

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

**Sonosuite SL, a Spanish limited liability company v. Rhapsody
International Inc., a Delaware Corporation**

Sonosuite SL v. Rhapsody International Inc. · No. 2:24-cv-00844-JNW · Decided December 9, 2025

OPINION

Sonosuite SL, a Spanish limited liability company v. Rhapsody International Inc., a Delaware Corporation

PER CURIAM.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

AT SEATTLE

7 SONOSUITE SL, a Spanish limited CASE NO. 2:24-cv-00844-JNW 8 liability company,

ORDER

9 Plaintiff, 10 v.

11 RHAPSODY INTERNATIONAL INC.,

a Delaware Corporation, 12 Defendant. 13 14 On September 19, 2025, the Court granted
Hollystone Laws’ unopposed 15 motion to withdraw as counsel for Defendant Rhapsody
International Inc., which 16 left Rhapsody unrepresented. Dkt. No. 20. As corporations may not
appear pro se in 17 federal court, the Court ordered substitute counsel to appear within 30 days.
Id. at 18 2; D-Beam Ltd. P’ship v. Roller Derby Skates, Inc., 366 F.3d 972, 973–74 (9th Cir. 19
2004) (quoting Licht v. Am. W. Airlines, 40 F.3d 1058, 1059 (9th Cir.1994) (“It is a 20
longstanding rule that ‘[c]orporations and other unincorporated associations must 21 appear in
court through an attorney.’”). The Court warned Rhapsody that failure to 22 obtain substitute
counsel may result in entry of default and default judgment 23 1 against it. Dkt. No. 20 at 2; see
also Emp. Painters’ Tr. v. Ethan Enters., Inc., 480 2 F.3d 993, 998 (9th Cir. 2007) (finding default
against corporation proper because 3 the corporation failed to obtain new counsel after its counsel
withdrew). 4 Because Rhapsody filed an answer before its counsel withdrew, entry of 5 default is
appropriately ordered as a sanction for failure to comply with the Court’s 6 prior order and to
participate in the litigation. See Butscher v. Moore, 611 F. App’x 7 456, 457 (9th Cir. 2015); see
also TeleVideo Sys., Inc. v. Heidenthal, 826 F.2d 915, 8 916 (9th Cir. 1987) (“Courts have inherent
equitable powers to dismiss actions or 9 enter default judgments for failure to prosecute, contempt
of court, or abusive 10 litigation practices.”). While such sanctions under the Court’s inherent
powers are 11 “necessary to enable the judiciary to function,” they are not limitless. TeleVideo 12

Sys., Inc., 826 F.2d at 916. Indeed, “[t]he need for orderly administration of justice 13 does not permit violations of due process.” Id. 14 Accordingly, the Court ORDERS Defendant Rhapsody to appear through 15 licensed counsel and to show cause why the Court should not strike its answer and 16 direct the Clerk of the Court to enter default against it by no later than 17 December 23, 2025. To ensure Rhapsody has sufficient time to find new counsel and 18 appear, the Court RENOTES SonoSuite’s motion for entry of default to December 19 30, 2025. 20 21 22 23 1 The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to enter this order and to mail a copy to 9 Defendant Rhapsody International Inc.’s address on file. 3 Dated this 9th day of December, 2025. fake — 5 amal N. Whitehead United States District Judge 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23