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U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

<p>ROBERT HACKWORTH, Jr.,</p> <p>Plaintiff - Appellant,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>H. GERMAN, Correctional Officer; et al.,</p> <p>Defendants - Appellees.</p>
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No. 10-16962

D.C. No. 1:06-cv-00772-LJO-DLB

MEMORANDUM\*

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of California  
Lawrence J. O’Neill, District Judge, Presiding

Submitted February 21, 2012\*\*

Before: FERNANDEZ, McKEOWN, and BYBEE, Circuit Judges.

Robert Hackworth, Jr., a California state prisoner, appeals pro se from the district court’s summary judgment and judgment following a jury verdict in his 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action alleging excessive force and due process violations. We have

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\* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

\*\* The panel unanimously concludes this case is suitable for decision without oral argument. See Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).

jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291. We review de novo the district court's grant of summary judgment, *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1044 (9th Cir. 1989), and for an abuse of discretion its supervision of jury trials, *Price v. Kramer*, 200 F.3d 1237, 1252 (9th Cir. 2000). We affirm.

The district court properly granted summary judgment on Hackworth's due process claim because Hackworth failed to raise a genuine dispute of material fact as to whether he suffered any deprivation of a liberty interest. *See Sandin v. Conner*, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995); *see also Taylor*, 880 F.2d at 1045 (unsupported conclusory allegations insufficient to defeat summary judgment).

Contrary to Hackworth's contentions, the district court judge did not abuse its broad discretion in supervising the jury trial. *See Prince*, 200 F.3d at 1252 ("A judge's participation during trial warrants reversal only if the record shows actual bias or leaves an abiding impression that the jury perceived an appearance of advocacy or partiality." (citation and internal quotation marks omitted)); *see also Anheuser-Busch, Inc. v. Natural Beverage Distribs.*, 69 F.3d 337, 346 (9th Cir. 1995) ("[T]he trial court is in a superior position to gauge the prejudicial impact of counsel's conduct during the trial.").

Hackworth's remaining contentions are unpersuasive.

We do not consider matters not specifically and distinctly raised and argued

in the opening brief. *See Padgett v. Wright*, 587 F.3d 983, 985 n.2 (9th Cir. 2009)  
(per curiam).

**AFFIRMED.**