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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
8 AT SEATTLE

8 BRANDON LEE STANLEY,

9 Plaintiff,

10 v.

11 FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS, *et al.*,

12 Defendants.

Case No. C15-256 RSL-BAT

**ORDER DIRECTING THE CLERK
TO IDENTIFY COUNSEL FROM
THE PRO BONO PANEL FOR
PLAINTIFF**

13 This matter comes before the Court on remand from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.
14 Dkts. 39, 40. Plaintiff Brandon Lee Stanley, proceeding *pro se* and *in forma pauperis*, brought
15 this civil rights action pursuant to *Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents*, 403 U.S.
16 388 (1971) and the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) against the United States of America,
17 Warden Jack Fox, Jane Doe Medical Supervisor, and John Doe X-Ray Technician
18 (“defendants”)¹ on June 15, 2015. Dkt. 13. Mr. Stanley’s complaint alleged that his claims for
19 medical assistance were denied after he broke his right hand at FDC SeaTac on April 6, 2013. *Id.*
20 at 4. He further alleged that John Doe X-ray technician failed to order further medical attention
21 or immobilize his hand even though an x-ray taken on April 8, 2013, revealed that his hand was
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23 ¹ To date, neither John nor Jane Doe has been identified or served. Accordingly, “defendants”
hereinafter refers only to the United States and Warden Fox.

ORDER DIRECTING THE CLERK TO IDENTIFY COUNSEL
FROM THE PRO BONO PANEL FOR PLAINTIFF - 1

1 broken. *Id.* On April 25, 2013, Mr. Stanley received surgery on his right hand. *Id.* He claims
2 that during the 19 days he waited for the surgery, he suffered avoidable pain and suffering and
3 was denied adequate medication. *Id.* Finally, Mr. Stanley’s complaint alleged lasting damage to
4 his right hand due to the delay in obtaining timely and appropriate medical attention. *Id.* at 5.

5 The case was initially resolved on summary judgment based on defendants’ argument
6 that Mr. Stanley had failed to exhaust his administrative remedies. Dkt. 27. On appeal,
7 defendants “waived the affirmative defense of exhaustion that they asserted in the district court
8 [as to Mr. Stanley’s claim arising under the FTCA], and request[ed] that [the Court of Appeals]
9 vacate and remand for further proceedings.” Dkt. 39 at 2. The Appeals Court therefore vacated
10 the District Court’s judgment and remanded the case for further proceedings. *Id.*²

11 The Court has discretion to appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants pursuant to 28
12 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), but an appointment of counsel should only be granted under “exceptional
13 circumstances.” *Agyeman v. Corrections Corp. of Am.*, 390 F.3d 1101, 1103 (9th Cir. 2004).
14 When determining whether exceptional circumstances exist, the Court considers “the likelihood
15 of success on the merits as well as the ability of the petitioner to articulate his claims pro se in
16 light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.” *Weygandt v. Look*, 718 F.2d 952, 954 (9th
17 Cir. 1983). The record suggests that exceptional circumstances exist: defendants have declined
18 to pursue the argument underlying the Court’s dismissal on appeal and the Court’s earlier
19 judgment has been vacated; the substantive merits of Mr. Stanley’s claims have not yet been
20 addressed and may be resolved via supplemental dispositive motions; this matter may be
21 amenable to being resolved via mediation or settlement; and if this matter proceeds to trial, the
22 plaintiff is both proceeding *pro se*, and is incarcerated. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1); Gen. Order

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² The Court issued its mandate on June 19, 2017. Dkt. 40.

1 10-05, Amended Plan for the Representation of Pro Se Litigants in Civil Rights Actions
2 (effective Aug. 1, 2010) (“Pro Bono Plan”).

3 Based on its determination that exceptional circumstances for the appointment of counsel
4 exist, the Court invited Mr. Stanley to file a motion for appointment of pro bono counsel for all
5 further proceedings. Dkt. 42. Mr. Stanley has done so. Dkt. 43.

6 The Court **GRANTS** the motion (Dkt. 43) and **DIRECTS** the Clerk to identify an
7 attorney from the Pro Bono Panel to represent Mr. Stanley in his § 1983 civil-rights action. *See*
8 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). Pro Bono Plan § 4(b). After the selected attorney has confirmed that s/he
9 has no conflict of interest, the Court will issue an order directing appointment of counsel.

10 DATED this 14th day of July, 2017.

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13 BRIAN A. TSUCHIDA
14 United States Magistrate Judge
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