

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.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
DECIDED	February 17, 2026
DOCKET	2:26-cv-00022-SAB
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff attempted to remove a matter from Spokane County Superior Court to federal court. Defendant moved to remand, and Plaintiff moved for leave to file an amended complaint.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- federalism

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- removal jurisdiction

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether a plaintiff may remove a civil action from state court to federal court.
- Whether Plaintiff's motion for leave to amend should be addressed after the case is remanded.

HOLDINGS

1. A plaintiff may not remove a state-court action to federal court because the federal removal statute limits the right of removal to defendants.
2. Plaintiff's motion for leave to file an amended complaint was dismissed as moot after the case was remanded.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“the right to remove a state case to federal court is limited to defendants.” (at 1)

“any civil action brought in a State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant or the defendants” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The underlying matter originated in Spokane County Superior Court. Sharon L. Stevenson, the plaintiff in the captioned federal proceeding, attempted to remove the state-court matter to federal court on January 15, 2026. Defendant Employment Security Department sought remand, while Stevenson sought leave to amend her complaint.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff ostensibly removed the state-court matter to the Eastern District of Washington on January 15, 2026. The court granted Defendant's motion to remand because removal is limited to defendants, dismissed Plaintiff's motion for leave to amend as moot, directed remand to Spokane County Superior Court, and ordered the federal file closed.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

Remand the case to Spokane County Superior Court. Defendant's motion to remand was granted, Plaintiff's motion for leave to file an amended complaint was dismissed as moot, and the federal file was ordered closed.

CASES CITED

- Am. Int'l Underwriters (Philippines), Inc. v. Cont'l Ins. Co., 843 F.2d 1253, 1260 (9th Cir. 1988)