

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Doe v. TEA DATING ADVICE, INC.

Doe v. Tea Dating Advice, Inc. · No. 25-cv-06363-SK · Decided August 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Northern District of California grants Jane Doe’s administrative motion to proceed under a pseudonym. The court finds that disclosure of her identity could lead to harassment, requires use of the pseudonym and redaction of identifying information in public filings, and directs her to disclose her identity to the defendant.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sallie Kim
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Northern District of California
DECIDED	August 4, 2025
DOCKET	25-cv-06363-SK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff filed an administrative motion to proceed under a pseudonym.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The plaintiff must demonstrate that her need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the opposing party and the public's interest in knowing the party's identity.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court order; limited persuasive value.

TOPICS

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure privacy and pseudonymity

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Plaintiff should be permitted to proceed under a pseudonym when public disclosure of her identity could lead to harassment.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff may proceed under the pseudonym Jane Doe because her demonstrated need for anonymity, including the risk of harassment from public disclosure, outweighs the prejudice to Defendant and the public's interest in knowing her identity.

KEY QUOTATIONS

- “The Court finds that Plaintiff has demonstrated that publicly disclosing her name or other identifying information could lead to harassment.”* (at 1)
- “The parties shall refer to Plaintiff by Pseudonym JANE DOE in all filings and public proceedings and shall redact Plaintiff’s true full name and other personally identifying information from all filings consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2.”* (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff sought permission to proceed under a pseudonym. The court found that public disclosure of her name or other identifying information could lead to harassment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court considered Plaintiff's administrative motion to proceed anonymously in the pending civil action. The court granted the motion and directed the parties to use the pseudonym Jane Doe in filings and public proceedings, while requiring Plaintiff to disclose her identity to Defendant.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Doe v. Kamehameha Schs./Bernice Pauahi Bishop Est., 596 F.3d 1036, 1042 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Does I Thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp., 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000)

OPINION

Doe v. TEA DATING ADVICE, INC.
PER CURIAM.
1 2 3
4 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
5 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
6 7 JANE DOE, Case No. 25-cv-06363-SK 8 Plaintiff,
ORDER ON MOTION TO PROCEED
? v. ANONYMOUSLY
10 TEA DATING ADVICE, INC.,

Regarding Docket No. 6 11 Defendant. 12 Now before the Court is Plaintiff's administrative motion to proceed under a pseudonym. 13 || "The normal presumption in litigation is that parties must use their real names." Doe v. 5 14 Kamehameha Schs./Bernice Pauahi Bishop Est., 596 F.3d 1036, 1042 (9th Cir. 2010). Plaintiff 15 || must demonstrate that her need for anonymity outweighs prejudice to the opposing party and the 16 public's interest in knowing the party's identity." Does I Thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp., 7 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000). 8 The Court finds that Plaintiff has demonstrated that publicly disclosing her name or other identifying information could lead to harassment. Therefore, the Court GRANTS her 19 administrative motion. The parties shall refer to Plaintiff by Pseudonym JANE DOE in all filings 20 and public proceedings and shall redact Plaintiff's true full name and other personally identifying 21 information from all filings consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2. However, 22 Plaintiff shall disclose her identity to Defendant. 23 IT IS SO ORDERED. 24 Dated: August 4, 2025 . 25 Atl [aww
26 SALLIE KIM
United States Magistrate Judge 27 28