

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT **Oct 24, 2018**
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

JOHN SCHLABACH,

No. 2:18-CV-00053-SMJ

Plaintiff,

ORDER GRANTING UNITED STATES' MOTION TO DISMISS

v.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,
and its agents,

Defendant.

Before the Court, without oral argument, is the United States' Motion to Dismiss, ECF No. 9. The United States of America moves to dismiss *pro se* Plaintiff John Schlabach's complaint against Defendant the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). As an initial matter, the Court grants the United States' unopposed request to substitute itself for the IRS as Defendant in this case.

Schlabach seeks an order invalidating the civil monetary penalties the IRS charged him for filing frivolous income tax returns regarding tax years 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013, and refunding the money he paid or the IRS applied toward those penalties. The United States argues the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over Schlabach's refund claims for tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012, and Schlabach fails to state a facially plausible refund claim for tax year 2013. Having reviewed the file

1 and relevant legal authorities, the Court grants the United States' motion and
2 dismisses Schlabach's complaint.

3 **BACKGROUND**

4 On November 28, 2016, the IRS notified Schlabach that it charged him
5 \$10,000 in frivolous filing penalties, plus \$324.69 in interest, for tax year 2013.
6 ECF No. 1 at 3; ECF No. 10 at 7–8. On May 1, 2017, the IRS notified Schlabach
7 that it applied his 2015 income tax overpayment of \$1730.87 to the frivolous filing
8 penalty for tax year 2013. ECF No. 1 at 3; ECF No. 10 at 9. And on May 15, 2017,
9 the IRS notified Schlabach that it applied his 2016 income tax overpayment of
10 \$8724.68 to the frivolous filing penalty for tax year 2013. ECF No. 1 at 3; ECF No.
11 10 at 10. Through these credits, Schlabach paid the full amount of the frivolous
12 filing penalty for tax year 2013. ECF No. 9-1 at 39–41; *see* ECF No. 1 at 3.

13 On June 10, 2017, Schlabach filed a claim with the IRS seeking a refund of
14 the money it applied to the frivolous filing penalty for tax year 2013. ECF No. 1 at
15 3; ECF No. 10 at 12. On November 13, 2017, the IRS rejected Schlabach's refund
16 claim for tax year 2013. ECF No. 1 at 3; ECF No. 10 at 13–14.

17 On December 4, 2017, the IRS notified Schlabach that it charged him \$15,000
18 in frivolous filing penalties for tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012. ECF No. 1 at 4; ECF
19 No. 10 at 15–20. Sometime between December 26, 2017 and January 2, 2018,
20 Schlabach paid the U.S. Department of the Treasury \$2250, or fifteen percent of the

1 frivolous filing penalties for tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012. ECF No. 10 at 21–28;
2 *see* ECF No. 1 at 2. Schlabach did not pay the full amount of the frivolous filing
3 penalties for those tax years. ECF No. 9-1 at 30–31, 33–34, 36–37. On January 16,
4 2018, Schlabach filed claims with the IRS seeking a refund of the money he paid
5 toward the frivolous filing penalties for tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012. ECF No. 10
6 at 26–28; *see* ECF No. 1 at 4.

7 Schlabach filed this lawsuit on February 13, 2018. ECF No. 1. On that date,
8 the IRS had not yet rejected Schlabach’s refund claims for tax years 2009, 2010, and
9 2012, and less than a month had expired since he filed them. ECF No. 9-1 at 30–31,
10 33–34, 36–37; ECF No. 10 at 26–28.

11 Schlabach claims he “has converted all his received paychecks into lawful
12 money of the United States (“U.S. Notes”), pursuant to the provisions of 12 U.S.C.
13 § 411.” ECF No. 1 at 1. Schlabach explains his “process is to stamp ‘*Redeemed in*
14 *Lawful Money pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 411*’ on the endorsement line of each of his
15 paychecks to assert his demand made to the Federal Reserve Bank where his checks
16 are cashed and/or deposited.” *Id.* Schlabach claims federal reserve notes are
17 obligations of the United States that may be redeemed in U.S. notes, which the
18 Supreme Court has ruled are not subject to taxation. *Id.* at 1–2, 5–6. Schlabach
19 elaborates his belief that the law “provides access to . . . lawful money ‘**upon**
20 **demand**’” and “assures ‘**full discharge**’ of all obligations upon assignment or

1 transfer of payments to the United States.” *Id.* at 5. Schlabach contends his tax
2 returns were not based on a frivolous position because he complied with the law.
3 *Id.* at 5–6. Schlabach further argues imposing frivolous filing penalties violates 12
4 U.S.C. § 95a(2). *Id.* at 6.

5 Schlabach argues the IRS either failed to provide him a reason or provided a
6 false reason for the frivolous filing penalties. *Id.* at 4–5. Schlabach claims the IRS
7 determined the position he took in his tax returns fit “argument code 30,” which,
8 according to his internet research, means “Non-negotiable Chargeback.” *Id.* at 4–5,
9 12–14. Schlabach argues argument code 30 is inapplicable to his tax returns. *Id.* at
10 5. The IRS record Schlabach references contains the phrase “redeemed in lawful
11 [indecipherable]” in explaining the frivolous filing penalty for tax year 2009. *Id.* at
12 12. Schlabach alleges “[t]he IRS and its agent ‘B’ is believed to have deliberately
13 assigned an inapplicable argument code to allow for the continuous issuance of a
14 \$5000.00 penalty.” *Id.* at 5.

15 The United States moved to dismiss Schlabach’s complaint. ECF No. 9.
16 Schlabach responded. ECF No. 10. The United States replied. ECF No. 12.
17 Schlabach filed an unauthorized supplemental response, which the Court considers
18 despite its noncompliance with Local Civil Rule 7(c)(2)(A). ECF No. 13.

19 **LEGAL STANDARD**

20 “Dismissal is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1)

1 when the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over the claim.” *Schlabach v. United*
2 *States*, No. CV-12-0618-JLQ, 2013 WL 1619829, at *1 (E.D. Wash. Apr. 15, 2013).

3 “This is a threshold issue which goes to the power of the court to even hear the case.”

4 *Id.* “Because this basic foundation is at stake, the court is not limited to the
5 allegations in the Complaint but may also consider extrinsic evidence and, if facts
6 are in dispute, may weigh the evidence in order to satisfy itself that jurisdiction
7 exists.” *Id.* (citing *Roberts v. Corrothers*, 812 F.2d 1173, 1177 (9th Cir. 1987)).

8 “Although lack of subject matter jurisdiction is an affirmative defense, the burden
9 of proof to show jurisdiction in a [Rule] 12(b)(1) motion is on the Plaintiff.” *Id.*
10 (citing *Stock W., Inc. v. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation*, 873 F.2d
11 1221, 1225 (9th Cir. 1989)).

12 “A motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim pursuant to [Federal Rule of
13 Civil Procedure] 12(b)(6) tests the legal sufficiency of the claims in the Complaint.”

14 *Id.* at *2. “A complaint must be dismissed if it does not contain ‘enough facts to state
15 a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*,
16 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads
17 factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the
18 defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.”¹ *Id.* (quoting *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556

19
20 ¹ Plausibility does not require probability but demands more than a mere possibility
of liability. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). While a complaint need not
contain detailed factual allegations, threadbare recitals of legal elements, supported

1 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)). “The Court must accept as true all material allegations in the
2 complaint, as well as reasonable inferences to be drawn from them, and must
3 construe the complaint in the light most favorable to the plaintiff.”² *Id.* (citing *Cholla*
4 *Ready Mix, Inc. v. Civish*, 382 F.3d 969, 973 (9th Cir. 2004)). “In addition, where a
5 plaintiff appears pro se, the court must construe the pleadings liberally and afford
6 the Plaintiff any benefit of the doubt.” *Id.* (citing *Karim-Panahi v. L.A. Police Dep’t*,
7 839 F.2d 621, 623 (9th Cir. 1988)). “A pro se litigant is entitled to notice of the
8 deficiencies in the complaint and an opportunity to amend, unless the Complaint’s
9 deficiencies cannot be cured by amendment.” *Id.* (citing *Noll v. Carlson*, 809 F.2d
10 1446, 1448 (9th Cir. 1987)). “Nevertheless, a pro se plaintiff’s claims must be
11 dismissed where it appears beyond doubt that the Plaintiff can prove no set of facts
12 in support of his claims that would entitle him to relief.” *Id.* (citing *Barrett v.*
13 *Belleque*, 554 F3d 1060, 1061 (9th Cir. 2008)).

14 DISCUSSION

15 A district court has original jurisdiction over a taxpayer’s civil action against
16 the United States seeking “recovery of any internal-revenue tax alleged to have been
17

18 only by conclusory statements, do not suffice. *Id.* Whether a complaint states a
19 facially plausible claim for relief is a context-specific inquiry requiring the Court to
draw from its judicial experience and common sense. *Id.* at 679.

20 ² The Court must accept as true all factual allegations contained in a complaint.
Iqbal, 556 U.S. at 678. But the Court may disregard legal conclusions couched as
factual allegations. *See id.*

1 erroneously or illegally assessed or collected, or any penalty claimed to have been
2 collected without authority or any sum alleged to have been excessive or in any
3 manner wrongfully collected under the internal-revenue laws.” 28 U.S.C.
4 § 1346(a)(1). But as a jurisdictional prerequisite, the taxpayer must pay the full
5 amount of the disputed tax, penalty, or sum. *Flora v. United States*, 362 U.S. 145,
6 146, 177 (1960); *Thomas v. United States*, 755 F.2d 728, 729 (9th Cir. 1985);
7 *Diamond v. United States*, 603 F. App’x 947, 949 & n.1 (Fed. Cir. 2015). Next, the
8 taxpayer must duly file a claim for refund or credit and the IRS must either reject it
9 or fail to act on it in six months. I.R.C. §§ 7422(a), 6532(a). If these conditions are
10 not satisfied, “[n]o suit or proceeding shall be maintained in any court.” § 7422(a).
11 Indeed, “[n]o suit or proceeding . . . shall be begun.” § 6532(a).

12 Schlabach has not met these jurisdictional prerequisites for his refund claims
13 regarding tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012. Schlabach paid the treasury department
14 only fifteen percent, rather than the full amount, of the frivolous filing penalties for
15 those tax years. And, Schlabach filed this lawsuit before the IRS ever rejected his
16 refund claims for those tax years and less than six months after he filed them.

17 Schlabach argues that, for the Court to acquire jurisdiction, he only needed to
18 pay fifteen percent of the frivolous filing penalties within thirty days of notice.
19 However, the statutory provision he relies on no longer applies to frivolous filing
20 penalties. I.R.C. § 6703(c)(1) (amended by Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of

1 1989, Pub. L. No 101-239, § 7736(a), 103 Stat. 2106, 2404, to strike reference to
2 penalties under I.R.C. § 6702); *see Diamond*, 603 F. App'x at 949 & n.1. The Court
3 lacks jurisdiction over Schlabach's refund claims for tax years 2009, 2010, and 2012.
4 Therefore, the Court does not reach the parties' remaining arguments for that period.

5 The Court now turns to Schlabach's refund claims for tax year 2013. The IRS
6 may impose a \$5000 civil penalty on a person who files a frivolous tax return. I.R.C.
7 § 6702(a). The penalty applies if (1) the person files a document that purports to be
8 a tax return, (2) the document either contains information that on its face indicates
9 the self-assessment is substantially incorrect or omits information on which the
10 substantial correctness of the self-assessment may be judged, and (3) such conduct
11 is either based on a position the IRS has identified as frivolous or reflects a desire
12 to delay or impede tax administration. *Id.*

13 The IRS must "prescribe (and periodically revise) a list of positions which
14 [it] has identified as being frivolous." § 6702(c). This list must exclude any position
15 the IRS determines is "a reasonable basis for the tax treatment of such item by the
16 taxpayer." I.R.C. § 6662(d)(2)(B)(ii)(II); *see* § 6702(c). Under this authority, the
17 IRS has issued at least three official lists of frivolous positions. *See Schlabach v.*
18 *United States*, 101 Fed. Cl. 678, 683 (2011) (citing I.R.S. Notice 2010-33, 2010-17
19 I.R.B. 609, *superseding* I.R.S. Notice 2008-14, 2008-4 I.R.B. 310, *superseding*
20 I.R.S. Notice 2007-30, 2007-14 I.R.B. 883); *see also* I.R.S., *The Truth About*

1 *Frivolous Tax Arguments* (2018), https://www.irs.gov/pub/taxpros/frivolous_truth
2 [_march_2018.pdf](#).

3 Schlabach claims he converts his paychecks into U.S. notes by stamping
4 “*Redeemed in Lawful Money pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 411*” on the endorsement line.
5 ECF No. 1 at 1. Schlabach claims federal reserve notes are obligations of the United
6 States that may be redeemed in U.S. notes, which the Supreme Court has ruled are
7 not subject to taxation. Schlabach elaborates his belief that the law “provides access
8 to . . . lawful money ‘**upon demand**’” and “assures ‘**full discharge**’ of all
9 obligations upon assignment or transfer of payments to the United States.” *Id.* at 5.
10 Schlabach contends his tax returns were not based on a frivolous position because
11 he complied with the law. Schlabach further argues imposing a frivolous filing
12 penalty violates 12 U.S.C. § 95a(2), which no longer exists.³

13 U.S. notes are legal tender just like federal reserve notes. *See* 31 U.S.C. §
14 5103 (“United States coins and currency (including Federal reserve notes and

15
16 ³ 12 U.S.C. § 95a(2) “is no longer valid.” *United States v. McLaughlin*, No. 3:17-
17 CR-129 (MPS), 2018 WL 4854624, at *14 (D. Conn. Oct. 5, 2018); *Taylor v. United*
18 *States*, No. 2:18-CV-11185, 2018 WL 4304158, at *4 (E.D. Mich. Sept. 10, 2018).
19 “12 U.S.C. § 95a(2) was omitted from the [United States Code] effective December
20 1, 2015, because an identical section exists in 50 U.S.C. § 4305(b)(2) and has since
1941.” *McLaughlin*, 2018 WL 4854624, at *14 (alteration in original) (internal
quotation marks omitted). “Even before it was omitted, however, the statute related
to the President’s authority to regulate transactions involving foreign parties during
times of war.” *Harrington v. Sterling (In re Sterling)*, 558 B.R. 671, 682 (Bankr.
S.D.N.Y. 2016); *accord McLaughlin*, 2018 WL 4854624, at *14 n.13. “It has
nothing to do with this case.” *McLaughlin*, 2018 WL 4854624, at *14 n.13.

1 circulating notes of Federal reserve banks and national banks) are legal tender for
2 all debts, public charges, taxes, and dues.”); *Legal Tender Status*, U.S. Dep’t of the
3 Treasury (Jan. 4, 2011, 4:47 PM), [https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/faqs/
4 currency/pages/legal-tender.aspx](https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/faqs/currency/pages/legal-tender.aspx). U.S. notes function as national currency and
5 circulate in the same way as federal reserve notes. *Legal Tender Status, supra*.
6 Unlike federal reserve notes, U.S. notes were redeemable in gold until the United
7 States abandoned the gold standard in 1933. *Id.* Since then, U.S. notes have served
8 essentially the same purpose, and have had the same value, as federal reserve notes.
9 *Id.* “Because United States Notes serve no function that is not already adequately
10 served by Federal Reserve Notes, their issuance was discontinued, and none have
11 been placed in to circulation since January 21, 1971.” *Id.*

12 U.S. notes “are obligations of the United States.” *Bank v. Supervisors*, 74
13 U.S. (7 Wall.) 26, 30 (1868); *Legal Tender Status, supra*. U.S. notes “were intended
14 to circulate as money, and, with [other] notes, to constitute the credit currency of
15 the country.” *Bank*, 74 U.S. (7 Wall.) at 30. In describing the then short history of
16 U.S. notes, the Supreme Court stated “[t]his currency, issued directly by the
17 government for the disbursement of the war and other expenditures, could not,
18 obviously, be a proper object of taxation.” *Veazie Bank v. Fenno*, 75 U.S. (8 Wall.)
19 533, 538 (1869). But in the next sentence, the Court noted this tax exemption
20 changed the year after Congress created U.S. notes. *See id.* at 537–38. Specifically,

1 the Court observed that when Congress established national banking associations,
2 it again “recognized the expediency and duty of imposing a tax upon currency,” and
3 taxed the circulation of U.S. notes accordingly. *Id.* (footnote omitted) (citing Act of
4 Feb. 23, 1863, ch. 58, § 19, 12 Stat. 665, 670).

5 Of course, considering their function as national currency, Congress once
6 exempted U.S. notes from state or municipal taxation. *Bank*, 74 U.S. (7 Wall.) at
7 31; *Mitchell v. Bd. of Comm’rs*, 91 U.S. (1 Otto) 206, 208 (1875). But the Supreme
8 Court expressly condemned the practice of converting assets to U.S. notes to avoid
9 state or municipal taxation. *Shotwell v. Moore*, 129 U.S. 590, 596–97 (1889);
10 *Mitchell*, 91 U.S. (1 Otto) at 208. Indeed, “the courts look upon this transaction as
11 indefensible, and consider it an improper evasion of the duty of the citizen to pay
12 his share of the taxes necessary to support the government which is justly due on
13 his property.” *Shotwell*, 129 U.S. at 597.

14 Ultimately, Schlabach’s position is another variation of the argument that
15 wages are not income, which the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly rejected. *Carter v.*
16 *Comm’r*, 784 F.2d 1006, 1009 (9th Cir. 1986). The United States imposes a tax on
17 every person’s “taxable income.” I.R.C. § 1. Taxable income is “gross income”
18 minus allowable deductions. I.R.C. § 63(a). Gross income is “all income from
19 whatever source derived.” I.R.C. § 61(a). Congress intended to “tax all gains except
20 those specifically exempted.” *Comm’r v. Glenshaw Glass Co.*, 348 U.S. 426, 430

1 (1955). Hence, “wages are income.” *Wilcox v. Comm’r*, 848 F.2d 1007, 1008 (9th
2 Cir. 1988). Wages are “all remuneration . . . for services performed by an employee
3 for his employer, including the cash value of all remuneration . . . paid in any
4 medium other than cash.” I.R.C. § 3401(a); *accord* I.R.C. § 3121(a) (defining wages
5 as “all remuneration for employment”).

6 The IRS has identified positions like Schlabach’s as frivolous. For example,
7 the IRS has identified as frivolous the position that “Federal Reserve Notes Are Not
8 Legal Tender.” IRM exhibit 25.25.10-1.z (2018), [https://www.irs.gov/irm/part25/
9 irm_25-025-010r#idm139738672161184](https://www.irs.gov/irm/part25/irm_25-025-010r#idm139738672161184). As the IRS explains, people who take
10 this position generally argue “their wages are not taxable because they were paid in
11 federal reserve notes” and “notes are not valid currency or legal tender and, thus,
12 those who possess them cannot be subject to a tax on them.”⁴ *Id.*

13 Schlabach argues the IRS either failed to provide him a reason or provided a
14 false reason⁵ for the frivolous filing penalty. Schlabach claims the IRS determined
15 the position he took in his tax return fit “argument code 30,” which, according to
16

17 ⁴ To be sure, Schlabach concedes federal reserve notes are taxable. But his argument
18 that U.S. notes are not taxable is markedly similar to the frivolous position the IRS
has already identified.

19 ⁵ Schlabach alleges “[t]he IRS and its agent ‘B’ is believed to have deliberately
20 assigned an inapplicable argument code to allow for the continuous issuance of a
\$5000.00 penalty.” ECF No. 1 at 5. This speculative, conclusory statement does not
suffice to state a facially plausible claim for relief because it establishes no more
than a mere possibility of liability. *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.

1 his internet research, means “Non-negotiable Chargeback.” ECF No. 1 at 4–5, 12–
2 14. Schlabach argues argument code 30 is inapplicable to his tax return. Notably,
3 the IRS record Schlabach references applies only to the frivolous filing penalty for
4 tax year 2009. As discussed above, the Court lacks jurisdiction over Schlabach’s
5 refund claim for that year.

6 But assuming, as Schlabach does, that the IRS made the same determination
7 for tax year 2013, the IRS had a rational basis for concluding the position he took in
8 his tax return was a frivolous chargeback argument. The IRS record contains the
9 phrase “redeemed in lawful [indecipherable],” *id.* at 12, which is an apparent
10 reference to Schlabach’s practice of stamping “*Redeemed in Lawful Money*
11 *pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 411*” on the endorsement line of his paychecks, *id.* at 1. The
12 chargeback argument arises when “[t]he filer attempts to sell his/her birthright back
13 to the government for a large dollar amount and requests that a ‘Treasury Direct
14 Account’ be set up to hold the money.” IRM exhibit 25.25.10-1.ad, *supra*. The
15 chargeback argument is “based on taxpayers’ claim that they have been ‘removed’
16 or ‘redeemed’ from the United States tax system” and usually involves “send[ing]
17 various documents to the government detailing the fictitious location of funds
18 relating to charging back debts owed to the government.” 1 Laurence F. Casey,
19 *Casey Federal Tax Practice* § 3:08.55 (2018 update).

20 Schlabach’s argument begins with the correct premise that currency is a

1 redeemable obligation of the United States. But from there, Schlabach distorts
2 matters by apparently claiming the United States' obligation to redeem currency
3 automatically offsets his tax obligation to the United States. In this way, Schlabach
4 makes a kind of chargeback argument, which the IRS has identified as frivolous.
5 Even if the IRS had mislabeled the position Schlabach took in his tax return, his
6 conduct nonetheless reflects a desire to delay or impede tax administration. *See*
7 *Shotwell*, 129 U.S. at 597 (describing analogous behavior as “indefensible” and “an
8 improper evasion of the duty of the citizen to pay his share of the taxes necessary
9 to support the government which is justly due on his property”).

10 Finally, Schlabach argues the frivolous filing penalty does not apply to him
11 because he acted in good faith. ECF No. 1 at 6. Schlabach is incorrect. “If a
12 purported return reflects a position that the IRS has identified as ‘frivolous,’ the
13 taxpayer’s good-faith belief in the correctness of his position cannot serve as a
14 defense to the [frivolous filing] penalty.” *Whitaker v. Comm’r*, 114 T.C.M. (CCH)
15 377 (2017) (citing *Hudson v. United States*, 766 F.2d 1288, 1291 (9th Cir. 1985)).

16 In sum, Schlabach fails to state a facially plausible refund claim for tax year
17 2013. In his tax return, Schlabach took a position that the IRS had identified as
18 frivolous and that reflected his desire to delay or impede tax administration. *See*
19 I.R.C. § 6702(a). Schlabach’s arguments to the contrary are meritless. Thus,
20 Schlabach’s allegations do not permit a reasonable inference of liability. Indeed, it

1 appears beyond doubt that Schlabach can prove no set of facts in support of his
2 refund claim that would entitle him to relief. Schlabach cannot cure this deficiency
3 by amending his complaint. Therefore, the Court dismisses Schlabach’s complaint
4 without leave to amend it. *See Schlabach*, 2013 WL 1619829, at *3–4.

5 The Court denies Schlabach’s request for a hearing because it is unnecessary
6 to resolve the United States’ motion. The Court denies Schlabach’s request for
7 perjury charges against the IRS because it is beyond the Court’s authority to
8 consider. *See United States v. Batchelder*, 442 U.S. 114, 124 (1979) (“Whether to
9 prosecute and what charge to file or bring . . . are decisions that generally rest in the
10 prosecutor’s discretion.”).

11 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

12 **1.** The Clerk’s Office is directed to **AMEND THE CASE CAPTION** to
13 read as follows:

14 “JOHN SCHLABACH,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

17 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and its agents,

18 Defendant.”

19 **2.** The United States’ Motion to Dismiss, **ECF No. 9**, is **GRANTED**.

20 **3.** All claims are **DISMISSED**, with all parties to bear their own costs

1 and attorneys' fees. Schlabach's 2009, 2010, and 2012 claims are
2 dismissed **WITHOUT PREJUDICE**. Schlabach's 2013 claim is
3 dismissed **WITH PREJUDICE**.

4 **4.** All pending motions are **DENIED AS MOOT**.

5 **5.** All hearings and other deadlines are **STRICKEN**.

6 **6.** The Clerk's Office is directed to **CLOSE** this file.

7 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The Clerk's Office is directed to enter this Order and
8 provide copies to all counsel and *pro se* Plaintiff.

9 **DATED** this 24th day of October 2018.

10 
11 SALVADOR MENDOZA, JR.
12 United States District Judge