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Finally, Hale requests that if the Court finds venue is improper in the Northern District, the Court should transfer the instant action to the Eastern District of California. Because defendant resides in the Eastern District, venue appears proper therein. See 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1). Under the circumstances, the Court, in the interests of justice, will transfer the action thereto. See 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

Accordingly, the instant action is hereby TRANSFERRED to the Eastern District of California.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 9, 2009

MAXINE M. CHESNEY
United States District Judge

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In light of the transfer, the Court will not rule on Hale's application to proceed in forma pauperis and Hale's request for appointment of counsel, to afford the Eastern District the opportunity to consider such matters.