

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

Melvin Morales v. BAH Logistics LLC, et al.

Morales v. BAH Logistics LLC, Civil No. 25-1106 (FAB) (D.P.R. Mar. 18, 2026) · No. Civil No. 25-1106 (FAB)
· Decided March 18, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico reviewed objections to a magistrate judge’s report and recommendation concerning personal jurisdiction over BAH Logistics LLC in a negligence action involving a damaged concrete pump truck. The court agreed that Puerto Rico lacked personal jurisdiction over BAH and denied jurisdictional discovery, but concluded that dismissal was not in the interest of justice. The court transferred the case to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida under 28 U.S.C. § 1631.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Francisco A. Besosa, Senior United States District Judge
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
DECIDED	March 18, 2026
DOCKET	Civil No. 25-1106 (FAB)
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff objected to a magistrate judge's Report and Recommendation recommending dismissal of the negligence action for lack of personal jurisdiction over BAH Logistics LLC. The district court conducted de novo review of the objected-to portions, adopted the jurisdictional findings, rejected dismissal, and transferred the case to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court reviewed the objected-to portions of the Report and Recommendation de novo under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). For the personal-jurisdiction motion, because no evidentiary hearing was held, the prima facie standard applied. Under that standard, the plaintiff had to proffer evidence sufficient to support facts essential to personal jurisdiction and could not rely on unsupported allegations.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the District of Puerto Rico had general or specific personal jurisdiction over BAH Logistics LLC.
2. Whether Morales was entitled to limited jurisdictional discovery.
3. Whether the action should be transferred to the Middle District of Florida under 28 U.S.C. § 1631 rather than dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction.

HOLDINGS

1. The District of Puerto Rico lacked general personal jurisdiction over BAH because BAH was not essentially at home in Puerto Rico, and Morales did not object to that finding.
2. Morales failed to establish that his negligence claim arose out of or related to BAH's contacts with Puerto Rico.
3. BAH's single shipping contract with Morales did not constitute purposeful availment of the privilege of conducting activities in Puerto Rico.
4. The gestalt factors did not strongly favor or disfavor jurisdiction, but they could not overcome Morales's failure to establish relatedness and purposeful availment.
5. Morales was not entitled to jurisdictional discovery because discovery was unlikely to reveal contacts related to the claim or establish purposeful availment and therefore would be futile.
6. Transfer to the Middle District of Florida was warranted because that court could have exercised personal jurisdiction over the defendants, venue was proper there, and transfer was in the interest of justice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Accordingly, the Court finds that Morales fails to show that his cause of action is related to BAH’s contacts with Puerto Rico.” (10)

“BAH and Morales’s relationship, by contrast, involved one job which at no point involved either party performing services for the other in Puerto Rico.” (12)

“Accordingly, the Court finds that jurisdictional discovery would be futile and denies Morales’s request.” (16)

“Accordingly, the Court will grant Morales’ requested transfer.” (19)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Morales, a Puerto Rico resident, purchased a concrete pump truck and contracted with BAH to transport it from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Jacksonville, Florida, for shipment to Puerto Rico. BAH subcontracted the transport to Infinite Trucking and another party without informing Morales, and the truck was seriously damaged in an accident during transport. The truck was shipped to Puerto Rico unrepaired, and Morales incurred substantial repair and shipping expenses. BAH was not involved in shipping the truck after its arrival in Jacksonville.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Morales filed a negligence action against BAH Logistics LLC, Infinite Trucking Company LLC, and an unnamed insurer. BAH moved to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2) for lack of personal jurisdiction and under Rule 12(b)(6) on the merits. The magistrate judge recommended granting the jurisdictional motion and declined to recommend jurisdictional discovery; after Morales objected, the district court adopted the personal-jurisdiction findings, denied dismissal as the appropriate disposition, and transferred the case under 28 U.S.C. § 1631.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The action was transferred, not remanded, to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. The District of Puerto Rico closed the case for administrative purposes.

CASES CITED

- Ramos-Echevarría v. Pichis, Inc., 698 F. Supp. 2d 262, 264 (D.P.R. 2010)
- Sylva v. Culebra Dive Shop, 389 F. Supp. 2d 189, 191-92 (D.P.R. 2005)
- United States v. Raddatz, 447 U.S. 667, 673 (1980)
- Davet v. Maccorone, 973 F.2d 22, 30-31 (1st Cir. 1992)
- Borden v. Secretary of H.H.S., 836 F.2d 4, 6 (1st Cir. 1987)
- Templeman v. Chris Craft Corp., 770 F.2d 245, 247 (1st Cir. 1985)
- Álamo Rodríguez v. Pfizer Pharms., Inc., 286 F. Supp. 2d 144, 146 (D.P.R. 2003)
- Hernández-Mejías v. General Electric, 428 F. Supp. 2d 4, 6 (D.P.R. 2005)
- Lacedra v. Donald W. Wyatt Det. Facility, 334 F. Supp. 2d 114, 125-26 (D.R.I. 2004)
- Baskin-Robbins Franchising LLC v. Alpenrose Dairy, Inc., 825 F.3d 28, 34-39 (1st Cir. 2016)
- Estate of Rosario v. Falken Tire Corp., 109 F. Supp. 3d 485, 490 (D.P.R. 2015)
- Scottsdale Capital Advisors Corp. v. Deal, LLC, 887 F.3d 17, 20 (1st Cir. 2018)
- Ford Motor Co. v. Mont. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court, 592 U.S. 351, 358-60 (2021)
- C.W. Downer & Co. v. Bioriginal Food & Sci. Corp., 771 F.3d 59, 63, 65, 67 (1st Cir. 2014)
- Negrón-Torres v. Verizon Communications, Inc., 478 F.3d 19, 24 (1st Cir. 2007)
- Industrial Siderúrgica v. Thyssen Steel Caribbean, Inc., 14 P.R. Offic. Trans. 708 (1983)

- Vapotherm, Inc. v. Santiago, 38 F.4th 252, 261 (1st Cir. 2022)
- Sawtelle v. Farrell, 70 F.3d 1381, 1389-92 (1st Cir. 1995)
- Rodríguez-Rivera v. Allscripts Healthcare Solutions, Inc., 43 F.4th 150, 163 (1st Cir. 2022)
- Ticketmaster-New York v. Alioto, 26 F.3d 201, 209-10 (1st Cir. 1994)
- Swiss American Bank, Ltd. v. UBS AG, 274 F.3d 610, 625-26 (1st Cir. 2001)
- Sunview Condominium Ass'n v. Flexel International, 116 F.3d 962, 964 (1st Cir. 1997)
- Blair v. City of Worcester, 522 F.3d 105, 111 (1st Cir. 2008)
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston v. Moody's Corp., 821 F.3d 102, 119 (1st Cir. 2016)
- Britell v. United States, 318 F.3d 70, 74 (1st Cir. 2003)
- Connoisseurs Prods. Corp. v. Fresh Finest, LLC, Civil Action No. 23-CV-11649-AK, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 44736, at *21 (D. Mass. Mar. 12, 2025)

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