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

DARONTA T. LEWIS,  
Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-08-1723-CMK-P

vs.

ORDER

RIPPETOE, et al.,<sup>1</sup>  
Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, brings this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Pending before the court is plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel (Doc. 25). The United States Supreme Court has ruled that district courts lack authority to require counsel to represent indigent prisoners in § 1983 cases. See Mallard v. United States Dist. Court, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). In certain exceptional circumstances, the court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). See Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991); Wood v. Housewright, 900 F.2d 1332, 1335-36 (9th Cir. 1990). In the present case, the court does not at this time find the required exceptional

\_\_\_\_\_ <sup>1</sup> The only individuals named in the operative pleading are: Rippetoe, Van Sant, Harris, Rath, Johnson, and Edwards.

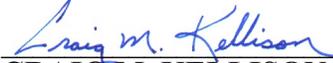
1 circumstances.

2                   Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff's request for the  
3 appointment of counsel (Doc. 25) is denied.

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5 DATED: April 14, 2009

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**CRAIG M. KELLISON**  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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