

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

David Rentz v. Tristen Hart, et al.

Rentz · No. Civil Action No. 26-00005-KD-B · Decided January 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The court orders Defendant EDKO, LLC to file a second amended disclosure statement identifying each member or partner in the relevant unincorporated entities and the state citizenship of each relevant natural person. The order explains that the prior disclosure failed to comply with diversity-jurisdiction requirements and directs EDKO, LLC to use the court’s standard disclosure statement form by January 30, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, Northern Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sonja F. Bivins
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, Northern Division
DECIDED	January 27, 2026
DOCKET	Civil Action No. 26-00005-KD-B
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed Defendant EDKO, LLC's amended corporate disclosure statement after previously ordering EDKO to adequately disclose its citizenship for purposes of diversity jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Review of the adequacy of a corporate disclosure statement for determining diversity jurisdiction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- limited liability companies
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether EDKO, LLC's amended disclosure statement adequately identified the entity's members and the citizenship of all relevant members or partners for purposes of diversity jurisdiction.
2. What corrective disclosures EDKO, LLC was required to make to establish its citizenship.

HOLDINGS

1. The amended disclosure statement was inadequate because it failed to specifically identify EDKO, LLC's members, the members or partners of other relevant unincorporated entities in the ownership chain, and the state citizenship of relevant natural persons.
2. EDKO, LLC was ordered to file a second amended disclosure statement identifying the required members, partners, and citizenship information and using the Court's standard disclosure statement form.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“to sufficiently identify the citizenship of an unincorporated entity or association such as a limited liability company, a party must identify each member of the LLC and the citizenship of that member.” (Doc. 7 at 1-2)

“Accordingly, Defendant EDKO, LLC is ORDERED to file a second amended disclosure statement on or before January 30, 2026” (Order at 2-3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Defendant EDKO, LLC filed an amended disclosure statement in response to an order requiring it to establish its citizenship for diversity-jurisdiction purposes. The statement apparently misidentified EDKO, LLC as a corporation, used ownership terminology instead of identifying members or partners, failed to identify the members of EDKO Intermediate Holdings, LLC and EDKO Holdings LLC, and identified residency rather than citizenship for relevant individuals. The Court also noted that the disclosure was inconsistent with the notice of removal and Louisiana Secretary of State records identifying EDKO as a limited liability company.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was removed to federal court based on diversity jurisdiction. The Court previously ordered EDKO, LLC to file an amended disclosure statement identifying the members of EDKO and the members or partners of any relevant unincorporated entities, together with each individual's state of citizenship. After reviewing EDKO's amended statement, the Court found it deficient and ordered EDKO to file a second amended disclosure statement by January 30, 2026, using the Court's standard form.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Rolling Greens MHP, L.P. v. Comcast SCH Holdings L.L.C., 374 F.3d 1020, 1022 (11th Cir. 2004) (per curiam)
- Purchasing Power, LLC v. Bluestem Brands, Inc., 851 F.3d 1218, 1220 (11th Cir. 2017)
- Taylor v. Appleton, 30 F.3d 1365, 1367 (11th Cir. 1994)

OPINION

Rentz

PER CURIAM.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

DAVID RENTZ, *

* Plaintiff, * *

CIVIL ACTION NO. 26-00005-KD-B

vs. * * TRISTEN HART, et al., * * Defendants. *

ORDER

This action is before the Court on review of the amended disclosure statement filed by Defendant EDKO, LLC (Doc. 9). On January 21, 2026, the Court ordered EDKO, LLC to file an amended disclosure statement that adequately identified EDKO, LLC's citizenship for the purposes of diversity jurisdiction. (Doc. 7). The Court's order emphasized: [T]o sufficiently identify the citizenship of an unincorporated entity or association such as a limited liability company, a party must identify each member of the LLC and the citizenship of that member. See *Rolling Greens MHP, L.P. v. Comcast SCH Holdings L.L.C.*, 374 F.3d 1020, 1022 (11th Cir. 2004) (per curiam). If one of the LLC's members is another unincorporated entity, that entity's members (or partners, as the case may be) must also be identified, along with the citizenship of each member or partner of that entity. See *Purchasing Power, LLC v. Bluestem Brands, Inc.*, 851 F.3d 1218, 1220 (11th Cir. 2017). And, if a member or partner of an unincorporated entity is a natural person, that person's state of citizenship must be identified, not his state of residency. See *Taylor v. Appleton*, 30 F.3d 1365, 1367 (11th Cir. 1994). (*Id.* at 1-2). Thus, the Court informed EDKO, LLC that its amended disclosure statement needed to (i) specifically identify the members or partners of EDKO, LLC and all other relevant entities as members or partners of those entities and (ii) identify the citizenship (not the residency) of each of those members or partners. (*Id.* at 2). The amended disclosure statement filed by EDKO, LLC fails to comply with the Court's order. (See Doc. 9). First, the disclosure statement indicates (apparently incorrectly) that EDKO, LLC is a corporation.¹ (*Id.* at 2). Second, the disclosure statement continues to improperly speak in terms of ownership instead of properly identifying each member of EDKO, LLC and each member or partner of the various other unincorporated entities listed. As best the Court can discern, EDKO,

LLC is a limited liability company, yet the disclosure statement fails to specifically identify each member of EDKO, LLC. While the disclosure statement arguably suggests that the sole member of EDKO, LLC is another limited liability company (EDKO Intermediate Holdings, LLC), it fails to specifically identify each member of EDKO Intermediate Holdings, LLC as a member of that limited 1 This contradicts Defendants' notice of removal, which identifies EDKO, LLC as a limited liability company. (See Doc. 1 at 3). It is also inconsistent with the Louisiana Secretary of State's online business entity records, which reflect that EDKO, LLC is a limited liability company, not a corporation. See https://coraweb.sos.la.gov/commercialsearch/CommercialSearchDetails.aspx?CharterID=364950_46321282D8#viewFile (last visited Jan. 26, 2026). liability company. Additionally, the disclosure statement confusingly lists EDKO Holdings LLC in the ownership chain in response to Question 1 but then fails to mention EDKO Holdings LLC (much less identify its member(s) and their state(s) of citizenship) in response to Question 2. Finally, the disclosure statement does not specifically identify the partners (as opposed to the owners) of Incline Equity Partners, nor does it identify those individuals' state(s) of citizenship (as opposed to residency). Accordingly, Defendant EDKO, LLC is ORDERED to file a second amended disclosure statement on or before January 30, 2026, which (i) specifically identifies the limited liability company member(s) of EDKO, LLC as members of the LLC; (ii) specifically identifies the members or partners of all other relevant unincorporated entities as members or partners of those entities, see *Purchasing Power, LLC*, 851 F.3d at 1220; and (iii) identifies the state citizenship (not residency) of each natural person whose citizenship is relevant to determining the citizenship of Defendant EDKO, LLC for diversity purposes. Defendant must use this Court's standard disclosure statement form, which can be found on the Court's external website.^{2 2} <https://www.alsd.uscourts.gov/sites/alsd/files/forms/CivilDisclosureStatement.pdf> ORDERED this 27th day of January, 2026.

/s/ SONJA F. BIVINS

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE