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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSEPH A. BROWN,
Plaintiff,
v.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.,
Defendants.

1:12-cv-00165-AWI-GSA (PC)

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

(Document# 46)

On December 12, 2013, 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. At this
2 early stage in the proceedings, the court cannot make a determination that plaintiff is likely to
3 succeed on the merits. Plaintiff filed the Fourth Amended Complaint on December 12,
4 September 20, 2012, approximately a week ago, and the Fourth Amended Complaint awaits the
5 court's screening required by 28 U.S.C. 1915A. Thus, to date the court has not found any
6 cognizable claims in Plaintiff's complaint for which to initiate service of process, and no other
7 parties have yet appeared. Plaintiff's claims – for retaliation, conspiracy, violations of due
8 process, excessive force, and inadequate medical care – are not complex, and based on the record
9 in this case, the court does not find that Plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his claims.
10 Therefore, Plaintiff's motion shall be denied without prejudice to renewal of the motion at a later
11 stage of the proceedings.

12 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is HEREBY
13 DENIED, without prejudice.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 Dated: December 19, 2013

/s/ Gary S. Austin
16 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE