

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEANDRE T. LEWIS,
Plaintiff,
v.
DOMINIC D. MULLENS, et al.,
Defendants.

No. 2:16-cv-2607 AC P

ORDER

Plaintiff has requested the appointment of counsel. ECF Nos. 3, 6. The United States Supreme Court has ruled that district courts lack authority to require counsel to represent indigent prisoners in § 1983 cases. Mallard v. United States Dist. Court, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). In certain exceptional circumstances, the district court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to 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).

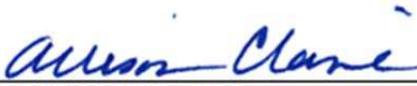
“When determining whether ‘exceptional circumstances’ exist, a court must consider ‘the likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.’” Palmer v. Valdez, 560 F.3d 965, 970 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting Weygandt v. Look, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th Cir. 1983)). The burden of demonstrating exceptional circumstances is on the plaintiff. Id. Circumstances common to most prisoners, such as lack of legal education and limited law library access, do not establish

1 exceptional circumstances that would warrant a request for voluntary assistance of counsel.

2 Plaintiff cites his indigency, limited access to the law library, and limited legal knowledge
3 as grounds for appointing counsel. ECF Nos. 3, 6. The issues identified by plaintiff are
4 circumstances experienced by most prisoners and are therefore not exceptional.

5 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff's motions for appointment of
6 counsel (ECF Nos. 3, 6) are denied.

7 DATED: September 28, 2017

8 
9 _____
10 ALLISON CLAIRE
11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28