed in forma pauperis. Until plaintiff either pays the fee or is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, the court will not review plaintiff's complaint for sufficiency of the claims. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. The court has many civil cases pending before it and will screen plaintiff's complaint in due course, once plaintiff either pays the fee or is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.