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8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
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11	TEVIN LEE HARRIS,	No. 2:19-cv-1751 JAM KJN P
12	Plaintiff,	
13	v.	<u>ORDER</u>
14	R. VALENCIA, et al.,	
15	Defendants.	
16		
17	Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding pro se, in an action brought under 42 U.S.C.	
18	§ 1983. Plaintiff requests that the court appoint counsel. District courts lack authority to require	
19	counsel to represent indigent prisoners in section 1983 cases. Mallard v. United States Dist.	
20	Court, 490 U.S. 296, 298 (1989). In exceptional circumstances, the court may request an attorney	
21	to voluntarily represent such a plaintiff. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d	
22	1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991); <u>Wood v. Housewright</u> , 900 F.2d 1332, 1335-36 (9th Cir. 1990).	
23	When determining whether "exceptional circumstances" exist, the court must consider plaintiff's	
24	likelihood of success on the merits as well as the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro	
25	se in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved. Palmer v. Valdez, 560 F.3d 965, 970	
26	(9th Cir. 2009) (district court did not abuse discretion in declining to appoint counsel). The	
27	burden of demonstrating exceptional circumstances is on the plaintiff. Id. Circumstances	
28	common to most prisoners, such as lack of legal education and limited law library access, do not	
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1	establish exceptional circumstances that warrant a request for voluntary assistance of counsel.	
2	Having considered the factors under <u>Palmer</u> , the court finds that plaintiff failed to meet his	
3	burden of demonstrating exceptional circumstances warranting the appointment of counsel at this	
4	time.	
5	Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff's motion for the appointment of	
6	counsel (ECF No. 98) is denied without prejudice.	
7	Dated: January 27, 2022	
8	Fordall P. Newman	
9	KENDALL J. NEWMAN UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
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