

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Brittany Widmayer, et al. v. Otis Worldwide Corporation

Widmayer · No. 2:25-cv-00723-RFB-BNW · Decided January 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada granted Plaintiffs’ motion for jurisdictional discovery in a dispute concerning whether Otis Elevator’s Nevada contacts may be imputed to Otis Worldwide Corporation under an alter ego theory. The court held that general and specific jurisdiction are alternative bases for personal jurisdiction and that Daimler AG v. Bauman does not preclude alter ego-based general jurisdiction, while limiting discovery at this stage to interrogatories and requests for production.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Brenda Weksler
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nevada
DECIDED	January 22, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-00723-RFB-BNW
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiffs moved for jurisdictional discovery in response to Defendant's motion to dismiss, which challenged venue and personal jurisdiction. The court granted limited jurisdictional discovery concerning whether Otis Elevator and Otis Worldwide Corporation have sufficient unity of interest to support an alter ego theory of general personal jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court evaluated whether Plaintiffs had made a sufficient preliminary showing to obtain jurisdictional discovery and whether their proposed theory of general personal jurisdiction was legally permissible.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown
PARTIES	Brittany Widmayer, et al. v. Otis Worldwide Corporation

TOPICS

personal jurisdiction

venue

discovery dispute

motions to dismiss

civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

personal jurisdiction

venue

commercial litigation

corporate law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether general and specific personal jurisdiction must both be established to support jurisdiction over Defendant.
2. Whether Daimler AG v. Bauman precludes reliance on an alter ego theory to establish general personal jurisdiction.
3. Whether Plaintiffs were entitled to jurisdictional discovery concerning the potential alter ego relationship between Otis Elevator and Otis Worldwide Corporation.

HOLDINGS

1. General and specific personal jurisdiction are alternative bases for personal jurisdiction; a plaintiff need not establish both.
2. Daimler AG v. Bauman does not preclude an argument that general personal jurisdiction may be established through an alter ego theory.
3. Plaintiffs were entitled to limited jurisdictional discovery concerning the potential unity of interest between Otis Elevator and Otis Worldwide Corporation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“General and specific jurisdiction are alternative bases for personal jurisdiction, not cumulative requirements.” (at 1)

“Daimler AG does not preclude Defendant from making an argument that this Court has general jurisdiction based on an alter ego theory of liability.” (at 1-2)

“Absent jurisdictional discovery, however, Plaintiffs will have no meaningful opportunity to make the required showing.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs sued Otis Worldwide Corporation in the District of Nevada. Defendant challenged venue and personal jurisdiction, arguing that it could not be deemed to reside in Nevada because it was not subject to personal jurisdiction there. Plaintiffs asserted that Otis Elevator, which allegedly had contacts with Nevada, was the alter ego of Otis Worldwide Corporation and sought discovery concerning the entities' unity of interest and ownership.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Defendant moved to dismiss on the ground that venue was improper because it was not subject to personal jurisdiction in Nevada. Plaintiffs sought jurisdictional discovery to investigate whether Otis Elevator's Nevada contacts could be attributed to Otis Worldwide Corporation under an alter ego theory. After a hearing, the court granted discovery regarding the potential unity of interest between the entities but declined to authorize depositions at that stage.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Daimler AG v. Bauman, 571 U.S. 117 (2014)
- Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co., 374 F.3d 797, 801-02 (9th Cir. 2004)
- Cybersell, Inc. v. Cybersell, Inc., 130 F.3d 414, 416 (9th Cir. 1997)
- Ranza v. Nike, Inc., 793 F.3d 1059, 1065, 1070-73 (9th Cir. 2015)
- Dole Food Co. v. Patrickson, 538 U.S. 468, 474 (2003)
- United States v. Bestfoods, 524 U.S. 51, 61 (1998)
- Williams v. Yamaha Motor Co., 851 F.3d 1015, 1021 (9th Cir. 2017)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 2 * * * 3 Brittany Widmayer, et al., Case No. 2:25-cv-00723-RFB-BNW 4 Plaintiffs, 5 ORDER v. 6 Otis Worldwide Corporation, 7 Defendant. 8 9 Before this Court is Plaintiffs' motion for jurisdictional discovery. ECF No. 15. Defendant 10 opposed and Plaintiffs replied. ECF Nos. 26 and 27. This Court held a hearing on January 20, 11 2025.

ECF No. 35. The parties are familiar with the arguments. As a result, the Court repeats 12 them only as relevant to its order. 13 Defendant argues in its motion to dismiss that venue is not proper in this District on the 14 basis that, inter alia, Defendant cannot be deemed to reside in Nevada as it is not subject to this 15 Court's personal jurisdiction. ECF No. 6 at 6.

In turn, Plaintiff seeks jurisdictional discovery to 16 show that Otis Elevator (which allegedly has contacts Nevada) is the alter ego of Otis Worldwide 17 Corporation (the named Defendant). 18 After today's hearing, Plaintiffs made clear they are arguing venue is proper in this 19 District because Defendant is subject to this Court's general jurisdiction (and not specific 20 jurisdiction) based on an alter ego theory of liability.

Defendant argued (1) Plaintiffs had to 21 establish both specific jurisdiction and general jurisdiction and (2) that after Daimler AG v. 22 Bauman, 571 U.S. 117 (2014), Plaintiffs could not rely on alter ego liability for purposes of 23 general jurisdiction. 24 This Court rejects Defendant's

first argument. General and specific jurisdiction are 25 alternative bases for personal jurisdiction, not cumulative requirements.

See *Schwarzenegger v. 26 Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 F.3d 797, 801-802 (9th Cir. 2004) (discussing specific jurisdiction 27 after establishing there was no general jurisdiction over defendant); see also, *Cybersell, Inc. v. 1 Cybersell, Inc.*, 130 F.3d 414, 416 (9th Cir. 1997) (“A court may assert either specific or general 2 jurisdiction over a defendant.”) 3 As to the second argument, this Court finds Daimler AG does not preclude Defendant 4 from making an argument that this Court has general jurisdiction based on an alter ego theory of 5 liability.

The Ninth Circuit explained that, 6 in *Ranza v. Nike, Inc.*, 793 F.3d 1059 (9th Cir. 2015), we considered whether an in-state 7 corporation's contacts could be attributed to its foreign subsidiary to establish general 8 jurisdiction over the subsidiary. See *id.* at 1065.

We stated that while Daimler invalidated our previous “agency” test, it “left intact” the alternative “alter ego test for ‘imputed’ 9 general jurisdiction.” *Id.* at 1071. We made clear, however, that the parent-subsidiary relationship does not on its own establish two entities as “alter egos,” and thus does not 10 indicate that general jurisdiction over one gives rise to general jurisdiction over the other.

Id. at 1070 (citing *Dole Food Co. v. Patrickson*, 538 U.S. 468, 474, 123 S.Ct. 1655, 155 11 L.Ed.2d 643 (2003); *United States v. Bestfoods*, 524 U.S. 51, 61, 118 S.Ct. 1876, 141 12 L.Ed.2d 43 (1998)). Rather, we held that “the alter ego test may be used to extend personal jurisdiction to a foreign parent or subsidiary when, in actuality, the foreign entity 13 is not really separate from its domestic affiliate.” *Id.* at 1073 (emphasis omitted).

To satisfy this test, “a plaintiff must make out a prima facie case (1) that there is such unity of 14 interest and ownership that the separate personalities of the two entities no longer exist and (2) that failure to disregard their separate identities would result in fraud or injustice.” 15 *Id.* (quotation marks and alterations omitted). 16 *Williams v. Yamaha Motor Co.*, 851 F.3d 1015, 1021 (9th Cir.

2017). 17 Whether Plaintiffs will ultimately meet the Ninth Circuit’s test remains to be seen. Absent 18 jurisdictional discovery, however, Plaintiffs will have no meaningful opportunity to make the 19 20 required showing. This Court will allow discovery, as discussed in court, on the potential unity of 21 interest between these two companies. At this stage, this court will not authorize depositions.

22 Should the interrogatories and requests for production propounded by Plaintiffs give rise to the 23 need for depositions, Plaintiffs may file the appropriate motion. 24 Based on this, it is anticipated that Plaintiffs will move to amend their complaint. 25 Plaintiffs’ deadline to do so will be March 1, 2026. 26 // 27] IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Plaintiffs’ motion for jurisdictional discovery 2 || (ECF No. 15) is GRANTED.

3 4 DATED: January 22, 2026 5 BRENDA WEKSLER 7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE
JUDGE 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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