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

BRENT ALLAN WINTERS, et al.,

Plaintiff,

No. 2:09-cv-00522 JAM KJN PS

v.

DELORES JORDAN, et al,

Defendants.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Presently before the court<sup>1</sup> are the following three motions: (1) plaintiffs’ motion for default judgment (Dkt. No. 189); (2) a motion to dismiss (Dkt. No. 186) filed by defendants Jan Paul Miller, Bernard Coleman, Sue Roderick, Kathi Jo McBride, Stephen Tinsley, Kevin Martens, Phillip Johnson, Hilda Molnar, Robert Anderson, Donald Staggs, James Pogue, Patrick Chelsey, and Hilary Frooman, all of whom are or were federal prosecutors or internal revenue agents involved in the criminal investigation and prosecution of plaintiff Brent Winters in the Central District of Illinois<sup>2</sup> (collectively, “Federal Defendants”); and (3) a motion to dismiss filed by defendant John Taylor, who served as appointed federal defense counsel for one of Brent

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<sup>1</sup> This action proceeds before the undersigned pursuant to Eastern District of California Local Rule 302(c)(21) and 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

<sup>2</sup> See United States v. Hills, 618 F.3d 619 (7th Cir. 2010).

1 Winters’s co-defendants in the criminal prosecution in Illinois. (Dkt. No. 199). The court heard  
2 this matter on its law and motion on February 17, 2011. Although all of the defendants  
3 concerned appeared through their respective counsel at the hearing, plaintiffs did not appear and  
4 had signaled in prior filings that they did not intend to appear at the hearing. For the reasons  
5 stated below, the undersigned recommends that: (1) plaintiffs’ motion for default judgment be  
6 denied; (2) the Federal Defendants’ motion to dismiss be granted on the grounds that this court  
7 lacks personal jurisdiction over those defendants; and (3) Taylor’s motion to dismiss be granted  
8 on the grounds that this court lacks personal jurisdiction over Taylor. The undersigned further  
9 recommends that the Federal Defendants and Taylor be dismissed from this action.

10 I. BACKGROUND<sup>3</sup>

11 Plaintiffs allege eight claims for relief against Taylor. Claims 13, 14, 15, 18, 31,  
12 36, and 38 are plaintiffs’ generic claims that are alleged against “all defendants.”<sup>4</sup> None of these  
13 claims allege any specific facts about Taylor. Plaintiffs’ only claim specifically alleged against  
14 Taylor is claim 23, which relates to the federal prosecution of plaintiff Brent Winters and two co-  
15 defendants, Kenton Tylman and Debra Hills, in the United States District Court for the Central  
16 District of Illinois. Taylor is, and was at the relevant time, an Assistant Federal Public Defender  
17 who was appointed to represent Tylman in a tax fraud prosecution in the Illinois federal court.  
18 (See Third Am. Compl. at 22; Taylor Decl. ¶ 1, Dkt. No. 199, Doc. No. 199-2.) Plaintiffs  
19 contend that Taylor conspired with the prosecutor in the tax fraud case to prevent Tylman and  
20 Brent Winters from exercising their rights to a speedy trial under the U.S. Constitution and the  
21 Speedy Trial Act. (Third Am. Compl. at 22.) Plaintiff Brent Winters was ultimately convicted

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22 <sup>3</sup> Because the undersigned resolves plaintiffs’ motion for default judgment on largely  
23 procedural grounds and resolves the pending motions to dismiss on personal jurisdiction grounds,  
24 a lengthy recitation of plaintiff’s factual allegations is not included here.

25 <sup>4</sup> Claims 13, 14, 15, 18, 31, 36, and 38 respectively allege claims for trespass to chattels,  
26 violation of 42 U.S.C. § 1983, conspiracy to violate 42 U.S.C. § 1983, civil conspiracy, conspiracy  
to violate the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. 1962(d), loss of  
consortium, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

1 of tax fraud in that prosecution and appealed that conviction on grounds including those related  
2 to speedy trial concerns. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed Brent Winters's  
3 conviction over allegations that Taylor violated Tylman's and Brent Winters's rights to a speedy  
4 trial. See generally Hills, 618 F.3d 619.

5            Relevant to Taylor's arguments in favor of dismissal for lack of personal  
6 jurisdiction, Taylor filed a declaration describing his contacts with the state of California. Taylor  
7 declares that he has lived nearly his entire life in Illinois, but lived in Indiana for six years in the  
8 1950s. (Taylor Decl. ¶ 2.) He further declares that he has spent his entire career as an attorney in  
9 Illinois and that his representation of Tylman in the Central District of Illinois arose out of  
10 activities taking place solely in Illinois. (Id. ¶¶ 3-4.) Taylor declares that he has visited  
11 California twice on personal vacations. (Id. ¶ 5.) His first visit to California occurred in 1971  
12 and consisted of a road trip along the California coast. (Id.) His second visit occurred "over ten  
13 years ago," when Taylor and his family spent one week visiting the San Francisco Bay area. (Id.)

14            Plaintiffs allege numerous claims against the Federal Defendants and Taylor in the  
15 Third Amended Complaint. Plaintiffs' claims against the various Federal Defendants implicate  
16 the claims for relief numbered 4, 13, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23, 27, 31, 36, and 38. Relevant to the  
17 Federal Defendants' arguments in favor of dismissal for lack of personal jurisdiction, plaintiffs'  
18 Third Amended Complaint does not allege that any of the Federal Defendants, other than  
19 Assistant United States Attorney Patrick J. Chelsey, had any contacts with California. Chelsey  
20 was a federal prosecutor who was involved in the criminal prosecution of Brent Winters. As to  
21 Chelsey, plaintiffs allege that on February 22, 2008, Chelsey sent a letter to attorney Valerie  
22 Logsdon (also a named defendant in this action) "confirming previous phone conversation and  
23 offering any aid to help evict the Winters" from the home that the Winters were occupying in

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1 Nevada City, California.<sup>5</sup> (Third Am. Compl. ¶ 33, at p. 6.) Plaintiffs allege that Logsdon  
2 subsequently “entered” this letter into an unlawful detainer action involving plaintiffs. (*Id.*)

3           Because plaintiffs are proceeding pro se, service in this case has been effectuated  
4 through the United States Marshal. The Federal Defendants were served with the Third  
5 Amended Complaint by the U.S. Marshal at various points during the Summer and Fall of 2010.  
6 (*See* Dkt. Nos. 134, 136, 137, 139, 157, 159, 172, 182, 191, 195.) Defendant John Taylor was  
7 served on June 28, 2010. (Dkt. No. 142.)

8           On August 11, 2010, the Federal Defendants and Taylor, through Assistant United  
9 States Attorney J. Earlene Gordon, filed an ex parte motion for a 60-day extension of time to  
10 respond to the Third Amended Complaint on the grounds that these defendants, all of whom are  
11 former or current federal employees, were then seeking representation by the United States  
12 Attorney’s Office. (Dkt. No. 151.) The court granted the extension and ordered that responses to  
13 the Third Amended Complaint be filed no later than October 15, 2010. (Order, Aug. 12, 2010,  
14 Dkt. No. 152.)

15           On October 14, 2010, defendant John Taylor requested, through AUSA Gordon,  
16 another extension, until November 15, 2010, to file a response to the Third Amended Complaint.  
17 (Dkt. No. 184.) Taylor did so on the ground that the United States Attorney’s Office declined the  
18 representation of Taylor, and Taylor would have to find private counsel. The court granted the  
19 extension. (Order, Oct. 15, 2010, Dkt. No. 190.)

20           Also on October 14, 2010—one day *before* the Federal Defendants’ deadline to  
21 respond to the Third Amended Complaint—plaintiffs filed a motion for default judgment against  
22 the Federal Defendants and Taylor, among other defendants. (Mot. for Default J., Dkt. No. 189.)  
23 Plaintiffs did not seek a clerk’s entry of default prior to moving for default judgment.

24           On October 15, 2010, the Federal Defendants filed a timely motion to dismiss

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26 <sup>5</sup> The subject letter was attached to plaintiffs’ Second Am. Complaint as Attachment 3.  
(Dkt. No. 15 at 168.)

1 plaintiff's claims against them for lack of personal jurisdiction, lack of subject matter  
2 jurisdiction, and failure to state a claim. On November 4, 2010, John Taylor filed a timely  
3 motion to dismiss on substantially similar grounds as the Federal Defendants.

4 II. DISCUSSION

5 A. Plaintiffs' Motion for Default Judgment

6 In relevant part, plaintiffs move this court for a default judgment against the  
7 Federal Defendants and Taylor.<sup>6</sup> The undersigned recommends that the court deny plaintiffs'  
8 motion.

9 1. Plaintiffs' Motion for Default Judgment Is Procedurally Improper

10 Plaintiffs' motion for default judgment is procedurally improper because plaintiffs  
11 did not seek a clerk's entry of default prior to filing their motion for default judgment. Thus,  
12 plaintiff's motion should be denied for this reason alone.

13 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55 governs the entry of default by the clerk and  
14 the subsequent entry of default judgment by either the clerk or the district court. In relevant part,  
15 Rule 55 provides:

16 **(a) Entering a Default.** When a party against whom a judgment for  
17 affirmative relief is sought has failed to plead or otherwise defend, and  
18 that failure is shown by affidavit or otherwise, the clerk must enter the  
19 party's default.

19 **(b) Entering a Default Judgment.**

20 **(1) By the Clerk.** If the plaintiff's claim is for a sum certain or a sum  
21 that can be made certain by computation, the clerk--on the plaintiff's  
22 request, with an affidavit showing the amount due--must enter judgment  
23 for that amount and costs against a defendant who has been defaulted for  
24 not appearing and who is neither a minor nor an incompetent person.

23 **(2) By the Court.** In all other cases, the party must apply to the court  
24 for a default judgment. . . .

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25 <sup>6</sup> Plaintiffs' sought a default judgment against United State Attorney General Eric Holder,  
26 Jr., who is not a party to this action. The court should summarily deny plaintiffs' motion insofar as  
Attorney General Holder is concerned. Plaintiffs' motion for a default judgment as against Delores  
Jordan will be addressed by a separate disposition.

1 Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(a)-(b). As the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has stated, Rule 55 requires a  
2 “two-step process” consisting of: (1) seeking a clerk’s entry of default, and (2) filing a motion for  
3 the entry of default judgment. See Eitel v. McCool, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471 (9th Cir. 1986) (“Eitel  
4 apparently fails to understand the two-step process required by Rule 55.”); accord Symantec  
5 Corp. v. Global Impact, Inc., 559 F.3d 922, 923 (9th Cir. 2009) (noting that Rules 55(a) and (b)  
6 provide a two-step process for obtaining a default judgment); see also Norman v. Small, No.  
7 09cv2235 WQH , 2010 WL 5173683, at \*2 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 14, 2010) (unpublished) (denying  
8 plaintiff’s motion for default judgment because the clerk had not yet entered a default); Cramer v.  
9 Target Corp., No. 1:08-cv-01693-OWW-SKO, 2010 WL 2898996, at \*1 (E.D. Cal. July 22,  
10 2010) (unpublished) (“Obtaining a default judgment in federal court is a two-step process that  
11 includes: (1) entry of default and (2) default judgment.”); Bach v. Mason, 190 F.R.D. 567, 574  
12 (D. Idaho 1999) (“Plaintiffs have improperly asked this court to enter a default judgment without  
13 first obtaining an entry of default by the clerk. Since plaintiffs’ motion for entry of default  
14 judgment is improper, it is denied.”), aff’d, 3 Fed. Appx. 656 (9th Cir. 2001), cert. denied, 534  
15 U.S. 1083 (2002).

16 Here, plaintiffs did not request or obtain a clerk’s entry of default from the Clerk  
17 of Court upon a showing by affidavit or otherwise that defendants failed to plead or otherwise  
18 defend themselves. Accordingly, the undersigned recommends that plaintiff’s motion for default  
19 judgment be denied because that motion is not properly before the court.

20 2. The Federal Defendants and Taylor Filed Timely Motions to Dismiss

21 The undersigned further recommends that plaintiffs’ motion for default judgment  
22 be denied as to the Federal Defendants and Taylor because those defendants filed timely  
23 responses to the Third Amended Complaint. The Federal Defendants sought and received an  
24 extension for good cause, until October 15, 2010, to file an answer or other response to the Third  
25 Amended Complaint. The Federal Defendants filed their motion to dismiss on October 15, 2010.  
26 Accordingly, the Federal Defendants’ motion to dismiss was timely filed pursuant to this court’s

1 order.

2 Taylor also filed a timely response to the Third Amended Complaint. Taylor  
3 sought and received two extensions of time to respond to the Third Amended Complaint, both of  
4 which were supported by good cause. Taylor's response was due on November 15, 2010, and  
5 Taylor filed his motion to dismiss on November 4, 2010. Accordingly, Taylor's motion to  
6 dismiss was timely filed per this court's orders.

7 Accordingly, plaintiffs' motion is subject to denial for the additional reason that  
8 the Federal Defendants and Taylor filed responses to the Third Amended Complaint as provided  
9 by the court's orders.<sup>7</sup> For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned recommends that plaintiffs'  
10 motion for default judgment be denied as to the Federal Defendants, Taylor, and Eric Holder, Jr.

11 B. Taylor's and the Federal Defendants' Motions to Dismiss

12 Taylor and the Federal Defendants each move to dismiss plaintiffs' claims against  
13 them on several grounds. The undersigned recommends that Taylor's and the Federal  
14 Defendants' respective motions to dismiss be granted on the grounds that the court lacks personal  
15 jurisdiction over these defendants, and that these defendants be dismissed from this action.

16 A motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction is brought pursuant to  
17 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2). "Although the burden is on the plaintiff to  
18 demonstrate that the court has jurisdiction over the defendant, in the absence of an evidentiary  
19 hearing, the plaintiff need only make 'a prima facie showing of jurisdictional facts to withstand  
20 the motion to dismiss.'" Brayton Purcell LLP v. Recordon & Recordon, 606 F.3d 1124, 1127  
21 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing Pebble Beach Co. v. Caddy, 453 F.3d 1151, 1154 (9th Cir. 2006)).  
22 "Uncontroverted allegations in the plaintiff's complaint must be taken as true, and "[c]onflicts  
23 between the parties over statements contained in affidavits must be resolved in the plaintiff's  
24 favor." Boschetto v. Hansing, 539 F.3d 1011, 1015 (9th Cir. 2008) (citations and quotation

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25 <sup>7</sup> Plaintiffs' argument premised on application of the Westfall Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d), in  
26 this case is not well-taken.

1 marks omitted).

2 In cases such as this one, where “there is no applicable federal statute governing  
3 personal jurisdiction, the district court applies the law of the state in which the district court sits.”  
4 Yahoo! Inc. v. La Ligue Contre Le Racisme Et L’Antisemitisme, 433 F.3d 1199, 1205-06 (9th  
5 Cir. 2006) (en banc); accord Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co., 374 F.3d 797, 800 (9th  
6 Cir. 2004). And “[b]ecause California’s long-arm jurisdictional statute is coextensive with  
7 federal due process requirements, the jurisdictional analyses under state law and federal due  
8 process are the same.” Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 800-01. “For a court to exercise personal  
9 jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant, that defendant must have at least ‘minimum contacts’  
10 with the relevant forum such that the exercise of jurisdiction ‘does not offend traditional notions  
11 of fair play and substantial justice.’” Id. at 801 (quoting Int’l Shoe Co. v. Washington, 326 U.S.  
12 310, 316 (1945)).

13 Because plaintiffs here cannot legitimately claim that general jurisdiction over the  
14 non-resident Federal Defendants or Taylor exists,<sup>8</sup> only specific jurisdiction is considered in  
15 detail here. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals uses a three-part test to determine whether a  
16 party has sufficient minimum contacts with the forum to subject him or her to specific personal  
17 jurisdiction:

18 (1) The non-resident defendant must purposefully direct his activities or  
19 consummate some transaction with the forum or resident thereof; or  
20 perform some act by which he purposefully avails himself of the privilege  
of conducting activities in the forum, thereby invoking the benefits and  
protections of its laws;

21 (2) the claim must be one which arises out of or relates to the defendant’s  
22 forum-related activities; and

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24 <sup>8</sup> Relying on decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has  
25 stated: “For general jurisdiction to exist over a nonresident defendant . . . , the defendant must  
26 engage in ‘continuous and systematic general business contacts[]’ that ‘approximate physical  
presence’ in the forum state.” Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 801 (citations omitted). Plaintiffs have  
not alleged any facts substantiating that Taylor or the Federal Defendants had continuous and  
systematic contacts with California.

1 (3) the exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and substantial  
2 justice, i.e. it must be reasonable.

3 Brayton Purcell LLP, 606 F.3d at 1127 (footnote omitted); accord Yahoo! Inc., 433 F.3d at 1205-  
4 06. “The plaintiff bears the burden on the first two prongs.” Boschetto, 539 F.3d at 1016. “If  
5 the plaintiff establishes both prongs one and two, the defendant must come forward with a  
6 ‘compelling case’ that the exercise of jurisdiction would not be reasonable. But if the plaintiff  
7 fails at the first step, the jurisdictional inquiry ends and the case must be dismissed.” Id.  
8 (citations omitted).

9 1. This Court Lacks Personal Jurisdiction Over Taylor

10 Here, Taylor’s contacts with California consist of a road trip that he took along the  
11 California coast in 1971 and a family trip to the San Francisco Bay area that occurred over ten  
12 years ago. (See Taylor Decl. ¶ 5.) These contacts, which were made in the context of personal  
13 vacations, are not sufficient minimum contacts with the forum that provide this court with  
14 personal jurisdiction over Taylor.

15 First, plaintiffs have not demonstrated that Taylor’s contacts with California  
16 satisfy the first prong of the minimum contacts test. Taylor has not “purposefully availed”  
17 himself of the privilege of conducting activities in California such that he has invoked the  
18 benefits and protections of California law. Plaintiffs do not make an argument premised on the  
19 “purposeful availment” portion of the first prong. Instead, plaintiffs focus on the “purposeful  
20 direction” aspect of the first prong of the test.<sup>9</sup>

21 Plaintiffs argue that this court has personal jurisdiction over Taylor because of  
22 Taylor’s “purposeful direction” of his activities into California, and they rely on the “effects test”  
23 announced in Calder v. Jones, 465 U.S. 783 (1984). The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently  
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25 <sup>9</sup> “The first prong is satisfied by either purposeful availment or purposeful direction, which,  
26 though often clustered together under a shared umbrella, are, in fact, two distinct concepts.” Brayton  
Purcell LLP, 606 F.3d at 1128 (citation and quotation marks omitted).

1 summarized the “effects test” as follows:

2 This court evaluates purposeful direction using the three-part  
3 “Calder-effects” test, taken from the Supreme Court’s decision in Calder  
4 v. Jones, 465 U.S. 783 . . . (1984). Under this test, the defendant allegedly  
5 must have (1) committed an intentional act, (2) expressly aimed at the  
6 forum state, (3) causing harm that the defendant knows is likely to be  
7 suffered in the forum state. There is no requirement that the defendant  
8 have any physical contacts with the forum.

9 Brayton Purcell LLP, 606 F.3d at 1128 (citations and quotation marks omitted); see also Love v.  
10 Assoc. Newspapers, Ltd., 611 F.3d 601, 609 (9th Cir. 2010) (“The effects test is satisfied if  
11 (1) the defendant committed an intentional act; (2) the act was expressly aimed at the forum  
12 state; and (3) the act caused harm that the defendant knew was likely to be suffered in the forum  
13 state.”).

14 Plaintiffs technically satisfy the “intentional act” component of the “effects test”  
15 by alleging that Taylor engaged in a biased prosecution of Brent Winters, Tylman, and Hills in an  
16 Illinois district court. However, plaintiffs do not satisfy the second prong of that test, i.e., they  
17 have not demonstrated that Taylor expressly aimed his intentional acts at California. Taylor’s  
18 acts were directed at federal litigation proceedings in Illinois, which arose out of events that  
19 occurred in Illinois, and had nothing to do with California.

20 Plaintiffs allege in their written opposition (but not the Third Amended  
21 Complaint) that Taylor targeted a “known forum resident”—Brent Winters—and that this  
22 satisfies the second part of the test from Calder. Plaintiffs cite Gordy v. Daily News, L.P., 95  
23 F.3d 829 (9th Cir. 1996), and Brainerd v. Governors of the University of Alberta, 873 F.2d 1257  
24 (9th Cir. 1989), in support of their argument. In Gordy, the Court of Appeals held that the Calder  
25 test was satisfied where a New York-based newspaper that was circulated in California published  
26 an allegedly defamatory article about music producer Barry Gordy, who the newspaper knew was  
a California resident. See Gordy, 95 F.3d at 832-33. In Brainerd, the Court of Appeals held that  
an Arizona district court could exercise personal jurisdiction over a Canadian defendant based on  
the defendant’s communications to and from the University of Arizona regarding rumors

1 surrounding the plaintiff's departure from a Canadian university. As Taylor contends, these  
2 cases are distinguishable from the present case in that Taylor's acts occurred in the context of a  
3 federal criminal proceeding in Illinois that arose from activities that occurred in Illinois. The acts  
4 in this case were not undertaken for the express purpose of having Brent Winters feel them in  
5 California. See, e.g., Schwarzenegger, 374 F.3d at 807 ("It may be true that Fred Martin's  
6 intentional act eventually caused harm to Schwarzenegger in California, and Fred Martin may  
7 have known that Schwarzenegger lived in California. But this does not confer jurisdiction, for  
8 Fred Martin's express aim was local."). Accordingly, plaintiffs cannot meet the requirements of  
9 the Calder "effects test."

10 As to the second prong of the minimum contacts jurisdictional test, plaintiffs'  
11 claims against Taylor do not arise from Taylor's contacts with California. Taylor's activities in  
12 California consist only of two vacations that occurred well in the past. His contacts with  
13 California have nothing to do with plaintiffs' claims. Plaintiffs' claims—really, Brent Winters's  
14 claim regarding speedy trial issues—are exclusive to Taylor's acts performed in Illinois, not  
15 California. Accordingly, plaintiffs have not met their burden under the first two prongs of the  
16 minimum contacts test for personal jurisdiction.

17 Based on the foregoing, the undersigned recommends that the court dismiss John  
18 Taylor from this action for lack of personal jurisdiction. Because of this recommendation, the  
19 undersigned does not reach Taylor's additional arguments in favor of dismissal.

## 20 2. This Court Lacks Personal Jurisdiction Over the Federal Defendants

21 The Federal Defendants do not have minimum contacts with California that  
22 provide this court with personal jurisdiction over them. As an initial matter, there are no  
23 allegations in the Third Amended Complaint that establish that the following defendants had any  
24 contact with the forum state: Jan Paul Miller, Bernard Coleman, Sue Roderick, Kathi Jo  
25 McBride, Stephen Tinsley, Kevin Martens, Phillip Johnson, Hilda Molnar, Robert Anderson,  
26 Donald Staggs, James Pogue, and Hilary Frooman. The only contact by one of the Federal

1 Defendants with the forum is the February 22, 2008 letter from Chelsey to Logsdon, which  
2 generally or generically offered Chelsey's and Frooman's assistance.

3 Plaintiffs cannot legitimately argue that personal jurisdiction exists under the  
4 "purposeful availment" portion of the first prong of the test. Instead, and as with Taylor,  
5 plaintiffs focus on the "purposeful direction" aspect of the first prong of the test. As with Taylor,  
6 plaintiffs argue that this court has personal jurisdiction over the Federal Defendants because of  
7 the Federal Defendants' "purposeful direction" of their activities into California, and rely on the  
8 Calder "effects test."

9 Assuming for the sake of argument that plaintiffs satisfy the "intentional act"  
10 component of the "effects test," plaintiffs do not satisfy the second prong of that test in that they  
11 have not demonstrated that the Federal Defendants expressly aimed their intentional acts at  
12 California, with the possible exception of defendant Chelsey. Much of plaintiffs' allegations  
13 relate to two search warrants that were executed in Illinois in the year 2000. Those warrants  
14 related to, in part, the prosecution of Brent Winters for tax fraud in an Illinois district court,  
15 arising from acts that occurred exclusively in Illinois. Moreover, it appears that Brent Winters  
16 did not even live in California in 2000. (See Third Am. Compl. at 4 (noting visits to California  
17 beginning in 2003).)

18 As for the letter sent by Chelsey to Logsdon, that letter was quite arguably aimed  
19 at the forum of California. Even assuming that plaintiffs have met the first two steps of the  
20 Calder test, however, personal jurisdiction falters at the third step. Chelsey's act of sending the  
21 letter to California did not cause harm to plaintiffs. That letter: (1) purports to enclose a copy of  
22 the criminal complaint against Brent Winters, (2) requests a copy of the unlawful detainer  
23 complaint and answer, and (3) states, "If you feel that the government can be of any assistance to  
24 you in your case or if you have any questions, please contact me or Hilary Frooman." This letter  
25 does not, as plaintiffs' suggest, offer help to "throw plaintiffs out of their home." And although  
26 plaintiffs have alleged that this letter was ultimately filed in the unlawful detainer action, they do

1 not allege actual harm as a result of this letter. Accordingly, plaintiffs have not met their burden  
2 under the Calder “effects test” and, as a result, failed to satisfy the first prong of the minimum  
3 contacts test. Therefore, the undersigned recommends that the Federal Defendants be dismissed  
4 from this action for lack of personal jurisdiction. Because of this recommendation, the  
5 undersigned does not reach the Federal Defendants’ additional arguments in favor of dismissal.

6 III. CONCLUSION

7 For the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

8 1. Plaintiffs’ motion for default judgment (Dkt. No. 189) be denied as to the  
9 following defendants: Jan Paul Miller, Bernard Coleman, Sue Roderick, Kathi Jo McBride,  
10 Stephen Tinsley, Kevin Martens, Phillip Johnson, Hilda Molnar, Robert Anderson, Donald  
11 Staggs, James Pogue, Patrick Chelsey, Hilary Frooman, John Taylor, and Eric Holder, Jr.

12 2. Defendant John Taylor’s motion to dismiss (Dkt. No. 199) be granted on  
13 the ground that this court lacks personal jurisdiction over him, and that Taylor be dismissed from  
14 this action.

15 3. The motion to dismiss filed by defendants Jan Paul Miller, Bernard  
16 Coleman, Sue Roderick, Kathi Jo McBride, Stephen Tinsley, Kevin Martens, Phillip Johnson,  
17 Hilda Molnar, Robert Anderson, Donald Staggs, James Pogue, Patrick Chelsey, and Hilary  
18 Frooman (Dkt. No. 186) be granted on the ground that this court lacks personal jurisdiction over  
19 them, and that these defendants be dismissed from this action.

20 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District  
21 Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen  
22 days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written  
23 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Id.; see also E. Dist. Local Rule 304(b).  
24 Such a document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and  
25 Recommendations.” Any response to the objections shall be filed with the court and served on  
26 all parties within fourteen days after service of the objections. E. Dist. Local Rule 304(d).

1 Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District  
2 Court's order. Turner v. Duncan, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d  
3 1153, 1156-57 (9th Cir. 1991).

4 IT IS SO RECOMMENDED.

5 DATED: June 17, 2011

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KENDALL J. NEWMAN  
10 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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