

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Mario Mendoza v. Venemous Detailing LLC, et al.

No. CV 25-12157-DMG (MAAx), United States District Court for the Central District of California (December 29, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California orders the plaintiff to show cause why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over state-law claims arising under California disability-access and negligence statutes. The court discusses California’s heightened pleading requirements and high-frequency litigant provisions for Unruh Act claims, as well as comity and exceptional circumstances under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). Plaintiff must respond by January 8, 2026, identify the statutory damages sought, and provide declarations addressing high-frequency-litigant status.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dolly M. Gee
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	December 29, 2025
DOCKET	CV 25-12157-DMG (MAAx)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court issued an order to show cause directing the plaintiff to explain why the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over several California-law claims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Not applicable to this interlocutory order. The opinion notes that a district court's decision to decline supplemental jurisdiction is reviewed for abuse of discretion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district-court order

TOPICS

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

PRACTICE AREAS

federal jurisdiction

civil procedure

disability rights

ADA litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act, California Disabled Persons Act, California Health and Safety Code, and negligence claims.
2. Whether plaintiff must provide information regarding the amount of statutory damages sought and declarations addressing whether plaintiff and counsel 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.” (1)

“The district court's principal justification for declining supplemental jurisdiction was that the distinctive configuration of California-law rules . . . would be rendered ineffectual if the district court were to exercise supplemental jurisdiction.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff filed an action alleging an ADA violation involving disability access and seeking injunctive relief. The complaint also sought damages under California's Unruh Civil Rights Act and asserted claims under the California Disabled Persons Act, the California Health and Safety Code, and negligence. The court was concerned that California's heightened pleading requirements and high-frequency-litigant provisions could be undermined if the state-law claims proceeded in federal court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The complaint asserted an ADA claim for injunctive relief and state-law claims under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, the California Disabled Persons Act, the California Health and Safety Code, and negligence. Before resolving the jurisdictional issue, the court ordered the plaintiff and counsel to provide written responses and declarations addressing supplemental jurisdiction and whether plaintiff qualified as a high-frequency litigant.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- City of Chicago v. International College of Surgeons, 522 U.S. 156, 173, 118 S. Ct. 523, 534 (1997)
- Carnegie-Mellon University v. Cohill, 484 U.S. 343, 350 (1988)
- Schutza v. Cuddeback, 262 F. Supp. 3d 1025, 1031 (S.D. Cal. 2017)
- Arroyo v. Rosas, 19 F.4th 1202, 1211 (9th Cir. 2021)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL Case No. CV 25-12157-DMG (MAAx) Date December 29, 2025 Title Mario Mendoza v. Venemous Detailing LLC, et al. Page 1 of 2 Present: The Honorable DOLLY M. GEE, CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE DEREK DAVIS NOT REPORTED Deputy Clerk Court Reporter Attorneys Present for Plaintiff(s) Attorneys Present for Defendant(s) None Present None Present Proceedings: IN CHAMBERS— ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY THE COURT SHOULD NOT DECLINE TO EXERCISE SUPPLEMENTAL JURISDICTION OVER PLAINTIFF’S STATE LAW CLAIMS The Complaint filed in this action asserts a claim for injunctive relief arising out of an alleged violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. sections 12010- 12213, and a claim for damages pursuant to California’s Unruh Civil Rights Act (“Unruh Act”), Cal. Civ.

Code sections 51-53. It appears that the Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act, California Disabled Persons Act, California Health & Safety Code, and Negligence claims. See 28 U.S.C. section 1367(a).

The supplemental jurisdiction statute “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.’” *City of Chicago v. Int’l Coll. of Surgeons*, 522 U.S. 156, 173, 118 S. Ct.

523, 534 (1997) (emphasis added) (quoting *Carnegie-Mellon Univ. v. Cohill*, 484 U.S. 343, 350 (1988)). In 2012, California adopted a heightened pleading standard for lawsuits brought under the Unruh Act to combat the influx of baseless claims and vexatious litigation in the disability access litigation sphere. Cal. Civ. Code § 55.52(a)(1).

The stricter pleading standard requires a plaintiff bringing construction-access claims to file a verified complaint alleging specific facts concerning the plaintiff’s claim, including the specific barriers encountered or how the plaintiff was deterred and each date on which the plaintiff encountered each barrier or was deterred. See Cal. Civ. Proc. Code § 425.50(a).

California also imposed a “high-frequency litigant fee” in 2015 in response to the “special and unique circumstances” presented by certain plaintiffs and law firms filing an outsized number of Unruh Act lawsuits. Cal. Gov’t Code § 70616.5.

In recognition of California’s efforts to reduce the abuse of California’s disability access laws, some district courts within the state have determined that the interests of fairness and comity, UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL Case No. CV 25-12157-DMG (MAAx) Date December 29, 2025 Title

Mario Mendoza v. Venemous Detailing LLC, et al. Page 2 of 2 counsel against exercising supplemental jurisdiction over construction-access claims brought under the Unruh Act.

See, e.g., *Schutza v. Cuddeback*, 262 F. Supp. 3d 1025, 1031 (S.D. Cal. 2017) (“[T]he Court finds it would be improper to allow Plaintiff [a high frequency litigant] to use federal court as an end-around to California’s pleading requirements.

Therefore, as a matter of comity, and in deference to California’s substantial interest in discouraging unverified disability discrimination claims, the Court declines supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s Unruh Act claim.”); see also *Arroyo v. Rosas*, 19 F.4th 1202, 1211 (9th Cir. 2021) (“The district court’s principal justification for declining supplemental jurisdiction was that the distinctive configuration of California-law rules... would be rendered ineffectual if the district court were to exercise supplemental jurisdiction.

We hold that the district court did not abuse its discretion in concluding that, for this reason, this case presents ‘exceptional circumstances’ within the meaning of § 1367(c)(4).”). 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, California Disabled Persons Act, California Health & Safety Code, and Negligence claims.

See 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). In responding to this Order to Show Cause, Plaintiff shall identify the amount of statutory damages Plaintiff seeks to recover. Plaintiff and his counsel shall also support their responses to the Order to Show Cause with declarations, signed under penalty of perjury, providing all facts necessary for the Court to determine if they satisfy the definition of a “high-frequency litigant” as provided by California Civil Procedure Code sections 425.55(b)(1) & (2).

Plaintiff shall file a Response to this Order to Show Cause by January 8, 2026. Failure to timely or adequately respond to this Order to Show Cause may, without further warning, result in the Court declining to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over the Unruh Act, California Disabled Persons Act, California Health & Safety Code, and Negligence claims and the dismissal of any such claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1367(c).

IT IS SO ORDERED.