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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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James Dillard,

Plaintiff,

v.

Damon Lovell, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:24-cv-01143-APG-BNW

ORDER

10 Before this Court is Plaintiff's motion to amend. ECF No. 7. By way of background, this
11 Court previously granted Plaintiff leave to amend when it screened his original complaint. ECF
12 No. 3. In turn, Plaintiff filed an amended complaint. ECF No. 5. Before this Court had a chance to
13 screen his amended complaint, Plaintiff filed the instant motion.

14 Plaintiff already had to leave to amend. As such his motion is denied as moot.
15 Nevertheless, the attachments to the instant motion do not contain an amended complaint.
16 Instead, the attachments include a variety of different documents submitted to the Copyright
17 Claims Court.¹ ECF Nos. 7-1 through 7-10. As explained below, these attachments do not
18 sufficiently plead a claim for relief. As a result, this Court will allow Plaintiff to once again
19 amend his complaint.

20 **I. Analysis**

21 **A. Screening standard**

22 Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must screen the complaint
23 under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). In screening the complaint, a court must identify cognizable claims
24 and dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim on which relief may be
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26 ¹ It is not clear whether Plaintiff intended this Court to screen his amended complaint at ECF No. 5. Given
27 his new filing at ECF No. 7, this Court cannot screen an earlier amended complaint. Nevertheless, if that
28 was Plaintiff's intent, he simply needs to refile the amended complaint at ECF No. 5 and this Court will
screen it as due course.

1 granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. §
2 1915(e)(2). Dismissal for failure to state a claim under § 1915(e)(2) incorporates the standard for
3 failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *Watison v. Carter*, 668
4 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012). To survive § 1915 review, a complaint must “contain sufficient
5 factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *See Ashcroft*
6 *v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The court liberally construes pro se complaints and may only
7 dismiss them “if it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of
8 his claim which would entitle him to relief.” *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir.
9 2014) (*quoting Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678).

10 In considering whether the complaint is sufficient to state a claim, all allegations of
11 material fact are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Wylor*
12 *Summit P’ship v. Turner Broad. Sys. Inc.*, 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted).
13 Although the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff
14 must provide more than mere labels and conclusions. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S.
15 544, 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action is insufficient. *Id.*
16 Unless it is clear the complaint’s deficiencies could not be cured through amendment, a pro se
17 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with notice regarding the complaint’s
18 deficiencies. *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

19 **B. Screening the Complaint**

20 Plaintiff’s amended complaint at ECF No. 7 contains no factual allegations. *See* ECF No.
21 7-1 through 7-10. Instead, Plaintiff filed a variety of documents previously filed with the
22 Copyright Claims Board. Even liberally construing Plaintiff’s amended complaint, it does not
23 state sufficient factual allegations about the underlying dispute and the defendants’ role in the
24 matter to state a claim. As such, this Court will dismiss his claim with leave to amend.

25 If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, the document must be titled “Third
26 Amended Complaint.” The Third Amended Complaint must contain a short and plain statement
27 describing the underlying case and each of the defendants’ involvement in the case. *See* Fed. R.
28 Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Although the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure adopt a flexible pleading standard,

1 Plaintiff still must give each defendant fair notice of his claims against it and of Plaintiff's
2 entitlement to relief.

3 Additionally, Plaintiff is advised that if he files an amended complaint, the previous
4 complaints (ECF Nos. 1-1, 5, and 7) no longer serve any function in this case. As such, the Third
5 Amended Complaint must be complete in and of itself without reference to prior pleadings or
6 other documents. The Court cannot refer to a prior pleading or other documents to make
7 Plaintiff's Third Amended Complaint complete.

8 **II. CONCLUSION**

9 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff's motion to amend (ECF No. 7) is denied
10 as moot.

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court is directed to detach and separately
12 file ECF No. 7-1 on the docket and title it "Second Amended Complaint."


13 **IT FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff's amended complaint is dismissed without
14 prejudice. If Plaintiff chooses to file a Third Amended Complaint, he must do so no later than
15 November 25, 2024. Failure to file an amended complaint that complies with this Order by the
16 deadline may result in Plaintiff's case being dismissed.

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18 DATED: October 24, 2024

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BRENDA WEKSLER
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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