

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Bernard Taruc v. Valente Melendez, et al.

Taruc v. Melendez · No. CV 25-07003 PA (RAOx) · Decided August 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The Central District of California orders the plaintiff to show cause why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over claims under California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act and any other state-law claims. The court also requires the plaintiff to identify the statutory damages sought and requires the plaintiff and counsel to provide declarations addressing whether they qualify as high-frequency litigants under California law. A response is due by August 18, 2025, and failure to respond may result in dismissal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Percy Anderson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	August 4, 2025
DOCKET	CV 25-07003 PA (RAOx)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court issued an order to show cause requiring the plaintiff to explain why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over state-law claims and to provide information relevant to California's high-frequency litigant definition.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court order to show cause
PARTIES	Bernard Taruc v. Valente Melendez, et al.

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- public accommodations discrimination
- damages

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Federal jurisdiction
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Unruh Civil Rights Act

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the plaintiff should show cause why the district court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act claim and any other state-law claims.
2. What information plaintiff and counsel must provide regarding statutory damages and potential classification as high-frequency litigants under California law.

HOLDINGS

1. Because the complaint appeared to invoke federal-question jurisdiction for the ADA claim and only supplemental jurisdiction for the Unruh Act and other state-law claims, the court ordered plaintiff to show cause in writing why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over those state-law claims.
2. The court required plaintiff to identify the amount of statutory damages sought and required plaintiff and counsel to submit sworn declarations providing facts necessary to determine whether they satisfy California's definition of a high-frequency litigant.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“a federal court should consider and weigh in each case, and at every stage of the litigation, the values of judicial economy, convenience, fairness, and comity.” (unpaginated order)

“Failure to timely or adequately respond to this Order to Show Cause may, without further warning, result in the dismissal of the entire action without prejudice” (unpaginated order)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The complaint alleges a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and seeks injunctive relief. It also seeks damages under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and may assert other state-law claims. The court required information about the amount of statutory damages sought and facts bearing on whether plaintiff and counsel qualify as high-frequency litigants under California law.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a complaint asserting injunctive relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act and damages under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act. The district court determined that it appeared to possess only supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act and any other state-law claims, and ordered plaintiff to respond by August 18, 2025. The order warned that failure to respond could result in dismissal without prejudice or declination of supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claims.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- City of Chicago v. International College of Surgeons, 522 U.S. 156, 173 (1997)

- *Carnegie-Mellon University v. Cohill*, 484 U.S. 343, 350 (1988)

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