

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Garment District Holdings LLC v. Chauncy Dennis, et al.

Garment District Holdings · No. CV 25-11677-JFW(SKx) · Decided December 10, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California remanded the action to Los Angeles County Superior Court for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The court held that the state-law unlawful detainer complaint did not present a federal question, and that the removing defendant failed to establish diversity jurisdiction. The court denied the defendant's requests to proceed in forma pauperis and for emergency injunctive relief as moot.

OPINION

Garment District Holdings LLC v. Chauncy Dennis, et al.

PER CURIAM.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CIVIL MINUTES -- GENERAL

Case No. CV 25-11677-JFW(SKx) Date: December 10, 2025 Title: Garment District Holdings LLC -v- Chauncy Dennis, et al. PRESENT:

HONORABLE JOHN F. WALTER, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Shannon Reilly None Present Courtroom Deputy Court Reporter ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR PLAINTIFFS: ATTORNEYS PRESENT FOR DEFENDANTS: None None

PROCEEDINGS (IN CHAMBERS): ORDER REMANDING ACTION TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT;

ORDER DENYING AS MOOT DEFENDANT CHAUNCY

DENNIS'S REQUEST TO PROCEED IN FORMA

PAUPERIS [filed 12/9/25; Docket No. 2]; and

ORDER DENYING AS MOOT DEFENDANT CHAUNCY

DENNIS'S EMERGENCY MOTION FOR TEMPORARY

RESTRAINING ORDER AND ORDER TO SHOW

CAUSE FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION [filed

12/9/25; Docket No. 4] On June 13, 2025, Plaintiff Garment District Holdings, LLC ("Plaintiff") filed a Complaint for Unlawful Detainer against Defendants Chauncy Dennis ("Dennis") and We Don't Do Normal Inc. ("Normal") (collectively, "Defendants") in Los Angeles County Superior Court. On December 9, 2025, Dennis filed a Notice of Removal. Although Dennis did not allege a

basis for the removal, he alleged that enforcement of the “state court judgment and writ would violate [his] federal due process rights.” Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction, having subject matter jurisdiction only over matters authorized by the Constitution and Congress. See *Bender v. Williamsport Area School District*, 475 U.S. 534, 541 (1986). “Because of the Congressional purpose to restrict the jurisdiction of the federal courts on removal, the statute is strictly construed, and federal jurisdiction must be rejected if there is any doubt as to the right of removal in the first instance.” *Duncan v. Stuetzle*, 76 F.3d 1480, 1485 (9th Cir. 1996) (citations and quotations omitted). There is a strong presumption that the Court is without jurisdiction unless the contrary affirmatively appears. See *Fifty Associates v. Prudential Insurance Company of America*, 446 F.2d 1187, 1190 (9th Cir. 1990). As the party invoking federal jurisdiction, Dennis bears the burden of demonstrating that removal is proper. See, e.g., *Gaus v. Miles*, 980 F.2d 564, 566 (9th Cir. 1992); *Emrich v. Touche Ross & Co.*, 846 F.2d 1190, 1195 (9th Cir. 1988). Dennis has failed to meet his burden of demonstrating that removal is proper. Plaintiff’s Complaint alleges a claim for unlawful detainer under state law. “An unlawful detainer action does not raise a question arising under federal law and so, once removed, must be remanded for lack of jurisdiction.” *Cooper v. Washington Mut. Bank*, 2003 WL 1563999, *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 19, 2003) (internal citation omitted). In addition, “[f]ederal courts have consistently rejected attempts to premise federal subject matter jurisdiction on the 90-day notice provision provided in the [Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act].” *Lender Servicing LLC v. Shokoor*, 2012 WL 2934996, at *4 (E.D. Cal. July 18, 2012). Moreover, to the extent that Dennis alleges there are defenses based on federal law, “the existence of federal jurisdiction depends solely on the plaintiff’s claims for relief and not on anticipated defenses to those claims.” *ARCO Env’t Remediation, L.L.C. v. Dept. of Health and Env’t Quality*, 213 F.3d 1108, 1113 (9th Cir. 2000). As a result, there is no federal question jurisdiction presented by Plaintiff’s action. Finally, Dennis has failed to allege the citizenship of the parties or the amount in controversy and, as a result, Dennis has failed to demonstrate that diversity jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. §1332. For all the foregoing reasons, this Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this action. Accordingly, this action is REMANDED to Los Angeles County Superior Court for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. See 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c). In light of the Court remanding this action, Dennis’s Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Order to Show Cause for Preliminary Injunction (Docket No. 4) and Request to Proceed In Forma Pauperis (Docket No. 2) are DENIED as moot. IT IS SO ORDERED.