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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MICHAEL GONZALES,

1:07-cv-01391-AWI-GBC (PC)

Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

v.

PRICE, et al.,

(ECF No. 40)

Defendants.

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**ORDER**

On April 15, 2011, Plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 40.) Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the Court cannot require an attorney to represent Plaintiff pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Mallard v. United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989).

However, in certain exceptional circumstances the Court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to section 1915(e)(1). Rand, 113 F.3d at 1525.

Without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the Court will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In determining whether “exceptional circumstances exist, the district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success of the merits [and] the ability of the [Plaintiff] to articulate

1 his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.” Id. (internal  
2 quotation marks and citations omitted).

3 In the present case, the Court does not find the required exceptional  
4 circumstances. Even if Plaintiff’s statement that he is not well versed in the law is taken  
5 as true and that he has made serious allegations which, if proved, would entitle him to  
6 relief, his case is not exceptional. This Court is faced with similar cases almost daily.  
7 Further, at this early stage in the proceedings, the Court cannot make a determination  
8 that Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits, and based on a review of the record in  
9 this case, the Court does not find that Plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his claims.  
10 Id.

11 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s Motion for the Appointment of Counsel is  
12 HEREBY DENIED, without prejudice.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: April 22, 2011

  
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE