

(PS) Levy v. Famima!!!

Doc. 4

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Although *pro se* pleadings are liberally construed, *see Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520-21 (1972), a complaint, or portion thereof, should be dismissed for failure to state a claim if it fails to set forth "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 554, 562-563 (2007) (citing *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41 (1957)); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). "[A] plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds' of his 'entitlement to relief' requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of a cause of action's elements will not do. Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief above the speculative level on the assumption that all of the complaint's allegations are true." *Id.* (citations omitted). Dismissal is appropriate based either on the lack of cognizable legal theories or the lack of pleading sufficient facts to support cognizable legal theories. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

In reviewing a complaint under this standard, the court must accept as true the allegations of the complaint in question, *Hospital Bldg. Co. v. Rex Hosp. Trustees*, 425 U.S. 738, 740 (1976), construe the pleading in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, and resolve all doubts in the plaintiff's favor, *Jenkins v. McKeithen*, 395 U.S. 411, 421 (1969). A *pro se* plaintiff must satisfy the pleading requirements of Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Rule 8(a)(2) "requires a complaint to include a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, in order to give the defendant fair notice of what the claim is and the grounds upon which it rests." *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 554, 562-563 (2007) (citing *Conley v. Gibson*, 355 U.S. 41 (1957)).

Additionally, a federal court is a court of limited jurisdiction, and may adjudicate only those cases authorized by the Constitution and by Congress. *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins.*Co., 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994). The basic federal jurisdiction statutes, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 & 1332, confer "federal question" and "diversity" jurisdiction, respectively. Federal question jurisdiction requires that the complaint (1) arise under a federal law or the U. S. Constitution, (2) allege a "case or controversy" within the meaning of Article III, § 2 of the U. S. Constitution, or

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(3) be authorized by a federal statute that both regulates a specific subject matter and confers federal jurisdiction. Baker v. Carr, 369 U.S. 186, 198 (1962). To invoke the court's diversity jurisdiction, a plaintiff must specifically allege the diverse citizenship of all parties, and that the matter in controversy exceeds \$75,000. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a); Bautista v. Pan American World Airlines, Inc., 828 F.2d 546, 552 (9th Cir. 1987). A case presumably lies outside the jurisdiction of the federal courts unless demonstrated otherwise. Kokkonen, 511 U.S. at 376-78. Lack of subject matter jurisdiction may be raised at any time by either party or by the court. Attorneys *Trust v. Videotape Computer Products, Inc.*, 93 F.3d 593, 594-95 (9th Cir. 1996).

Plaintiff's complaint appears to be alleging that one of defendant's female employees at defendant's store in Los Angeles, California "bullied, defamed, banned and falsely imprisoned her" on or before April 30, 2012. Compl., Dckt. No. 1, at 1. Plaintiff alleges that she was a customer at defendant's store and that when she learned that hot water was free to customers, she brought in her own coffee, Equal, and powdered milk; however, plaintiff alleges that the employee summoned two male security guards "who ousted her in the presence of millions of customers" because the employee accused plaintiff of taking the store's Equal. *Id.* at 1-2. Plaintiff contends that the trauma she suffered "caused her to sustain physical injuries on her legs." Id. at 2.

Plaintiff adds that "ousting someone from an activity, a job, program, place, an opportunity etc. for no apparent reason is bullying," and that "some women have bullied [plaintiff] all her life for not aging." *Id.* She contends she has "suffered at least 50 wrongful terminations and 5000 refusals at the hands of women," that "she can no longer work outside her home because some women bully her whenever they see or hear her voice," and that "anytime she becomes interested in a man, some women begin to brainwash him and plot crimes against her and the man." Id. at 2, 3. She adds that four women banned her from volunteering and stole her priceless possessions in 2011 and three other women kidnapped her child in 2003. *Id.* at 2.

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According to plaintiff, "since then she began to promote the economy by suing corporations for acts of discriminations on behalf of all children." *Id.* at 2-3. Plaintiff believes "she should be commended for reporting Defendants to courts and promoting the economy" and she "deserves an accolade from federal courts." *Id.* at 3. As a result of her efforts, "[m]ore than two hundred defense attorneys have been hired." *Id.*

Plaintiff contends defendant discriminated against her on the basis of her national origin and disability, in violation of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000a and the Americans with Disabilities Act. *Id.* at 4. Plaintiff contends she is Nigerian-American and that she has a "physical disability." *Id.* at 3, 4. Plaintiff seeks five million dollars, future medical treatment for her physical injuries, and punitive damages. *Id.* at 4.

It does not appear from plaintiff's complaint that this court has subject matter jurisdiction over plaintiff's claim(s). Plaintiff contends that this court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, but she does not establish the citizenship of either plaintiff or defendant. She says nothing about her own current citizenship (other than stating that she was born in Florida, *id.* at 4), and contends only that "defendant is incorporated in California." *Id.*; *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1) ("a corporation shall be deemed to be a citizen of every State and foreign state by which it has been incorporated and of the State or foreign state where it has its principal place of business") (emphasis added).

Nor is it clear how the facts alleged in the complaint would give rise to a federal claim. To the extent plaintiff purports to state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 2000a (Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964), that claim fails because plaintiff has not alleged that she was denied full and equal enjoyment of defendant's "goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations" due to discrimination based on her race, color, religion, or national origin. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(a) ("All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, as defined in this section, without discrimination or segregation on the ground

of race, color, religion, or national origin."). Although plaintiff states in a conclusory manner that she was discriminated against on the basis of her national origin and disability, she has not alleged any facts that would demonstrate that such a claim is plausible on its face.

Also, to the extent plaintiff purports to state a claim under the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"), the claim fails because plaintiff does not sufficiently allege that she is disabled within the meaning of the ADA, and she does not allege any plausible connection between her purported disability and defendant's alleged conduct. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1) (The ADA defines a disability as (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; (2) a record of such an impairment; or (3) being regarded as having such an impairment.). Moreover, the only remedy under Title III of the ADA, 42 U.S.C. § 12182, is injunctive relief.

Finally, to the extent plaintiff's claim is brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, that claim must be dismissed because plaintiff fails to allege that defendant was a state actor or was otherwise acting under color of law, she fails to identify the constitutional rights that defendant allegedly violated, and she fails to explain how defendant's actions resulted in the deprivation of any constitutional right. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988) (To state a claim under § 1983, plaintiff must allege: (1) the violation of a federal constitutional or statutory right; and (2) that the violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law).

Moreover, the court notes that this complaint appears to be one of several hundred complaints that plaintiff has filed throughout the country that have been determined to be frivolous. *See Ajuluchuku-Levy v. Schleifer*, 2009 WL 4890768, at *7 (E.D.N.Y. Dec. 15, 2009) ("[A] survey of the dockets of the United States district courts reveals that as of the date of this Order, Plaintiff has commenced two hundred fifty-eight (258) actions in various district courts across the United States. Several district courts have noted that "the 'overwhelming majority' of cases filed by plaintiff have been totally without merit.") (quoting *Ajuluchuku v. Southern New England School of Law*, 2006 WL 2661232, at *3 (N.D. Ga. Sep. 14, 2006)). In light of

plaintiff's frivolous allegations herein, as well as her history of filing frivolous actions containing many of the same allegations, the court recommends that this action be dismissed without leave to amend pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Noll v. Carlson, 809 F.2d 1446, 1448 (9th Cir. 1987) (While the court ordinarily would permit a pro se plaintiff to amend, leave to amend should not be granted where it appears amendment would be futile). Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff's request for leave to proceed in forma pauperis, Dckt. No. 2, is granted.

IT IS FURTHER RECOMMENDED that:

- 1. Plaintiff's complaint be dismissed without leave to amend; and
- 2. The Clerk be directed to close this case.

These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Turner v. Duncan, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir. 1998); Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

Dated: June 19, 2013.

EDMUND F. BRENNAN

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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"motion to supplement" provides a basis for this court's jurisdiction or a basis for providing plaintiff leave to amend.

amended complaints she has filed in this court, including the complaint in the present action.

Dckt. No. 3. However, plaintiff has not filed an amended complaint herein, and nothing in her

¹ On June 14, 2013, plaintiff filed a "motion to supplement" numerous complaints and