

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Seifert v. Pritchard

No. 1:24-cv-01097-KES-CDB (E.D. Cal. Mar. 6, 2025) · No. 1:24-cv-01097-KES-CDB · Decided March 7,
2025

OPINION

Seifert v. Pritchard

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 ALEXANDRA SEIFERT, Case No. 1:24-cv-01097-KES-CDB 12 Plaintiff, ORDER
VACATING FINDINGS AND

RECOMMENDATIONS

13 v. (Doc. 8) 14 KENNETH PRITCHARD, et al.,

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15 Defendants. TO DISMISS COMPLAINT WITHOUT
LEAVE TO AMEND

16

21-DAY DEADLINE

17 18 19 Plaintiff Alexandra Seifert, proceeding pro se, brings this civil rights action pursuant to
18 20 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242, 18 U.S.C. § 1018, 28 U.S.C. § 454, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1983 and 1985.
(Doc. 21 1). Plaintiff filed her complaint and a motion to proceed in forma pauperis on September
16, 22 2024. (Docs. 1, 2). 23 I. Order Vacating Prior Findings and Recommendations 24 The
undersigned issued findings and recommendations to dismiss the complaint without 25 leave to
amend on November 15, 2024. (Doc. 8). After the Court granted Plaintiff two 26 extensions of
time to file her objections to the findings and recommendations (Docs. 11, 13), 27 Plaintiff filed
untimely objections (Doc. 14), as well as three additional filings titled “motion to 28 1 strike and
amend,” “motion for judicial determination of material issues to the case,” and “motion 2 to deem
objections filed timely” (Docs. 15, 16, 18).1 3 The Court hereby vacates the prior findings and
recommendations issued on November 4 15, 2024 (Doc. 8). 5 II. Findings and Recommendations
6 As set forth in more detail below, Plaintiff’s claims are barred by the Rooker-Feldman 7 doctrine
and because Defendants are immune from suit under the Eleventh Amendment and the 8 common
law doctrine of judicial immunity. Accordingly, the undersigned will recommend that 9 Plaintiff’s
complaint be dismissed without leave to amend. 10 a. Screening Requirement 11 The complaint is
before the undersigned for screening upon referral by the assigned 12 district judge. (Doc. 17); 28

U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2); see *Lopez v. Smith*, 302 F.3d 1122, 1129 (9th Cir. 2000) (“section 1915(e) applies to all in forma pauperis complaints, not just those filed by prisoners”); *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995) (Section 1915 “authorizes a court to review a complaint that has been filed in forma pauperis, without paying fees and costs, on its own initiative and to decide whether the action has an arguable basis in law before permitting it to proceed.”). The Court must dismiss a complaint or a portion thereof if it: (1) is frivolous or malicious; (2) fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted; or (3) seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B); see *Calhoun v. Stahl*, 254 F.3d 845 (9th Cir. 2001) (explaining that “the provisions of U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B) are not limited to prisoners”). Moreover, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12.1 The Court construes the “motion to strike and amend” (Doc. 15) and “motion for judicial determination” (Doc. 16) as, more properly, objections to the findings and recommendations (Doc. 8). See *Castro v. United States*, 540 U.S. 375, 381–82 (2003) (explaining that courts may recharacterize a pro se motion to “create a better correspondence between the substance of a pro se motion’s claim and its underlying legal basis” and, thus, “[f]ederal courts sometimes will ignore the legal label that a pro se litigant attaches to a motion and recharacterize the motion in order to place it within a different legal category”). Additionally, Plaintiff’s “motion to deem objections filed timely” (Doc. 18) relate to her objections to the now-vacated findings and recommendations (Doc. 8). As those objections may be considered in regards to the findings and recommendations issued herein at the discretion of the assigned district judge, the undersigned will not rule on the motion here. 12(h)(3), the Court must dismiss an action if the Court determines that it lacks subject matter jurisdiction. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure require that a complaint contain “a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief [.]” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). This means that the complaint must state its claims simply, concisely, and directly. See *McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172, 1177 (9th Cir. 1996). These rules are satisfied if the complaint gives the defendant fair notice of the plaintiff’s claim and the grounds upon which the claims rest. See *Kimes v. Stone*, 84 F.3d 1121, 1129 (9th Cir. 1996). A claim is legally frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis in either law or fact. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); *Franklin v. Murphy*, 745 F.2d 1221, 1227-28 (9th Cir. 1984). The Court may dismiss a claim as frivolous where it is based on an indisputably meritless legal theory or where the factual contentions are clearly baseless. *Neitzke*, 490 U.S. at 327. The central question is whether a constitutional claim, however inartfully pleaded, has an arguable legal and factual basis. See *Jackson v. Arizona*, 885 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1989); *Franklin*, 745 F.2d at 1227. To avoid dismissal for failure to state a claim, the complaint must contain more than “labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action[.]” *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 554, 555 (2007) (quotations and citations omitted). “Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.”

Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). Furthermore, a claim 21 upon which the court can grant relief must have facial plausibility. Twombly, 550 U.S. at 570. “A 22 claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw 23 the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” Iqbal, 556 U.S. 24 at 678. When considering whether a complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted, 25 the Court must accept the allegations as true. Erickson v. Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 94 (2007). 26 In reviewing a pro se complaint, the Court is to liberally construe the pleadings in the light 27 most favorable to the plaintiff and resolve all doubts in plaintiff’s favor. Hebbe v. Pliler, 627 F.3d 338, 342 (9th Cir. 2010) (“where the petitioner is pro se, particularly in civil rights cases, 1 [courts should] should construe the pleadings liberally and . . . afford the petitioner the benefit of 2 any doubt.”); see U.S. v. Qazi, 975 F.3d 989, 992-93 (9th Cir. 2020) (“It is an entrenched 3 principle that pro se filings however inartfully pleaded are held to less stringent standards than 4 formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.”) (citations and internal quotations omitted). However, 5 while factual allegations are accepted as true, legal conclusions are not. Twombly, 550 U.S. at 6 555. 7

b. Plaintiff’s Allegations 8 The Court accepts Plaintiff’s allegations in the complaint as true only for the purpose of 9 this screening under 28 U.S.C. § 1915. 10 Plaintiff brings claims against Defendants Kenneth Pritchard, J. Eric Bradshaw, Gina 11 Marie Cervantes, and Tamarah Harber-Pickens. Pritchard and Bradshaw are state court judges, 12 Cervantes is a state court commissioner, and Harber-Pickens is a court clerk. All are employed 13 by the Kern County Superior Court. (Doc. 1 at 2). Plaintiff alleges the following causes of 14 action: (1) 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242, (2) 18 U.S.C. § 1018, (3) 28 U.S.C. § 454, (4) 42 U.S.C. §§ 15 1983 and 1985, (5) common law conspiracy and deprivation of rights, (6) fraud and/or fraud upon 16 the court, (7) violations of the Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments, and (8) infliction of emotional 17 distress. Id. 18 Plaintiff alleges that on September 9, 2022, and September 16, 2022, Prichard was a trial 19 judge in two hearings in a small claims case that Plaintiff had initiated with the Kern County 20 Superior Court in Ridgecrest. Plaintiff alleges that Pritchard violated her “rights to be heard, to 21 present her case in full, to offer and call witnesses and to enjoy a just and fair trial.” Plaintiff also 22 alleges that Pritchard violated her right to privacy and denied her the opportunity to present half 23 of her second cause of action and all of her third. Plaintiff alleges that Pritchard committed 24 “grave judicial incompetence” due to his lack of knowledge of legal terminology and standards of 25 jurisprudential evaluation. Plaintiff further alleges that Pritchard made false accusation and 26 insinuations about Plaintiff during the trial, manipulated the questioning, stopped Plaintiff from 27 presenting her case, denied all claims including ones Plaintiff had not presented, “legislat[ed] 28 from the bench,” and acted outside the scope of his judicial capacity. Plaintiff claims she 1 exhausted her state remedies, as small claims in California does not have a right of appeal for a 2 losing plaintiff. (Doc. 1 at 3). 3 On October 8, 2022, Plaintiff submitted a request for explanation as to the “legal grounds 4 of ruling for each of the causes of action.” On October 10, 2022, Harber-Pickens sent Plaintiff a 5 letter stating “explanation was given at the time of trial.” Plaintiff

alleges this is false. On

6 October 19, 2022, Plaintiff filed a “Request to Correct or Cancel Judgment” in state court, where 7 Plaintiff described Pritchard’s violations. On November 11, 2022, Pritchard denied the filing 8 “without addressing his violations.” Id. 9 On February 22, 2023, Plaintiff sent a letter to Bradshaw. On March 23, 2023, Bradshaw 10 replied via letter. Plaintiff alleges he included “multiple false statements,” including that she did 11 not elect to file an appeal and that an appeal would have allowed her to have a new trial, both, 12 Plaintiff alleges, being untrue statements. Plaintiff claims Bradshaw did not address Pritchard’s 13 errors and stated he was “deeply concerned when citizens have doubts about the integrity of the 14 process.” Plaintiff alleges that this is a conspiracy between Bradshaw and Pritchard to shield 15 Pritchard from accountability as to his actions “outside of his judicial authority.” Id. at 4. 16 On May 31, 2023, Plaintiff wrote a reply to Bradshaw addressing his claims and asking 17 him to provide the existing law which Bradshaw had claimed Pritchard utilized, as well as the 18 “glaring contrast” between Bradshaw’s claims of concern and his lack of actions to “abide by his 19 duty.” Id. 20 On October 7, 2022, in a different small claims action Plaintiff had initiated in the Kern 21 County Superior Court, Cervantes did not accept Plaintiff’s proffered evidence contained in a 22 thumb drive. After taking the case under submission, on January 30, 2023, Cervantes mailed a 23 ruling which “contradicted itself entirely,” “twisted facts,” misconstrued statements at trial, and 24 would have been different if Cervantes had reviewed the evidence on the thumb drive. Plaintiff 25 alleges the ruling violated her right to privacy, deprived her of a fair proceeding, and would have 26 required a medical professional illegally practice medicine without a license. Id. at 4-5. 27 On March 1, 2023, Plaintiff filed a “Request to Correct or Cancel Judgment” to Cervantes, 28 as Plaintiff had done in the other small claims matter mentioned above. On March 8, 2023, 1 Cervantes replied and did not address any of the incongruencies raised by Plaintiff, claimed 2 Plaintiff was essentially seeking an appeal, did not correct her “misleading claims” about 3 statements at trial, and did not reconsider “her position on her ruling having as premise the 4 commission of a crime.” Id. 5 On May 27, 2023, Plaintiff sent a letter of complaint regarding violation of her rights to 6 Bradshaw. Plaintiff later received a letter from Harber-Pickens that Plaintiff’s complaint about 7 Pritchard “was addressed.” Plaintiff alleges this is false and that Harber-Pickens made additional 8 false claims before ceasing to respond. On August 8, 2023, Plaintiff received an email stating “no 9 further response will be provided.” Id. at 5. 10 On August 18, 2023 Plaintiff sent a letter to Bradshaw complaining as to Harber-Pickens 11 “false statements and misleading conduct,” as well as her refusal to “adhere to the tenets of the 12 court.” Plaintiff did not receive a reply. On September 13, 2023, Plaintiff received a phone call 13 from an individual named Mary who “identified herself as assistant executive administrative 14 secretary.” Mary confirmed Bradshaw received both of Plaintiff’s complaints and stated that 15 managing attorney Carla Ortega provided there will be no response from Bradshaw. Id. at 6. 16 Plaintiff seeks injunctive and declaratory relief and monetary and punitive damages. Id. at 17 7-9. 18 c. Discussion 19 i.

Plaintiff May Not Seek Relief Through Invocation of Criminal Statutes 20 Plaintiff purports to assert some causes of action pursuant to federal criminal statutes – 21 namely, 18 U.S.C. §§ 241 and 242 (conspiracy against and deprivation of civil rights), 18 U.S.C. 22 § 1018 (false statements). 23 References to criminal statutes do not state a claim for relief in a section 1983 proceeding. 24 See *Clinton v. Allison*, No. 3:23-cv-01471-CAB-SBC, 2024 WL 1859956, at *10 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 25 29, 2024) (discussing plaintiff’s references to federal and state criminal statutes and finding 26 “criminal statutes do not give rise to civil liability under section 1983”); *Jones v. Cnty. of Sonoma*, No. 23-cv-02730-CRB, 2024 WL 1354496, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 29, 2024) (finding 28 plaintiff “fails to state a claim under 18 U.S.C. § 1503 because the statute only applies to criminal 1 cases and does not provide a civil cause of action”); *Bland v. Gross*, No. 1:20-cv-00542-DAD- 2 BAM (PC), 2021 WL 120964, at *1 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 2021) (““Title 18 of the United States 3 Code is a criminal statute and does not provide individual plaintiffs with a private cause of 4 action.””) (quoting *Kennedy v. World Sav. Bank, FSB*, No. 14-cv-05516-JSC, 2015 WL 1814634, 5 at *7 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 21, 2015)); *Rope v. Facebook, Inc.*, No. CV 14-4900 UA, 2015 WL 6 13918858, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2015) (same); *Loadholt v. Obama*, No. 2:13-cv-2607-MCE- 7 EFB PS, 2015 WL 848549, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 26, 2015) (same). 8 Accordingly, Plaintiff is not entitled to any relief pursuant to these criminal statutes. 9 ii. Plaintiff’s Claims Seeking Relief From State Court Orders are Barred 10 by the Rooker-Feldman Doctrine 11 Under the Rooker-Feldman doctrine, federal district courts may exercise only original 12 jurisdiction; they may not exercise appellate jurisdiction over state court decisions. See *Dist. Ct. 13 of App. v. Feldman*, 460 U.S. 462, 482-86 (1986); *Rooker v. Fidelity Trust Co.*, 263 U.S. 413, 416 14 (1923). The Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars “cases brought by state-court losers complaining of 15 injuries caused by state-court judgments rendered before district court proceedings commenced 16 and inviting district court review and rejection of those judgments.” *Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Saudi Basic Indus. Corp.*, 544 U.S. 280, 284 (2005). The Rooker-Feldman doctrine applies even when 18 the challenge to the state court decision involves federal constitutional issues. See *Branson v. 19 Nott*, 62 F.3d 287, 291 (9th Cir. 1995), overruled on other grounds by *Amphastar Pharm. Inc. v. 20 Aventis Pharma SA*, 856 F.3d 696, 710 (9th Cir. 2017); *Dubinka v. Judges of the Super. Ct.*, 23 21 F.3d 218, 221 (9th Cir. 1994); *Worldwide Church of God v. McNair*, 805 F.2d 888, 891 (9th Cir. 22 1986). Further, “Rooker-Feldman bars any suit that seeks to disrupt or ‘undo’ a prior state-court 23 judgment, regardless of whether the state-court proceeding afforded the federal-court plaintiff a 24 full and fair opportunity to litigate [his] claims.” *Bianchi v. Rylaarsdam*, 334 F.3d 895, 901 (9th 25 Cir. 2003) (internal quotation marks omitted).

26 To determine whether a claim is barred by the Rooker-Feldman doctrine, a court must first 27 determine if the federal action contains a “forbidden de facto appeal” of a state court decision. 28 *Noel v. Hall*, 341 F.3d 1148, 1156 (9th Cir. 2003). If the court finds a forbidden de facto appeal, 1 the court cannot hear that portion of the case. Separately, a court must also refuse to decide any 2

issue raised in the suit that is “inextricably intertwined” with an issue resolved by the state court 3 decision. *Id.* at 1185; see *Bell v. Cty. of Boise*, 709 F.3d 890, 897 (9th Cir. 2013) (“The 4 ‘inextricably intertwined’ language ... is not a test to determine whether a claim is a de facto 5 appeal, but is rather a second and distinct step in the Rooker–Feldman analysis.”). A claim is a 6 “de facto appeal” where the plaintiff “complains of a legal wrong allegedly committed by the 7 state court and seeks relief from the judgment of that court.” *Noel*, 341 F.3d at 1163. Thus, for 8 instance, where a federal claim “directly call[s] into question the state courts’ judgments” on the 9 grounds the state court deprived plaintiff of his liberty rights, the claim is barred by the Rooker-10 Feldman doctrine. See *Rickrode v. W.C.A.B.*, 191 F.3d 461 (9th Cir. 1999) (unpublished). 11 Similarly, the Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars a plaintiff’s claims that “the state courts’ evidentiary 12 and procedural errors deprived him of his federal constitutional rights” – in other words, where 13 plaintiff “challenges the application of those rules in his [state court] proceedings.” *Id.* (citing 14 *inter alia* *Branson*, 62 F.3d at 292). 15 Plaintiff seeks relief via an injunction against Defendants’ behavior. (Doc. 1 at 7). It is 16 unclear what specific behavior Plaintiff refers to, as Plaintiff broadly states “criminal, deceitful 17 [sic], misleading and harmful behavior as herein described.” As the behavior described in her 18 complaint relates to proceedings before state court judges and the involvement of other court 19 officials, it is likely Plaintiff’s requested relief would act as a statement on state court evidentiary 20 and procedural actions. Plaintiff also seeks numerous forms of declaratory relief that would act 21 as rulings on the integrity and decisions of state court actions. *Id.* at 7-9; cf. *Rickrode*, 191 F.3d 22 461 (Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars a plaintiff’s claims that challenge “the state courts’ 23 evidentiary and procedural errors”). It is plain from her allegations that Plaintiff directly calls 24 into question the state court’s judgments on the grounds the state court deprived Plaintiff of her 25 liberty rights. As such, the claim is barred by the Rooker-Feldman doctrine. 26 The Ninth Circuit and this Court have repeatedly dismissed cases alleging claims arising 27 out of, or intertwined with, state small claims actions. See *Conerly v. Davenport*, No. 21-17081, 28 2022 WL 17223039, at *1 (9th Cir. Nov. 25, 2022) (affirming dismissal based on Rooker- 1 Feldman doctrine where plaintiffs brought federal action that was a “forbidden de facto appeal” 2 of a state court small claims judgment and raising issues that were “inextricably intertwined” with 3 that judgment); *Conerly v. Tarpin*, No. 2:19-cv-2535 JAM DB PS, 2021 WL 2310407, at *9 4 (E.D. Cal. June 7, 2021), report and recommendation adopted, No. 2:19-cv-2535 JAM DB PS, 5 2021 WL 4033127 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 3, 2021), *aff’d* sub nom. *Conerly v. Permanente*, No. 21- 6 16603, 2022 WL 17592188 (9th Cir. Dec. 13, 2022) (“[a]nd disputes over marital dissolution, 7 child custody, and small claims matters fall squarely within the Rooker-Feldman bar”); *deRosier 8 v. Longaker*, 551 F. App’x 362 (9th Cir. 2014) (affirming dismissal where plaintiff brought 9 “forbidden de facto appeal” that raised constitutional claims “inextricably intertwined” with state 10 court small claims judgment); *Pinzon v. Jensen*, No. CIV-F-08-1543 AWI GS, 2009 WL 11 4134809, at *4-5 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 23, 2009) (dismissing plaintiff’s claims that arose from state 12 court small claims action and were

thus barred by the Rooker-Feldman doctrine). 13 The Rooker-Feldman doctrine applies to Plaintiff's claims to the extent they challenge and 14 seek to undo the decisions and actions of the state courts. "It is immaterial that [plaintiff] frames 15 his federal complaint as a constitutional challenge to the state courts' decisions, rather than as a 16 direct appeal of those decisions." Bianchi, 334 F.3d at 900 n.4. 17 A narrow exception to the Rooker-Feldman doctrine applies "where a party alleges 18 extrinsic fraud by an adverse party in procuring a state court judgment ... because such a claim 19 does not challenge the state court decision directly." Benavidez v. Cnty. of San Diego, 933 F.3d 20 1134, 1143 (9th Cir. 2021). Here, however, the undersigned notes that, despite advancing various 21 generalized allegations of misrepresentation in her complaint and a cause of action of "fraud 22 and/or fraud on the court" (Doc. 1 at 2), Plaintiff does not make any specific allegation of fraud 23 on the state courts by the adverse parties in the state court actions. Instead, Plaintiff's conclusory 24 allegations of fraud and misrepresentation are directed toward the Defendant-state court actors. 25 As such, the extrinsic fraud corollary to the Rooker-Feldman doctrine does not apply here. 26 /// 27 /// 28 1 iii. Defendants are Immune From Suit in Federal Court Under the 2 Eleventh Amendment and the Common Law Doctrine of Judicial 3 Immunity 4 The Eleventh Amendment prohibits federal courts from hearing suits brought against a 5 nonconsenting state. *Munoz v. Super. Ct. of Los Angeles Cnty.*, 91 F.4th 977, 980 (9th Cir. 2024). 6 "This prohibition applies when the 'state or the "arm of a state" is a defendant.'" *Id.* (quoting 7 *Durning v. Citibank, N.A.*, 950 F.2d 1419, 1422 (9th Cir. 1991)). Thus, the Eleventh Amendment 8 bars suits against state agencies as well as those where the state itself is named as a defendant. 9 *Nat. Res. Def. Council v. Cal. Dep't of Transp.*, 96 F.3d 420, 421 (9th Cir. 1996). 10 In *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson* (595 U.S. 30, 39 (2021)), the Supreme Court held 11 that state-court judges and state-court clerks are immune from suit in federal court under the 12 Eleventh Amendment. The Court reasoned that these individuals are immune because they "do 13 not enforce state laws as executive officials might" and because any errors they make in 14 connection with their official duties can be remedied through "some form of appeal." See *Munoz*, 15 91 F.4th at 981 (reiterating that "state court judges cannot be sued in federal court in their judicial 16 capacity under the Eleventh Amendment" and rejecting argument that *Ex parte Young* excepts 17 claims seeking injunctive relief against a state court judge). For these same reasons, Defendants 18 Pritchard, Bradshaw, Cervantes, and Harber-Pickens enjoy immunity under the Eleventh 19 Amendment. See *Aholelei v. Dept. of Public Safety*, 488 F.3d 1144, 1147 (9th Cir. 2007) ("[t]he 20 Eleventh Amendment bars suits for money damages in a federal court against a state, its agencies, 21 and state officials in their official capacities") (emphasis added) (citations omitted). 22 Pritchard, Bradshaw, and Cervantes separately are immune from liability in this case 23 under the common law doctrine of judicial immunity. See *Meek v. Cnty. of Riverside*, 183 F.3d 24 962, 965 (9th Cir. 1999); *Franceschi v. Schwartz*, 57 F.3d 828, 831 (9th Cir. 1995). A similar 25 immunity attaches to Harber-Pickens as the clerk of the court here because Plaintiff's allegations 26 only implicate this Defendant's discharge of official duties. See *Mullis v. U.S. Bankr. Ct. for*

the 27 Dist. of Nev., 828 F.2d 1385, 1390 (9th Cir. 1987) (“Court clerks have absolute quasi-judicial immunity from damages for civil rights violations when they perform tasks that are an integral part of the judicial process.”). 2 d. Leave to Amend Would Be Futile 3 The Court of Appeals has “repeatedly held that ‘a district court should grant leave to 4 amend even if no request to amend the pleading was made, unless it determines that the pleading 5 could not possibly be cured by the allegation of other facts.’” Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 6 1130 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (quoting Doe v. United States, 58 F.3d 494, 497 (9th Cir. 1995)). 7 “The decision of whether to grant leave to amend nevertheless remains within the discretion of 8 the district court,” which may deny leave to amend if allowing amendment would unduly 9 prejudice the opposing party, cause undue delay, or be futile, or if the party seeking amendment 10 has acted in bad faith. Leadsinger, Inc. v. BMG Music Publ'g, 512 F.3d 522, 532 (9th Cir. 2008). 11 Here, the Court finds Plaintiff's claims as asserted against all Defendants are barred as a 12 matter of law based on Eleventh Amendment immunity and quasi-judicial immunity. These 13 defects cannot be cured through the assertion of additional facts; therefore, amendment would be 14 futile. Id. Accordingly, leave to amend should be denied. 15 III. Order and Recommendation 16 Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED that the findings and recommendations issued on 17 November 15, 2024 (Doc. 8), are VACATED.

18 And it is HEREBY RECOMMENDED that: 19 1. Plaintiff's miscellaneous motions and filings relating to the since vacated findings and 20 recommendations (Docs. 15, 16, 18) be DENIED; 21 2. Plaintiff's complaint (Doc. 1) be DISMISSED without leave to amend for failure to state a 22 claim; and 23 3. The Clerk of the Court be DIRECTED to CLOSE this action. 24 These Findings and Recommendations will be submitted to the United States District 25 Judge assigned to this case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within 21 days 26 after being served with a copy of these Findings and Recommendations, a party may file written 27 objections with the Court. Local Rule 304(b). The document should be captioned, “Objections to 28 Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations” and shall not exceed 15 pages without 1 | leave of Court and good cause shown. The Court will not consider exhibits attached to the 2 | Objections. To the extent a party wishes to refer to any exhibit(s), the party should reference the 3 | exhibit in the record by its CM/ECF document and page number, when possible, or otherwise 4 | reference the exhibit with specificity. Any pages filed in excess of the 15-page limitation may 5 | be disregarded by the District Judge when reviewing these Findings and Recommendations 6 | under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). A party's failure to file any objections within the specified time 7 | may result in the waiver of certain rights on appeal. Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 839 8 | (9th Cir. 2014). 9 | IT IS SO ORDERED. 0) Dated: _-Mareh 6, 2025 | hr

11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/united-states-district-court-for-the-eastern-district-of-california-united-states-district-court-for/2025/seifert-v-pritchard-7krmgvg0>