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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANTHONY SILVA,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
J. WORTH,  
Defendant.

1:16-cv-01131 LJO-SKO (PC)

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

(Doc. 49)

Fourteen (14) Day Deadline

On February 7, 2019, 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 (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. Even  
2 if it is assumed that plaintiff is not well versed in the law and that he has made serious allegations  
3 which, if proved, would entitle him to relief, his case is not exceptional. This court is faced with  
4 similar cases almost daily. Further, at this early stage in the proceedings, the court cannot make a  
5 determination that plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits, and based on a review of the record  
6 in this case, the court does not find that plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his claims. Id.

7 For the foregoing reasons, plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is HEREBY  
8 DENIED, without prejudice. As Plaintiff may have been waiting for an order on his motion to  
9 appoint counsel before preparing a response to the pending order to show cause, Plaintiff is  
10 granted a **fourteen (14) day** extension of time from the date of service of this order to file a  
11 response to the order to show cause that issued on January 14, 2019, (Doc. 46).

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13  
14 Dated: **February 12, 2019**

*/s/ Sheila K. Olerto*  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE