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In so doing, the court expresses no opinion on the sufficiency of plaintiff's current allegations or the merits of defendants' arguments. If defendants wish to challenge the June 17, 2019, second amended complaint, they may do so by way of a new motion to dismiss.

A review of the docket also reflects that plaintiff filed a third amended complaint on July 8, 2019 (ECF No. 40). Following amendment as of right, a party's pleadings may only be amended upon leave of court or stipulation of all the parties. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Because plaintiff has neither obtained leave of court nor a stipulation signed by all parties to file a third amended complaint, it will also be stricken.

Finally, the court notes that defendant Mel has filed an answer to plaintiff's June 3, 2019, first amended complaint. Because the June 3, 2019, first amended complaint is not the operative pleading in this case, defendant Mel's answer to that pleading is of no moment. Defendant Mel will be directed to file a response to plaintiff's June 17, 2019, second amended complaint.

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 1. This action currently proceeds on plaintiff's June 17, 2019, second amended complaint;
- 2. Defendants' motion to dismiss (ECF No. 38), challenging the June 3, 2019, first amended complaint, is stricken and terminated as a pending motion;
 - 3. The hearing scheduled for August 28, 2019, is vacated;
- 4. Plaintiff's July 8, 2019, third amended complaint is stricken as having been improperly filed; and
- 5. Defendants shall file a response to plaintiff's June 17, 2019, second amended complaint within 30 days of the date of this order.

Dated: August 7, 2019

DENNIS M. COTA UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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