

United States District Court For the Northern District of California

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Petitioner's motion for the appointment of counsel (Docket No. 7) is DENIED. The 1 2 decision to request counsel to represent an indigent litigant under § 1915 is within "the sound 3 discretion of the trial court and is granted only in exceptional circumstances." Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.2d 1221, 1236 (9th Cir. 1984). A finding of "exceptional circumstances" 4 5 requires an evaluation of the likelihood of the plaintiff's success on the merits and an 6 evaluation of the plaintiff's ability to articulate his claims pro se in light of the complexity of 7 the legal issues involved. See Agyeman v. Corrections Corp. of America, 390 F.3d 1101, 8 1103 (9th Cir. 2004). Neither the need for discovery, nor the fact that the pro se litigant 9 would be better served with the assistance of counsel, necessarily qualify the issues involved 10 as complex. See Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997). Plaintiff has not 11 shown that exceptional circumstances exist. The Clerk shall terminate Docket No. 7, enter 12 judgment in favor of defendants, and close the file.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 19, 2012

RICHARD SEEBOR

United States District Judge

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