

LOUISIANA COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT

**Harvey Fuel Company, LLC and Harvey Gulf International Marine,
LLC v. Weston and Associates, LLC, Sur-Seal Liners, and CST
Industries, LLC**

Harvey Fuel · No. 2025 CW 1285 · Decided April 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The Louisiana Court of Appeal, First Circuit, granted supervisory writs and denied an exception of improper venue. The court held that CST Industries failed to prove improper venue because it introduced no competent evidence, including the sales agreement containing the forum-selection clause, at the hearing.

OPINION

Harvey Fuel Company, LLC v. Weston and Associates, LLC, Sur-Seal Liners and CST Industries, LLC

PER CURIAM.

STATE OF LOUISIANA

COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT

HARVEY FUEL COMPANY, LLC AND NO. 2025 CW 1285

HARVEY GULF INTERNATIONAL

MARINE, LLC

VERSUS

WESTON AND ASSOCIATES, LLC,

SUR-SEAL LINERS, AND CST

INDUSTRIES, LLC APRIL 8, 2026

In Re: Harvey Fuel Company and Harvey Gulf International Marine, LLC, applying for supervisory writs, 17th Judicial District Court, Parish of Lafourche, No. 150777. BEFORE: McCLENDON, C.J., GREENE, AND STROMBERG, JJ. WRIT GRANTED. Generally, for purposes of a venue exception, the allegations of the plaintiff's petition are taken as true. *Alost v. Lawler*, 2018-1271 (La. App. 1st Cir. 5/8/19), 277 So.3d 329, 335. However, when evidence is introduced at the hearing on the exception, the court is not bound to accept the petition's allegations as true. *Id.* at 334. As the exceptor urging the declinatory exception of improper venue, CST Industries, Inc. bore the burden of proving that venue in the 17th Judicial District Court was improper. CST failed to meet that burden. It did not introduce any evidence at the March 12, 2025 hearing, including the Sales Agreement containing the forum selection clause on which it relied.

Although the district court appears to have considered documents attached to memoranda, “[d]ocuments attached to memoranda do not constitute evidence and cannot be considered as such on appeal.” *Allost*, 277 So.3d at 334 n.4 (quoting *Denoux v. Vessel Mgmt. Servs., Inc.*, 2007-2143 (ha. 5/21/08), 983 So.2d 84, 88). See also *Bailey v. Loewe*, 2019-0915 (La. App. Ist Cir. 8/3/20), 310 So.3d 746, 748. In the absence of competent evidence establishing improper venue, and accepting the petition’s allegations as true, the district court erred in sustaining the exception. Accordingly, the exception of improper venue is denied. PMc HG

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“COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT

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LERK OF COURT

OR THE COURT