

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Scott Douglas Ora v. Cable News Network, et al.

Ora v. Cable News Network · No. 2:24-cv-11038-ODW (MAAx) · Decided September 30, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court orders Scott Douglas Ora to show cause why the action should not be dismissed because he is proceeding pro se on behalf of a trust, which a trustee may not do in federal court. The court vacates the intended scheduling-order date and states that the action will be dismissed without prejudice if Ora does not timely respond or obtain representation.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Otis D. Wright, II
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	September 30, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-11038-ODW (MAAx)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court issued an order to show cause after a pro se plaintiff commenced an action on behalf of a trust.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; nonprecedential

TOPICS

- trusts trustee duties civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure trusts

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether a trustee may represent a trust pro se in federal court.
- Whether the court should require Ora to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for failure to obtain representation.

HOLDINGS

1. A trustee may not represent a trust pro se in federal court; the trust must obtain representation by counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“However, a trustee may not represent a trust pro se in federal court.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Scott Douglas Ora commenced the action on behalf of the Leo Robin trust while proceeding pro se. The court determined that a trustee may not represent a trust pro se in federal court and therefore required Ora to obtain counsel or show cause why the action should not be dismissed.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On December 23, 2024, Scott Douglas Ora, acting on behalf of the Leo Robin trust and proceeding pro se, filed this action against Cable News Network and Raw TV. The district court ordered Ora to show cause why the action should not be dismissed without prejudice for failure to obtain representation, vacated the anticipated scheduling-order date, and stated that the order would be discharged upon the filing of a notice of appearance by counsel.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- C.E. Pope Equity Trust v. United States, 818 F.2d 696, 697–98 (9th Cir. 1987)

OPINION

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL Case No. 2:24-cv-11038-ODW (MAAx) Date September 30, 2025 Title Scott Douglas Ora v. Cable News Network, et al. Present: The Honorable Otis D. Wright, II, United States District Judge Sheila English Not reported N/A Deputy Clerk Court Reporter / Recorder Tape No. Attorneys Present for Plaintiffs: Attorneys Present for Defendants: Not present Not present Proceedings: In Chambers On December 23, 2024, Scott Douglas Ora, acting on behalf of the Leo Robin trust and proceeding pro se, commenced this action against Cable News Network and Raw TV.

(Compl., ECF No. 1.) However, a trustee may not represent a trust pro se in federal court. C.E. Pope Equity Trust v. United States, 818 F.2d 696, 697–98 (9th Cir. 1987). Thus, the Court ORDERS Ora to SHOW CAUSE, no later than OCTOBER 14, 2025, why the Court should not dismiss this action for failure to obtain representation.

The Court will discharge the Order upon filing of a notice of appearance on behalf of Ora. Failure to timely respond to this Order will result in dismissal without prejudice and without further warning. The Court also VACATES the October 15, 2025 date that it intended to issue the scheduling order for this case.

The Court shall set a new date if Ora retains counsel. IT IS SO ORDERED.: 00 Initials of Preparer
SE