

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Angela Marin v. General Motors LLC et al.

Marin · No. 2:25-cv-07388-ODW (ASx) · Decided October 23, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California remanded Angela Marin’s Song-Beverly Warranty Act action to state court because General Motors failed to establish that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 for diversity jurisdiction. The court found the asserted civil penalties speculative and calculated the supported amount in controversy, including estimated attorneys’ fees, as \$38,431.86; Plaintiff’s motion to remand was denied as moot.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Otis D. Wright, II
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	October 23, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-07388-ODW (ASx)
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant removed a California state-court Song-Beverly Warranty Act action to federal court based on diversity jurisdiction. The federal court ordered the parties to show cause why the action should not be remanded and then remanded the case for failure to establish the amount-in-controversy requirement.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The removing party bears the burden of establishing federal subject matter jurisdiction, and removal statutes are strictly construed against removal.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential unpublished district-court opinion
PARTIES	General Motors LLC v. Angela Marin

TOPICS

- subject matter jurisdiction
- civil procedure
- consumer protection

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal jurisdiction

Removal and remand

Consumer warranty litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether General Motors established that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 so that diversity jurisdiction supported removal under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441.
2. Whether potential civil penalties under California Civil Code section 1794(c) could be included in the amount in controversy without factual support demonstrating that such penalties were recoverable.

HOLDINGS

1. General Motors failed to establish by sufficient evidence that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000. The supported amount, including estimated actual damages and attorney fees, was only \$38,431.86, so federal diversity jurisdiction was not established and remand was required.
2. General Motors could not rely on the potential civil penalties under California Civil Code section 1794(c) to establish the amount in controversy because the claimed penalties were highly speculative and unsupported by the facts and evidence.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“First, Defendant’s inclusion of civil penalties to establish the amount in controversy is highly speculative and insufficient to meet its burden.” (Page 2)

“Even including Defendant’s estimate of \$5,000 in attorneys’ fees, Defendant establishes an amount in controversy of only \$38,431.86 (= \$33,431.86 + \$5,000). This falls short of Defendant’s burden to establish the requisite jurisdictional amount in controversy of \$75,000.” (Page 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Marin's state-court complaint alleged warranty violations involving a vehicle and sought actual damages, restitution, attorney fees and costs, and civil, consequential, and incidental damages. General Motors asserted that the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000 by combining estimated actual damages of \$33,431.86, potential civil penalties under the Song-Beverly Warranty Act, and approximately \$5,000 in attorney fees. The court found the asserted civil penalties speculative and concluded that the supported amount in controversy was only \$38,431.86.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Angela Marin filed suit against General Motors LLC in California state court on March 27, 2025, alleging breach of express and implied warranties and violations of the Song-Beverly Warranty Act. General Motors removed the action on August 8, 2025, invoking diversity jurisdiction. After the Court ordered briefing on subject matter jurisdiction, Marin moved to remand, and the Court remanded the action to the Superior Court of California, Los Angeles County, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Case No. 25STCV08976. The motion to remand was denied as moot, all dates were vacated, and the federal case was closed.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The action was remanded to the Superior Court of California, Stanley Mosk Courthouse, 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, Case No. 25STCV08976. All dates were vacated, and the Clerk was directed to close the federal case.

CASES CITED

- v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am., 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)
- Gaus v. Miles, Inc., 980 F.2d 564, 566 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Castillo v. FCA USA, LLC, No. 19-cv-151-CAB-MDD, 2019 WL 6607006, at *2 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 5, 2019)
- Estrada v. FCA US LLC, No. 2:20-cv-10453-PA (JPRx), 2021 WL 223249, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Jan. 21, 2021)

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