

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10

11 MICHAEL A. BURKETT,

1:10-cv-01461 OWW SKO (PC)

12 Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

13 vs.

14 KEN CLARK, et al.,

(#5)

15 Defendants.
16 _____/

17 On August 25, 2010, plaintiff filed a motion seeking the appointment of counsel.
18 Plaintiff does not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in this action, Rand v.
19 Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the court cannot require an attorney to
20 represent plaintiff pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Mallard v. United States District Court
21 for the Southern District of Iowa, 490 U.S. 296, 298, 109 S.Ct. 1814, 1816 (1989). However, in
22 certain exceptional circumstances the court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel
23 pursuant to section 1915(e)(1). Rand, 113 F.3d at 1525.

24 Without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the court
25 will seek volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In determining
26 whether “exceptional circumstances exist, the district court must evaluate both the likelihood of
27 success of the merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of
28 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 early stage in the proceedings, the court
5 cannot make a determination that plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits, and based on a
6 review of the record in this case, the court does not find that plaintiff cannot adequately articulate
7 his claims. Id.

8 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is
9 HEREBY DENIED, without prejudice.
10 IT IS SO ORDERED.

11 **Dated: August 30, 2010**

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE