

1 **\*\* E-filed July 20, 2011 \*\***

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7 NOT FOR CITATION  
8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
10 SAN JOSE DIVISION

11 BRUCE BOSTON,

No. C11-01873 HRL

12 Plaintiff,

**ORDER FOLLOWING JULY 12, 2011  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE**

13 v.

14 KAMALA HARRIS, in her official capacity  
as Attorney General of California,

15 Defendant.  
16 \_\_\_\_\_/

17 The order that follows is based on the discussion at the July 12, 2011 Case Management  
18 Conference.

19 At the conference, which only *pro se* plaintiff Bruce Boston attended, the Court explained to  
20 Boston that it did not appear he had properly served defendant Kamala Harris. See Docket No. 4  
21 (“Proof of Service”). While under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(e), Boston may serve Harris  
22 pursuant to California law, his attempt to serve to her pursuant to California Code of Civil  
23 Procedure § 415.30 appears to have failed because she did not return an acknowledgement of  
24 service. See Thierfeldt v. Marin Hosp. Dist., 35 Cal.App.3d 186, 199 (1st Dist. 1973) (“Code of  
25 Civil Procedure section 415.30, effective July 1, 1970, which authorizes service of summons by  
26 mail, expressly predicates the efficacy of such service upon the execution and return of an  
27 acknowledgment of service. If the party addressed fails to do so, there is no effective service, he  
28 merely becomes liable for the reasonable expenses of service in a more conventional manner.”).

1           Upon hearing this explanation, Boston suggested that service may be effectuated pursuant to  
2 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.1. Rule 5.1 requires that a party challenging the constitutionality  
3 of a federal or state law file a notice of the constitutional challenge upon the United States Attorney  
4 General or state attorney general, and it also requires the court to certify that such a challenge has  
5 been made. See FED. R. CIV. P. § 5.1(a), (b). Nothing in the text or commentary to Rule 5.1,  
6 however, indicates that it is an alternative to service of process under Rule 4. In other words, Boston  
7 must still serve Harris pursuant to Rule 4.

8           Boston also requested an order granting him access to this District’s Electronic Case Filing  
9 (“ECF”) system. *Pro se* parties may be allowed access to ECF, but only with court approval. To  
10 access ECF, a party must meet certain technical requirements and must also agree to abide by the  
11 rules and orders of the court. See ECF CALIFORNIA NORTHERN,  
12 <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cand/newreg/reg-pro-se-reg.htm> (last visited July 13, 2011) (stating  
13 that the technical requirements include: (1) access to a personal computer; (2) access to a scanner;  
14 (3) internet access; (4) a valid email account; (5) word processing software; and (6) a PDF reader  
15 and writer). Accordingly, for his request to be considered further, Boston shall file a declaration  
16 describing his ability to meet the technical requirements. Once his declaration is filed, the Court will  
17 issue its ruling on the matter.

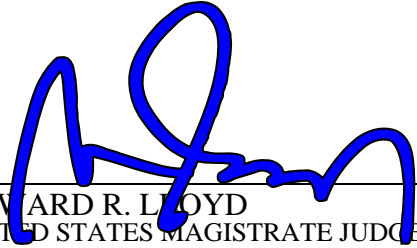
18           Boston also requested access to this Court’s law library. According to this District’s civil  
19 local rules, the library is “primarily for the use of Judges and personnel of the Court . . . [and] [i]n  
20 addition, attorneys admitted to practice in this Court may use the library where circumstances  
21 require for actions or proceedings pending in the Court.” CIV. L. R. 77-7. Boston is not an attorney,  
22 and he has not expressed any particular reason why he needs access to this particular library. In fact,  
23 other law libraries are likely better alternatives for him. For instance, the Santa Clara County Law  
24 Library, which is located at 360 North 1st Street, San Jose, California, 95113-1004 (which is only a  
25 few blocks away from this Court’s library), is open to the public for longer hours and on more days  
26 than this Court’s library is, and it has onsite computer access. See SANTA CLARA COUNTY LAW  
27 LIBRARY, <http://sccll.org/> (last visited July 14, 2011). Accordingly, the Court DENIES his request  
28 for access to this Court’s library.

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A further case management conference is set for Tuesday, September 13, 2011. The parties shall file a joint case management statement no later than September 6, 2011.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: July 14, 2011



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HOWARD R. LLOYD  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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**C11-01873 HRL Notice will be electronically mailed to:**

**Notice will provide by other means to:**

Bruce Boston  
19053 Stevens Creek Boulevard  
Suite 220  
Cupertino, CA 95014

**Counsel are responsible for distributing copies of this document to co-counsel who have not registered for e-filing under the court's CM/ECF program.**