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

VERNON TOWNER,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-08-2823 LKK EFB P

vs.

MICHAEL KNOWLES, et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without counsel in an action brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He has requested that the court appoint counsel. District courts lack authority to require counsel to represent indigent prisoners in section 1983 cases. *Mallard v. United States Dist. Court*, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). In exceptional circumstances, the court may request counsel voluntarily to represent such a plaintiff. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1); *Terrell v. Brewer*, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991); *Wood v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1335-36 (9th Cir. 1990). The court finds that there are no exceptional circumstances in this case.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff's December 11, 2009 request for appointment of counsel is denied.

DATED: December 23, 2009.


EDMUND F. BRENNAN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE