

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

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

TERRY BROWN,

No. C 08-02358 SI

Plaintiff,

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION TO DISMISS**

v.

PORT OF OAKLAND,

Defendant.

Defendant has filed a motion to dismiss plaintiff’s first amended complaint. The motion is scheduled for hearing on November 21, 2008. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-1(b), the Court finds this matter appropriate for resolution without oral argument and hereby VACATES both the hearing and the Case Management Conference scheduled for November 21, 2008. Having considered the arguments of the parties and the papers submitted, and for good cause shown, the Court hereby GRANTS defendant’s motion to dismiss without leave to amend.

BACKGROUND

This action was filed in May, 2008. In June, 2008, defendant filed a motion to dismiss the complaint, for failure to state a claim. On August 13, 2008, this Court granted defendant’s motion with leave to amend. The Court described the facts of the case in its August 13, 2008 Order as follows:¹

Plaintiff Terry Brown has filed a *pro se* complaint alleging that defendant the Port of Oakland has discriminated against him on the basis of plaintiff’s race, sex, disability, and national origin, and has retaliated against him, in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with

¹ The facts were taken from plaintiff’s complaint. [Docket No. 1]

1 Disabilities Act. Plaintiff's complaint states that he is a forty-nine year old African-
2 American male who has a mental disability. Plaintiff's complaint alleges that he was
3 hired by defendant in May 1995. In 2001, plaintiff either "unknowingly retired from
4 [his] position," Complaint at ex. 5, or was forced to retire from his position, Complaint
5 at 2. The complaint appears to allege that plaintiff sought to be rehired by defendant
6 after he retired, but that defendant refused to rehire him. The complaint further alleges
7 that plaintiff was physically assaulted on the job by a fellow employee in 1998 and was
8 mentally assaulted on the job by two fellow employees in 1999, and that defendant
9 retaliated against him when plaintiff tried to make known the names of the employees
10 who caused his injuries. The complaint provides no factual allegations about plaintiff's
11 attempts to be rehired by defendant and no factual allegations about how defendant
12 discriminated against plaintiff on the basis of his age, race, national origin, or disability.

13 *See* Order Granting Defendant's Motion to Dismiss the Complaint ("August 13 Order"). [Docket No.
14 28] Plaintiff filed a first amended complaint ("FAC") on September 5, 2008. Now before the Court is
15 defendant's motion to dismiss plaintiff's first amended complaint.
16

17 LEGAL STANDARD

18 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), a district court must dismiss a complaint if it
19 fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The question presented by a motion to dismiss
20 is not whether the plaintiff will prevail in the action, but whether the plaintiff is entitled to offer
21 evidence in support of the claim. *See Scheuer v. Rhodes*, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974), *overruled on other*
22 *grounds by Davis v. Scherer*, 468 U.S. 183 (1984).

23 In answering this question, the Court must assume that the plaintiff's allegations are true and
24 must draw all reasonable inferences in the plaintiff's favor. *See Usher v. City of Los Angeles*, 828 F.2d
25 556, 561 (9th Cir. 1987). Even if the face of the pleadings suggests that the chance of recovery is
26 remote, the Court must allow the plaintiff to develop the case at this stage of the proceedings. *See*
27 *United States v. City of Redwood City*, 640 F.2d 963, 966 (9th Cir. 1981). Dismissing a complaint for
28 failure to state a claim is proper only "if it appears beyond doubt" that the plaintiff "can prove no set of
facts which would entitle him to relief." *Vazquez v. Los Angeles County*, 487 F.3d 1246, 1249 (9th Cir.
2007) (internal quotation marks omitted).

If the Court dismisses the complaint, it must then decide whether to grant leave to amend. The
Ninth Circuit has "repeatedly held that a district court should grant leave to amend even if no request
to amend the pleading was made, unless it determines that the pleading could not possibly be cured by

1 the allegation of other facts.” *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1130 (9th Cir. 2000) (citations and internal
2 quotation marks omitted).

3
4 **DISCUSSION**

5 Defendant moves to dismiss plaintiff’s FAC for failure to state a claim because plaintiff has
6 failed to plead facts in support of his allegation that defendant discriminated against him.² The Court
7 agrees. *See McGlinchy v. Shell Chem. Co.*, 845 F.2d 802, 810 (9th Cir. 1988) (“[C]onclusory allegations
8 without more are insufficient to defeat a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim.”).

9 In its August 13 Order, the Court held that plaintiff’s complaint was deficient because plaintiff
10 alleged no facts supporting his claim that defendant discriminated against him. For example, the
11 complaint failed to inform either the Court or defendant why plaintiff believes he was the victim of
12 discrimination; what actions defendant took that demonstrate discrimination; whether he was able to
13 perform his job duties, with or without accommodation; or when plaintiff applied for and was rejected
14 from new positions with defendant.

15 Plaintiff has failed to remedy these deficiencies in the FAC. In support of his FAC, plaintiff
16 provides exhibits consisting of documents from a previous workers’ compensation claim (which appear
17 to show that defendant provided alternative work to plaintiff in November, 2000), doctors’ notes
18 detailing plaintiff’s medical conditions and rehabilitation, the Port of Oakland’s harassment policy,
19 photographs of trucks where plaintiff worked, and personal notes from plaintiff. None of these
20 documents supplies facts that support plaintiff’s contention that defendant discriminated against him.
21 In the FAC, plaintiff simply repeats his allegation that he reapplied to his job and that a supervisor called
22 him a terrorist. FAC, at 1-2. This allegation does not establish that defendant discriminated against
23 plaintiff on the basis of his race, age, national origin, or sex.

24 Defendant also argues that plaintiff’s claims should be dismissed because they are time barred.
25 The Court agrees. Depending on the circumstances, a charge of discrimination under Title VII, the
26 ADA, or the ADEA must be filed within 180 or 300 days after the act of discrimination. *See* 42 U.S.C.

27 _____
28 ² Plaintiff has filed a case management statement in lieu of an opposition to defendant’s motion
to dismiss. [Docket No. 42]

1 § 2000e-5(1); 29 U.S.C. § 626(d). In this case, the alleged act of discrimination presumably occurred
2 in 2001, when defendant did not rehire plaintiff. Plaintiff filed his complaint on May 7, 2008, long after
3 the statutory period for filing a claim had elapsed.³ Plaintiff alleges that defendant's discrimination
4 continues "to this day," *see* FAC ¶ 8, but he does not provide any facts to substantiate this claim. For
5 example, he does not state when he reapplied for his job with defendant or in what way his rejection was
6 due to discrimination by defendant. Therefore, the Court finds that plaintiff's claim is time barred.


7 Accordingly, the Court finds that plaintiff's FAC is deficient because it fails to plead facts to
8 support plaintiff's allegations of discrimination and because his claim is time barred. Plaintiff failed to
9 remedy these deficiencies when he filed his amended complaint and the Court does not find that he
10 would be able to do so if granted leave to amend once again.

11
12 **CONCLUSION**

13 For all of the foregoing reasons, and for good cause shown, the Court hereby GRANTS
14 defendant's motion to dismiss without leave to amend. This action is dismissed with prejudice. [Docket
15 No. 33]

16
17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18
19 Dated: November 17, 2008

20 
21 _____
22 SUSAN ILLSTON
23 United States District Judge
24
25
26

27 _____
28 ³ Plaintiff filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC")
on February 1, 2008. *See* Complaint, at ex. 5. The EEOC dismissed the complaint because plaintiff's
charges were untimely. *See* Complaint, at ex. 6.