

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

KEITH ROSS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

A. HEDGPETH, et al.,

Defendants.

1:09-cv-00063-AWI-SKO (PC)

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL AND  
GRANTING THIRTY-DAY EXTENSION OF  
TIME TO FILE AMENDED COMPLAINT

( MOTION #12)

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On July 20, 2011, plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel. 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, 109 S.Ct. 1814, 1816 (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 his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.” Id. (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

1 In the present case, the court does not find the required exceptional circumstances.  
2 Even if it is assumed that plaintiff is not well versed in the law and that he has made serious  
3 allegations which, if proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. This court is  
4 faced with similar cases almost daily. Further, at this stage in the proceedings, the court cannot  
5 make a determination that plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits, and based on a review of  
6 the record in this case, the court does not find that plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his  
7 claims. Id.

8 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is  
9 HEREBY DENIED, without prejudice. However, the court will *sua sponte* grant plaintiff a  
10 thirty-day extension of time to file an amended complaint in compliance with the order filed on  
11 June 9, 2011.

12  
13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 **Dated: July 21, 2011**

**/s/ Sheila K. Oberto**  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE