

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
MISSOURI, CENTRAL DIVISION

LaCrue v. Vexus Fiber, LLC

LaCrue · No. 2:25-cv-04175-MDH · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri denied Vexus Fiber, LLC’s motion to dismiss a putative consumer class action or transfer it to the Northern District of Texas. The court held that venue was proper in the Western District of Missouri because Vexus consented to personal jurisdiction in Missouri through its customer agreement, making it a Missouri resident for purposes of 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, Central Division
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Douglas Harpool
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri, Central Division
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-cv-04175-MDH
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(3) to dismiss the putative class action for improper venue or, alternatively, to transfer it to the Northern District of Texas. The court denied both requests.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(3) motion, the court determines whether the action falls within one of the venue categories in 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b); if venue is improper, the action may be dismissed or transferred under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unknown

TOPICS

- venue
- personal jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- consumer protection
- class actions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

consumer protection

commercial litigation

class actions

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether venue was proper in the Western District of Missouri under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because Vexus was deemed to reside there for venue purposes under § 1391(c)(2).
2. Whether the action should be dismissed for improper venue or transferred to the Northern District of Texas under 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a).

HOLDINGS

1. Venue was proper in the Western District of Missouri because Vexus consented to personal jurisdiction in Missouri courts through its customer agreement and therefore was deemed to reside in Missouri for venue purposes under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2).
2. Dismissal or transfer was not warranted because venue was proper in the Western District of Missouri.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As the Defendant has consented to the personal jurisdiction of the State of Missouri by virtue of its Terms and Conditions of Retail Customer Sales Agreement, the Court finds that Defendant is a resident of Missouri for venue purposes pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2).”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs Colin LaCrue and Jonathon Trahan alleged that Vexus Fiber advertised low prices for broadband internet services but failed to adequately disclose a mandatory monthly Network Access Fee. LaCrue is a Texas resident, Trahan is a Louisiana resident, and Vexus operates in Texas, Louisiana, and New Mexico. Plaintiffs asserted claims under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, the Louisiana Unfair Trade Practice and Consumer Protection Act, the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act, and unjust enrichment.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed a putative class action alleging that Vexus Fiber misrepresented the monthly price of broadband services by failing to adequately disclose a mandatory Network Access Fee. Vexus challenged venue in the Western District of Missouri and sought dismissal or transfer to the Northern District of Texas. The district court held that venue was proper in the Western District of Missouri and denied the motion without reaching the alternative venue arguments under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) or (b)(3).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Atl. Marine Const. Co. v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for W. Dist. of Texas*, 571 U.S. 49, 56 (2013)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI CENTRAL DIVISION COLIN LACRUE and JONATHON TRAHAN,) Individually and on behalf of all others similarly) Situated,)) Plaintiffs,)) v.) Case No. 2:25-cv-04175-MDH) VEXUS FIBER, LLC,)) Defendant.) ORDER Before the Court is Defendant Vexus Fiber, LLC's ("Vexus") Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint or, in the Alternative, Transfer this Action to the Northern District of Texas.

(Doc. 11). Defendant filed Suggestions in Support (Doc. 12), Plaintiffs filed Suggestions in Opposition (Doc. 19) and Defendant has filed a reply. (Doc. 22). The motion is now ripe for adjudication on the merits. For the reasons stated herein, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint or, in the Alternative, Transfer this Action to the Northern District of Texas is DENIED.

BACKGROUND This class action arises from an alleged misrepresentation of the monthly price of broadband services stemming from a Network Access Fee ("NAF") that Plaintiffs claim was not advertised or noted by Defendant. Plaintiff Colin LaCrue is a citizen of Texas and a resident of Amarillo, Texas. Plaintiff Jonathon Trahan is a citizen of Louisiana and resident of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Defendant Vexus is an Internet Service Provider ("ISP") operating in Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico. Defendant Vexus is a Delaware limited liability company who is wholly owned by Q-Comm Python Corporation. Q-Comm Python Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located in Overland Park, Kansas. Plaintiffs allege that Defendant advertises low-prices for its internet service to consumers through various marketing channels.

Plaintiffs allege that in addition to the price represented in its advertisements, Defendant charges consumers a flat, monthly fee that Defendant characterizes as a NAF. Plaintiffs allege that at no time does Defendant adequately advise consumers in its marketing materials prior to signing up with Defendant that their internet service include the mandatory monthly NAF.

Plaintiffs state that Defendant's failure to adequately disclose the NAF to its customers in its advertisements unfairly obscures the true cost of its internet service, deceives consumers, and gains an unfair upper hand on competitors that fairly disclose their true internet service costs. Plaintiffs bring this action with the following claims: (1) Violation of the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act on behalf of Plaintiff LaCrue and the Texas Subclass; (2) Violation of the Louisiana Unfair Trade Practice and Consumer Protection Act on behalf of Plaintiff Trahan and the Louisiana Subclass; (3) Violation of the Missouri Merchandising Practices Act ("MMPA") on behalf of all Plaintiffs and the class members; and (4) Unjust Enrichment on behalf of Plaintiffs and the class.

Defendant now asks the Court to dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint, or in the alternative, transfer this action to the Northern District of Texas claiming that venue is improper in the Western District of Missouri. STANDARD Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(3) authorizes the dismissal of a complaint for "improper venue." 28 U.S.C. § 1391 governs where venue is proper, which provides: A civil action may be brought in – (1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located; (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated; or (3) if there is no district in which any action may otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.

28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). "When venue is challenged, the court must determine whether the case falls within one of the three categories set out in § 1391(b). If it does, venue is proper; if it does not, venue is improper, and the case must be dismissed or transferred under § 1406(a)." *Atl. Marine Const. Co. v. U.S. Dist. Ct. for W. Dist. of Texas*, 571 U.S. 49, 56 (2013); 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) ("The district court of a district in which is filed a case laying venue in the wrong division or district shall dismiss, or if it be in the interest of justice, transfer such case to any district or division in which it could have been brought.").

ANALYSIS I. Venue Defendant argues that 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) is inapplicable because Defendant does not reside in the Western District of Missouri, nor do Plaintiffs allege that Vexus has any connection to the Western District of Missouri. Defendant further argues that 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) does not apply as none of Plaintiffs' allegations suggest that a "substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to [their] claim[s]" occurred in the Western District of Missouri.

Lastly, Defendants argue that 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3) is inapplicable as this action can be brought within the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. Plaintiffs argue that Vexus's forum selection clause allows the Western District of Missouri to be a proper venue for the current action. Plaintiffs also argue that since Defendant has a registered agent within the Western District of Missouri, it has its headquarters in Sikeston, Missouri, and that the Western District of Missouri has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, venue is proper.

Lastly, Plaintiffs assert that venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events took place within the Western District of Missouri. The Court will take these arguments in turn. A. 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c) governs residency for all venue purposes. Specifically, 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2) states: An entity with the capacity to sue and be sued in its common name under applicable law, whether or not incorporated, shall be deemed to reside, if a defendant, in any judicial district in which such defendant is subject to the court's personal jurisdiction with respect to the civil action in question[.]

28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2). The Court finds that Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in Missouri, and thus the Western District of Missouri is a proper venue for this current action. Here, Plaintiff has supplied Defendant's Terms and Conditions of Retail Customer Sales Agreement. (Doc. 19-1).

The Terms and Conditions state "[t]he Agreement shall be interpreted, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri, without regard to its conflicts of laws principles. Each party consents to personal jurisdiction in the state and federal courts of the State of Missouri. Id at page 29 (emphasis added).

As the Defendant has consented to the personal jurisdiction of the State of Missouri by virtue of its Terms and Conditions of Retail Customer Sales Agreement, the Court finds that Defendant is a resident of Missouri for venue purposes pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2).

For the reasons stated, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint, or in the Alternative, Transfer this action to the Northern District of Texas is DENIED. B. 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2) and (b)(3) As the Court has ruled that venue is proper in the Western District of Missouri pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), the Court will decline to extend its analysis to the parties' arguments regarding 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2) or (b)(3).

CONCLUSION For the reasons stated herein, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Complaint, or in the Alternative, Transfer this action to the Northern District of Texas is DENIED. IT IS SO ORDERED. DATED: January 8, 2026 /s/ Douglas Harpool DOUGLAS HARPOOL
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE