

1 **Rule 20. Permissive joinder of parties.**

2 **(a) Permissive joinder.** All persons may join in one action as plaintiffs if they assert any
3 right to relief jointly, severally, or in the alternative in respect of or arising out of the same
4 transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences and if any question of law
5 or fact common to all of them will arise in the action, so long as the court has jurisdiction
6 over their claims. All persons may be joined in one action as defendants if there is asserted
7 against them jointly, severally, or in the alternative, any right to relief in respect of or
8 arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences
9 and if any question of law or fact common to all of them will arise in the action. A plaintiff
10 or defendant need not be interested in obtaining or defending against all the relief
11 demanded. Judgment may be given for one or more of the plaintiffs according to their
12 respective rights to relief, and against one or more defendants according to their
13 respective liabilities.

14 **(b) Separate trials.** The court may make such orders as will prevent a party from being
15 embarrassed, delayed, or put to expense by the inclusion of a party against whom the
16 original party asserts no claim and who asserts no claim against the party to be included,
17 and the court may order separate trials or make other orders to prevent delay or
18 prejudice.