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

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10 SUSAN CHEN, et al.,
11 Plaintiffs,
12 v.
13 NATALIE D'AMICO,
14 Defendant.

CASE NO. C16-1877JLR
ORDER REFERRING MOTION
TO SCREENING COMMITTEE

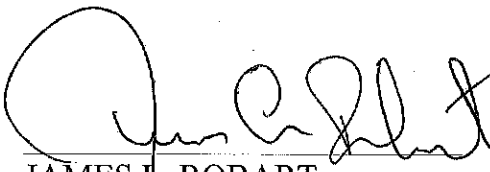
15 Before the court is Plaintiff Susan Chen's motion to appoint counsel.¹ (Mot. (Dkt.
16 # 10).) Ms. Chen is proceeding *pro se*. (Compl. (Dkt. # 6).) The District has

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18 ¹ On March 10, 2017, Ms. Chen and her co-plaintiff, Naixiang Lian, filed a joint motion
19 to appoint counsel. (1st Mot. (Dkt. # 8).) The court determined that it could not fully assess
20 whether it should forward Plaintiffs' motion to the Pro Bono Screening Committee for further
21 review because Plaintiffs are not proceeding *in forma pauperis* and had not attached to their
22 motion a completed copy of an affidavit of financial status. (3/29/17 Order at 2.) The court
directed Plaintiffs to file an affidavit detailing their financial statuses no later than 14 days after
the entry of the court's order. (*Id.*) On April 12, 2017, Ms. Chen filed a financial affidavit
detailing her financial status (*see* Fin. Aff.) and a second motion to appoint counsel (*see* Mot.).
Ms. Chen states that Mr. Lian did not provide a financial affidavit and "ask[s] the court to
appoint counsel for her specifically." (Mot. at 2.) Accordingly, the court construes Ms. Chen's
motion to appoint counsel as superseding the earlier motion and denies the earlier motion.

1 implemented a plan for court-appointed representation of civil rights litigants. The plan
2 requires the court to assess a plaintiff's case before forwarding it to the Pro Bono
3 Screening Committee for further review and possible appointment of pro bono counsel.
4 *See* General Order, August 1, 2010, Section 3(c) (In re Amended Plan for the
5 Representation of Pro Se Litigants in Civil Rights Actions). In its initial assessment, the
6 court evaluates the case to determine that it is not frivolous and that the plaintiff is
7 financially eligible. *Id.* Ms. Chen's submissions satisfy the court that there is an
8 adequate basis to refer her case to the Screening Committee. (*See* Mot.; Fin. Aff. (Dkt.
9 # 11); Compl.)

10 Accordingly, the court DIRECTS the Clerk to forward to the Screening
11 Committee Ms. Chen's complaint (Dkt. # 6), her motion for court-appointed counsel
12 (Dkt. # 10), and a copy of this order. *See* General Order, August 1, 2010, Section 3(c).
13 The court DIRECTS the Screening Committee to review the case and make a
14 recommendation to the court in accordance with the District's pro bono plan and the rules
15 for the pro bono panel on or before May 8, 2017. The court also DIRECTS the Clerk to
16 renote Ms. Chen's motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 10) for May 8, 2017, pending the
17 Screening Committee's recommendation. *See* General Order, August 1, 2010, Section
18 3(f). Finally, the court DENIES Plaintiffs' joint motion to appoint counsel (Dkt. # 8).

19 Dated this th 17 day of April, 2017.

20 
21 JAMES L. ROBART
22 United States District Judge