

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA, TAMPA DIVISION

Michael James Longs Bey v. Suncoast Credit Union, Stacey Bandy,
John 1-5 Does

Bey · No. 8:25-cv-2879-KKM-TGW · Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida grants Michael James Longs Bey’s motions to amend his complaint and remand the action to Florida state court. After the federal claims were withdrawn, the court concluded that federal-question jurisdiction no longer existed and directed the Clerk to remand and close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kathryn Kimball Mizelle
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	8:25-cv-2879-KKM-TGW
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants removed the action from Florida state court after the amended complaint added federal claims. Plaintiff moved to amend the complaint to withdraw those claims and moved to remand.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- motion to amend
- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- federalism

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- federal jurisdiction
- remand

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should construe Plaintiff's motion styled as a motion to withdraw as a motion to amend under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15.
2. Whether the court retained subject matter jurisdiction after Plaintiff amended the complaint to eliminate the federal claims that supported removal.
3. Whether the action should be remanded to Florida state court.

HOLDINGS

1. The court construed Plaintiff's motion to withdraw federal claims as a motion to amend under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 and granted it.
2. Once Plaintiff amended the complaint to eliminate the federal-law claims that enabled removal, the federal court no longer had subject matter jurisdiction over the action, and remand was required.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"If (as here) the plaintiff eliminates the federal-law claims that enabled removal, leaving only state-law claims behind, the court's power to decide the dispute dissolves."

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bey initially filed a Florida state-court action asserting thirteen state-law causes of action against Suncoast Credit Union, Stacey Bandy, and John Does. He amended the complaint to add federal claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1985, prompting removal to federal court. He subsequently sought to withdraw the federal claims through amendment and requested remand.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Bey originally sued in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, asserting thirteen state-law causes of action. He later amended the complaint to add claims under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1985, after which Suncoast Credit Union and Stacey Bandy timely removed the case to federal court. Bey then moved to amend again to eliminate the federal claims and moved for remand. The district court granted both motions, denied as moot a motion to file electronically, remanded the action to state court, terminated pending motions and deadlines, and closed the case.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The Clerk was directed to remand the action to the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, transmit a certified copy of the order to that court's clerk, terminate all pending motions and deadlines, and close the federal case.

CASES CITED

- Caterpillar Inc. v. Williams, 482 U.S. 386, 392 (1987)
- Royal Canin U. S. A., Inc. v. Wulschleger, 604 U.S. 22, 43, 49 (2025)

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