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

JAMES E. TOPPER,

1:11-cv-00849-GBC (PC)

Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

v.

JAMES YATES, et al.,

(ECF No. 6)

Defendants.

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ORDER

On June 3, 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, a district court must evaluate

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

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

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14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated: June 14, 2011

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18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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