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

ALFREDO CERVANTES,

Case No. 1:09-cv-01863 AWI MJS (PC)

Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

vs.

J. WOODFORD, et al.,

(ECF No. 14)

Defendants.

AND DENYING MOTION FOR EXTENSION
OF TIME

_____ /

(ECF No. 15)

On February 14, 2011, Plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel. (ECF No. 14.) 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

1 likelihood of success of the merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims
2 *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.” Id. (internal quotation marks
3 and citations omitted).

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

11 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff’s motion for the appointment of counsel is
12 HEREBY DENIED, without prejudice.

13 Also on February 14, 2011, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Extension of Time to file his
14 amended complaint. Before the Court could address Plaintiff’s Motion for Extension,
15 Plaintiff filed his amended complaint. (ECF No. 16.) Accordingly, Plaintiff’s Motion for
16 Extension is moot and is denied.

17
18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: February 25, 2011

/s/ Michael J. Seng
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE