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16 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
17 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

18 PRISON LEGAL NEWS, a project of the  
19 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER

20 Plaintiff,

21 v.

22 COUNTY OF VENTURA; GEOFF DEAN,  
GARY PENTIS, LINDA OKSNER, and  
23 RICK BARRIOS, in their individual and  
official capacities, DOES 1-10, in their  
24 individual and official capacities,

25 Defendants.

Case No. **CV 14-0773** *AK/EX*  
COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF UNDER  
THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, 42  
U.S.C. §1983 AND DAMAGES

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

FILED  
14 JAN 31 PM 12:14  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF.  
LOS ANGELES

1 INTRODUCTION

2 Plaintiff PRISON LEGAL NEWS (“PLN” or “Plaintiff”), a project of the  
3 Human Rights Defense Center, brings this action challenging Defendants’  
4 censorship of its monthly publication and of correspondence mailed to prisoners and  
5 pre-trial detainees (collectively, “inmates”) held in custody at Ventura County jails,  
6 in violation of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States  
7 Constitution. Defendants have adopted and implemented mail policies and practices  
8 that unconstitutionally restrict PLN’s correspondence with inmates. Defendants’  
9 mail policies are unconstitutional on their face and as applied, and are  
10 constitutionally infirm because they are unduly broad and vague. Defendants’ mail  
11 policies and practices also do not afford adequate notice and an opportunity to  
12 challenge the censorship, in violation of PLN’s right to due process. Defendants’  
13 policies, practices, and actions thus violate PLN’s rights and the rights of others who  
14 seek to send mail and publications to inmates at Defendants jails under the First  
15 Amendment and the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth  
16 Amendment. PLN brings this action, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, seeking  
17 injunctive and declaratory relief, and damages to be proven at trial.

18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

19 1. This action arises under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the  
20 United States Constitution and is brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This Court  
21 has both subject matter jurisdiction and diversity jurisdiction over this action under  
22 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, 1343, 2201, and 2202.

23 2. Venue is proper in the Central District of California under 28 U.S.C.  
24 § 1391(b)(2) because substantial acts and omissions giving rise to the claims  
25 occurred in this District, including Defendants’ implementation of the challenged  
26 mail policies and practices, and because Defendants reside in this District.

27 PARTIES

28 3. Plaintiff PRISON LEGAL NEWS is a project of the Human Rights

1 Defense Center (“HRDC”), a Washington Non-Profit Corporation. The core of  
2 HRDC’s mission is public and prisoner education, advocacy, and outreach in  
3 support of prisoners’ rights in furtherance of their basic human rights. PLN  
4 publishes and distributes a monthly journal of corrections news and analysis, and  
5 offers and sells books about the criminal justice system, legal reference books, and  
6 self-help books of interest to prisoners. PLN has a broad audience, including  
7 prisoners, lawyers, courts, libraries, and members of the general public throughout  
8 the country and abroad.

9 4. Defendant COUNTY OF VENTURA is a municipal corporation,  
10 organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. Defendant  
11 COUNTY OF VENTURA is, and was at all relevant times mentioned herein,  
12 responsible for the actions and/or inactions and the policies, procedures, customs  
13 and practices of the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department (“the Sheriff’s  
14 Department” or “the Department”), the Ventura County Sheriff’s Detention Services  
15 Division (“the Detention Services Division”), and their respective employees and  
16 agents. The Department operates the Pre-Trial Detention Facility, the Todd Road  
17 Jail, and the East County Jail (collectively, the “jails”), and is and was responsible  
18 for adopting and implementing mail policies governing incoming mail for inmates at  
19 Ventura County jails.

20 5. Defendant GEOFF DEAN is the Sheriff of the COUNTY OF  
21 VENTURA, and has held this position since January 3, 2011. Defendant DEAN is  
22 employed by and is an agent of Defendant COUNTY OF VENTURA and the  
23 Department. He is responsible for overseeing the management and operations of the  
24 Detention Services Division, and for the hiring, screening, training, retention,  
25 supervision, discipline, counseling, and control of the personnel of the Ventura  
26 County jails who interpret and apply the Detention Services Division’s mail policy  
27 for inmates. As Sheriff, Defendant DEAN is the final policymaker for Defendant  
28 COUNTY OF VENTURA with respect to the operations of the Ventura County

1 jails, including for policies governing incoming mail for inmates. He is sued in his  
2 individual and official capacities.

3         6. Defendant GARY PENTIS is an Assistant Sheriff of the COUNTY OF  
4 VENTURA, and has been in charge of the Detention Services Division since  
5 approximately January 3, 2011. He is employed by and is an agent of Defendant  
6 COUNTY OF VENTURA and the Sheriff's Department. The Detention Services  
7 Division is the largest of the Department's four divisions in both personnel and  
8 budget, and includes all job positions related to inmate services, including reception,  
9 booking and classification, jail services, and court room and pre-trial security  
10 services. As Assistant Sheriff in charge of the Detention Services Division,  
11 Defendant PENTIS is responsible for the operation and management of the Ventura  
12 County jails and for the promulgation and implementation of Detention Services  
13 Division policies, including the inmate mail policies challenged herein. He is also  
14 responsible for the hiring, screening, training, retention, supervision, discipline,  
15 counseling, and control of the personnel of the Ventura County jails who interpret  
16 and apply the Detention Services Division's mail policy for inmates. He is sued in  
17 his individual and official capacities.

18         7. Defendant LINDA OKSNER is the Commander in charge of the Todd  
19 Road Jail for the Sheriff's Department. She is employed by and is an agent of  
20 Defendant COUNTY OF VENTURA and the Sheriff's Department. Defendant  
21 OKSNER is responsible for operational oversight of the Todd Road Jail, for Inmate  
22 Services, and for the Detention Services Divisional Training Unit. Prior to this  
23 assignment, she was in charge of the operations and management of the Pre-Trial  
24 Detention Facility and the East County Jail. In these capacities, Defendant  
25 OKSNER is and was responsible for the implementation of Detention Services  
26 Division policies at Ventura County jail facilities, including the inmate mail policies  
27 challenged herein, and for the hiring, screening, training, retention, supervision,  
28 discipline, counseling, and control of the personnel of the Ventura County jails who

1 interpret and apply the Detention Services Division's mail policy for inmates. She  
2 is sued in her individual and official capacities.

3 8. Defendant RICK BARRIOS is the Commander of the Pre-Trial  
4 Detention Facility for the Sheriff's Department. He is employed by and is an agent  
5 of Defendant COUNTY OF VENTURA and the Sheriff's Department. Defendant  
6 BARRIOS is responsible for operational oversight of the Pre-Trial Detention  
7 Facility. In this capacity, Defendant BARRIOS is responsible for the  
8 implementation of Detention Services Division policies at the Pre-Trial Detention  
9 Facility. He is sued in his individual and official capacities.

10 9. The true names and identities of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 are  
11 presently unknown to PLN. Each of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 are or were  
12 employed by and are or were agents of Defendant COUNTY OF VENTURA and  
13 the Sheriff's Department when some or all of the challenged inmate mail policies  
14 and practices were adopted and/or implemented. Each of Defendants DOES 1  
15 through 10 are or were personally involved in the adoption and/or implementation of  
16 the Detention Services Division's mail policies for inmates, and/or are or were  
17 responsible for the hiring, screening, training, retention, supervision, discipline,  
18 counseling, and/or control of Ventura County jails' staff who interpret and  
19 implement these inmate mail policies. They are sued in their individual and official  
20 capacities. PLN will seek to amend this Complaint as soon as the true names and  
21 identities of Defendants DOES 1 through 10 have been ascertained.

22 10. Each and every act and omission alleged herein of Defendants, their  
23 officers, agents, servants, employees, or persons acting at their behest or direction,  
24 were done and are continuing to be done under the color of state law and within the  
25 scope of their official duties as employees or agents of Defendant COUNTY OF  
26 VENTURA and the Sheriff's Department.

27 **FACTS**

28 11. Plaintiff PRISON LEGAL NEWS publishes and distributes *Prison*

1 *Legal News: Dedicated to Protecting Human Rights*, a monthly journal of  
2 corrections news and analysis. PLN also publishes and distributes paperback books  
3 about the criminal justice system and legal issues impacting prisoners.

4 12. PLN has approximately 9,000 subscribers in the United States and  
5 abroad, including prisoners, attorneys, journalists, public libraries, judges, and other  
6 members of the public. PLN distributes its publication to prisoners and law  
7 librarians in approximately 2,200 correctional facilities across the United States,  
8 including institutions within the Federal Bureau of Prisons and all thirty-three adult  
9 prisons of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

10 13. PLN engages in core protected speech and expressive conduct on  
11 matters of public concern, such as the operations of corrections facilities, jail and  
12 prison conditions, prisoner health and safety, and prisoners' rights. PLN regularly  
13 receives correspondence from inmates in correctional facilities around the country,  
14 including Ventura County jails, in which they ask questions and report on jail or  
15 prison conditions.

16 14. Defendants have censored PLN's monthly journal, informational  
17 brochure packets, subscription renewal letters, and Internet-based printouts mailed  
18 to inmates held in custody at Ventura County jails, by refusing to deliver said items  
19 to the prisoners and, in some instances, by returning items to PLN's offices via the  
20 Return To Sender service of the United States Postal Service. Defendants continue  
21 to censor many of the items listed above.

22 15. Defendants have censored materials mailed by PLN on at least 148  
23 occasions from February 2012 to the present, including the items identified below.

#### 24 **Censorship of PLN's Monthly Journal**

25 16. PLN's monthly journal, *Prison Legal News*, is a black and white 64-  
26 page soft cover publication that contains articles on corrections news and analysis  
27 about prisoner rights, court rulings, the management of prison and jail facilities, and  
28 conditions of confinement.

1           17. Starting in at least February 2012, Defendants censored PLN's monthly  
2 journal by refusing to deliver it to the inmates to whom it was addressed, sometimes  
3 sending it by return mail at PLN's expense, marking it with an ink stamp or  
4 adhesive label noting various reasons for the return, including: (1) "CONTENTS  
5 UNACCEPTABLE," circling with black pen "SUGGESTIVE ITEMS" from a list  
6 of prohibited correspondence; (2) "SUGGESTIVE ADS INSIDE. PLEASE  
7 RETURN TO SENDER"; and (3) "UNACCEPTABLE – SUGGESTIVE IMAGES  
8 & ADS. RETURN TO SENDER."

9           18. In March 2012, PLN mailed its March 2012 *Prison Legal News*  
10 publication to twelve (12) prisoners at the Ventura County jails, each of whom were  
11 in custody there at the time that the publications were received from PLN.  
12 Defendants did not deliver the publications to the inmate-addressees and sent them  
13 by return mail at PLN's expense, with an ink stamp with the following reason for  
14 return: "CONTENTS UNACCEPTABLE," circling with black pen "SUGGESTIVE  
15 ITEMS" from a list of prohibited correspondence.

16           19. In April 2012, PLN mailed its April 2012 *Prison Legal News*  
17 publication to seven (7) prisoners at the Ventura County jails, each of whom were in  
18 custody there at the time that the publications were received from PLN. Defendants  
19 did not deliver the publications to the inmate-addressees and sent them by return  
20 mail at PLN's expense, with an adhesive label with the following reason for return:  
21 "SUGGESTIVE ADS INSIDE. PLEASE RETURN TO SENDER."

22           20. In May 2012, PLN mailed its May 2012 *Prison Legal News* publication  
23 to fourteen (14) inmates at the Ventura County jails, each of whom were in custody  
24 there at the time that the publications were received from PLN. Defendants did not  
25 deliver the publications to the inmate-addressees and sent them by return mail at  
26 PLN's expense, with an adhesive label with the following reason for return:  
27 "UNACCEPTABLE – SUGGESTIVE IMAGES & ADS. RETURN TO  
28 SENDER."

1 21. PLN's monthly journal occasionally contains advertisements for  
2 distributors of sexually based material. Most of the advertisements for such  
3 distributors contain no pictures. In the few instances in which pictures may be  
4 found, they are barely visible: each picture is less than one square inch, there is no  
5 nudity, and even clothed depictions of breasts, buttocks, or the groin area often are  
6 rendered invisible by a white star.

7 22. On information and belief, Defendants refused to deliver additional  
8 *Prison Legal News* publications that PLN mailed to inmates, other than those  
9 identified above, who were in custody at the Ventura County jails at the time the  
10 publications were received.

11 23. Defendants did not provide PLN with sufficient due process notice or  
12 with an opportunity to appeal the aforementioned censorship decisions. PLN is  
13 informed and believes that Defendants have a written policy which allows for an  
14 appeal of any decision rejecting inmate mail and that there is a form that is to be  
15 sent to the sender notifying the sender of the decision. However, PLN never  
16 received any such form.

17 24. Currently, PLN has 14 subscribers at the Ventura County jails. PLN  
18 continues to pursue its mission to promote public safety through educational and  
19 journalistic avenues by sending its monthly publication to inmates confined at  
20 Ventura County jails.

21 **Censorship of PLN's Informational Brochure Packet**

22 25. Since at least February 2012, and continuing to the present day,  
23 Defendants have censored PLN's Informational Brochure Packet by refusing to  
24 deliver it to the inmates to whom it was addressed. PLN's "Informational Brochure  
25 Packet" includes the three items described below: (1) The *Prison Legal News*  
26 Brochure and Subscription Order Form; (2) The PLN Book List; and (3) The  
27 Published Books Brochure.

28 ///



1 (a) **Prison Legal News Brochure and Subscription Order Form:**

2 This brochure and order form include: a description of the topics covered in PLN's  
3 monthly magazine; subscription rates, special subscription offers, a subscription  
4 order form; a description of three books available for purchase or included with a  
5 subscription to *Prison Legal News—Protecting Your Health & Safety, With Liberty*  
6 *for Some: 500 Years of Imprisonment in America*, and *Prison Profiteers: Who*  
7 *Makes Money from Mass Incarceration*; and other information about PLN's  
8 bookstore.

9 (b) **PLN Book List:** The book list includes a description of 42  
10 books, dictionaries, and legal resource materials available for purchase. The books  
11 available for purchase cover a variety of topics, including: the basic rights of  
12 prisoners regarding health and safety; the American criminal justice system; finding  
13 the right lawyer; DNA testing; issues related to imprisoned women; self-  
14 representation in court; developing a successful re-entry plan upon correctional  
15 release; searching for a job; crime and poverty; and the mental health crisis in U.S.  
16 prisons and jails.

17 (c) **PLN Published Books Brochure:** The PLN Published Books  
18 brochure details two books published by PLN and includes detailed information  
19 about and an order form for (1) a comprehensive book on high school, vocational,  
20 paralegal, undergraduate, and graduate courses available to prisoners through  
21 written correspondence programs of study; and (2) a legal resource book on the  
22 topic of ineffective assistance of counsel and habeas corpus litigation.

23 26. Defendants have censored PLN's Informational Brochure Packet by  
24 refusing to deliver it to the inmates to whom it is addressed, and sometimes sending  
25 it by return mail at PLN's expense, with an adhesive label indicating various reasons  
26 for return, including the following: (1) "INMATES CANNOT ORDER  
27 SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JAIL. PLEASE RETURN TO SENDER.";  
28 (2) "INMATES CANNOT ORDER ANYTHING FROM JAIL. PLEASE

1 RETURN TO SENDER.”; and (3) “INMATES MAY NOT ORDER ANY  
2 BILLABLE ITEMS FROM JAIL (i.e. Magazine Subscriptions, Books). RETURN  
3 TO SENDER.”

4 27. Since February 2012 to the present, Defendants have censored at least  
5 50 of PLN’s Informational Brochure Packets and frustrated PLN’s attempt to deliver  
6 it to inmates at the Ventura County jails.

7 28. Defendants did not provide PLN with sufficient notice or with an  
8 opportunity to appeal any of the aforementioned censorship decisions.

9 29. PLN continues its educational and journalistic mission by sending its  
10 Informational Brochure Packets to inmates confined at Ventura County jails.

11 **Censorship of Photocopies and Internet Printouts**

12 30. Defendants also have censored PLN’s correspondence with inmates  
13 containing Internet-based printouts of case law by refusing to deliver these items.

14 31. These items have sometimes been sent by return mail at PLN’s expense  
15 with an adhesive label affixed with various reasons for return, including the  
16 following: (1) “CONTENT UNACCEPTABLE/NOT A ‘PRISON LEGAL NEWS’  
17 PUBLICATION, NO ENVELOPED PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE.  
18 RETURN TO SENDER” or (2) “PER LEGAL DEPT.: XEROXED COPIES FROM  
19 BOOKS ARE NOT ALLOWED. MUST BE ORIGINAL MATERIAL. RETURN  
20 TO SENDER.”

21 32. Since April 2012, Defendants censored PLN’s correspondence with  
22 inmates and frustrated PLN’s attempt to send Internet-based printouts of case law to  
23 forty-six (46) inmates at the Ventura County Jails.

24 33. Similarly, in February 2013, a third party mailed copies of articles from  
25 the Prison Legal News web site to several inmates at the Ventura County jails.  
26 Those articles were returned to sender with the notation “Return to Sender:  
27 Postcards Only. No Enveloped Correspondence.”

28 34. Just as with the aforementioned instances of censorship, Defendants did

1 not provide PLN with sufficient notice or with an opportunity to appeal censorship  
2 decisions regarding Internet printouts of case law mailed to inmates.

3 35. PLN continues its educational and journalistic mission by sending  
4 Internet-based printouts of case law to inmates confined at Ventura County jails.

5 **PLN Subscription Renewal Letters**

6 36. Defendants also have censored PLN's correspondence with inmates  
7 containing PLN "Subscription Renewal Letters." Since at least June 2012, and  
8 continuing to the present day, Defendants have censored PLN's Subscription  
9 Renewal Letters by refusing to deliver it to the inmates to whom it is addressed, and  
10 sometimes sending it by return mail at PLN's expense, with an adhesive label  
11 indicating various reasons for return, including the following: (1) "RETURN TO  
12 SENDER- POSTCARDS ONLY- NO ENVELOPES,"; and (2) "INMATES  
13 CANNOT ORDER SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JAIL. RETURN TO SENDER."

14 37. Since June 2012, Defendants censored PLN's attempt to send  
15 Subscription Renewal Letters to 19 inmates at the Ventura County Jails. Just as  
16 with the aforementioned instances of censorship, Defendants did not provide PLN  
17 with sufficient notice or with an opportunity to appeal censorship decisions  
18 regarding Internet printouts of case law mailed to inmates.

19 **Jail Policies**

20 38. After PLN's materials were rejected, starting in February 2012, PLN  
21 began investigating the reasons for the rejections. PLN then learned that Defendants  
22 appeared to have begun applying written policies that it had not before applied to  
23 PLN to exclude PLN's materials. These policies include the following: *Article 36*  
24 of the Detention Services Division policy, entitled "Inmate Mail Guidelines," which  
25 requires all incoming mail addressed to inmates at the Ventura County jails, with the  
26 exception of legal mail, to be in postcard form (hereinafter "Postcard Only Mail  
27 Policy"). Defendants' web site explaining that policy states, in pertinent part:  
28 "postcards will be the only acceptable form of incoming mail" and "must be no

1 smaller than 4 x 6 inches and no larger than 6 x 11 inches.”

2 39. Defendants’ Postcard Only Mail Policy has been used to censor PLN’s  
3 enveloped correspondence with inmates at Ventura County jails containing  
4 informational brochures packets, Internet-based printouts of case law, and  
5 subscription renewal letters.

6 40. Defendants’ conduct prohibiting PLN from mailing its publications,  
7 informational brochure packets, Internet-based printouts of case law and  
8 subscription renewal letters to inmates confined at the Ventura County jails violates  
9 the First Amendment. This policy on its face and as applied censors these  
10 expressive activities and has a chilling effect on PLN’s future speech and expression  
11 directed at inmates confined there. Defendants’ policy is unconstitutional both  
12 facially and as applied to Prison Legal News.

13 41. Prison Legal News publishes and distributes content concerning the  
14 rights of inmates and the means by which they may obtain relief from  
15 unconstitutional conditions of confinement. As a result, PLN is informed and  
16 believes that Defendants have retaliated against PLN by refusing to deliver PLN’s  
17 written materials to inmates held at the jails.

18 42. Defendants’ actions have violated, continue to violate, and are  
19 reasonably expected in the future to violate PLN’s constitutional rights, and have  
20 caused Plaintiff financial harm in the form of lost subscriptions, lost opportunities  
21 for purchases and sales of its publications, lost opportunities for book sales, and  
22 diversion of resources to address the censorship. In addition, Defendants’ actions  
23 have frustrated Plaintiff’s mission of education and advocacy, including the  
24 dissemination of PLN’s political message, and the reporting and publishing of news  
25 regarding the human and legal rights of persons held in prisons and jails. Further,  
26 Defendants’ actions have interfered with PLN’s ability to recruit new donors and  
27 supporters.

28 43. Defendants’ actions and inactions were and are motivated by ill motive

1 and intent, and were and are all committed under color of law with reckless  
2 indifference to PLN's rights.

3 44. Defendants COUNTY OF VENTURA, DEAN, PENTIS, OKSNER,  
4 BARRIOS, DOES 1-10, and other agents of the County of Ventura are responsible  
5 for or personally participated in creating and implementing these unconstitutional  
6 policies, practices, and customs. Further, Defendants are responsible for training and  
7 supervising the mail staff whose conduct has injured and continues to injure PLN,  
8 and for ratifying or adopting them.

9 45. Defendants' unconstitutional policy, practices, and customs are  
10 ongoing and continue to violate PLN's rights. As such, PLN has no adequate  
11 remedy at law.

12 46. PLN is entitled to injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from  
13 refusing to deliver or refusing to allow delivery of publications, informational  
14 brochures packets, and other correspondence from Prison Legal News, and  
15 prohibiting Defendants from censoring mail without due process of law.

16 47. On or about February 13, 2013, PLN placed Defendants on actual  
17 notice through the filing of a state tort claim that their policies and practices violate  
18 PLN's constitutional rights. Defendants continue to violate PLN's constitutional  
19 rights.

20 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

21 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

22 **(Against All Defendants - For Violations of the First Amendment Under Color  
23 Of State Law – Free Speech; Section 1983)**

24 48. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding  
25 paragraphs.

26 49. The acts described above constitute violations of Plaintiff's rights under  
27 the First Amendment to the United States Constitution through 42 U.S.C. § 1983,  
28 and have caused and will continue to cause damages to Plaintiff.

1 50. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as nominal and  
2 compensatory damages, against all Defendants.

3 51. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and based thereon alleges that in  
4 engaging in the conduct alleged herein, individual Defendants acted with the intent  
5 to injure, vex, annoy and harass Plaintiff, and subjected Plaintiff to cruel and unjust  
6 hardship in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights with the intention of causing  
7 Plaintiff injury and depriving it of its constitutional rights.

8 52. As a result of the forgoing, Plaintiff seeks exemplary and punitive  
9 damages against the individual Defendants.

10 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
11 **(Against All Defendants - For Violations of the First Amendment Under Color**  
12 **Of State Law - Retaliation for Exercising Speech Rights; Section 1983)**

13 53. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding  
14 paragraphs.

15 54. The acts described above constitute violations of Plaintiff's right to be  
16 free from retaliation for exercising its constitutionally protected speech rights.

17 55. By retaliating against Plaintiff, Defendants have violated Plaintiff's  
18 rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution through 42  
19 U.S.C. § 1983, and have caused and will continue to cause damages to Plaintiff.

20 56. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as nominal and  
21 compensatory damages, against all Defendants.

22 57. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and based thereon alleges that in  
23 engaging in the conduct alleged herein, individual Defendants acted with the intent  
24 to injure, vex, annoy and harass Plaintiff, and subjected Plaintiff to cruel and unjust  
25 hardship in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights with the intention of causing  
26 Plaintiff injury and depriving it of its constitutional rights.

27 58. As a result of the forgoing, Plaintiff seeks exemplary and punitive  
28 damages against the individual Defendants.

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**THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Against All Defendants - For Violations of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment Under Color Of State Law; Section 1983)**

59. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs.

60. By failing to give Plaintiff sufficient notice of the censorship of its publications, and by failing to give an opportunity to be heard with respect to that censorship, Defendants have deprived and continue to deprive Plaintiff of liberty and property without due process of law, in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution via 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

61. The acts described above have caused and will continue to cause damage to Plaintiff.

62. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as nominal and compensatory damages, against all Defendants.

63. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and based thereon alleges that in engaging in the conduct alleged herein, individual Defendants acted with the intent to injure, vex, annoy and harass Plaintiff, and subjected Plaintiff to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights with the intention of causing Plaintiff injury and depriving it of its constitutional rights.

64. As a result of the forgoing, Plaintiff seeks exemplary and punitive damages against the individual Defendants.

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**(Against All Defendants - For Violations of the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment Under Color Of State Law; Section 1983)**

65. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs.

66. By prohibiting the delivery of Plaintiff's publications but allowing the delivery of the publications of others who are similarly situated, Defendants have

1 deprived and continue to deprive Plaintiff of equal protection under the laws, in  
2 violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution through 42  
3 U.S.C. § 1983.

4 67. The acts described above have caused and will continue to cause  
5 damage to Plaintiff.

6 68. Plaintiff seeks declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as nominal and  
7 compensatory damages, against all Defendants.

8 69. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and based thereon alleges that in  
9 engaging in the conduct alleged herein, individual Defendants acted with the intent  
10 to injure, vex, annoy and harass Plaintiff, and subjected Plaintiff to cruel and unjust  
11 hardship in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights with the intention of causing  
12 Plaintiff injury and depriving it of its constitutional rights.

13 70. As a result of the forgoing, Plaintiff seeks exemplary and punitive  
14 damages against the individual Defendants.

15 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

16 The conduct previously alleged, unless and until enjoined by order of this  
17 Court, will cause great and irreparable injury to Plaintiff. Further, a judicial  
18 declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time so that all parties may know  
19 their respective rights and act accordingly.

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests relief as follows:

21 1. A declaration that Defendants' policies, practices, and customs violate  
22 the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

23 2. An order enjoining all Defendants and their employees, agents, and any  
24 and all persons acting in concert with them from further violating Plaintiff's civil  
25 rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

26 3. Nominal damages for each violation by the Defendants against the  
27 Plaintiff's rights.

28 4. Compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial.



1 5. Punitive damages against the individual Defendants in an amount to be  
2 proven at trial.

3 6. Costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, under 42 U.S.C. § 1988,  
4 CCP § 1021.5, and under other applicable law.

5 7. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest.

6 8. Such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.  
7

8 DATED: January 31, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

9 ROSEN BIEN GALVAN & GRUNFELD LLP

10 By:  /s/ Ernest Galvan

11 THE LAW OFFICES OF BRIAN A. VOGEL,  
12 PC

13 By:  *Brian Vogel*   
14 Brian A. Vogel

15 HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER

16 By:  /s/ Lance Weber

17 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assigned to District Judge George H. King and the assigned Magistrate Judge is Charles F. Eick.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

2:14CV773 GHK Ex

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge.

Clerk, U. S. District Court

January 31, 2014

Date

By J.Prado

Deputy Clerk

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NOTICE TO COUNSEL

*A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).*

**Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:**

Western Division  
312 N. Spring Street, G-8  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Southern Division  
411 West Fourth St., Ste 1053  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Eastern Division  
3470 Twelfth Street, Room 134  
Riverside, CA 92501

**Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.**

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Central District of California

PRISON LEGAL NEWS, a project of the HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENSE CENTER,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

County of Ventura; Geoff Dean, Gary Pentis, Linda Oksner, and Rick Barrios, in their individual and official capacities, DOES 1-10, in their individual and official capacities,

Defendant(s)

CV 14-0773 (Ghk ltx)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address)

County of Ventura 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1260
Geoff Dean 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
Gary Pentis 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
Linda Oksner 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009
Rick Barrios 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Brian A. Vogel
The Law Offices of Brian A. Vogel, PC
770 County Square Drive, #104
Ventura, CA 93003

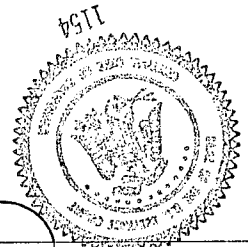
If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

JAN 31 2014

Date:

CLERK OF COURT

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk



Handwritten signature of the Clerk or Deputy Clerk

CIVIL COVER SHEET

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS ( Check box if you are representing yourself  )

DEFENDANTS ( Check box if you are representing yourself  )

Prison Legal News, a project of the Human Rights Defense Center

Ventura County; Geoff Dean, Gary Pentis, Linda Oksner, and Rick Barrios, in their individual and official capacities, Does 1-10, in their individual and official capacities

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Palm Beach Cty, FL  
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant \_\_\_\_\_  
 (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.

Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.

See attachment.

Unknown.

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)

- 1. U.S. Government Plaintiff
- 2. U.S. Government Defendant
- 3. Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES-For Diversity Cases Only  
 (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant)

- |   |                                |                                |   |                                |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | PTF <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | DEF <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State     | PTF <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | DEF <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2     | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5     | <input type="checkbox"/> 5     |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3     | <input type="checkbox"/> 3     | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6     | <input type="checkbox"/> 6     |

IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)

- 1. Original Proceeding
- 2. Removed from State Court
- 3. Remanded from Appellate Court
- 4. Reinstated or Reopened
- 5. Transferred from Another District (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Multi-District Litigation

V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND:  Yes  No (Check "Yes" only if demanded in complaint.)

CLASS ACTION under F.R.Cv.P. 23:  Yes  No  MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ According to proof.

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)  
 42 U.S.C. 1983: Violation of Plaintiff's rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution

VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only).

OTHER STATUTES	CONTRACT	REAL PROPERTY/CONT.	IMMIGRATION	PRISONER PETITIONS	PROPERTY RIGHTS
<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	<b>Habeas Corpus:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights
<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment	<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent
<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust	<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>TORTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking	<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<b>TORTS</b>	<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/Etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)
<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<b>Other:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)
<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Org.	<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Vet.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Vet. Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI
<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV	<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Fed. Employers' Liability	<b>BANKRUPTCY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405 (g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<b>FORFEITURE/PENALTY</b>	<b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts	<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609
<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters	<b>REAL PROPERTY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<b>LABOR</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Info. Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	
<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury-Med Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	
<input type="checkbox"/> 899 Admin. Procedures Act/Review of Appeal of Agency Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury-Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	
<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		<input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 American with Disabilities-Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 American with Disabilities-Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education		<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Ret. Inc. Security Act	

CV 14-0773

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number:

**VIII. VENUE:** Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

<b>Question A: Was this case removed from state court?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  If "no," go to Question B. If "yes," check the box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	STATE CASE WAS PENDING IN THE COUNTY OF:		INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange		Southern
	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino		Eastern

<b>Question B: Is the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, a party to this action?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  If "no," go to Question C. If "yes," check the box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	If the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, is a party, is it:		INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:
	A PLAINTIFF? Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of DEFENDANTS reside.	A DEFENDANT? Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of PLAINTIFFS reside.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo	Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	Southern
	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino	Eastern
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Western	

Question C: Location of plaintiffs, defendants, and claims? (Make only one selection per row)	A Los Angeles County	B Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties	C Orange County	D Riverside or San Bernardino Counties	E Outside the Central District of California	F Other
Indicate the location in which a majority of plaintiffs reside:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>C.1. Is either of the following true? If so, check the one that applies:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more answers in Column C <input type="checkbox"/> only 1 answer in Column C and no answers in Column D  Your case will initially be assigned to the SOUTHERN DIVISION. Enter "Southern" in response to Question D, below.  If none applies, answer question C2 to the right. →	<b>C.2. Is either of the following true? If so, check the one that applies:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more answers in Column D <input type="checkbox"/> only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C  Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below.  If none applies, go to the box below. ↓
Your case will initially be assigned to the WESTERN DIVISION. Enter "Western" in response to Question D below.	

Question D: Initial Division?	INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD
Enter the initial division determined by Question A, B, or C above: →	Western

IX(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed?  NO  YES

If yes, list case number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

IX(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case?  NO  YES

If yes, list case number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:

- (Check all boxes that apply)
- A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
  - B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
  - C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
  - D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY

(OR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT):

*Brian Vogel*

DATE:

1/31/14

Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet).

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

Attachment – Section I.C– Attorneys for Plaintiff

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\**Pro HacVice* Application To Be Filed