

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ABC CORPORATION,

Plaintiff(s),

v.

XYZ CORPORATION,

Defendant(s).

No.

STANDING ORDER FOR
CIVIL CASES ASSIGNED TO
JUDGE RICHARD A. JONES

(Revised _____)

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY.
IT CONTROLS THIS CASE AND DIFFERS
IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

- Plaintiff(s) must immediately serve this Order on all Defendant(s) along with the Summons and Complaint.
- If this case was assigned to this Court after being removed from state court, the Defendant(s) who removed the case must serve this Order on all other parties.

This case has been assigned to Judge Richard A. Jones. To secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of this action, counsel are ordered to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”) and the Local Rules (“L.R.”) of the Western District of Washington.

- 1 1. **Mandatory Chambers Copies:** Mandatory chambers copies are required for
2 all e-filed opposed motions, and all supporting documentation relating to
3 opposed motions, regardless of page length.
- 4 2. **Service of Pleadings:** Plaintiff must promptly serve the Complaint in
5 accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file proof of service. Any defendant not
6 timely served will be dismissed from the action. Any “Doe” or fictitiously
7 named defendant who is not identified and served within 90 days after the
8 case is filed will be dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).
- 9 3. **Temporary Restraining Orders and Injunctions:** Parties seeking
10 emergency or provisional relief must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 and
11 L.R. 65.
- 12 4. **Actions Invoking Subject Matter Jurisdiction Based on Diversity:** The
13 burden of persuasion for establishing diversity jurisdiction rests on the party
14 asserting it and must be supported by competent proof. To determine a
15 corporation’s “principal place of business” for the purposes of diversity
16 jurisdiction, the Court will apply the “nerve center” test, which was adopted
17 by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Hertz Corp. v. Friend*, 559 U.S. 77 (2010).
18 The “nerve center” test looks to the single location where the “corporation’s
19 high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation’s activities.”
20 *Id.* at 80. The “nerve center” will typically be the corporation’s headquarters,
21 provided that the headquarters is the actual center of direction, control, and
22 coordination, and not simply an office where the corporation holds its board
23 meetings. *Id.* at 81. Further, the court reminds plaintiffs that they must allege
24 the citizenship of each owner/member of any defendant that is a limited
25 liability company. *See Johnson v. Columbia Props. Anchorage, LP*, 437 F.3d
26 894, 899 (9th Cir. 2006) (“We therefore join our sister circuits and hold that,

1 like a partnership, an LLC is a citizen of every state of which its
2 owners/members are citizens.”). If a party seeks to remove an action to this
3 Court on the basis of diversity in a case where it is not clear from the
4 Complaint that more than \$75,000 is in controversy, the removing party must
5 prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the amount in controversy
6 meets the jurisdictional threshold. *Matheson v. Progressive Specialty Ins.*
7 *Co.*, 319 F.3d 1089, 1090 (9th Cir. 2003). The Court will consider facts
8 presented in the removal petition as well as any summary-judgment-type
9 evidence relevant to the amount in controversy at time of removal. *Id.*
10 Conclusory allegations as to the amount in controversy are insufficient. *Id.*
11 Parties must file an Amended Complaint or Amended Notice of Removal
12 within **fifteen days from the date the action is assigned to Judge Jones** if
13 there is a doubt as to whether they have established the citizenship of the
14 parties or whether they have established the amount in controversy. Failure
15 to comply may result in dismissal or remand.

- 16 **5. Meet and Confer Requirement:** For all cases, except applications for
17 temporary restraining orders, counsel contemplating the filing of any motion
18 shall first contact opposing counsel to discuss *thoroughly*, preferably in
19 person, the *substance* of the contemplated motion *and any potential*
20 *resolution*. The Court construes this requirement strictly. Half-hearted
21 attempts at compliance with this rule will not satisfy counsel’s obligation.
22 The parties must discuss the substantive grounds for the motion and attempt
23 to reach an accord that would eliminate the need for the motion. The Court
24 strongly emphasizes that discussions of the substance of contemplated
25 motions are to take place, if at all possible, in person. *All* motions must
26 include a declaration by counsel briefly describing the parties’ discussion and

1 attempt to eliminate the need for the motion and the date of such discussion.
2 Filings not in compliance with this rule may be stricken.

3 **6. Applications to Seal Documents:** It is the Court, not the parties, that
4 determines whether a document can be filed under seal. The Court will only
5 permit filings under seal if the party seeking to seal the information
6 demonstrates why the public’s traditional right of access to court documents
7 and the public policies favoring disclosure are outweighed by good cause (if
8 the motion is not case-dispositive) or compelling reasons (if the motion is
9 case-dispositive or the information is included in the operative complaint)
10 that support keeping the information under seal. The fact that a party has
11 designated a particular document “Confidential” is not sufficient to convince
12 the Court that good cause or compelling reasons exist to seal that document.

13 **7. Attorney’s Fees Motions:** All motions seeking attorney’s fees must be
14 accompanied by an appropriate declaration that attaches all relevant
15 timesheets and costs.

16 **8. Discovery and Initial Disclosures:** The parties shall not file initial
17 disclosures and other discovery on the court’s docket, unless such discovery
18 is the subject of a motion.

19 **9. Legal Citations:** All motions, oppositions, and replies must be supported by
20 relevant legal authority. Citations should be in Blue Book format and must
21 be included in the body of the briefing – the Court does not allow citations in
22 footnotes or endnotes.

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