

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON**

Sharon L. Stevenson v. Employment Security Dept.

Stevenson · No. 2:26-cv-00022-SAB · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington remanded the case to Spokane County Superior Court because removal is limited to defendants under 28 U.S.C. § 1441 and Ninth Circuit precedent. The court granted the defendant's motion to remand and dismissed the plaintiff's motion for leave to amend as moot.

OPINION

1 FILED IN THE 2 U.S. DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 3 Feb
17, 2026 4 SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK 5 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 7 8 SHARON L. STEVENSON, 9 Plaintiff, No.
2:26-cv-00022-SAB 10 v. 11 EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPT., ORDER OF REMAND 12
Defendant. 13 14 Before the Court are Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Amended 15
Complaint, ECF No. 7, and Defendant's Motion to Remand, ECF No. 9.

Plaintiff is 16 appearing pro se. Defendant is represented by Marya E. Colignon and Nicholas 17
Quijas. The Motions were considered without oral argument. 18 Plaintiff ostensibly removed this
matter from Spokane County Superior 19 Court on January 15, 2026.

However, the Ninth Circuit has explicitly held that the 20 right to remove a state case to federal
court is limited to defendants. *Am. Int'l 21 Underwriters (Philippines), Inc. v. Cont'l Ins. Co.*, 843
F.2d 1253, 1260 (9th Cir. 22 1988); see also 28 U.S.C. § 1441. Section 1441(a) ("any civil action
brought in a 23 State court of which the district courts of the United States have original 24
jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant or the defendants") (emphasis 25 added).

26 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: 27 1. The above-captioned case is REMANDED to
Spokane County 28 Superior Court. 1 2. Defendant's Motion to Remand, ECF No. 9, is
GRANTED. 3. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File Amended Complaint, ECF No. 7, DISMISSED
AS MOOT. IT IS SO ORDERED.

The District Court Executive is hereby directed to 5|| file this Order, provide copies to counsel,
and close the file. DATED this 17th day of February 2026. 10 Chief United States District Judge
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