

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAI‘I

Authenticity Co. Ltd. v. Pacrep LLC, The Ritz-Carlton Hotel
Company LLC, et al.

Civil No. 24-00322 DKW-RT · No. Civil No. 24-00322 DKW-RT · Decided June 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Hawai‘i reopened discovery for the limited purpose of determining the identity and citizenship of the owners or members of PACREP LLC, including any entities in its ownership structure. The court required Authenticity Co. Ltd. to complete the jurisdictional discovery, supplement its response to the order to show cause, and explain why diversity jurisdiction exists. The court also vacated the summary judgment hearing and held other unexpired scheduling deadlines in abeyance.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Hawai‘i
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Derrick K. Watson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Hawai‘i
DECIDED	June 25, 2026
DOCKET	Civil No. 24-00322 DKW-RT
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court sua sponte ordered Plaintiff to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction because the citizenship of the LLC defendants had not been adequately alleged. Plaintiff requested limited jurisdictional discovery concerning the ownership and citizenship of PACREP LLC.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A court may grant jurisdictional discovery when pertinent jurisdictional facts are controverted or a more satisfactory factual showing is necessary, but discovery based only on a hunch that it may produce jurisdictionally relevant facts is insufficient.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

subject matter jurisdiction

discovery dispute

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PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether limited jurisdictional discovery should be permitted to determine the identity and citizenship of PACREP LLC's owners or members for purposes of establishing diversity jurisdiction.
2. Whether discovery should be reopened after the discovery deadline for the limited jurisdictional purpose.
3. What procedural consequences should follow if Plaintiff cannot establish complete diversity after the limited discovery.

HOLDINGS

1. Limited jurisdictional discovery was appropriate because the record lacked necessary information regarding PACREP's organizational structure and citizenship, and the requested discovery was not based merely on speculation.
2. Authenticity may conduct discovery solely to ascertain the identity and citizenship of PACREP's owners or members, including the citizenship of any LLCs or partnerships within PACREP's ownership structure.
3. If Authenticity fails to establish the citizenship of PACREP's relevant owners or members and explain why diversity exists, the action will be dismissed without prejudice for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Discovery should ordinarily be granted where pertinent facts bearing on the question of jurisdiction are controverted or where a more satisfactory showing of the facts is necessary.” (2)

“However, a discovery request that is “based on little more than a hunch that it might yield jurisdictionally relevant facts” is insufficient.” (2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Authenticity Co. Ltd. invoked diversity jurisdiction but did not allege the citizenship of the owners or members of Defendant LLCs PACREP and The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company. In its response to the order to show cause, Authenticity identified purported Ritz-Carlton member entities but acknowledged that it had not determined the identity or citizenship of PACREP's owner or members. The court found that this information was likely within PACREP's possession and that a satisfactory showing of jurisdictional facts was necessary.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was filed in federal district court on diversity-jurisdiction grounds. After the court identified insufficient allegations concerning the citizenship of PACREP LLC and The Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company LLC, it ordered Plaintiff to show cause. The court granted limited jurisdictional discovery regarding PACREP's organizational structure and citizenship, continued the summary-judgment briefing deadline, vacated the summary-judgment hearing, and held other unexpired scheduling deadlines in abeyance.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Butcher's Union Local No. 498 v. SDC Inv., Inc., 788 F.2d 535, 540 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Boschetto v. Hansing, 539 F.3d 1011, 1020 (9th Cir. 2008)
- Nugget Hydroelectric, L.P. v. Pacific Gas & Elec. Co., 981 F.2d 429, 438 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Strotek Corp. v. Air Transp. Ass'n of Am., 300 F.3d 1129, 1131 (9th Cir. 2002)