

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Jenna Combel v. Great International Supply Chain Management Co.,
Ltd., et al.

Combel · No. No. 25-1252 · Decided February 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana denied Jenna Combel’s motion under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) to dismiss without prejudice the class action claims and allegations while leaving her individual claims intact. The court held that, under binding Fifth Circuit precedent, Rule 41 does not permit dismissal of individual claims, and noted that the proposed amendment to Rule 41 had not yet been adopted.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sarah S. Vance
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
DECIDED	February 2, 2026
DOCKET	No. 25-1252
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) to dismiss without prejudice the class-action claims and allegations in her complaint while leaving her individual claims intact. The district court denied the motion.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) and binding Fifth Circuit precedent governing voluntary dismissal of claims.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished federal district court order; persuasive rather than precedential outside the court.

TOPICS

- class actions
- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

class actions

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether court approval under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(e) was required for dismissal of the class-action claims before class certification or a proposal for certification for settlement purposes.
2. Whether Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(2) permits a plaintiff to voluntarily dismiss individual claims while leaving other claims in the action intact.

HOLDINGS

1. Court approval under Rule 23(e) was not required because the class had not been certified and had not been proposed for certification for settlement purposes.
2. Rule 41(a) does not permit a plaintiff to dismiss individual claims while leaving other claims intact; therefore, Combel could not dismiss only her class-action claims under Rule 41(a)(2).

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under binding Fifth Circuit precedent, Rule 41 does not allow a plaintiff to dismiss individual claims.”

“This is impermissible under the Fifth Circuit’s Rule 41(a) precedent.”

“The Court therefore DENIES plaintiffs motion to dismiss without prejudice all class action claims.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Combel's complaint asserted both individual and class-action claims. Before any class had been certified or proposed for certification for settlement purposes, Combel sought to dismiss all class-action claims and allegations without prejudice while retaining her individual claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Jenna Combel filed a putative class action in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Before the class was certified or proposed for certification for settlement purposes, she moved to dismiss only the class-action claims and allegations without prejudice. The court denied the motion because Fifth Circuit precedent does not permit a plaintiff to use Rule 41(a) to dismiss individual claims.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Adams v. USAA Casualty Insurance Co., 863 F.3d 1069, 1081-82
- Williams v. Seidenbach, 958 F.3d 341, 344
- Exxon Corp. v. Maryland Cas. Co., 599 F.2d 659, 662

- Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. U.S. Forest Service, 403 F.3d 683, 688
- Johnston v. Cartwright, 355 F.2d 32, 39
- Bragg v. Robertson, 54 F. Supp. 2d 653
- Dirauf v. Berger, 506 F. Supp. 3d 254, 263
- Guzman-Fonalledas v. Hosp. Expanol Auxilio Mutuo, 289 F. Supp. 3d 331, 333

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