

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

ASOFA V. TAFILELE, 1:10-cv-01493-LJO-GBC (PC)

Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

KELLY HARRINGTON, et al,

(ECF No. 24)

On September 26, 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

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

10 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is
11 **HEREBY DENIED**, without prejudice.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13 Dated: October 3, 2011

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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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