

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Jesus Garcia v. Mr. Hose Inc.

No. 2:25-cv-05836-JLS-AGR, United States District Court for the Central District of California (July 10, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered the plaintiff to show cause why the court should not decline supplemental jurisdiction over claims under California's Unruh Act and other state laws. The order also requires the plaintiff to identify the statutory damages sought and provide declarations addressing whether the plaintiff and counsel are high-frequency litigants, warning that failure to respond may result in dismissal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Josephine L. Staton
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	July 10, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-05836-JLS-AGR
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court issued an order to show cause in an action asserting a federal Americans with Disabilities Act claim and California Unruh Act and other state-law claims, requiring plaintiff to explain why the court should retain supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A district court has discretion under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c) to decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction, considering factors including the circumstances of the case, the nature and character of the state-law claims, and the relationship between the state and federal claims.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- ada / disability
- public accommodations discrimination

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should require plaintiff to show cause why it should not decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act and other state-law claims.
2. What information plaintiff must provide to permit the court to evaluate the amount of statutory damages sought and whether plaintiff and plaintiff's counsel qualify as high-frequency litigants under California law.

HOLDINGS

1. The court may require plaintiff to show cause why it should not decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act and other state-law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c).
2. Plaintiff must respond within ten days and must identify the statutory damages sought and provide sworn declarations from plaintiff and plaintiff's counsel containing facts necessary to determine whether either is a California statutory high-frequency litigant.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Even if supplemental jurisdiction exists, however, district courts have discretion to decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction.”

“Failure to respond may, without further warning, result in dismissal of the entire action without prejudice.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The complaint alleged a violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and sought injunctive relief. It also sought damages under California's Unruh Act and asserted other state-law claims involving alleged construction-related accessibility violations. The order focused on California's heightened pleading, filing-fee, and disclosure requirements for construction-related accessibility claims and high-frequency litigants.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a federal ADA claim for injunctive relief together with a claim for damages under California's Unruh Act and other state-law claims. The district court had not yet decided whether to exercise supplemental jurisdiction and ordered plaintiff to respond within ten days, including by identifying the statutory damages sought and providing declarations concerning high-frequency-litigant status.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Velez v. Il Fornaio (America) Corp.*, CV 3:18-1840 CAB (MDD), 2018 WL 6446169, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2018)

- City of Chicago v. International College of Surgeons, 522 U.S. 156, 173 (1997)
- Link v. Wabash Railroad Co., 370 U.S. 626, 629-33 (1962)
- Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. United States Forest Service, 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005)

OPINION

Jesus Garcia v. Mr. Hose Inc.

PER CURIAM.

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL

Case No. 2:25-cv-05836-JLS-AGR Date: July 10, 2025 Title: Jesus Garcia v. Mr. Hose Inc. et al

Present: HONORABLE JOSEPHINE L. STATON, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Kelly Davis N/A Deputy Clerk Court Reporter ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR PLAINTIFF:

ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR DEFENDANT: Not Present Not Present

PROCEEDINGS: (IN CHAMBERS) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE

SUPPLEMENTAL JURISDICTION

The Complaint filed in this action asserts a claim for injunctive relief arising out of an alleged violation of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and a claim for damages pursuant to California’s Unruh Act and other state-law claims. Accordingly, the Court ORDERS Plaintiff to show cause why the Court should not decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s Unruh Act claim and other state-law claims. See 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). “In 2012, in an attempt to deter baseless claims and vexatious litigation, California adopted heightened pleading requirements for disability discrimination lawsuits under the Unruh Act.” *Velez v. Il Fornaio (America) Corp.*, CV 3:18-1840 CAB (MDD), 2018 WL 6446169, at *6 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 10, 2018). These heightened pleading requirements apply to actions alleging a “construction-related accessibility claim,” which California law defines as “any civil claim in a civil action with respect to a place of public accommodation, including but not limited to, a claim brought under Section 51, 54, 54.1, or 55, based wholly or in part on an alleged violation of any construction-related accessibility standard.” Cal. Civ. Code § 55.52(a)(1). Moreover, California imposes additional limitations on “high-frequency litigants,” defined as: A plaintiff who has filed 10 or more complaints alleging a construction- related accessibility violation within the 12-month period immediately preceding the filing of the current complaint alleging a construction-related accessibility violation.

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 425.55(b)(1). The definition of “high-frequency litigant” also extends to attorneys. See Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 425.55(b)(2). “High frequency litigants” are subject to a

special filing fee and further heightened pleading requirements. See Cal. Gov. Code § 70616.5; Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 425.50(a)(4)(A). By enacting restrictions on the filing of construction-related accessibility claims, California has expressed a desire to limit the financial burdens California’s businesses may face for claims for statutory damages under the Unruh Act. Plaintiffs who file these actions in federal court evade these limits and pursue state law damages in a manner inconsistent with the state law’s requirements. In an action over which a district court possesses original jurisdiction, that court “shall have supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that are so related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.” 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a). Even if supplemental jurisdiction exists, however, district courts have discretion to decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction. 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). Such discretion may be exercised “[d]epending on a host of factors” including “the circumstances of the particular case, the nature of the state law claims, the character of the governing state law, and the relationship between the state and federal claims.” *City of Chicago v. Int’l Coll. of Surgeons*, 522 U.S. 156, 173 (1997). Accordingly, Plaintiff is ORDERED to show cause, in writing, no later than ten (10) days from the date of this Order, why the Court should not decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s Unruh Act claim and other state-law claims. In so responding, Plaintiff is further ORDERED to:

- (1) identify the amount of statutory damages Plaintiff seeks to recover; and
- (2) provide declarations from Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s counsel, signed under penalty of perjury, providing all facts necessary for the Court to determine if each is a “high-frequency litigant.” Failure to respond may, without further warning, result in dismissal of the entire action without prejudice. Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b) (stating that dismissal is warranted “[i]f the plaintiff fails to ... comply with ... a court order”); see *Link v. Wabash R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629-33 (1962) (holding that while Rule 41(b) explicitly authorizes motions to

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES – GENERAL

Case No. 2:25-cv-05836-JLS-AGR Date: July 10, 2025 Title: Jesus Garcia v. Mr. Hose Inc. et al dismiss by defendants, it also permits the district court to dismiss sua sponte); see also *Hells Canyon Pres. Council v. U.S. Forest Serv.*, 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005). Further, an inadequate response will result in the Court declining to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s Unruh Act claim and other state-law claims and the dismissal of those claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). Initials of Deputy Clerk: kd