

1 THE HONORABLE JOHN C. COUGHENOUR

2  
3  
4  
5  
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
8 AT SEATTLE

9 DONTE McCLELLON,

10 Plaintiff,

11 v.

12 CAPITAL ONE BANK, N.A.,

13 Defendant.

CASE NO. C18-0909-JCC

ORDER

14  
15 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiff's motion to vacate judgment and  
16 reschedule status conference (Dkt. No. 22). Defendant opposes Plaintiff's motion. (Dkt. No. 23.)

17 On May 17, 2018, Plaintiff filed this lawsuit in King County Superior Court. (Dkt. No. 1-  
18 1 at 1.) On June 21, 2018, Defendant removed the case to this Court.<sup>1</sup> (Dkt. No. 1.) On June 28,  
19 2018, Defendant moved to dismiss Plaintiff's complaint for failure to state a claim. (Dkt. No. 7.)  
20 On July 25, 2018, the Court granted Defendant's motion to dismiss and dismissed Plaintiff's  
21 complaint without prejudice and with leave to amend. (Dkt. No. 10.)

22 On August 15, 2018, Plaintiff filed an amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 11.) On August 30,  
23 2018, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss the amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 12.) On October 22,  
24 2018, the Court granted Defendant's motion to dismiss and again granted Plaintiff leave to file a

25  
26 <sup>1</sup> Although initially assigned to the Hon. Richard A. Jones, the case was reassigned to this Court on July 10, 2018. (*See* Dkt. No. 8.)

1 second amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 16.) Plaintiff failed to file a second amended complaint.  
2 (*See* Dkt. No. 18.)

3 On November 14, 2018, the Court ordered Plaintiff to show cause why his case should  
4 not be dismissed for failure to file a second amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 19.) Plaintiff failed to  
5 respond to the Court’s order to show cause. On November 27, 2018, the Court dismissed  
6 Plaintiff’s amended complaint with prejudice and entered judgment. (Dkt. Nos. 20, 21.)

7 On January 22, 2019, Plaintiff filed a one-page letter asking the Court to vacate its  
8 judgment dismissing his amended complaint. (Dkt. No. 22.) Plaintiff states that he has been  
9 “battling a chronic disease for over a year and it had intensified since Mid-October 2018 leaving  
10 [him] physically incapable to respond in a timely matter to this case and many other cases.” (*Id.*)  
11 Plaintiff asks that “this matter be allowed to proceed with a rescheduled status conference.” (*Id.*)

12 In the Ninth Circuit, *pro se* parties are held to less stringent pleading standards than  
13 attorneys. *See Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010). Thus, the Court construes  
14 Plaintiff’s letter (Dkt. No. 22) as a motion to obtain relief from the Court’s judgment dismissing  
15 his amended complaint. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b), “[o]n motion and just  
16 terms, the court may relieve a party or its legal representative from a final judgment, order or  
17 proceeding for the following reasons: . . . mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect . .  
18 . [or] any reason that justifies relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b)(1). To determine whether a party  
19 acted with excusable neglect, district courts examine: (1) the danger of prejudice to the opposing  
20 party; (2) the length of the delay and its potential impact on the proceedings; (3) the reason for  
21 the delay; and (4) whether the movant acted in good faith. *See Briones v. Riviera Hotel &*  
22 *Casino*, 116 F.3d 379, 381 (9th Cir. 1997) (citing *Pioneer Inv. Servs. Co. v. Brunswick Assocs.*  
23 *Ltd. Partnership*, 507 U.S. 380, 391 (1993)).

24 In this case, Plaintiff has not demonstrated that he acted with excusable neglect. The  
25 Court dismissed Plaintiff’s amended complaint with prejudice after he failed to file a second  
26 amended complaint and failed to respond to an order to show cause regarding his failure to do so.

1 (See Dkt. No. 20.) The Court could have entered judgment against Plaintiff when he failed to  
2 timely file a second amended complaint—instead, the Court gave Plaintiff another chance to  
3 respond by ordering him to show cause why his amended complaint should not be dismissed  
4 with prejudice. (*Id.*) Plaintiff provides little explanation for why he failed to respond to the  
5 Court’s order to show cause. (See Dkt. No. 22.) Plaintiff’s conclusory statement regarding his  
6 physical condition does not justify his more than two months’ delay in responding to the Court’s  
7 order to show cause. Nor does it explain why Plaintiff was unable to file a second amended  
8 complaint. While Plaintiff does not appear to have brought this motion in bad faith, his inaction  
9 does not amount to excusable neglect under Rule 60.

10 Based on the length of delay and reason for that delay, the Court concludes that  
11 Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the Court’s order to show cause does not represent excusable  
12 neglect. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b). Nor does the Court believe there is some other reason that  
13 justifies vacating its judgment and reinstating Plaintiff’s amended complaint. *Id.* Therefore,  
14 Plaintiff’s motion to vacate the Court’s judgment (Dkt. No. 22) is DENIED.

15 DATED this 22nd day of February 2019.

16  
17  
18 

19 John C. Coughenour  
20 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE