

1 Without a reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the court will seek
2 volunteer counsel only in the most serious and exceptional cases. In determining whether
3 “exceptional circumstances exist, the district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success on the
4 merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of the
5 legal issues involved.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

6 The test for exceptional circumstances requires the Court to evaluate the Plaintiff’s likelihood
7 of success on the merits and the ability of the Plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se in light of the
8 complexity of the legal issues involved. See *Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir.
9 1986); *Weygandt v. Look*, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th Cir. 1983). Circumstances common to most
10 prisoners, such as lack of legal education and limited law library access, do not establish exceptional
11 circumstances that would warrant a request for voluntary assistance of counsel. In the present case,
12 the Court has yet to screen Plaintiff’s complaint and based on a cursory review of the complaint, the
13 Court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion for
14 appointment of counsel will be DENIED, without prejudice.

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16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: January 24, 2018


UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE