

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Villars v. Bondi

Villars · No. 25-cv-04239-RS · Decided August 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The court denied Plaintiff Janvier Villars’s motion to recuse or disqualify the court and to reconsider the prior dismissal of his complaint without prejudice. It held that disagreement with prior rulings and unsupported allegations of judicial fraud did not satisfy the standards for recusal or disqualification under 28 U.S.C. §§ 144 and 455. The court also found no basis for reconsideration under the Northern District of California’s Local Rule 7-9 and noted that Plaintiff could file an amended complaint or appeal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Richard Seeborg
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
DECIDED	August 1, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-04239-RS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for recusal or disqualification of the district judge and for reconsideration of the prior order dismissing the complaint without prejudice. The court denied both requests.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Recusal and disqualification are evaluated under whether a reasonable, well-informed person with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned. Reconsideration is an extraordinary remedy requiring highly unusual circumstances and, under Civil Local Rule 7-9(b), a material difference in fact or law, newly emerged material facts or a change in law, or a manifest failure to consider material facts or dispositive legal arguments.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the plaintiff established grounds requiring recusal or disqualification under 28 U.S.C. §§ 144 or 455.
2. Whether the plaintiff satisfied the requirements for reconsideration under Northern District of California Civil Local Rule 7-9.

HOLDINGS

1. Recusal was not required because Plaintiff's allegations were based on disagreement with prior adverse rulings and unsubstantiated accusations rather than prejudice arising from an extrajudicial source.
2. Disqualification was not warranted because Plaintiff's allegations did not establish that the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned by a well-informed, thoughtful observer.
3. Reconsideration was denied because Plaintiff failed to show a material difference in fact or law, newly emerged material facts or a change in law, or a manifest failure to consider material facts or dispositive legal arguments.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The standard for recusal is “whether a reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned.”” (at 1)

“Accordingly, a previous adverse ruling is not grounds for recusal.” (at 1)

“Reconsideration is an extraordinary remedy and should not be granted “absent highly unusual circumstances.”” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's recusal allegations were based primarily on disagreement with the court's prior adverse rulings and broad, unsubstantiated accusations of fraud throughout the judiciary. Plaintiff's reconsideration motion repeated legal and factual assertions previously presented in the complaint and prior motions. The court had dismissed the complaint without prejudice but had granted Plaintiff leave to amend.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court had previously dismissed Plaintiff's complaint without prejudice and granted leave to amend. Plaintiff then moved for recusal under 28 U.S.C. §§ 144 and 455 and for reconsideration under Northern District of California Civil Local Rule 7-9. The court denied the motion, finding the recusal allegations legally insufficient and the reconsideration arguments unsupported and duplicative.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Mayes v. Leipziger, 729 F.2d 605, 607 (9th Cir. 1984)
- United States v. Nelson, 718 F.2d 315, 321 (9th Cir. 1983)
- Clemens v. U.S. Dist. Ct., 428 F.3d 1175, 1178 (9th Cir. 2005)
- United States v. Holland, 519 F.3d 909, 914 (9th Cir. 2008)
- Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co., 571 F.3d 873, 880 (9th Cir. 2009)

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