

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA

Edward Raymond v. LSM Trading USA, LLC, et al.

Raymond · No. 25-cv-20764-ALTMAN · Decided February 3, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida granted the defendants’ motion to dismiss Edward Raymond’s amended complaint, which asserted claims arising from alleged unpaid employment compensation, disrupted business transactions, and defamatory statements. The court held that Raymond failed to establish personal jurisdiction over the nonresident defendants and failed to adequately plead the citizenship of the members of an LLC for diversity jurisdiction. The dismissal was without prejudice, and Raymond was granted leave to file a second amended complaint by February 16, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Roy K. Altman
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida
DECIDED	February 3, 2026
DOCKET	25-cv-20764-ALTMAN
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff proceeding pro se filed an amended complaint asserting defamation, fraudulent inducement, breach of contract, tortious interference, unjust enrichment, and civil fraud. Defendants moved to dismiss under Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(6), challenging personal jurisdiction, subject-matter jurisdiction, and the sufficiency of the pleading.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true and views them in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, but the complaint must state a plausible claim for relief. For a facial Rule 12(b)(1) challenge, the court determines whether the complaint sufficiently alleges a basis for subject-matter jurisdiction and takes those allegations as true. Personal jurisdiction requires satisfaction of Florida's long-arm statute and the Due Process Clause.

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the plaintiff adequately alleged personal jurisdiction over the nonresident defendants under Florida's long-arm statute and the Due Process Clause.
2. Whether the plaintiff adequately pleaded the citizenship of the members of defendant LSM Trading USA LLC to establish complete diversity.
3. Whether the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 for purposes of diversity jurisdiction.
4. Whether the amended complaint stated plausible claims for relief under Rule 12(b)(6).

HOLDINGS

1. The plaintiff failed to establish personal jurisdiction because he did not allege facts showing that defendants engaged in service activities in Florida, that qualifying products were used or consumed in Florida, or that the alleged tortious conduct occurred in Florida.
2. The plaintiff failed to establish specific personal jurisdiction because he did not allege that defendants had purposeful minimum contacts with Florida from which his claims arose or to which they related.
3. The plaintiff failed to establish complete diversity as to LSM Trading USA LLC because he did not identify the citizenship of each member of the LLC.
4. The plaintiff adequately alleged an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000.
5. The amended complaint was dismissed because it did not adequately plead the jurisdictional facts necessary for the court to adjudicate the asserted claims, and any deficiency in the substantive claims could not be cured by conclusory allegations or new allegations in the response.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To survive a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6), “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’””

“Simply put, Raymond hasn’t pled any facts showing that it would be appropriate for us to exercise jurisdiction over these nonresident defendants.”

“Because Raymond hasn’t shown that he and Raymond Trading USA LLC are completely diverse—and since he doesn’t invoke our federal-question jurisdiction—we cannot exercise jurisdiction over his claims against LSM Trading USA LLC.”

“The Plaintiff may, if he chooses, file a second amended complaint that corrects the deficiencies we’ve identified in this Order by February 16, 2026.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Raymond alleged that Linda Margon recruited him to work for LSM Trading USA LLC and LSM Trading Pty Ltd. in several executive and legal capacities without compensation, based on promises of annual compensation and commissions. He claimed that he arranged potential gold and sugar transactions, but the defendants sabotaged or failed to close those transactions. He also alleged that defendants falsely accused him of unauthorized activity and made defamatory statements about his compensation, negligence, and association with scammers. The complaint alleged that LSM Trading USA LLC conducted business in Florida and that LSM Trading Pty Ltd. operated globally, including in Florida, but did not provide specific facts tying Florida contacts to Raymond's claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Raymond filed an amended complaint after the court granted leave to amend. Defendants moved to dismiss. The court granted the motion, dismissed the amended complaint without prejudice, and allowed Raymond to file a second amended complaint by February 16, 2026, correcting the identified jurisdictional and pleading deficiencies.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555–56, 570 (2007)
- Rivell v. Private Health Care Sys., Inc., 520 F.3d 1308, 1309–10 (11th Cir. 2008)
- Dusek v. JPMorgan Chase & Co., 832 F.3d 1243, 1246 (11th Cir. 2016)
- Abram-Adams v. Citigroup, Inc., 491 F. App’x 972, 974 (11th Cir. 2012)
- Curtiss v. Comm’r of Soc. Sec., 856 F. App’x 276, 276 (11th Cir. 2021)
- Hanninen v. Fedoravitch, 2009 WL 10668707, at *3 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 26, 2009)
- Republic of Pan. v. BCCI Hldgs. (Lux.) S.A., 119 F.3d 935, 940 (11th Cir. 1997)
- SkyHop Techs., Inc. v. Narra, 58 F.4th 1211, 1228 (11th Cir. 2023)
- Fuld v. Pal. Liberation Org., 606 U.S. 1, 12 (2025)
- Ford Motor Co. v. Mont. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct., 592 U.S. 351, 359 (2021)
- Jekyll Island-State Park Auth. v. Polygroup Macau Ltd., 140 F.4th 1304, 1317 (11th Cir. 2025)
- Del Valle v. Trivago GMBH, 56 F.4th 1265, 1272 (11th Cir. 2022)
- Posner v. Essex Ins. Co., 178 F.3d 1209, 1217–18 (11th Cir. 1999)
- Licciardello v. Lovelady, 544 F.3d 1280, 1283 (11th Cir. 2008)

- *Karnas v. Cuban*, 2025 WL 3759241, at *7 (S.D. Fla. Dec. 30, 2025)
- *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)
- *Sweet Pea Marine, Ltd. v. APJ Marine, Inc.*, 411 F.3d 1242, 1247 (11th Cir. 2005)
- *McCormick v. Aderholt*, 293 F.3d 1254, 1257 (11th Cir. 2002) (per curiam)
- *Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Env't*, 523 U.S. 83, 94 (1998)
- *Univ. of S. Ala. v. Am. Tobacco Co.*, 168 F.3d 405, 410 (11th Cir. 1999)
- *Lawrence v. Dunbar*, 919 F.2d 1525, 1529 (11th Cir. 1990)
- *McElmurray v. Consol. Gov't of Augusta–Richmond Cnty.*, 501 F.3d 1244, 1251 (11th Cir. 2007)
- *Incitatus Real Est., LLC v. Lancelot Miami River, LLC*, 2024 WL 4016441, at *2 (S.D. Fla. Feb. 6, 2024)
- *Stalley ex rel. U.S. v. Orlando Reg'l Healthcare Sys., Inc.*, 524 F.3d 1229, 1232 (11th Cir. 2008)
- *Crotwell v. Hockman-Lewis Ltd.*, 734 F.2d 767, 769 (11th Cir. 1984)
- *Walker v. BP Oil Pipeline Co.*, 2012 WL 13006232, at *1 (S.D. Fla. July 9, 2012)

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