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5	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
6	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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8	ADIL HIRAMANEK, et al., No. C-13-0228 EMC
9	Plaintiffs,
10	v. ORDER RE PLAINTIFFS' AMENDED COMPLAINT
11	L. MICHAEL CLARK, et al.,
12	(Docket No. 37) Defendants.
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15	Previously, the Court granted the in forma pauperis applications of Plaintiffs Roda and Adil
16	Hiramanek (mother and son). However, pursuant to its 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2) review, the Court
17	dismissed with prejudice the bulk of Plaintiffs' claims. See Docket No. 19 (Order at 12-13). The
18	Court gave Mr. Hiramanek leave to amend certain claims, noting that it would continue to evaluate
19	any amended complaint pursuant to § 1915(e)(2). See Docket No. 19 (Order at 13). Thereafter,
20	Plaintiffs filed an amended complaint. Having evaluated that amended complaint pursuant to §
21	1915(e)(2), the Court hereby rules as follows.
22	I. <u>DISCUSSION</u>
23	A. <u>Amendments Beyond the Scope of the Court's Order</u>
24	In its prior order, the Court dismissed all of Ms. Hiramanek's claims with prejudice, except
25	for one. The one claim that survived dismissal was her claim for disability discrimination against
26	the Superior Court, brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") and California
27	Civil Code § 51. See Docket No. 19 (Order at 12). As for Mr. Hiramanek, all of his claims were
28	dismissed. Furthermore, all claims were dismissed with prejudice, except for two (related to

amend the two claims within specific parameters. *See* Docket No. 19 (Order at 13).
Notably, the Court instructed the parties that, "[a]t this juncture, Mr. Hiramanek is not
permitted to make any amendments other those explicitly identified by the Court in this order.
Similarly, at this juncture, the only claim that Ms. Hiramanek may assert in Plaintiffs'

amended complaint is the claim that has survived dismissal" Docket No. 19 (Order at 13)
(emphasis in original). The statement was bolded for the benefit of Plaintiffs. The Court
intentionally restricted the scope of the amendments because its goal was to determine whether there
were at least *some* potentially viable claims such that the case should move forward and the pleading
be served. Its goal was not to make a definitive determination as to the parameters of the case.

unlawful search and seizure and unlawful interrogation). The Court gave Mr. Hiramanek leave to

11 In spite of the Court's express order, Plaintiffs have made amendments beyond the scope12 permitted. For example:

In Count II, Ms. Hiramanek has added claims for disability discrimination pursuant to new statutes and against a new defendant. Her claims are also based in part on new facts – *i.e.*, events that have transpired since the filing of the original complaint (*i.e.*, after January 17, 2013). Furthermore, Mr. Hiramanek has now asserted disability discrimination claims although he did not in the original complaint.

In Count X, Mr. Hiramanek has added claims for unlawful search and seizure pursuant to
 new statutes and against new defendants. In addition, he has asserted the claims against the
 Superior Court even though the Court expressly dismissed the claims against the Superior
 Court.

In Count XVII, Mr. Hiramanek has added claims for unlawful interrogation pursuant to new statutes and against new defendants. In addition, he has asserted the claims against the Superior Court even though the Court expressly dismissed the claims against the Superior Court.

In Count XIX, Mr. Hiramanek brings a claim for "obstruction" and "perversion of the course of justice," which he never included in the original complaint.

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Because these amendments were not permitted by the Court's order - indeed, were expressly 2 prohibited – the Court strikes each of the amendments (with one exception) from the amended 3 complaint.

4 The one exception where the Court does not strike is Ms. Hiramanek's *factual* allegations as to additional denials of requests for accommodation that took place after the filing date of the 6 original complaint. The Court shall permit these allegations as they are sufficiently related to the allegations in the original complaint and as they do not dramatically expand upon the allegations in 8 the original complaint.

Count II Β.

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10 As stated above, the Court strikes all amendments with respect to Count II (with one 11 exception) because no amendments of Count II were permitted. The sole exception is that the Court 12 does not strike the new *factual* allegations as to denials of Ms. Hiramanek's requests for 13 accommodation which took place after January 17, 2013.

14 Accordingly, at this juncture, Count II consists of a disability discrimination claim (1) 15 brought by Ms. Hiramanek only (not Mr. Hiramanek) (2) against the Superior Court only (not 16 Ms. Ku) and (3) pursuant to the ADA and California Civil Code § 51 only (not other statutes). 17 C. Count X

18 As noted above, the Court strikes all amendments to Count X that were not permitted by the 19 Court's prior order. Thus, at this juncture, Count X consists of an unlawful search and seizure claim 20 brought by Mr. Hiramanek against (1) Judge Clark, Mr. Yamasaki, Judge Loftus, and the County 21 and (2) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988 (the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and 22 Fourteenth Amendments) and the California Constitution, article I, § 13 only.

23 The Court now evaluates whether the allegations with respect to this claim survive § 24 1915(e)(2) review.

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Section 1983¹

1.

a. Judge Clark

As to Judge Clark, the Court begins by noting that some of the alleged misconduct identified by Mr. Hiramanek does not appear to be a constitutional violation. For example, Mr. Hiramanek suggests that, on December 30, 2011, Judge Clark ordered a deputy to shadow and monitor him while at the family courthouse, *see* SAC ¶ 82; he also suggests that Judge Clark routinely ordered deputies in the courtroom to stand close behind him during proceedings and breathe down his neck as a means of intimidation. *See* SAC ¶ 73. But such conduct does not constitute a search or seizure.

9 The Court also notes that, for some of the alleged misconduct, there are insufficient factual 10 allegations to support Mr. Hiramanek's claim that the misconduct was directed by Judge Clark. For 11 example, Mr. Hiramanek alleges that, on June 8, 2012, Judge Clark instructed Deputy Plett to 12 approach Mr. Hiramanek in the family courthouse and "mak[e] provocative and hostile moves." 13 SAC ¶ 77. But Mr. Hiramanek does not allege any facts substantiating that Defendant Plett was 14 acting under the instructions of Judge Clark. These allegations do not state a plausible claim. See 15 Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007) (stating that a complaint must include "enough 16 facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face"; a claim that is simply conceivable is 17 subject to dismissal); see also Ashcroft v. Igbal, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009) (stating that "[a] claim 18 has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the 19 reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged").

However, Mr. Hiramanek has made allegations that he was subjected to a search and/or
seizure and that he was actually told by the deputies involved that they were acting pursuant to
Judge Clark's direction. For instance, Mr. Hiramanek alleges that, on June 11, 2012, he was leaving
for a lunch break in a family court proceeding when several deputies detained him and confined him
in a conference room where he was interrogated "for a considerable period of time." SAC ¶ 144.
Mr. Hiramanek indicates that one of the deputies admitted to him that Judge Clark was behind this

¹ Although Mr. Hiramanek refers to § 1983 and § 1988 in his complaint, § 1988 is not an independent private right of action. It simply permits, *e.g.*, an award of attorney's fees in a § 1983 case.

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"criminal persecution." SAC ¶ 143. As another example, Mr. Hiramanek alleges that, on January
14, 2013, he and his property successfully cleared the x-ray screening at the security entrance to the
courthouse. But in spite of this fact, he was still subjected to a frisk and patdown and his property
subjected to a detailed hand search, all pursuant to the direction of Judge Clark as one of the
deputies expressly informed him. *See* SAC ¶¶ 67-71. As to these two incidents, it is arguably a
question of fact as to whether Judge Clark would have judicial immunity for his actions, if he had in
fact so instructed the deputies to act.²

8 Accordingly, the Court concludes that Mr. Hiramanek has adequately stated – at least in part
9 – a claim against Judge Clark for purposes of § 1915(e)(2) review.

b. <u>Mr. Yamasaki</u>

11 Mr. Hiramanek's claim against Mr. Yamasaki appears to be predicated on a supervisory 12 liability theory -i.e., that Mr. Yamasaki was a supervisor of Judge Clark but failed to take any 13 action against Judge Clark after Mr. Hiramanek complained about Judge Clark's conduct. See, e.g., 14 Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1207-08 (9th Cir. 2011) (noting that, in a § 1983 case, "[a] supervisor 15 can be liable in his individual capacity for his own culpable action or inaction in the training, 16 supervision, or control of his subordinates; for his acquiescence in the constitutional deprivation; or 17 for conduct that showed a reckless or callous indifference to the rights of others"). But that Mr. Yamasaki was the Court or Chief Executive Officer, see SAC ¶ 9, does not in and of itself establish 18 19 that he was Judge Clark's supervisor with respect to the alleged wrongful conduct. Similarly, even 20 if Mr. Yamasaki was the final policymaker for the Superior Court, see SAC ¶ 14, that too does not 21 establish that he was Judge Clark's supervisor.

Furthermore, even if Mr. Yamasaki was in fact Judge Clark's supervisor, there are other
deficiencies in the amended complaint. For example, Mr. Hiramanek never alleges in the pleading
that he made a specific complaint to Mr. Yamasaki that Judge Clark was ordering deputies in the

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² The Court, however, does not agree with Mr. Hiramanek's suggestion that the place where the alleged searches and seizures took place dictates whether Judge Clark was engaging in a judicial or nonjudicial act. *See, e.g.*, SAC ¶ 64 (arguing that "Court security . . . in an area outside the courtroom, and outside of the chambers, does not fall within the province, or function of judges, including CLARK"). *See Lacey v. Maricopa*, 693 F.3d 896, 930-31 (9th Cir. 2012) (focusing on whether a decision was made by a judge in a specific case over which he was presiding).

courthouse to conduct unwarranted searches or seizures. The closest that Mr. Hiramanek comes to 1 2 such an allegation is in § 106 of the amended complaint. There, Mr. Hiramanek alleges that, on May 3 21, 2012, he wrote a letter to Mr. Yamasaki in which he recounted an incident involving, *inter alia*, 4 a detailed search of his property by a deputy in the courthouse and an unjustified chastisement by another deputy. See SAC ¶ 106. Mr. Hiramanek then states in the letter: "'It appears that Judge Clark is poisoning the deputy personnel against me." SAC ¶ 106. But a claim that Judge Clark was "poisoning" the deputies against Mr. Hiramanek cannot be equated with a claim that Judge Clark was *ordering* the deputies to take certain acts against Mr. Hiramanek. Accordingly, Mr. Yamasaki was not fairly put on notice of the alleged unconstitutional conduct of Judge Clark - at least based on the allegations in the complaint. The complaint fails to state a claim for supervisory liability under § 1983. See Starr, 652 F.3d at 1207-08. Cf., e.g., Lemire v. California Dep't of Corr. & Rehab., No. 11-15475, 2013 U.S. App. LEXIS 16317, at *57 (9th Cir. Aug. 7, 2013) (in failure-totrain case, noting that a supervisor is "liable only if on actual or constructive notice of the need to train").

The Court therefore dismisses with prejudice the claim against Mr. Yamasaki. The Court hasalready afforded Mr. Hiramanek an opportunity to amend the complaint.

c. Judge Loftus

18 Similar to above, Mr. Hiramanek's claim against Judge Loftus appears to be predicated on 19 supervisory liability but, as above, nothing in the amended complaint indicates that Judge Loftus – 20 even if he were the presiding judge of the Superior Court – was necessarily Judge Clark's supervisor 21 with respect to the alleged wrongful conduct. Furthermore, even if Judge Loftus was in fact Judge 22 Clark's supervisor by virtue of his being the presiding judge of the court, there are no allegations in 23 the amended complaint that Mr. Hiramanek specifically informed Judge Loftus that Judge Clark was 24 ordering deputies in the courthouse to conduct unwarranted searches or seizures. Absent such 25 knowledge, Judge Loftus cannot be held liable under § 1983. See Starr, 652 F.3d at 1207-08. 26 The Court therefore dismisses with prejudice the claim against Judge Loftus.

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d. <u>County</u>

2 Finally, for the County to be held liable under § 1983, Mr. Hiramanek "cannot rely solely on 3 respondeat superior liability. Instead, [he] must establish that 'the local government had a deliberate 4 policy, custom, or practice that was the moving force behind the constitutional violation [they] 5 suffered." AE v. County of Tulare, 666 F.3d 631, 636 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing, inter alia, Monell v. 6 Department of Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658, 691 (1978)). "A single constitutional deprivation 7 ordinarily is insufficient to establish a longstanding practice or custom." Christie v. Iopa, 176 F.3d 8 1231, 1235 (9th Cir. 1999). There are "situations in which isolated constitutional violations are 9 sufficient to establish a municipal 'policy.'" Id. For example, "a municipality can be liable for an 10 isolated constitutional violation when the person causing the violation has 'final policymaking 11 authority." Id. Also, a municipality "can be liable for an isolated constitutional violation if the 12 final policymaker 'ratified' a subordinate's actions" -i.e., that the policymaker knew of the 13 constitutional violation and approved it. Id. at 1238. Finally, a municipality can be liable where the 14 final policymaker acted with deliberate indifference to the subordinate's constitutional violation. 15 See id. at 1240.

16 Here, Mr. Hiramanek's claim against the County is deficient for several reasons. First, his 17 theory seems to be that the County Council was the final policymaker for the County, which ratified 18 or was deliberately indifferent to the actions of the deputies (*i.e.*, unlawful searches or seizures). See 19 SAC ¶ 114. However, there are no allegations in his amended complaint (other than conclusory 20 ones to which the Court gives no weight under *Twombly* and *Iqbal*) that the County Council knew 21 that the deputies were engaging in unjustified searches and seizures. Indeed, the allegations in the 22 amended complaint indicate that Mr. Hiramanek at best gave notice to the Internal Affairs Unit for 23 the sheriff's office. See, e.g., SAC ¶¶ 81, 112, 168. Second, Mr. Hiramanek's theory for holding the 24 County liable depends on the deputies being County actors rather than state actors, but, as this Court 25 has previously held, "state law establishes that sheriffs – and thus deputies as well – function as 26 representatives of the state and not the county when providing courtroom security services." Rojas 27 v. Sonoma County, No. C-11-1358 EMC, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 122276, at *11 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 21, 28 2011).

United States District Court For the Northern District of California 1

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Accordingly, the Court dismisses the claim against the County with prejudice.

2. <u>California Constitution, article I, § 13</u>

As for the unlawful search and seizure claim based on the California Constitution, the Court finds that dismissal as to each of the defendants is justified for the following reasons.

5 First, as the Court noted in its prior order, the California Tort Claims Act ("CTCA") 6 "requires a pre-litigation presentation of a claim for money damages" to the applicable public entity 7 before a claim can be brought for judicial review. Docket No. 19 (Order at 9). Here, Mr. 8 Hiramanek alleges that he made various complaints about the unlawful searches and seizures, but, 9 for the County at least, the amended complaint does not allege the administrative complaint was 10 directed to the appropriate person. See Cal. Gov't Code § 915 (addressing delivery or mailing of 11 pre-litigation claim; providing, *e.g.*, that a claim may be made by delivering the claim to the clerk, 12 secretary, or auditor of the local public entity or by mailing it to the clerk, secretary, auditor, or 13 governing body of the local public entity). Furthermore, none of the complaints – except one – 14 alleges that he demanded money damages. Even as to the one complaint where Mr. Hiramanek 15 mentioned money damages, see SAC § 89, the complaint did not "make it readily discernible... 16 that the intended purpose [of the communication] is to convey the assertion of a compensable claim 17 against the [public] entity which, if not otherwise satisfied, will result in litigation." Green v. State 18 Ctr. Comm. Coll. Dist., 34 Cal. App. 4th 1348, 1358 (1995) (emphasis added). Furthermore, for that 19 complaint, there is nothing to indicate that it was specifically about unlawful searches and seizures 20 orchestrated by Judge Clark. See Stockett v. Association of Cal. Water Agencies Joint Power Ins. 21 Auth., 34 Cal. 4th 441, 447 (2004) (stating that, even if a claim were timely made, a complaint is still 22 "vulnerable . . . if it alleges a factual basis for recovery which is not fairly reflected in the written 23 claim"); see also Stevenson v. San Francisco Hous. Auth., 24 Cal. App. 4th 269, 278 (1994) 24 (examining whether allegations made in the complaint were "based on a different set of facts from 25 those set out in the claim"; indicating that there is a "fatal variance between the claim and the 26 complaint" where there is a "complete shift in allegations, usually involving an effort to premise 27 civil liability on acts or omissions committed at different times or by different persons than those 28 described in the claim"").

For the Northern District of California

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Accordingly, the Court dismisses with prejudice the California constitutional claim.

3. <u>Summary</u>

In sum, the Court finds that the only part of Count X that survives the § 1915(e)(2) review is part of the § 1983 claim as pled against Judge Clark. This ruling, of course, does not bar Judge Clark from moving to dismiss the Count X claim pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) whether, *e.g.*, on judicial immunity or other grounds.

D. <u>Count XVII</u>

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As noted above, the Court strikes all amendments to Count XVII that were not permitted by
the Court's prior order. Thus, at this juncture, Count XVII consists of an unlawful interrogation
claim brought by Mr. Hiramanek against (1) Judge Clark, Mr. Yamasaki, Judge Loftus, and the
County and (2) pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1988 (the Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth
Amendments).

1.

. Judge Clark

14 Similar to above, the Court notes that, for some of the alleged misconduct, there are 15 insufficient factual allegations to support Mr. Hiramanek's claim that the misconduct was directed 16 by Judge Clark. For example, for the incident that took place on June 29, 2012, Mr. Hiramanek 17 largely speculates that Judge Clark was the driving force behind his detention and interrogation. See 18 SAC ¶ 153 et seq. The mere fact that Judge Clark walked to a courthouse along with the deputies 19 who ultimately detained and interrogated him does not give rise to a plausible inference, as required 20 under Twombly and Iqbal, that Judge Clark ordered the detention and interrogation. Also, Mr. 21 Hiramanek has failed to make any factual allegations supporting his claim that, e.g., Judge Clark 22 called Judge Arand or vice-versa to facilitate the detention and interrogation.

That being said, Mr. Hiramanek has made factual allegations to support his claim that Judge
Clark ordered deputies to act on other occasions, *e.g.*, on June 11, 2012, and January 15, 2013. *See*, *e.g.*, SAC ¶ 143 (alleging that Deputy McChristian told Mr. Hiramanek that Judge Clark "was
behind the criminal persecution"); SAC ¶ 161 (alleging that Deputy Plett "confirmed that he was
following [Judge] CLARK's directions").

Accordingly, the Court concludes that Mr. Hiramanek has adequately stated – at least in part – a claim against Judge Clark for purposes of § 1915(e)(2) review.

2. <u>Mr. Yamasaki</u>

Like the Count X claim against Mr. Yamasaki, the Count XVII claim against Mr. Yamasaki is based on a supervisory liability theory. And like the Count X claim, the Count XVII claim is deficient because the mere fact that Mr. Yamasaki was the Court or Chief Executive Officer, *see* SAC ¶ 9, does not in and of itself establish that he was Judge Clark's supervisor. Also, even if Mr. Yamasaki was the final policymaker for the Superior Court, *see* SAC ¶ 14, that is not enough to establish that he was Judge Clark's supervisor.

10 Furthermore, even if Mr. Yamasaki was in fact Judge Clark's supervisor, Mr. Hiramanek 11 never alleges in the pleading – with one exception – that he made a specific complaint to Mr. 12 Yamasaki that Judge Clark was ordering deputies in the courthouse to conduct unlawful detentions 13 and interrogations. As to the one incident identified by Mr. Hiramanek where he did complain to 14 Mr. Yamasaki (*i.e.*, the June 11, 2012, incident), the complaint failed to specify that the deputies 15 subjected him to questions during a detention. See SAC ¶ 166. An interrogation would only have 16 been potentially problematic if it had taken place during a detention. In short, there is no allegation 17 Mr. Yamasaki had notice of the wrongful conduct, and thus there is no supervisory liability under § 18 1983. See Starr, 652 F.3d at 1207-08.

The Court therefore dismisses the claim against Mr. Yamasaki with prejudice.

3. Judge Loftus

As above, Mr. Hiramanek's claim against Judge Loftus seems to be predicated on
supervisory liability but nothing in the amended complaint indicates that Judge Loftus was
necessarily Judge Clark's supervisor. And even if Judge Loftus was in fact Judge Clark's supervisor
(*e.g.*, because he was the presiding judge of the court), there are no nonconclusory allegations in the
amended complaint³ that Mr. Hiramanek specifically informed Judge Loftus that Judge Clark was

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³ Mr. Hiramanek makes at best conclusory allegations. *See, e.g.*, SAC ¶ 166 (alleging that Mr. Hiramanek complained to, *inter alia*, Judge Loftus but the specific complaint discussed concerns a complaint to Mr. Yamasaki only).

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1	ordering deputies in the courthouse to conduct unlawful detentions and interrogations. Again,
2	absent knowledge, there is no supervisory liability under § 1983.
3	The Court therefore dismisses with prejudice the claim against Judge Loftus.
4	4. <u>County</u> .
5	The analysis above with respect to Count X is largely applicable here as well. Accordingly,
6	the Court dismisses with prejudice the Count XVII claim against the County.
7	5. <u>Summary</u>
8	In sum, the Court finds that the only part of Count XVII that survives the § 1915(e)(2)
9	review is part of the § 1983 claim as pled against Judge Clark. This ruling, of course, does not
10	bar Judge Clark from moving to dismiss the Count XVII claim pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) whether,
11	<i>e.g.</i> , on judicial immunity or other grounds.
12	E. <u>Count XIX</u>
13	As stated above, Mr. Hiramanek did not have leave of the Court to include a new claim in the
14	amended complaint. Accordingly, this claim is dismissed without prejudice.
15	II. <u>CONCLUSION</u>
16	For the foregoing reasons, the Court finds that only some of Plaintiffs' amendments are
17	within the scope permitted by the Court's prior order and, as to those amendments, only the
18	following claims have survived § 1915(e)(2) review, namely:
19	(1) A disability discrimination claim brought by Ms. Hiramanek against the Superior Court
20	pursuant to the ADA and California Civil Code § 51 only.
21	(2) An unlawful search and seizure claim brought by Mr. Hiramanek against Judge Clark
22	pursuant to § 1983 (First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments).
23	(3) An unlawful interrogation claim brought by Mr. Hiramanek against Judge Clark pursuant to
24	§ 1983 (Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments).
25	The Court orders the U.S. Marshal to serve the following documents on the Superior
26	Court and Judge Clark: the original complaint (Docket No. 1), the Court's order granting
27	Plaintiffs' in forma pauperis application (Docket No. 19), the Court's order denying Plaintiffs'
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United States District Court For the Northern District of California motion for reconsideration (Docket No. 36), the second amended complaint (Docket No. 37), and this order.

Per the Clerk's notice of August 27, 2013, there shall be a case management conference in this case on November 21, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. A joint case management conference statement must be filed by November 14, 2013.

Plaintiffs are not to file any motion, including a motion for leave to file an amended complaint, until after the Superior Court and Judge Clark have made an appearance in this case and the case management conference is held on November 21, 2013.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 3, 2013

EDWAR M. CHEN United States District Judge