

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Bernard Taruc v. Vazgen Papazian

No. 2:25-cv-05880-WLH-PVC (C.D. Cal. July 21, 2025) · No. 2:25-cv-05880-WLH-PVC · Decided July 21, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California ordered Plaintiff Bernard Taruc to show cause why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over claims under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and related state law. The court directed Plaintiff and counsel to identify the statutory damages sought and submit declarations addressing whether they qualify as high-frequency litigants under California law, with a response due within 14 days.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	July 21, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-05880-WLH-PVC
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court issued an order to show cause requiring plaintiff to explain why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over his Unruh Civil Rights Act and related state-law claims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Discretionary determination under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c), considering judicial economy, convenience, fairness, and comity.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; order to show cause from a federal district court, with no reporter citation or precedential designation in the supplied text.
PARTIES	Bernard Taruc v. Vazgen Papazian

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over plaintiff's Unruh Civil Rights Act claim and any related state-law claims.
2. What information plaintiff and counsel must provide to permit the court to determine whether declining supplemental jurisdiction is warranted under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c) and California's high-frequency-litigant provisions.

HOLDINGS

1. Supplemental jurisdiction is discretionary rather than a right of the plaintiff, and the district court may decline to exercise it under the circumstances specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c).
2. The court did not yet decide whether to exercise supplemental jurisdiction; instead, it required plaintiff to show cause why the court should retain the Unruh Act and related state-law claims.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The statute thereby reflects the understanding that, when deciding whether to exercise supplemental jurisdiction, "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."" (at 2)

"In light of the foregoing, the Court ORDERS Plaintiff to show cause in writing why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act claim and any related state law claims." (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The complaint alleges a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act and seeks injunctive relief. It also asserts a damages claim under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and requests supplemental jurisdiction over that claim. The order indicates that the state claim may involve construction-related disability-access allegations and addresses California statutes designed to deter baseless or vexatious disability-access litigation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed a complaint asserting an Americans with Disabilities Act claim for injunctive relief and a California Unruh Civil Rights Act claim for damages, requesting supplemental jurisdiction over the state-law claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Before deciding whether to exercise that jurisdiction, the court ordered plaintiff and counsel to provide information concerning the amount of damages sought and whether they qualify as high-frequency litigants under California law.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Carnegie-Mellon Univ. v. Cohill*, 484 U.S. 343, 350 (1988)
- *Acri v. Varian Assocs.*, 114 F.3d 999, 1000 (9th Cir. 1997)
- *Schutza v. Cuddeback*, 262 F. Supp. 3d 1025, 1031 (S.D. Cal. 2017)

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