

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, FOURTH  
DISTRICT

Aramide Yusuf v. Edison Ilunga, Blue Moon Hookah Lounge, LLC,  
and Starfish Title Agency, LLC

Yusuf v. Ilunga · No. 4D2024-1454 · Decided November 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal reversed a final judgment against Aramide Yusuf and remanded with instructions to dismiss the third-party complaint for lack of personal jurisdiction. The court held that the complaint did not allege that Yusuf committed a tortious act in Florida under Florida's long-arm statute, because the alleged conduct occurred in Texas between Texas residents. The court also rejected jurisdiction based on injury from a separate Florida transaction, vague conspiracy allegations, or the tracing of funds to Florida.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | District Court of Appeal of the State of Florida, Fourth District                                                                                                                                                |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Forst, J.; Ciklin, J.; Levine, J.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| JURISDICTION          | Florida District Court of Appeal, Fourth District                                                                                                                                                                |
| DECIDED               | November 19, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| DOCKET                | 4D2024-1454                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| DISPOSITION           | reversed_and_remanded                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Yusuf, a third-party defendant, appealed the final judgment entered against him in favor of Ilunga and the order denying his motion to dismiss Ilunga's third-party complaint for lack of personal jurisdiction. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | De novo review applies to the legal rulings on a nonfinal order concerning personal jurisdiction; factual findings are reviewed for competent substantial evidence.                                              |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | published                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PARTIES               | Aramide Yusuf v. Edison Ilunga, Blue Moon Hookah Lounge, LLC, Starfish Title Agency, LLC                                                                                                                         |

TOPICS

personal jurisdiction

civil procedure

appellate procedure

standard of review

torts

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

appellate procedure

torts

commercial litigation

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Ilunga's third-party complaint sufficiently alleged that Yusuf committed a tortious act in Florida under section 48.193(1)(a)2., Florida Statutes, so as to establish specific personal jurisdiction.

## HOLDINGS

1. The complaint did not sufficiently allege that Yusuf committed a tortious act in Florida or that Ilunga's claims arose from tortious conduct in Florida. Because the alleged contribution and fraudulent-inducement conduct occurred in Texas, and mere injury in Florida or the Florida origin of the funds was insufficient, Florida lacked personal jurisdiction over Yusuf.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“a majority of the district courts, including this court, have held that mere injury in Florida resulting from a tort committed elsewhere is insufficient to support personal jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant.”* (4)

*“This allegation is insufficient to establish personal jurisdiction over Yusuf in Florida for his all-Texas conduct against a fellow Texas resident.”* (5)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Starfish Title Agency alleged that a fraudulent email caused it to wire money that ultimately came into Ilunga's possession. Ilunga alleged that Yusuf, both a Texas resident, induced him to deposit illicitly sourced checks and wire money to others in Texas, but did not allege that Yusuf entered Florida, communicated with anyone in Florida, or participated in the original fraud against Starfish. The trial court found that all alleged conduct between Ilunga and Yusuf occurred in Texas, while nevertheless concluding that the Florida origin of the funds supported jurisdiction.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Starfish sued Ilunga and others for unjust enrichment after money was allegedly diverted through a fraudulent email and ended up in Ilunga's possession. The trial court allowed Ilunga to add Yusuf as a third-party defendant, and Ilunga filed claims for contribution and fraudulent inducement. After an evidentiary hearing, the trial court denied Yusuf's motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction; following a nonjury trial, it entered judgment for Ilunga on the contribution claim. Yusuf appealed the jurisdictional ruling as his sole issue.

## DISPOSITION

reversed\_and\_remanded

## REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The trial court must dismiss Ilunga's third-party complaint against Yusuf for lack of personal jurisdiction over Yusuf.

## CASES CITED

- International University of Health Sciences Ltd., Inc. v. Abeles, 299 So. 3d 405, 408 (Fla. 4th DCA 2020)
- Guarino v. Mandel, 327 So. 3d 853, 860-61 (Fla. 4th DCA 2021)
- Hunt v. Cornerstone Golf, Inc., 949 So. 2d 228, 230 (Fla. 4th DCA 2007)
- Kaminsky v. Hecht, 272 So. 3d 786, 788 (Fla. 4th DCA 2019)
- Metnick & Levy, P.A. v. Seuling, 123 So. 3d 639, 645 (Fla. 4th DCA 2013)
- Wendt v. Horowitz, 822 So. 2d 1252, 1260 (Fla. 2002)
- Reiss v. Ocean World, S.A., 11 So. 3d 404, 406-07 (Fla. 4th DCA 2009)
- NHB Advisors, Inc. v. Czyzyk, 95 So. 3d 444, 448 (Fla. 4th DCA 2012)

---

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/florida-district-court-of-appeal-fourth-district-district-court-of-appeal-of-the-state-of-florida-fo/2025/aramide-yusuf-v-edison-ilunga-blue-moon-hookah-lounge-llc-ldyfrtck>