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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MADISON WOLANYK, a minor, by and through her guardian ad litem, EUGENE WOLANYK,

Plaintiff,

VS.

SWEETWATER UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 17cv2415-LAB (MDD)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO DISMISS [Dkt. 8] AND DENYING PETITION FOR TORT CLAIM RELIEF [Dkt. 3]

Madison Wolanyk couldn't travel to Disneyland with her Hilltop Middle School classmates the past two years because the school bus didn't have a wheelchair ramp. When her father found out, he sued the Sweetwater school district for violating the ADA and two California laws that protect disabled students like his daughter. Sweetwater moves to dismiss the state claims for lack of jurisdiction. Wolanyk agrees the Eleventh Amendment bars these claims against Sweetwater. The Court dismisses her two state claims without leave to amend. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). Her request for punitive damages is also stricken. Cal. Gov't Code § 818; see *Gallagher v. San Diego Unified Port Dist.*, 2009 WL 2781553, at \*11 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 31, 2009).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Wolanyk asks the Court to keep her state claims and punitive damage allegations alive in case she substitutes a Doe defendant. But she has a remedy for that: seek leave to amend.

Wolanyk also asks the Court to approve a petition for relief from the California Government Tort Claims Act. This petition must be filed in California superior court. Cal. Gov. Code § 946.6; see Hill v. City of Clovis, 2012 WL 787609 at \*12 (E.D. Cal. March 9, 2012). Since Wolanyk concedes her two state claims aren't actionable, this issue doesn't much matter. The only action remaining in this case is Wolanyk's federal ADA claim—she's "not required to comply with California's claims filing requirements when asserting violations of federal rights." Diaz v. State, 1995 WL 138594, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 28, 1995). Since the ADA claim in this case borrows California's three year statute of limitations, both trips to Disneyland are actionable. Sharkey v. O'Neal, 778 F.3d 767, 773 (9th Cir. 2015). The petition is denied.

## IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 5, 2018

HONORABLE LARRY ALAN BURNS
United States District Judge