

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

SRP Environmental, LLC v. Claremont Property Co.

SRP Environmental · No. 5:23-cv-01475 · Decided March 23, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana denied three motions to strike evidence submitted in connection with SRP Environmental, LLC’s motion for partial summary judgment. The court held that the challenged affidavits and reply exhibits were not subject to striking under Rule 12(f), emphasizing that motions to strike are disfavored and that factual and evidentiary disputes should generally be resolved on the merits.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	S. Maurice Hicks, Jr.
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana
DECIDED	March 23, 2026
DOCKET	5:23-cv-01475
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court considered three motions to strike evidence submitted in connection with SRP Environmental, LLC's motion for partial summary judgment seeking dismissal of Claremont Property Co.'s counterclaims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Motions to strike under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f) are disfavored and should be granted sparingly, generally only when the challenged material has no possible relation to the controversy. Disputed factual questions and substantial legal questions ordinarily should not be resolved on a motion to strike. Affidavits opposing summary judgment must comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- summary judgment
- evidence
- authentication
- hearsay
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

evidence

construction law

contracts

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the affidavit of former Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors Executive Director Michael McDuff should be stricken as irrelevant, unauthenticated, hearsay, or not based on personal knowledge.
2. Whether portions of Claremont President Keeley Megarity's affidavit should be stricken for lack of personal knowledge or evidentiary support.
3. Whether exhibits attached to SRP's reply memorandum should be stricken because they were allegedly improper new evidence submitted at the reply stage.

HOLDINGS

1. The McDuff affidavit was not stricken because McDuff had relevant knowledge based on his service as Executive Director of the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors when he executed the affidavit and when the relevant work authorizations were entered.
2. The challenged portions of Megarity's affidavit were not stricken because the affidavit demonstrated personal knowledge and the scope of work performed was a disputed factual question inappropriate for resolution on a motion to strike.
3. The exhibits attached to SRP's reply were not stricken because the court determined that the evidence fell within the category of rebuttal or impeachment evidence and was within the court's discretion to consider.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"Motions to strike are disfavored and infrequently granted." (Section I)

"The motion to strike should be granted only when the pleading to be stricken has no possible relation to the controversy." (Section I)

"IT IS ORDERED that the Motions to Strike (Record Documents 105, 106, & 112) be and are hereby DENIED." (Conclusion)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The dispute concerns water mitigation and dewatering work performed on three Louisiana projects: Lighthouse Harbor Condominiums, Lake Condominiums, and City Place Townhomes. SRP alleged it was not fully paid for the work, while Claremont contended that SRP improperly and excessively overbilled, causing property owners' insurers to reject SRP's bills. The challenged evidence addressed whether Claremont was required to hold a Louisiana contractor's license, the scope of work performed, and evidence submitted with SRP's reply.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

SRP moved for partial summary judgment on Claremont's counterclaims. Claremont submitted affidavits and other evidence in opposition. SRP moved to strike the affidavit of Michael McDuff and portions of Keeley Megarity's affidavit, while Claremont moved to strike exhibits attached to SRP's reply memorandum. The district court denied all three motions to strike.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- U.S. v. Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., 275 F. Supp. 2d 763, 767 (N.D. Tex. 2002)
- Augustus v. Board of Public Instruction of Escambia County, Florida, 306 F.2d 862, 868 (5th Cir. 1962)
- Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co., LLC v. Exxon Mobil Corp., No. 2:09CV01100, 2009 WL 4716090, *1-*2 (W.D. La. Dec. 9, 2009)
- Lopez v. City of San Antonio, No. SA-08-CA-089-FB, 2009 WL 10680831, *3 (W.D. Tex. Aug. 24, 2009), *aff'd*, 435 F. App'x 401 (5th Cir. 2011)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA SHREVEPORT
DIVISION SRP ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-1475 VERSUS JUDGE S.
MAURICE HICKS, JR. CLAREMONT PROPERTY CO. MAGISTRATE JUDGE HORNSBY
MEMORANDUM RULING Before the Court are three Motions to Strike (Record Documents
105, 106, & 112).

The motions relate to evidence offered in connection with Plaintiff SRP Environmental, LLC's ("SRP") Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Record Document 95). In its Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, SRP seeks dismissal of Defendant Claremont Property Company's ("Claremont") counterclaims. SRP argues that because Claremont was not a licensed contractor in the State of Louisiana at the time it contracted with three property owners, all of the contracts are void ab initio and are absolute nullities.

See Record Document 95. Thus, SRP submits that Claremont has no right to collect the damages it seeks under its counterclaims for breach of contract, bad faith breach of contract/breach of duty of good faith and fair dealing, detrimental reliance, and fraud. See *id.* In response, Claremont argues its counterclaims arise out of other separate agreements and/or prior course of conduct and dealings.

See Record Document 104. Additionally, Claremont submits that it was not required under Louisiana law to have a contractor's license for the limited water mitigation and dewatering related work that was performed. See *id.* BACKGROUND SRP alleges that it was not fully paid

for certain water mitigation and/or dewatering related work on the three projects: Lighthouse Harbor Condominiums, Lake Condominiums, and City Place Townhomes.

Claremont contends that SRP improperly and excessively overbilled for the water mitigation and/or dewatering related work, which resulted in the property owners' insurance companies rejecting SRP's bills and/or invoices for such work. Again, the instant Motions to Strike relate to evidence offered in connection with SRP's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Record Document 95) seeking the dismissal of Claremont's counterclaims.

LAW AND ANALYSIS I. Motions to Strike Motions to strike are governed by Rule 12(f), which authorizes a court to "order stricken from any pleading any insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter." FED.R.CIV.P. 12(f). "Motions to strike are disfavored and infrequently granted." U.S. v. Cushman & Wakefield, Inc., 275 F.Supp.2d 763, 767 (N.D.Tex.2002) (citing *Augustus v. Board of Public Instruction of Escambia County, Florida*, 306 F.2d 862, 868 (5th Cir.1962)).

The Fifth Circuit has reasoned: Partly because of the practical difficulty of deciding cases without a factual record it is well established that the action of striking a pleading should be sparingly used by the courts.... It is a drastic remedy to be resorted to only when required for the purpose of justice....

The motion to strike should be granted only when the pleading to be stricken has no possible relation to the controversy. *Augustus*, 306 F.2d at 868. "A disputed question of fact cannot be decided on motion to strike," and, "... when there is no showing of prejudicial harm to the moving party, the courts generally are not willing to determine disputed and substantial questions of law upon a motion to strike." *Id.* When questions of fact or law are present, the court should "... defer action on the motion and leave the sufficiency of the allegations for determination on the merits." *Id.* II.

SRP's Motion to Strike Affidavit of Michael McDuff (Record Document 105) In response to SRP's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, Claremont submitted the Affidavit of Michael B. McDuff (McDuff"). See Record Document 104-11.

The affidavit was executed on February 1, 2022, in connection with another Western District of Louisiana case, *RACM, LLC d/b/a ServPro of Saginaw v. Glad Tidings Assembly of God Church of Lake Charles*, 2:21-CV-3580. At the time he executed the affidavit, McDuff was the Executive Director for the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors ("LSLBC"). See Record Document 104-11 at 1.

SRP moves to strike the McDuff affidavit under Rule 12(f), arguing it is irrelevant because it is related to another case. See Record Document 105-1 at 1. Additionally, SRP submits it is not based upon personal knowledge, contains no facts pertinent to the instant litigation, cannot be

authenticated, and contains inadmissible hearsay. See *id.* SRP contends McDuff has no personal knowledge because he is no longer the Executive Director of the LSLBC and the affidavit is wholly unrelated to the instant case.

SRP cites *Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co., LLC v. Exxon Mobil Corp.*, No. 2:09CV01100, 2009 WL 4716090 (W.D.La. Dec. 9, 2009), in support of its Motion to Strike. In *Sweet Lake Land & Oil Co.*, Exxon filed a Rule 12(b)(6) motion and attached an affidavit by the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”). 2009 WL 4716090, *1. Exxon asked the court to take judicial notice of the affidavit as a public record.

See *id.* Sweet Lake argued the affidavit was irrelevant, not authentic, not a DEQ public record, and an improper attempt to use evidence to influence a Rule 12(b)(6) ruling. See *id.* at *2. The district court reasoned: The court agrees with Sweet Lake that the subject of [the] affidavit, DEQ’s policy that predates Act 312, *supra*, which removed groundwater contaminated by oilfield operations from the DEQ’s jurisdiction, is irrelevant to this proceeding.

Exxon has not proven authenticity of the affidavit, nor have they established that this affidavit is a record of the DEQ. Accordingly, the court will not consider the... affidavit when considering the Rule 12(b)(6) motion. *Id.* Conversely, Claremont maintains that the McDuff affidavit is properly authenticated, relevant, and admissible to oppose a motion for summary judgment.

See Record Document 113 at 6-9. While McDuff is no longer LSLBC’s Executive Director, he was serving in that capacity at the time he executed the affidavit in February 2022 and at the time the Work Authorizations at issue in this case were entered into, that is, in August and September 2021. See *id.* at 6. Additionally, Claremont distinguishes Sweet Lake Land, noting the affidavit at issue in that case was offered in support of a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, not a Rule 56 motion.

See *id.* at 9-10. Claremont submits that the statements in the McDuff affidavit will be admissible at trial. See *id.* at 10. Claremont further argues that the certified copy of the McDuff affidavit is self-authenticating on multiple grounds under the Federal Rules of Evidence because it is domestic public document under Rule 902(2), a certified copy of a public record under Rule 902(4), and acknowledged notarized documents under Rule 902(8).

See *id.* at 10, n. 5. Pursuant to Rule 56, “affidavits in support of motions for and oppositions to summary judgment must be made on personal knowledge, set out facts that would be admissible in evidence, and show that the affiant is competent to testify on the matters stated.” *Lopez v. City of San Antonio*, No. SA-08-CA-089-FB, 2009 WL 10680831, *3 (W.D. Tex. Aug.

24, 2009), *aff’d*, 435 F. App’x 401 (5th Cir. 2011). “Rule 56 does not expressly prohibit sworn affidavits or other evidence initially obtained in other litigation from being used in another case to support or oppose a motion for summary judgment.” *Id.* Other than Sweet Lake, SRP has not cited any authority to support its position with respect to the McDuff affidavit.

Moreover, this Court believes that Sweet Lake is distinguishable, partially because it was decided in the context of a Rule 12(b)(6) motion and not a Rule 56 motion. It is undisputed that McDuff is no longer the Executive Director of LSLBC.

However, at the time he executed the affidavit and at the time the Work Authorizations at issue in this case were entered into, he was the Executive Director of LSLBC and was a person with knowledge of matters relevant to the issues in this lawsuit, namely whether a company such as Claremont was required to have a Louisiana contractor's license in light of the scope of work under the Work Authorizations.

For these reasons, SRP's Motion to Strike Affidavit of Michael McDuff (Record Document 105) is DENIED. III. SRP's Motion to Strike Certain Portions of the Affidavit of Keeley Megarity (Record Document 106) Keeley Megarity ("Megarity") has been the President of Claremont since 1995. See Record Document 104-1 at ¶ 2. He has also been a contractor for almost thirty (30) years.

See *id.* Claremont attached an affidavit from Megarity to its response to SRP's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment. SRP now moves to strike portions of paragraphs 11, 19, and 26 and the statements in paragraphs 14, 15, 22, 23, 29, and 30 of the Megarity affidavit. See Record Document 106. SRP submits that portions of paragraphs 11, 19, and 26 contain statements not based on personal knowledge and lack evidentiary support.

The challenged portions state in regard to the three projects that "the actual services provided by Claremont and its subcontractors were limited to water mitigation and de-watering related work." Record Document 104-1 at ¶¶ 11, 19, & 26. SRP submits that Megarity lacks personal knowledge to make these statements. Additionally, SRP contends that such statements are in direct contravention to purported undisputed record evidence supposedly demonstrating that the work went far beyond dewatering.

SRP maintains that all of the challenged paragraphs contain conclusory and unsupported allegations. Here, the Court finds Megarity's affidavit demonstrates he has personal knowledge of and direct experience relating to the work Claremont performed on the projects. Additionally, the scope of the work and/or the actual work performed is a factual question that should not be decided on a motion to strike.

See *Augustus*, 306 F.2d at 868 ("[W]hen there is no showing of prejudicial harm to the moving party, the courts generally are not willing to determine disputed and substantial questions of law upon a motion to strike.").

For these reasons, SRP's Motion to Strike Certain Portions of the Affidavit of Keeley Megarity (Record Document 106) is DENIED. IV. Claremont's Motion to Strike Exhibits to Plaintiff's [Motion for Partial Summary Judgment] and Reply Memorandum (Record Document 112)

Claremont asks the Court to strike 62 pages of new exhibits/evidence it believes were improperly attached to SRP's reply memorandum.

See Record Document 112-1 at 5-6. Claremont contends these new evidentiary materials are not permitted at the reply stage and it has been deprived of any opportunity to respond. Alternatively, Claremont seeks the opportunity to respond to the additional material. See *id.* At the outset, the Court notes that there has been extensive briefing in this case relating to all of the pending dispositive motions.

Specifically as to SRP's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, the parties filed a motion, response, and reply followed by a supplemental memorandum in support, supplemental response, and supplemental reply. See Record Documents 95, 104, 107, 125, 126, & 158. Claremont's supplemental response was filed on October 31, 2025, well after the instant August 2025 motion alleging it had been deprived of any opportunity to respond.

Additionally, the Court believes the evidence attached to SRP's reply falls within the category of rebuttal and/or impeachment and the Court is within its discretion to consider such evidence. For these reasons, Claremont's Motion to Strike Exhibits to Plaintiff's [Motion for Partial Summary Judgment] and Reply Memorandum (Record Document 112) is DENIED. CONCLUSION Based on the foregoing analysis, the Court finds that the arguments presented in the Motions to Strike (Record Documents 105, 106, & 112), all relating to evidence offered in connection with SRP's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Record Document 95), do not warrant striking the evidence.

Motions to strike are disfavored and infrequently granted and such an extreme remedy is unwarranted in this instance. IT IS ORDERED that the Motions to Strike (Record Documents 105, 106, & 112) be and are hereby DENIED. **THUS DONE AND SIGNED**, in Shreveport, Louisiana, this 23rd day of March, 2026. UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT