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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SHARON BRIDGEWATER,

No. 10-03022 CW

Plaintiff,

v.

HAYES VALLEY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, et  
al.,

Defendants.

ORDER DENYING AS MOOT  
DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS  
TO DISMISS ORIGINAL  
COMPLAINT, GRANTING  
DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS  
TO DISMISS FIRST  
AMENDED COMPLAINT AND  
TO DECLARE PLAINTIFF  
A VEXATIOUS LITIGANT  
AND DENYING  
PLAINTIFF'S MOTIONS  
FOR SANCTIONS, TO  
SHORTEN TIME ON  
MOTIONS FOR  
SANCTIONS, TO  
TRANSFER CASE, TO  
FILE AN AMENDED  
COMPLAINT, TO FILE AN  
AMENDED COMPLAINT  
UNDER SEAL, FOR  
RECONSIDERATION AND  
TO APPOINT COUNSEL

This case arises from an underlying state unlawful detainer  
action against Plaintiff Sharon Bridgewater. Defendants Hayes  
Valley Apartments II, LP (HVALP)<sup>1</sup> and Kimball, Tirey & St. John LLP  
(KTJ), Jane Creason and Shawn Bankson (together, Legal Defendants),  
in two separate motions, move to dismiss Plaintiff's First Amended

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<sup>1</sup>HVALP indicates that its name in the caption of the complaint  
is incorrect.

1 Complaint (1AC)<sup>2</sup> for lack of subject matter jurisdiction and for  
2 failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted (docket  
3 nos. 31, 42).<sup>3</sup> Legal Defendants move to declare Plaintiff a  
4 vexatious litigant (docket no. 23) and HVALP joins in this motion  
5 (docket no. 30).<sup>4</sup> Plaintiff opposes the motions<sup>5</sup> and moves to  
6 transfer the case to another judge of this Court (docket no. 33),  
7 for sanctions, in three separate motions (docket nos. 39, 58, 69),  
8 for shortened time on the motions for sanctions (docket no. 65), to  
9 file an amended complaint under seal (docket no. 82), for  
10 reconsideration of the Court's dismissal for failure to prosecute  
11 (docket no. 86), to amend the complaint (docket no. 89), and to  
12 appoint counsel (docket no. 93). The motions were taken under  
13 submission on the papers. Having considered all the papers filed  
14 by the parties, the Court grants Defendants' motions to dismiss and  
15 to declare Plaintiff a vexatious litigant, and denies Plaintiff's  
16 motions.

22       <sup>3</sup>On August 4, 2010, Defendants filed motions to dismiss  
23 Plaintiff's original complaint (docket nos. 22, 24). After  
24 Plaintiff filed her 1AC, Defendants filed the instant motions to  
dismiss the 1AC. Accordingly, the motions to dismiss the original  
complaint are denied as moot.

25                   <sup>4</sup>It appears that four other named Defendants have not been  
26 served.

<sup>27</sup> Plaintiff's opposition merely states, "The parties should agree to come to terms." Docket no. 78.

## 1 BACKGROUND

2 The following facts are taken from the allegations in  
3 Plaintiff's 1AC and documents filed in Defendants' request for  
4 judicial notice.<sup>6</sup> HVALP develops and manages low income housing  
5 projects. KTJ is a law firm that specializes in unlawful detainer  
6 litigation and, since 1977, has represented HVALP. Mr. Bankson and  
7 Ms. Creason are attorneys employed by KTJ who were involved in an  
8 unlawful detainer action against Plaintiff.

9 Plaintiff is a forty-five year old African American single  
10 mother. From January, 2005 through May, 2008, Plaintiff lived in  
11 an apartment at 427 Page Street, San Francisco, California, which  
12 HVALP developed and managed. On April 24, 2006, HVALP filed, in  
13 state court, an unlawful detainer action against Bridgewater based  
14 on her alleged failure to pay rent for her apartment. Hayes Valley  
15 Limited Partnership v. Bridgewater, No. CUD-06-617995. On May 11,  
16 2006, the parties entered into a stipulation for entry of judgment  
17 and dismissal. However, Plaintiff disputes that she actually  
18 signed this document.

19 On November 12, 2007, Plaintiff received an "improper notice"  
20 from Defendants to pay rent or quit her apartment on Page Street.  
21 1AC at 16. At that time, Plaintiff was not delinquent in rent and  
22 had credit balances on her rental ledger. 1AC at 16. On December  
23 17, 2007, based on HVALC's declaration that Plaintiff was not in  
24 compliance with the 2006 stipulation, the state court entered  
25 judgment against Plaintiff for \$638 and for possession of the Page

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<sup>6</sup>The Court grants Defendants' request for judicial notice.

1 Street apartment. Subsequently, Plaintiff received a writ for  
2 possession which required her to vacate her apartment in five days.

3 Plaintiff went to various community agencies for help. A  
4 community legal agency discovered that Mr. Bankson had improperly  
5 obtained a judgment for possession of Plaintiff's premises pursuant  
6 to an "illegal" unlawful detainer lawsuit he had filed nearly two  
7 years previously. 1AC at 17. Plaintiff moved to vacate the  
8 judgment, which the court granted on January 22, 2008. 1AC at 18,  
9 Ex. 8.

10 Meanwhile, Plaintiff located another apartment on Oakdale  
11 Street in San Francisco, where she moved in January, 2008. Exs. 9,  
12 10 (lease agreement, security deposit receipt). Subsequently,  
13 Plaintiff's Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8 worker  
14 informed her that HVALP continued to receive Plaintiff's HUD  
15 section 8 rental payments and would not release them to her new  
16 landlord on Oakdale Street. 1AC at 19. Plaintiff's section 8  
17 worker instructed her to move back to the Page Street apartment  
18 that she had just vacated, and Plaintiff did so. *Id.* In moving,  
19 Plaintiff lost her security deposit on the Oakdale Street apartment  
20 and owed another month's rent for breaching the lease agreement.  
21 1AC at 19.

22 In February, 2008, Defendants Creason, Bankson and HVALP made  
23 intentional misrepresentations to Plaintiff that she owed \$2,174.74  
24 in unpaid rent plus attorneys' fees of \$955. They told Plaintiff  
25 that, if she did not pay these amounts, she would have to vacate  
26 the apartment within twenty-eight days. 1AC at 21. Plaintiff, who  
27 was "in complete mental incompetent state of mind" and under

1 duress, signed the agreement. 1AC at 21.

2 On February 19, 2008, a second stipulated judgment was entered  
3 in the state case which provided that, on April 30, 2008, HVALP was  
4 to receive possession of the Page Street apartment from Bridgewater  
5 and, in return, HVALP would waive the past due rent and attorneys'  
6 fees and costs and would return Ms. Bridgewater's security deposit.  
7 1AC, Ex. 11, ¶ 1, 2, 3, 7. The stipulated judgment also provided  
8 that (1) if Ms. Bridgewater failed to comply with any of the terms  
9 of the agreement, judgment would enter for possession and the full  
10 amount of past due rent, attorneys' fees and costs, and a writ of  
11 execution for money and possession would issue immediately, upon  
12 the declaration of HVALP's counsel, id. ¶ 9; and (2) the agreement  
13 was dispositive of all issues raised in HVALC's complaint and all  
14 affirmative defenses which could have been raised in Ms.  
15 Bridgewater's answer, id. ¶ 11.

16 Subsequently, Plaintiff filed nine lawsuits based upon the  
17 unlawful detainer action, two in state court and seven in federal  
18 court, including the instant case.

19 In this lawsuit, based upon the aforementioned allegations,  
20 Plaintiff states two federal claims: against all Defendants,  
21 conspiracy to violate 42 U.S.C. § 1985(3) for deprivation of  
22 property without due process and discrimination based on race and  
23 class; and, against Legal Defendants, violation of the Fair Debt  
24 Collection Practices Act (FDCPA), 15 U.S.C. § 1692e. Plaintiff  
25 also asserts nine state law claims.

## DISCUSSION

## I. Motion to Dismiss

## A. Subject Matter Jurisdiction

Dismissal is appropriate under Rule 12(b)(1) when the district court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the claim. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(1). Federal subject matter jurisdiction must exist at the time the action is commenced. Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Cal. State Bd. of Equalization, 858 F.2d 1376, 1380 (9th Cir. 1988), cert. denied, 488 U.S. 1006 (1989). A Rule 12(b)(1) motion may either attack the sufficiency of the pleadings to establish federal jurisdiction, or allege an actual lack of jurisdiction which exists despite the formal sufficiency of the complaint. Thornhill Publ'g Co. v. Gen. Tel. & Elecs. Corp., 594 F.2d 730, 733 (9th Cir. 1979); Roberts v. Corrothers, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th Cir. 1987).

Subject matter jurisdiction is a threshold issue which goes to the power of the court to hear the case. Therefore, a Rule 12(b)(1) challenge should be decided before other grounds for dismissal, because they will become moot if dismissal is granted. Alvares v. Erickson, 514 F.2d 156, 160 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 874 (1975); 5A Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice & Procedure § 1350, p. 210 (2d ed. 1990).

A federal court is presumed to lack subject matter jurisdiction until the contrary affirmatively appears. Stock West, Inc. v. Confederated Tribes, 873 F.2d 1221, 1225 (9th Cir. 1989). An action should not be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction without giving the plaintiff an opportunity to amend

1 unless it is clear that the jurisdictional deficiency cannot be  
2 cured by amendment. May Department Store v. Graphic Process Co.,  
3 637 F.2d 1211, 1216 (9th Cir. 1980).

4 Citing District of Columbia Court of Appeals v. Feldman, 460  
5 U.S. 462, 482 (1983), Defendants argue that, because this action  
6 arises out of the judgment entered in the state unlawful detainer  
7 action, it must be dismissed because federal courts lack subject  
8 matter jurisdiction to review state court adjudications.

9 United States district courts generally do not have  
10 jurisdiction over challenges to state court decisions, even if  
11 those challenges raise federal constitutional issues. Rooker v.  
12 Fidelity Trust Co., 263 U.S. 413, 415-16 (1923); Feldman, 460 U.S.  
13 at 476, 482-83; see also Johnson v. DeGrandy, 512 U.S. 997, 1005  
14 (1994) (Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars party losing in state court  
15 from seeking what would be appellate review of state judgment in  
16 federal court based on losing party's claim that state judgment  
17 violates its federal rights). "If [the state] court erroneously  
18 determines a federal question, recourse does not lie to the United  
19 States District Court or to the United States Court of Appeals.  
20 Jurisdiction to review the judgments of state courts lies  
21 exclusively in the United States Supreme Court." Exxon Shipping  
22 Co. v. Airport Depot Diner, Inc., 120 F.3d 166, 169 (9th Cir.  
23 1997).

24 The clear intent of the February 19, 2008 stipulated judgment  
25 was to settle all disputes arising from the unlawful detainer  
26 action. Because Plaintiff's two federal claims would necessarily  
27 entail reviewing that judgment, the Rooker-Feldman doctrine applies  
28

1 and this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over them.  
2 Therefore, these claims are dismissed. Dismissal is without leave  
3 to amend because amendment would be futile.

4       B. Supplemental Jurisdiction Over State Law Claims

5       Where a federal court has federal question jurisdiction over a  
6 matter, the court may exercise supplemental jurisdiction over state  
7 law claims that are transactionally related to the federal claim.  
8 28 U.S.C. § 1337. Section 1337(a) provides in pertinent part that  
9       in any civil action of which the district courts have  
10 original jurisdiction, the district courts shall have  
11 supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that are  
12 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.

13       The Court cannot exercise supplemental jurisdiction over  
14 Plaintiff's state law claims because the Court has dismissed her  
15 federal claims for lack of jurisdiction. Therefore, the claims are  
16 dismissed without prejudice to refiling in state court.<sup>7</sup>

17       II. Vexatious Litigant

18       Defendants request that Plaintiff be declared a vexatious  
19 litigant because she has filed nine lawsuits based upon the state  
20 unlawful detainer action.

21       Federal courts have the inherent power "to regulate the  
22 activities of abusive litigants by imposing carefully tailored  
23 restrictions under the appropriate circumstances." DeLong v.  
24 Hennessey, 912 F.2d 1144, 1147 (9th Cir. 1990). One such carefully

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25       <sup>7</sup>Because all of Plaintiff's claims are dismissed for lack of  
26 jurisdiction, the Court does not address Defendants' arguments  
27 regarding dismissal for failure to state a claim upon which relief  
may be granted.

1 tailored restriction is an order requiring a litigant to seek  
2 permission from the court prior to filing any future suits. Id. at  
3 1146-47. As noted by the Ninth Circuit, district courts "bear an  
4 affirmative obligation to ensure that judicial resources are not  
5 needlessly squandered on repeated attempts by litigants to misuse  
6 the courts." O'Loughlin v. Doe, 920 F.2d 614, 618 (9th Cir. 1990).  
7 Nonetheless, pre-filing review orders should rarely be used. Moy  
8 v. United States, 906 F.2d 467, 470 (9th Cir. 1990). A pre-filing  
9 order "cannot issue merely upon a showing of litigiousness." Id.  
10 The plaintiff's claims must not only be numerous, but also be  
11 patently without merit. Id.

12 The Ninth Circuit has established four guidelines "to maintain  
13 this delicate balance between broad court access and prevention of  
14 court abuse." O'Loughlin, 920 F.2d at 617. Before a court enters  
15 a vexatious litigant order: (1) the plaintiff must be given  
16 adequate notice to oppose entry of the order; (2) the court must  
17 present an adequate record by listing the case filings that support  
18 its order; (3) the court must make substantive findings of  
19 frivolousness or harassment; and (4) the order must be narrowly  
20 tailored to remedy only the plaintiff's particular abuses. Id.;  
21 DeLong, 912 F.2d at 1147-49.

22 A. Adequate Notice

23 The docket reflects that Plaintiff has received notice of this  
24 motion. Moreover, Plaintiff has filed an opposition to the motion,  
25 evidencing that she has been notified of it and has had an  
26 opportunity to be heard.

B. Adequate Record for Review

The district court must create a record for review which includes a listing of all the cases and motions that led it to conclude that a pre-filing order was needed. The record must show, in some manner, that the litigant's activities were numerous or abusive. *Id.* at 1147.

As noted above, Plaintiff has filed six other cases in this district based upon the allegations in the instant action. These cases are as follows: (1) Bridgewater v. Hayes Valley Limited Partnership, et al., C 08-5622 MHP, filed on December 17, 2008 and dismissed on January 27, 2009; (2) Bridgewater v. Hayes Valley Limited Partnership, et al., C 09-3551 PJH, filed on August 3, 2009 and dismissed on November 20, 2009, judgment entered on November 20, 2009; (3) Bridgewater v. Bankson, et al., C 09-3639 SBA, filed on August 7, 2009 and dismissed on January 19, 2010; (4) Bridgewater v. Hayes Valley Limited Partnership, et al., C 09-5663 SBA, filed on December 1, 2009 and dismissed on January 19, 2010; (5) Bridgewater v. Hayes Valley Limited Partnership, et al., C 10-0703 SBA, filed on February 18, 2010 and dismissed on August 24, 2010; and (6) Bridgewater v. Bankson, et al., C 10-0704 SBA, filed on February 18, 2010 and dismissed on August 24, 2010. These six cases, in addition to the instant case, have led the Court to conclude that a pre-filing order may be necessary.

C. Substantive Findings of Frivolousness or Harassment

The district court must make substantive findings as to the frivolous or harassing nature of the litigant's actions. It must find the litigant's claims frivolous after looking at both the

1 number and content of the filings, or, alternatively, find that the  
2 claims show a pattern of harassment. DeLong, 912 F.2d at 1148.  
3 The factors to be looked at include: (1) the litigant's history of  
4 litigation and in particular whether it entailed vexatious,  
5 harassing or duplicative lawsuits; (2) the litigant's motive in  
6 pursuing the litigation, that is, whether the litigant has an  
7 objective good faith expectation of prevailing; (3) whether the  
8 litigant has caused needless expense to other parties or has posed  
9 an unnecessary burden on the courts and their personnel; and  
10 (4) whether other sanctions would be adequate to protect the courts  
11 and other parties. Safir v. U.S. Lines, Inc., 792 F.2d 19, 24 (2nd  
12 Cir. 1986).

13 Considering the number of filings and their content, the Court  
14 determines that Plaintiff's claims are frivolous.

15 (1) History of Litigation

16 Plaintiff's first federal lawsuit, C 08-5622 MHP, asserted  
17 claims against HVALP and other unidentified parties. C 08-5622  
18 MHP, docket no. 1, comp. ¶ 5(a)-(e). The allegations were based  
19 upon the same unlawful detainer action upon which this case is  
20 based. Id. ¶ 6. For instance, Plaintiff alleged that, on November  
21 20, 2007, the defendants fraudulently filed a declaration of non-  
22 compliance; judgment thereon; and an order in the superior court to  
23 fraudulently evict her. On December 19, 2007, the defendants  
24 received a judgment in superior court based on fraud,  
25 misrepresentation and/or negligence. The complaint was dismissed  
26 for a variety of reasons, including lack of federal jurisdiction.  
27 Id., docket no. 10 at 2. The order of dismissal noted, "To the

1 extent plaintiff has legitimate claims, she should file them in  
2 state court and seek a reopening of that action." Id.

3 Plaintiff's second federal lawsuit, C 09-3551 PJH, alleged  
4 claims against HVALP, the property manager at Plaintiff's apartment  
5 complex, and other unidentified parties. C 09-3551 PJH, docket no.  
6 1, Comp. ¶¶ 5-8. Plaintiff alleged, "This case stems from an  
7 unlawful detainer lawsuit of non-payment of rent. . . . The case  
8 number was CUD-06-617995, for the premises commonly know [sic] as  
9 427 Page St., San Francisco, CA 94102." Comp. ¶ 9. As in this  
10 case, Plaintiff alleged that the defendants coerced her into  
11 entering a fraudulent stipulation for judgment. Comp. ¶ 28. The  
12 order of dismissal of this federal complaint noted that Plaintiff  
13 had filed a lawsuit seven months before in federal court based on  
14 the same allegations, which had been dismissed. The second federal  
15 complaint was ninety-three pages long and alleged twenty-two causes  
16 of action, seeking damages of over one trillion dollars. Id.,  
17 docket no. 11 at 3. The court dismissed Plaintiff's federal  
18 claims, with prejudice, on statute of limitations grounds and lack  
19 of subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Rooker-Feldman  
20 doctrine, stating, "[T]he February 19, 2008 stipulation of judgment  
21 and dismissal clearly contemplated a final resolution of the  
22 matter, including any affirmative defenses that Bridgewater could  
23 have brought in connection with the state court action." Id. at 6,  
24 8.

25 Plaintiff's third case, C 09-3639 SBA, was brought against  
26 Kimball, Tirey & St. John, LLP, Shawn Bankson and Jane Creason,  
27 Legal Defendants in the instant case. This complaint alleged that

1 the defendants filed the unlawful detainer action against her  
2 without making a proper inquiry into the circumstances. C 09-3639  
3 SBA, docket no. 1 at ¶ 12. The complaint also alleged that, during  
4 the settlement conference for the unlawful detainer action, the  
5 defendants falsely asserted to the judge and to Plaintiff that she  
6 owed over \$2,000 in unpaid rent and, by making these  
7 misrepresentations, the defendants induced her to sign a fraudulent  
8 stipulated judgment for possession of her Page Street apartment.  
9 Id. at ¶¶ 21, 22. Plaintiff asserted one federal claim for  
10 deprivation of the Seventh Amendment right to a jury trial.

11 In Plaintiff's fourth federal case, C 09-5663 SBA, she alleged  
12 a Seventh Amendment claim against HVALP and managers of the Page  
13 Street apartment.

14 The court dismissed both cases; the federal claims were  
15 dismissed with prejudice. Id., docket no. 38 at 8. The court held  
16 that the Seventh Amendment claim failed for several reasons, one of  
17 which was lack of subject matter jurisdiction under the Rooker-  
18 Feldman doctrine. Id. at 7. The court noted, "After entry of the  
19 February 19, 2008 stipulation of judgment in the state court  
20 unlawful detainer action, Plaintiff attempted to have the judgment  
21 vacated on several grounds, including that it violated her Fifth  
22 and Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process. The state court  
23 denied her request on September 1, 2009. The state court's denial  
24 of Plaintiff's request and its decision to uphold the judgment and  
25 dismissal clearly contemplate a final resolution on the matter,  
26 including any other affirmative defenses that Plaintiff could have  
27 brought in connection with that action. Plaintiff may not now seek

1 redress in district court." Id. at 7-8.

2 Plaintiff's fifth and sixth federal cases, C 10-0703 SBA, and  
3 C 10-704 SBA, based on the same unlawful detainer action, were  
4 dismissed without prejudice for failure to pay the filing fee.  
5 C 10-703 SBA, docket no. 37; C 10-704 SBA, docket no. 32.

6 Plaintiff's instant lawsuit is her seventh attempt to re-  
7 litigate the state unlawful detainer action in federal court. As  
8 discussed previously in this Order, this Court has granted  
9 Defendants' motions to dismiss based on lack of subject matter  
10 jurisdiction. In light of this disposition, this case is also  
11 devoid of a colorable federal claim. Given Plaintiff's previous  
12 unsuccessful federal lawsuits based on the underlying state court  
13 unlawful detainer action, most of which were dismissed for lack of  
14 subject matter jurisdiction, the history of Plaintiff's litigation  
15 provides good cause to declare her a vexatious litigant.

16 2. Litigant's Objective Expectation of Prevailing

17 In her opposition, Plaintiff argues she should not be declared  
18 a vexatious litigant because, in their motion, Defendants made  
19 willful, intentional misrepresentations and thus continue with  
20 their conspiracies to defraud the Court. Opp. at 1-2. Plaintiff  
21 argues that Defendants' claim that she entered into the first  
22 stipulated judgment is false. No matter how egregious Defendants'  
23 actions may have been in state court, they cannot be adjudicated in  
24 federal district court; the Rooker-Feldman doctrine bars litigation  
25 of state court judgments in federal district court. This was  
26 explained to Plaintiff by three judges of this Court in her first  
27 four federal lawsuits. Plaintiff cannot have an objective belief

1 that she will prevail in federal court. Therefore, this factor  
2 warrants finding that Plaintiff is a vexatious litigant.

3       3. Needless Expense to Parties and Burden on the Court

4       Defendants indicate that, although Plaintiff's previous  
5 lawsuits were dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 before Defendants  
6 had to make an appearance, they have expended significant time,  
7 effort and expense in reviewing, evaluating, and monitoring the  
8 cases Plaintiff has filed against them. The Court notes that, in  
9 this case, Plaintiff's filings have required Defendants to respond  
10 to two complaints and three motions for sanctions. Furthermore,  
11 Plaintiff's filings have placed a burden on the Court. For  
12 instance, in this case alone, Plaintiff has filed a fifty page  
13 complaint, (docket no. 1), a forty-six page amended complaint with  
14 sixty-six pages of exhibits, (docket no. 29), three motions for  
15 sanctions, (docket nos. 39, 58, 69), a motion for reconsideration,  
16 (docket no. 86), a motion to file an amended complaint under seal,  
17 (docket no. 82), and a motion to amend the original complaint,  
18 (docket. no. 89). Many of these filings are repetitious and  
19 frivolous. The fact that the Court lacks subject matter  
20 jurisdiction over this case, as it did over Plaintiff's previous  
21 cases, creates a more onerous burden because these filings are  
22 duplicative and unnecessary.

23       Therefore, this factor weighs in favor of declaring Plaintiff  
24 a vexatious litigant.

25       4. Whether Other Sanctions Would be Adequate

26       In her opposition, Plaintiff posits that Defendants' motion  
27 should be denied because they are lying to the Court. She fails to

1 address any of Defendants' arguments that she has filed six other  
2 unsuccessful federal lawsuits based upon the same unlawful detainer  
3 action. This evidences that, without an order declaring Plaintiff  
4 a vexatious litigant, she is likely to continue filing complaints  
5 based on the unlawful detainer action. Therefore, this factor  
6 weighs in favor of declaring Plaintiff a vexatious litigant.

7 **D. Narrowly Tailored Order**

8 The pre-filing order must "closely fit the specific vice  
9 encountered." Delong, 912 F.2d at 1148. An order preventing a  
10 litigant from filing any further actions without leave of court,  
11 for example, ordinarily is overly broad and cannot stand. Id.;  
12 Moy, 906 F.2d at 470-71.

13 In this case, Defendants only object to Plaintiff's filing  
14 frivolous lawsuits based upon the underlying state unlawful  
15 detainer action. Thus, the Court will issue a separate order  
16 requiring Plaintiff to obtain leave of the Court before filing  
17 another lawsuit against Defendants arising out of the unlawful  
18 detainer action.

19 Therefore, the Court grants Defendants' motion to declare  
20 Plaintiff a vexatious litigant.

21 **III. Plaintiff's Motions**

22 **A. Motions for Sanctions**

23 In Plaintiff's first motion for sanctions, (docket no. 39),  
24 she claims that Defendants, in their motion to declare her a  
25 vexatious litigant, "made intentional, willfully, knowingly [sic]  
26 misrepresentations, to this US District Court. . . . The defendants  
27 are officer [sic] of the court and the plaintiff request [sic]

1 sanctions against the defendants."

2 In Plaintiff's second motion for sanctions (docket no. 58),  
3 she argues that, in their vexatious litigant motion, Legal  
4 Defendants knowingly misrepresented to the Court that Plaintiff  
5 entered into a first stipulated judgment and that her motion to  
6 vacate the first judgment was granted because it was unopposed.  
7 Plaintiff states that the defendants in the state court action  
8 filed a two or three page opposition to her motion and submits the  
9 docket of the state court case which indicates that, on January 11,  
10 2008, the defendants filed an opposition to her motion.

11 In Plaintiff's third motion for sanctions (docket no. 69), she  
12 makes the same arguments as in her first two motions.

13 Defendants respond that, although the docket sheet in the  
14 state court action indicates that, on January 11, 2008, HVALP filed  
15 an opposition to the motion to vacate the judgment, the January 22,  
16 2008 docket entry of the hearing on the motion indicates that the  
17 motion was granted "as no substantive opposition filed. Order  
18 signed in open court." Based on the second docket entry,  
19 Defendants argue that they did not misrepresent that Plaintiff's  
20 motion was unopposed.

21 The actual order signed by the state court judge states, "This  
22 matter came before the court on January 22, 2008. Upon considering  
23 the arguments and evidence presented, good cause appearing thereon,  
24 the Court finds that the judgment entered on December 19, 2007 is  
25 hereby vacated." It appears that HVALP submitted an opposition to  
26 the motion to vacate, which was noted in the court's docket, but  
27 that the opposition did not contain substantive argument. In any

1 event, whether HVALP submitted an opposition to Plaintiff's motion  
2 to vacate the first judgment is not relevant to the outcome of  
3 Plaintiff's claims in this case. What is relevant is that she  
4 entered into the February 19, 2009 Stipulation for Entry of  
5 Judgment. That is the dispositive state court order which  
6 Plaintiff is barred from litigating in federal district court under  
7 Rooker-Feldman. Sanctions are not warranted under these  
8 circumstances and Plaintiff's motions are denied.

9       B. Motions to Transfer, to Reconsider, to Amend/Correct and  
10       Quash, to File Under Seal and to Appoint Counsel

11            1. Motion to Transfer

12       In her motion to transfer (docket no. 33), Plaintiff requests  
13 that this case be transferred to the Honorable Saundra Brown  
14 Armstrong, another judge of this Court who presided over four of  
15 Plaintiff's previous cases. Plaintiff states that she meant to  
16 file an amended complaint and pay her filing fee in case number  
17 C 10-0703 SBA, but that the Clerk of the Court did not realize  
18 this, gave a new case number to the complaint and assigned it to  
19 the undersigned.

20       On July 13, 2010, Plaintiff filed, in case number C 10-0703  
21 SBA, an emergency motion to determine if the instant case was  
22 related to case number C 10-0703 SBA. On August 24, 2010, Judge  
23 Armstrong entered an order in case number C 10-0703 SBA and this  
24 case indicating that the cases are not related. This decision is  
25 left to the discretion of the judge in the first-filed case.  
26 Therefore, Plaintiff's motion for a transfer is denied.  
27

## 1                   2. Motion for Reconsideration

2                   In her motion for reconsideration (docket no. 86), Plaintiff  
3 requests that the Court vacate previous Orders dated September 27,  
4 2010 and October 8, 2010 dismissing her case for failure to  
5 prosecute. However, this Court did not make these orders and  
6 cannot vacate them. Therefore, Plaintiff's motion for  
7 reconsideration is denied.

## 8                   3. Motions to Amend, Quash and Seal

9                   On December 6, 2010, Plaintiff filed a motion to amend the  
10 original complaint, quash the 1AC and quash service of summons to  
11 Defendants (docket no. 91). She states that, although she filed  
12 and served the original complaint on Defendants, she filed and  
13 served it in error. She also states that she filed the 1AC in  
14 error and never served it on Defendants. Therefore, she requests  
15 leave to amend her original complaint. On December 6, 2010,  
16 Plaintiff also filed an administrative motion to file her proposed  
17 new amended complaint under seal because it "contains highly  
18 confidential material, only the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
19 should have access to." (Docket No. 82).

20                   These motions lack merit and are denied.

## 21                   4. Motion to Appoint Counsel

22                   Because the Court has ruled that it lacks subject matter  
23 jurisdiction over this case, her motion to appoint counsel is  
24 denied as moot.

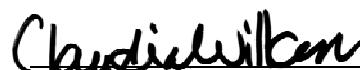
## 25                   CONCLUSION

26                   For the foregoing reasons, Defendants' motions to dismiss the  
27 complaint (docket nos. 22, 24) are denied as moot, Defendants'

1 motions to dismiss the 1AC (docket nos. 31, 42) are granted and  
2 their motion to declare Plaintiff a vexatious litigant (docket no.  
3 23) is granted. The Court will issue a separate order requiring  
4 pre-filing review of any complaint Plaintiff attempts to file in  
5 this Court. Plaintiff's motions are denied. Plaintiff's federal  
6 claims are dismissed without leave to amend and her state claims  
7 are dismissed without prejudice to refiling in state court. The  
8 Clerk of the Court shall close this case.

9  
10 IT IS SO ORDERED.

11 Dated: 2/11/11

  
12 CLAUDIA WILKEN  
13 United States District Judge

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BRIDGEWATER,

Plaintiff,

v.

HAYES VALLEY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP et  
al,

Defendant.

Case Number: CV10-03022 CW

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on February 11, 2011, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Sharon Bridgewater  
P.O. Box 422145  
San Francisco, CA 94142-2145

Dated: February 11, 2011

Richard W. Wiking, Clerk  
By: Nikki Riley, Deputy Clerk