

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Sara Torres v. AT and T Mobility Services LLC et al.

Torres v. AT&T Mobility Services LLC · No. 2:25-cv-08930-SVW-JC · Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The Central District of California denied Sara Torres’s motion to remand an employment-related action removed from state court by AT&T. The court held that diversity jurisdiction existed because the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 based on the plaintiff’s claimed lost wages alone. The court therefore did not address other categories of damages.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stephen V. Wilson
JURISDICTION	U.S. District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-08930-SVW-JC
DISPOSITION	denied
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved to remand an employment action removed from state court based on diversity jurisdiction, arguing that the amount in controversy did not exceed \$75,000.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a factual attack to removal jurisdiction, the removing defendant must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that federal jurisdiction exists. The court may consider summary-judgment-type evidence in resolving a motion to remand.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	Sara Torres v. AT and T Mobility Services LLC, AT and T, Inc., Charles Forston, Matthew Blake

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- damages

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 for purposes of diversity jurisdiction and removal under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a).
2. Whether the defendant established the amount in controversy by a preponderance of the evidence based on the plaintiff's alleged lost wages.

HOLDINGS

1. The amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 because the plaintiff's alleged lost wages alone were at least \$90,641.88 at the time of removal.
2. Remand was not warranted because defendant established by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount-in-controversy requirement for diversity jurisdiction was satisfied.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction”

“the amount in controversy is determined by the complaint operative at the time of removal and encompasses all relief a court may grant on that complaint if the plaintiff is victorious.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Torres was employed by AT and T Mobility Services LLC from November 2021 until her termination in May 2024. After being diagnosed with anxiety and depression, she requested intermittent medical leave, but she was terminated before receiving a response and was later told the termination was based on attendance. Her complaint sought lost wages and benefits, emotional-distress damages, punitive damages, and attorney fees.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Torres filed an employment-related lawsuit in state court on June 20, 2025. AT&T removed the action to federal court on September 18, 2025, invoking diversity jurisdiction. Torres moved to remand on October 20, 2025. The district court denied the motion, concluding that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 based on alleged lost wages alone.

DISPOSITION

denied

CASES CITED

- *Gunn v. Minton*, 568 U.S. 251, 256 (2013)
- *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375 (1994)
- *Gonzales v. CarMax Auto Superstores, LLC*, 840 F.3d 644, 648 (9th Cir. 2016)

- Gaus v. Miles, Inc., 980 F.2d 564, 565 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Gaus v. Miles, Inc., 980 F.2d 564, 567 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Leite v. Crane Co., 749 F.3d 1117, 1122 (9th Cir. 2014)
- Harris v. KM Indus., Inc., 980 F.3d 694, 699 (9th Cir. 2020)
- Ibarra v. Manheim Invs., Inc., 775 F.3d 1193, 1197 (9th Cir. 2015)
- Chavez v. JPMorgan Chase & Co., 888 F.3d 413, 414-15 (9th Cir. 2018)

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