

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR
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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 VLADIK BYKOV,

11 Plaintiff,

v.

12 STEVEN G. ROSEN and his marital
13 community, MICHELINE MURPHY and her
14 marital community, MARCUS NAYLOR
15 and his marital community, BRIAN
16 ROGERS and his marital community, and
17 CITY OF SEATTLE,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C15-0713-JCC

ORDER

18 This matter comes before the Court on Defendants Micheline Murphy, Marcus Naylor,
19 and their marital communities' ("Defendants") motion to strike portions Plaintiff's Second
20 Amended Complaint ("SAC") (Dkt. No. 63) and Plaintiff's motion to strike portions of
21 Defendants' briefing (Dkt. Nos. 71 at 2, 74 at 1–3). Having thoroughly considered the parties'
22 briefing and the relevant record, the Court finds oral argument unnecessary and hereby GRANTS
23 in part Defendants' motion and DENIES Plaintiff's motions.

24 **I. BACKGROUND**

25 The Court dismissed Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint for failure to state a claim and
26 because the allegations contradicted judicially noticed records. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 49.) On

1 appeal, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the dismissal but remanded for the district court to consider
2 whether Plaintiff should be granted leave to amend certain claims. (Dkt. No. 54 at 2–4.)
3 Accordingly, the Court granted Plaintiff leave to amend his claim against Murphy for legal
4 malpractice, but only to the extent that his allegations do not contradict judicially noticed
5 records. (Dkt. No. 56 at 2–4.) The Court also granted Plaintiff leave to amend his negligent
6 hiring claim by further detailing the nature of Naylor’s supervision. (*Id.* at 2–3.) The Court
7 denied Plaintiff leave to amend his discrimination claims. (*Id.* at 4.) Plaintiff then filed his SAC
8 (Dkt. No. 59). The Court struck all claims against Defendants Rosen and Rogers in the SAC as
9 inconsistent with this prior order. (Dkt. No. 75.)

10 **II. DISCUSSION**

11 **A. Defendants’ Motion to Strike**

12 Defendants ask the Court to strike portions of the SAC that breach the Court’s order
13 granting Plaintiff leave to amend his complaint. (Dkt. No. 63 at 3.) A court may strike any
14 “redundant, immaterial, impertinent or scandalous matter” from a pleading. Fed. R. Civ. P.
15 12(F). This includes striking any part of the prayer for relief when the relief sought is not
16 recoverable as a matter of law. *Bureering v. Uvawas*, 922 F. Supp. 1450, 1479 n. 34 (C.D. Cal.
17 1996).

18 The Court constrained Plaintiff’s leave to amend his pleadings to assertions that do not
19 contradict judicially noticed records. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 56.) Judicially noticed records
20 include State court proceedings and rulings pertaining to Plaintiff’s probation hearings and
21 appeals.¹ (Dkt. No. 49 at 6.) In these records are State court findings that the trial court did not
22 exceed its jurisdiction or violate Plaintiff’s right to privacy by ordering him to complete a mental
23 health evaluation and treatment or sign a medical release of information while on probation.
24 (Dkt. No. 20-3 at 64, 78). Upon taking judicial notice of these findings, this Court concluded

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26 ¹ The Ninth Circuit upheld this Court’s taking of judicial notice of these records. (Dkt.
No. 54 at 5.)

1 that, as a matter of law, “an attorney does not commit legal malpractice by failing to object to
2 such authority.” (Dkt. No. 49 at 7.) Furthermore, this Court took judicial notice of the
3 Washington Court of Appeals’ finding that the trial court acted reasonably in violating Plaintiff’s
4 probation for his refusal to provide medical records. (*Id.* at 8.) Finally, this Court held that
5 judicially noticed documents preclude any allegations of discriminatory motivation or claims that
6 Murphy failed to inform the State court that Plaintiff signed a medical release after being
7 incarcerated. (Dkt. Nos. 56 at 4, 49 at 7.) Any assertion in Plaintiff’s SAC contrary to these
8 holdings violates the Court’s order granting leave to amend.

9 Plaintiff’s claim that no part of his SAC violates this Court’s prior order misunderstands
10 the order, the above-referenced records, and the Ninth Circuit’s remand order. (*See* Dkt. No. 71
11 at 1–2.) The Court, through judicially noticed records, established that the trial court acted
12 reasonably and within its authority when it required Plaintiff to sign a medical release as part of a
13 probation condition. (Dkt. No. 49 at 7–8.) The Court found that Plaintiff’s argument to the
14 contrary was collaterally estopped based on these records. (*Id.* at 8.) The Ninth Circuit did not
15 overrule this holding. (*See generally* Dkt. No. 54.) Therefore, Plaintiff’s claims based on
16 allegations that the trial court did not have authority to require him to sign a medical release, and
17 that such a release was not a condition of probation, contradict judicially noticed records.

18 “A party may amend its pleading [a second time] only with opposing party’s written
19 consent or the court’s leave.” Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 15(a)(2). The Court limited Plaintiff’s leave to
20 amend legal malpractice and negligent hiring claims and denied leave to amend discrimination
21 claims. (Dkt. No. 56 at 2–4.) Thus, the Court will strike portions of the SAC that clearly and
22 directly contradict these limitations as immaterial and impertinent.² *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(f).

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² Some portions included in Defendants’ motion to strike have already been stricken from
26 the SAC by this Court’s order granting Defendants’ Rosen and Rogers’ motion to strike (Dkt.
No. 62). These include dismissed causes of action 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11, which name only
Defendants Rosen and Rogers. The Court will not address these causes of action here.

B. Plaintiff's Motions to Strike Portions of Briefing

Plaintiff's response and surreply include motions to strike portions of Defendants' motion and reply. (Dkt. Nos. 71 at 2, 74 at 1–3.) First, the Ninth Circuit did not overturn the Court's reliance on collateral estoppel, as Plaintiff asserts. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 59, 71 at 2.) Second, contested portions of Defendants' briefs consist of proper argument before the Court. (*See* Dkt. Nos. 71 at 2, 74 at 1–3.)

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Defendants' motion to strike (Dkt. No. 63) is GRANTED in part.³ The following portions of Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint (Dkt. No. 59) are hereby STRICKEN:

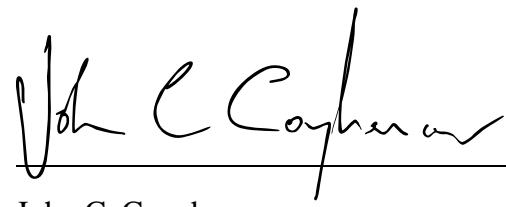
- (a) “and discriminatory animus” in paragraph 3;
- (b) the word “illegal” in the second and third sentences of paragraph 19, and in paragraphs 20, 22, 23, 27, and 56;
- (c) the second sentence of paragraph 19;
- (d) “he had no legal authority to obtain his records” in paragraph 24;
- (e) the first sentence of paragraph 29;
- (f) paragraphs 30 and 31;
- (g) the second and third sentences of paragraph 34;
- (h) the last sentence of paragraph 41;
- (i) the third and fourth sentences in paragraph 56;
- (j) paragraphs 95, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, and 106.

Plaintiff's requests to strike (Dkt. Nos. 71 at 2, 74 at 1-3) are DENIED.

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³ The Court strikes only portions of the SAC that clearly and directly contradict judicially noticed records, erring on the side of permitting allegations that could potentially be construed as consistent with the Court’s order granting leave to amend.

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DATED this 28th day of November 2017.



John C. Coughenour
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE