

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
9 AT SEATTLE

10 JEANNINE TATER,

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 OANDA CORPORATION, et al.,

14 Defendants.

CASE NO. C19-0158JLR

ORDER

15 **I. INTRODUCTION**

16 Before the court are four motions: (1) Defendants OANDA (Canada) Corporation
17 ULC (“OANDA Canada”) and OANDA Corporation’s (together with OANDA Canada,
18 the “OANDA Defendants”) motion to dismiss *pro se* Plaintiff Jeannine Tater’s complaint
19 (MTD (Dkt. # 10)); (2) Ms. Tater’s motion for extension of time to oppose the motion to
20 dismiss and for court-appointed counsel (*see* 6/10/19 Mot. for Extension (Dkt. # 26));
21 (3) Ms. Tater’s motion for extension of the deadline to join additional parties (*see* 7/30/19
22 Mot. for Extension (Dkt. # 34)); and (4) Ms. Tater’s motion to compel production of

1 documents (*see* Mot. to Compel (Dkt. # 36)).¹ The court has considered the motions, the
2 parties' submissions in support of and in opposition to the motions, the relevant portions
3 of the record, and the applicable law. Being fully advised,² the court DENIES Ms.
4 Tater's motion for extension of time to oppose the motion to dismiss and for
5 court-appointed counsel, GRANTS the OANDA Defendants' motion to dismiss, and
6 DENIES as MOOT Ms. Tater's motion for extension of the deadline to join additional
7 parties and her motion to compel production of documents.

8 II. BACKGROUND

9 A. Factual Background

10 The OANDA Defendants provide a desktop platform for internet-based foreign
11 exchange trading and currency services information. (Martell Decl. (Dkt. # 12) ¶ 2.³)
12 Ms. Tater alleges that she lost \$380,000 trading currency on the OANDA Defendants'
13 platform in 2011 and 2012. (*See* Am. Compl. (Dkt. # 1-2) at 5-6.) Although Ms. Tater's
14 complaint is difficult to decipher, she appears to claim that her losses resulted from

15
16 ¹ Although Ms. Tater did not title her filings a "motion for extension," "motion to
17 compel," or "motion to appoint counsel" (*see* Dkt. ## 26, 34, 36), the court construes the Ms.
18 Tater's *pro se* requests for relief liberally. *See Bernhardt v. Los Angeles Cty.*, 339 F.3d 920, 925
(9th Cir. 2003) ("Courts have a duty to construe *pro se* pleadings liberally, including *pro se*
motions as well as complaints." (citations omitted)).

19 ² Neither Ms. Tater nor the OANDA Defendants request oral argument (*see* MTD;
20 6/10/19 Mot. for Extension; 7/30/19 Mot. for Extension; Mot. to Compel), and the court
concludes that oral argument is unnecessary to its dispositions of the motions, *see* Local Rules
W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).

21 ³ As discussed below, the court decides this motion on the OANDA Defendants' motion
22 to dismiss for *forum non conveniens*. *See infra* § III.B. The court may consider matters outside
the pleadings on a motion to dismiss for *forum non conveniens*. *Putz v. Golden, No.*
C10-0741JLR, 2010 WL 5071270, at *4 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 7, 2010).

1 misrepresentations made by the OANDA Defendants, problems with the OANDA
2 Defendants’ platform, and improper actions taken by the OANDA Defendants on Ms.
3 Tater’s account. (*See id.* at 5-7, 9-10.)

4 It is not clear from the face of Ms. Tater’s pleadings whether Ms. Tater engaged in
5 foreign exchange trading through an account with OANDA Corporation or OANDA
6 Canada. Ms. Tater alleges that she applied for an account with the “New York affiliate”
7 of the OANDA Defendants on February 26, 2011, so that she could “exchange Canadian
8 for USD.” (*See id.* at 5.) According to Ms. Tater, her “USA account” was “approved” on
9 March 3, 2011. (*See id.* at 5, 9.) The OANDA Defendants claim, however, that Ms.
10 Tater never completed the process of setting up her account with OANDA Corporation—
11 the entity responsible for all U.S. OANDA accounts. (*See Martell Decl.* ¶¶ 2-3.)

12 Although the parties dispute whether Ms. Tater ever opened a valid U.S. account with
13 OANDA Corporation, even if Ms. Tater is correct that she had a valid account, the
14 OANDA Defendants assert that Ms. Tater never funded a U.S. account with OANDA
15 Corporation or transacted any business through OANDA Corporation (*see id.* ¶¶ 3-4),
16 and Ms. Tater does not dispute those allegations (*see generally* Am. Compl.).

17 Instead, the parties appear to agree that the transactions at issue in this case were
18 conducted through a “FXTrade” account that Ms. Tater created with OANDA Canada.
19 (*See* Am. Compl. at 9 (“On March 6, 2011 defendant told plaintiff to reenroll [through]
20 Oanda Canada On March 9, 2011 Defendant approved Plaintiff for Canadian
21 Account Number #33023[.]”); Therrien Decl. (Dkt. # 13) ¶ 3 (“On March 7, 2011,
22 Plaintiff Jeannine Tater opened a currency trading account with OANDA Canada by

1 signing up for a foreign exchange account, known as an ‘FXTrade account.’”); *id.* ¶ 10
2 (“Between March 2011 and October 2, 2012, Plaintiff engaged in currency exchanges
3 and foreign exchange trades through her OANDA Canada FXTrade account.”); *id.* ¶ 13,
4 Ex. C at 2-5 (email from Ms. Tater sent to OANDA Canada detailing the problems she
5 experienced using the FXTrade platform.) Ms. Tater opened her OANDA Canada
6 account using a Canadian address and a Canadian email address. (Therrien Decl. ¶ 8;
7 Am. Compl. at 5.)

8 In order to create an FXTrade account with OANDA Canada, Ms. Tater had to
9 click through and agree to the terms of the OANDA Canada FXTrade Customer
10 Agreement (Therrien Decl. ¶ 4, Ex. A (“Customer Agreement”)) that was in place at the
11 time she created her account. (*Id.* ¶¶ 4-6.) The first paragraph of the Customer
12 Agreement states this obligation explicitly:

13 **IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: In order to open and**
14 **operate an FXTrade account with OANDA (Canada) Corporation ULC**
15 **(“OANDA”), you (the “Customer”) must agree to the terms and**
16 **conditions of this Customer Agreement (the “Agreement”). Please read**
17 **this Agreement in its entirety. If you agree to be bound by its terms and**
18 **conditions, click “I Agree” at the end of this Agreement and continue on**
19 **with the registration process.**

20 (Customer Agreement at 2.) The Customer Agreement also contains the following
21 choice of law and forum-selection clause:

22 **Law and Venue.** This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the
Province of Ontario, without giving effect to any conflict of laws doctrine
that would interfere or prevent the application of this provision. Except as
provided in OANDA’s optional arbitration agreement, any judicial or
administrative action or proceeding arising directly or indirectly under this
Agreement, or in connection with the transactions contemplated by this
Agreement, whether brought by you or OANDA, shall be held, at the sole

1 discretion of OANDA, within the Judicial District of York in the Province of
2 Ontario exclusively. You hereby consent and submit to, and waive any
3 objections you may have to such venue, and you further agree to waive and
forego any right you may have to transfer or change the venue of any action
or proceeding encompassed by this Agreement.

4 (*Id.* at 14, ¶ 41(f).) OANDA Canada’s headquarters are in Toronto, Canada, which is
5 located in the Judicial District of York in the Province of Ontario. (Ryan Decl. (Dkt.
6 # 11) ¶¶ 2-3.)

7 **B. Procedural History**

8 On October 8, 2018, Ms. Tater initiated this action by filing a complaint in
9 Whatcom County Superior Court that named “Oanda Corp,” “OandaFX,” “Oanda Global
10 Transfer” and several John and Jane Does as defendants. (*See* Compl. (Dkt. # 1-1) at
11 4-5.) On December 31, 2018, Ms. Tater amended her complaint and named OANDA
12 Corporation, OANDA Canada, and several John and Jane Does as defendants. (*See* Am.
13 Compl. at 4-5.) The gravamen of Ms. Tater’s complaint is her claim that she lost
14 \$380,000 while foreign exchange trading on the OANDA Defendants’ platform due to
15 various wrongs committed by the OANDA Defendants. (*See id.* at 5-7.) Based on those
16 allegations, Ms. Tater pleaded causes of action for “[n]egligence, [m]isrepresentation,
17 and/or [f]raud”; breach of contract; and intentional infliction of emotional distress. (*Id.* at
18 6-7.)

19 The OANDA Defendants removed this case on February 1, 2019 (*see* Notice of
20 Removal (Dkt. # 1)) and filed a motion to dismiss on February 8, 2019 (*see* MTD). The
21 OANDA Defendants raise three arguments in their motion to dismiss: (1) this case
22 should be dismissed on *forum non conveniens* grounds pursuant to the forum-selection

1 clause in the Customer Agreement; (2) the court lacks personal jurisdiction over OANDA
2 Canada; and (3) Ms. Tater's complaint should be dismissed under Federal Rule of Civil
3 Procedure 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim. (*See* MTD at 8-17.)

4 The OANDA Defendants' motion to dismiss was originally noted for March 15,
5 2019, which meant that Ms. Tater's opposition papers were due on March 11, 2019. *See*
6 Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR (7)(d)(3). To accommodate Ms. Tater, the OANDA
7 Defendants voluntarily re-noted the motion to May 3, 2019 (Notice (Dkt. # 16) at 2),
8 which meant that Ms. Tater's response date moved to April 29, 2019, *see* Local Rules
9 W.D. Wash. LCR (7)(d)(3). On April 15, 2019, Ms. Tater filed a pleading that the court
10 construed as a motion for extension of time to respond to the OANDA Defendants'
11 motion. (*See* 4/15/19 Mot. for Extension (Dkt. # 22).) In that motion, Ms. Tater
12 requested an extension on her response date until "after the July 4th holidays" due to
13 medical complications from a recent surgery. (*See id.* at 2-3.) The court granted Ms.
14 Tater's motion in part and extended her response deadline to June 10, 2019. (5/3/19
15 Order (Dkt. # 25) at 4.) The court concluded that Ms. Tater was entitled to an additional
16 six weeks to file her opposition instead of the 10 weeks she requested because Ms. Tater
17 had "already received a substantial extension of time to file her motion to dismiss
18 response." (*Id.*) The court also advised Ms. Tater that her status as a *pro se* litigant did
19 not alleviate her obligation to litigate her case in accordance with the Federal Rules and
20 directed Ms. Tater to the Western District of Washington's online materials aimed at
21 assisting *pro se* litigants. (*See id.* at 6.)

22 Instead of filing a response on June 10, 2019, Ms. Tater filed a motion for

1 extension of time to respond to the OANDA Defendants' motion to dismiss and for
2 court-appointed counsel on the date her opposition was due. (*See* 6/10/19 Mot. for
3 Extension.) Ms. Tater requests an extension of time to file her response to the motion to
4 dismiss so that she can have additional time to secure legal representation. (*Id.* at 1-3.)
5 She alleges that she has made efforts to secure counsel but has not yet been successful in
6 finding representation. (*Id.*) Additionally, Ms. Tater asks the court to assist her in
7 acquiring an attorney. (*Id.* at 3.) The OANDA Defendants oppose Ms. Tater's request
8 for an extension on the grounds that she has already been afforded sufficient time to
9 respond to the motion to dismiss. (*See* OANDA Resp. & Reply (Dkt. # 28) at 3-7.)

10 While the OANDA Defendants' motion to dismiss and Ms. Tater's motion for
11 extension of time and to appoint counsel were pending, Ms. Tater filed two additional
12 motions. First, on July 30, 2019, Ms. Tater filed a motion for extension of the deadline to
13 join additional parties. (*See* 7/30/19 Mot. for Extension.) In that motion, Ms. Tater
14 alleges that she needs an extension on the deadline to add parties because she had
15 requested discovery from the OANDA Defendants and that discovery may include
16 information needed to add additional parties to this action. (*Id.* at 1-2.) Second, on July
17 31, 2019, Ms. Tater moved to compel the OANDA Defendants to produce her OANDA
18 client file and information pertaining to insurance carried by the OANDA Defendants.
19 (*See* Mot. to Compel at 1-2.) Ms. Tater emailed a handful of rudimentary discovery
20 requests to the OANDA Defendants on July 5 and July 30, 2019, but received no
21 response until after she filed her motion to compel. (*See id.*; Discovery Requests (Dkt.
22 ## 36-2, 36-3); Lee Aff. (Dkt. # 38) ¶ 2 (acknowledging that the OANDA Defendants did

1 not respond to Ms. Tater’s discovery requests until August 1, 2019.) The OANDA
2 Defendants opposed both motions. (*See* 8/7/19 Resp. (Dkt. # 37).)

3 The court now considers the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss, Ms. Tater’s
4 two motions for extension, and Ms. Tater’s motion to compel.

5 III. ARGUMENT

6 A. Motion for Extension of Time to Respond and to Appoint Counsel

7 The court first considers Ms. Tater’s motion for extension of time to respond to
8 the motion to dismiss and to appoint counsel because that motion bears on the OANDA
9 Defendants’ motion to dismiss. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(b)(1), when an
10 act must be done within a specified time, the court may extend the time for good cause if
11 the request for an extension is made before the original time or its extension expires. *See*
12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(b)(1)(A). Because Ms. Tater filed her motion to for extension of time
13 on the date that her opposition was due (*see* 5/3/19 Order at 4 (ordering Ms. Tater to
14 oppose the motion to dismiss by June 10, 2019); 6/10/19 Mot. for Extension), a “good
15 cause” standard applies to Ms. Tater’s request. Fed. R. Civ. P. 6(b)(1)(A). “‘Good
16 cause’ is a non-rigorous standard that has been construed broadly across procedural and
17 statutory contexts.” *Ahanchian v. Xenon Pictures, Inc.*, 624 F.3d 1253, 1259 (9th Cir.
18 2010). Moreover, Rule 6(b)(1) is “liberally construed to effectuate the general purpose of
19 seeing that cases are tried on their merits.” *Id.* at 1258-59 (citations omitted).

20 Liberally construed, Ms. Tater’s motion for an extension of time requests that her
21 June 10, 2019 deadline for her opposition to the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss
22 be extended until: (1) Ms. Tater retains counsel, (2) an undefined point in the future

1 when “the other issues in this lawsuit” would be adjudicated, or (3) August 6, 2019. (*See*
2 6/10/19 Mot. for Extension at 3.) Ms. Tater claims that an extension is warranted
3 because she needs additional time to obtain representation in this case. (*See id.* at 1-3.)
4 Ms. Tater filed her complaint in Whatcom County Superior Court on October 8, 2018.
5 (*See* Compl.) The OANDA Defendants removed on February 1, 2019, and filed their
6 motion to dismiss on February 8, 2019. (*See* Notice of Removal; MTD.) In March, the
7 OANDA Defendants voluntarily provided Ms. Tater seven additional weeks to file her
8 opposition. (*See* Notice.) In May, the court gave Ms. Tater six additional weeks to
9 oppose the motion. (*See* 5/3/19 Order at 4.) All told, Ms. Tater had more than four
10 months to oppose the OANDA Defendants’ motion, and it has been 11 months since she
11 initially filed her complaint. Ms. Tater has been afforded sufficient time to find counsel
12 or file her own opposition absent assistance from counsel. Thus, the court finds that there
13 is not good cause to grant another extension for Ms. Tater to file an opposition to the
14 OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss.⁴ *See Karboau v. Clark*, No. C12-5045BHS-
15 KLS, 2012 WL 5350072, at *1 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 30, 2012) (denying *pro se* motion for
16 extension of time to retain counsel because plaintiff “has been granted multiple

17 //

18 ⁴ Additionally, the court notes that Ms. Tater’s reply in support of her motion for
19 extension of time includes arguments and exhibits in response to the OANDA Defendants’ reply
20 in support of their motion to dismiss. (*See* Reply ISO Mot. for Extension (Dkt. # 29) at 1-2;
21 Exhibits (Dkt. # 30).) Because those materials were filed in response to the OANDA
22 Defendants’ reply on a different motion, they are improper surreply materials and the court
declines to consider them in its evaluation of the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss. *See*
Nguyen v. The Boeing Co., No. C15-0793RAJ, 2016 WL 2855357, at *8 (W.D. Wash. May 16,
2016) (“Surreplies are permitted solely to strike material contained or attached in a reply brief
and only if certain timing and formatting requirements are met.” (citing Local Rules W.D. Wash.
LCR 7(g))).

1 extensions and has had more than sufficient time to retain an attorney in this matter”).

2 Ms. Tater’s motion for an extension of time also includes a one-line request that
3 the court assist Ms. Tater in finding legal representation. (06/10/19 Mot. for Extension at
4 3.) Generally, civil litigants have no right to counsel. *Palmer v. Valdez*, 560 F.3d 965,
5 970 (9th Cir. 2009). However, a court may under “exceptional circumstances” appoint
6 counsel for indigent civil litigants pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1). *Id.* Ms. Tater is
7 not proceeding *in forma pauperis* and does not allege that she is indigent. (*See generally*
8 Dkt.; 6/10/19 Mot. for Extension.) Thus, section 1915 does not apply to her claim. *See,*
9 *e.g., Scott v. Cunningham*, No. C11-5509BHS-KLS, 2012 WL 529549, at *3 (W.D.
10 Wash. Feb. 16, 2012) (declining to appoint counsel for non-indigent *pro se* plaintiff);
11 *Johnson v. Cate*, No. 1:10-CV-0803-AWI-MJS, 2014 WL 6978324, at *6 (E.D. Cal. Dec.
12 9, 2014) (declining to apply 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1) to a *pro se* plaintiff who was not
13 proceeding *in forma pauperis*). Moreover, even if section 1915(e)(1) could apply, the
14 court would decline to exercise its discretion to appoint counsel for Ms. Tater because her
15 case does not present the kind of “exceptional circumstances” required for the court to
16 appoint counsel. *See Wilborn v. Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986) (noting
17 that a finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both the likelihood
18 of success on the merits and the ability of the plaintiff to articulate his or her claims *pro*
19 *se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved).

20 For the foregoing reasons, the court DENIES Ms. Tater’s motion for an extension
21 of time to respond to the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss and for appointment of
22 counsel.

1 **B. The OANDA Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss for *Forum Non Conveniens***

2 The court next considers the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss for *forum*
3 *non conveniens*. (See MTD at 8-14.) Although the court recognizes that the OANDA
4 Defendants also allege that there is no personal jurisdiction over OANDA Canada, courts
5 may consider the question of *forum non conveniens* without first deciding whether the
6 court has subject matter or personal jurisdiction. *Sinochem Int’l Co. v. Malaysia Int’l*
7 *Shipping Corp.*, 549 U.S. 422, 425 (2007) (“[A] court need not resolve whether it has
8 authority to adjudicate the cause (subject-matter jurisdiction) or personal jurisdiction over
9 the defendant if it determines that, in any event, a foreign tribunal is plainly the more
10 suitable arbiter of the merits of the case.”). Although the *Sinochem* Court noted that a
11 court should address jurisdiction first if the court can “readily determine” that it lacks
12 jurisdiction, *Sinochem Int’l*, 549 U.S. at 436, the court notes that the OANDA Defendants
13 only moved to dismiss OANDA Canada on jurisdictional grounds (see MTD at 14-15).
14 Given that the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss for *forum non conveniens* applies
15 to this action as a whole (see *id.* at 8 (“[T]he Court should dismiss this case for forum non
16 conveniens.”)), consideration of *forum non conveniens* before reaching the jurisdictional
17 question presented by OANDA Canada is the “less burdensome course,” see *Sinochem*
18 *Int’l*, 549 U.S. at 436.

19 “[T]he appropriate way to enforce a forum-selection clause pointing to a state or
20 foreign forum is through the doctrine of *forum non conveniens*.” *Atl. Marine Const. Co.*
21 *v. U.S. Dist. Court for W. Dist. of Tex.*, 571 U.S. 49, 60 (2013). A motion to dismiss for
22 *forum non conveniens* based on a forum-selection clause proceeds in two steps. See *Yei*

1 *A. Sun v. Advanced China Healthcare, Inc.*, 901 F.3d 1081, 1086-87 (9th Cir. 2018).

2 First, as a threshold matter, courts must interpret the forum-selection clause at issue and
3 determine whether it applies to the allegations in the complaint. *See id.* at 1086. In
4 interpreting a forum-selection clause, federal courts apply federal law and “look for
5 guidance to general principles for interpreting contracts.” *Id.* (citations and internal
6 quotations omitted). Second, if the forum-selection clause applies to a dispute, courts
7 consider whether the forum-selection clause is enforceable under the doctrine of *forum*
8 *non conveniens*. *See id.* at 1087.

9 In resolving a motion to dismiss for *forum non conveniens*, the court may weigh
10 evidence and consider matters outside the pleadings. *Putz*, 2010 WL 5071270, at *4.
11 Where an applicable forum-selection clause is at issue, the Plaintiff bears the burden to
12 show that the clause is unenforceable. *See Atl. Marine*, 571 U.S. at 63.

13 By its terms, the forum-selection clause in the Customer Agreement applies to
14 “any judicial . . . action . . . arising directly or indirectly under this Agreement, or in
15 connection with the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, whether brought by
16 you or OANDA.” (Customer Agreement at 14, ¶ 41(f).) The forum-selection clause also
17 states that any such action “shall be held . . . within the Judicial District of York in the
18 Province of Ontario exclusively.” (*Id.*) Taken together, this language indicates that if
19 Ms. Tater’s complaint arises under the Customer Agreement or in connection with the
20 transactions contemplated by the Customer Agreement, then venue in the Judicial District
21 of York is mandatory. *See Lavera Skin Care N. Am., Inc. v. Laverana GmbH & Co. KG*,
22 No. C13-2311RSM, 2014 WL 7338739, at *5 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 19, 2014) (noting that

1 the *Atlantic Marine* rubric applies where forum-selection clauses are mandatory, as
2 opposed to permissive).

3 Because the forum selection clause is mandatory, the application prong of the
4 *forum non conveniens* analysis turns on whether Ms. Tater’s complaint “aris[es] directly
5 or indirectly under this Agreement, or in connection with the transactions contemplated
6 by this Agreement.” (Customer Agreement at 14, ¶ 41(f).) Ms. Tater acknowledges that
7 she opened an OANDA Canada account at the direction of the OANDA Defendants.
8 (See Am. Compl. at 9.) To open an OANDA Canada account and use that account for
9 foreign exchange trading, Ms. Tater had to click through and agree to the Customer
10 Agreement. (Therrien Decl. ¶¶ 3-6; Customer Agreement at 2 (“In order to open an
11 operate an FXTrade account with OANDA (Canada) . . . , you . . . must agree to the terms
12 and conditions of this Customer Agreement[.]”).) Given that the Customer Agreement
13 controlled the entirety of Ms. Tater’s use of the OANDA Canada platform (*see generally*
14 Customer Agreement), if Ms. Tater used her OANDA Canada account to make the
15 foreign exchange trades at issue in her complaint, the court has little difficulty concluding
16 that her complaint “aris[es] directly or indirectly under [the Customer Agreement], or in
17 connection with the transactions contemplated by [the Customer Agreement],” (*see id.* at
18 14, ¶ 41(f)).

19 Ms. Tater’s complaint clearly alleges that she lost \$380,000 foreign exchange
20 trading on the OANDA Defendants’ platform. (Am. Compl. at 5-7.) The OANDA
21 Defendants submitted declarations stating that all of Ms. Tater’s transactions were
22 conducted through her OANDA Canada account. (See Therrien Decl. ¶¶ 3, 10 (stating

1 that Ms. Tater opened an OANDA Canada account on March 7, 2011, and used that
2 account for currency exchanges and foreign exchange trades between March 2011 and
3 October 2012); Martell Decl. ¶¶ 3-4 (stating that Ms. Tater never funded a U.S. account
4 with OANDA Corporation and had no business relationship with OANDA Corporation).)
5 Ms. Tater does not refute that evidence. (*See generally* Am. Compl. at 5-7, 9-10.) In
6 fact, Ms. Tater appears to allege that she signed up for an account with OANDA
7 Canada so that she could trade with the benefit of a \$1,000,000 insurance policy that was
8 only available through OANDA Canada. (*See id.* at 5, 9.) Also, the dates of events listed
9 in her complaint are generally consistent with the OANDA Defendants’ allegation that
10 Ms. Tater traded with OANDA Canada between March 2011 and October 2012.
11 (*Compare* Am. Compl. at 5-6, 9 *with* Therrien Decl. ¶ 10.) Finally, the OANDA
12 Defendants submitted an email from Ms. Tater in which she stated that she filed a
13 complaint with the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada through the
14 British Columbia Securities Commission. (*See* Therrien Decl. ¶ 14, Ex. D.) Thus,
15 despite the opaque nature of Ms. Tater’s allegations, the parties appear to agree that the
16 trades at issue were made through Ms. Tater’s OANDA Canada account.

17 Because Ms. Tater used her OANDA Canada account to make the trades at issue,
18 her complaint “aris[es] directly or indirectly under [the Customer Agreement], or in
19 connection with the transactions contemplated by [the Customer Agreement].”

20 (Customer Agreement at 14, ¶ 41(f).) Thus, the forum-selection clause applies to this
21 dispute, which means that Ms. Tater was contractually required to file this action in “the

22 //

1 Judicial District of York in the Province of Ontario.”⁵ (*Id.*)

2 Because the forum-selection clause applies to this dispute, the court turns to the
3 enforceability of the clause under *Atlantic Marine*. See *Advanced China Healthcare*, 901
4 F.3d at 1087. Due to the strong policy in favor of forum-selection clauses articulated in
5 *Atlantic Marine*, the general rule is that “a valid forum-selection clause should be given
6 controlling weight in all but the most exceptional cases.” *Atl. Marine*, 571 U.S. at 63
7 (citations and internal quotations omitted). Accordingly, valid forum-selection clauses
8 control unless the plaintiff makes a strong showing that:

9 (1) the clause is invalid due to “fraud or overreaching,” (2) “enforcement
10 would contravene a strong public policy of the forum in which suit is brought,
11 whether declared by statute or by judicial decision,” or (3) “trial in the
contractual forum will be so gravely difficult and inconvenient that [the
litigant] will for all practical purposes be deprived of his day in court.”

12 *Advanced China Healthcare*, 901 F.3d at 1088 (quoting *M/S Bremen v. Zapata Off-Shore*
13 *Co.*, 407 U.S. 1, 15, 18 (1972)).

14 None of these exceptions apply here. There is no evidence that the OANDA
15 Defendants induced Ms. Tater to enter into the Customer Agreement through fraud or
16 overreaching.⁶ Ms. Tater alleges that she was “induced” by the OANDA Defendants to

17
18 ⁵ The court also agrees with the OANDA Defendants that the forum-selection clause
19 applies to OANDA Corporation even though OANDA Corporation is not a party to the Customer
20 Agreement. See *Manetti-Farrow, Inc. v. Gucci Am., Inc.*, 858 F.2d 509, 514 n.5 (9th Cir. 1988)
(noting that “a range of transaction participants, parties and non-parties,” can benefit from a
forum-selection clause so long as the non-parties’ alleged conduct is “closely related to the
contractual relationship”).

21 ⁶ The fact that the forum-selection clause was contained in a click through form contract
22 has no bearing on its enforceability. See, e.g., *Thomas v. Facebook, Inc.*, No.
118CV00856LJOBAM, 2018 WL 3915585, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 15, 2018) (“The principle
articulated in *Carnival Cruise Lines[, Inc. v. Shute]*, 499 U.S. 585 (1991)]—that forum selection

1 create an OANDA Canada account so that she could take advantage of certain insurance
2 benefits. (*See* Am. Compl. at 5.) But even if the act of encouraging Ms. Tater to open an
3 OANDA Canada account could be construed as “fraud” or “overreaching,” Ms. Tater’s
4 bald allegation is “not enough to overcome the strong presumption in favor of enforcing
5 forum selection clauses.” *Murphy v. Schneider Nat’l, Inc.*, 362 F.3d 1133, 1141 (9th Cir.
6 2004) (finding insufficient evidence of overreaching where the only evidence submitted
7 was the plaintiff’s assertion of overreaching); *see also Spradlin v. Lear Siegler Mgmt.*
8 *Servs. Co.*, 926 F.2d 865, 868 (9th Cir. 1991) (affirming decision to enforce forum-
9 selection clause because plaintiff failed “to come forward either here or in the district
10 court with anything beyond the most general and conclusory allegations of fraud and
11 inconvenience”). The court is not aware of any Washington statutes or judicial decisions
12 that articulate public policy grounds sufficient to disregard the forum-selection clause in
13 the Customer Agreement. Finally, because Ms. Tater can re-file her case in Canada,
14 applying the forum-selection clause will not deprive her of her day in court. Ms. Tater is
15 no stranger to Canada. She owned property in Canada, maintains a Canadian email
16 address, and initiated a complaint against OANDA Canada with Canadian regulatory
17 authorities. (*See* Am. Compl. at 5, 9-10; Therrien Decl. ¶¶ 8, 11, 14; *id.* Ex. D-E.) The
18 court sees no reason why Ms. Tater cannot pursue her claims against the OANDA

19 //

20 //

21 clauses in form contracts are presumptively enforceable—has been consistently and routinely
22 applied to forum selection clauses contained in click through user agreements on websites.”
(citations omitted)).

1 Defendants in Canada.⁷ In fact, if Ms. Tater re-files her case in Toronto, OANDA
2 Corporation has agreed to treat service of process on OANDA Canada as valid service of
3 process on OANDA Corporation. (Martell Decl. ¶ 5.)

4 In sum, the forum-selection clause in the Customer Agreement applies to this case
5 and the Supreme Court’s guidance in *Atlantic Marine* instructs that that clause must be
6 enforced under the doctrine of *forum non conveniens*. Thus, the court GRANTS the
7 OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss and DISMISSES Ms. Tater’s action without
8 prejudice.⁸ Because the court dismisses Ms. Tater’s action on *forum non conveniens*
9 grounds, the court DECLINES to decide whether the court has jurisdiction over OANDA
10 Canada and whether Ms. Tater’s complaint states a claim for relief under Federal Rule
11 12(b)(6). (See MTD at 14-17.)

12 //

13 //

14 ⁷ Although the court is not aware of what the statute of limitations is for Ms. Tater’s
15 claims under the applicable Canadian law, the court must still dismiss even if Ms. Tater’s case
16 would be time-barred in Canada. See *Advanced China Healthcare*, 901 F.3d at 1091 (“A court
17 must dismiss a suit filed ‘in a forum other than the one specified in a valid forum-selection
18 clause,’ even if it ‘makes it possible for [plaintiffs] to lose out completely, through the running of
19 the statute of limitations in the forum finally deemed appropriate.’” (quoting *Atl. Marine*, 571
20 U.S. at 66 n.8)).

18 ⁸ Although Ms. Tater has not requested leave to amend her complaint, the court
19 concludes that leave to amend is not warranted here. Courts may deny leave to amend where
20 amended pleadings would be subject to dismissal. *Finsa Portafolios, S.A. DE C.V. v. OpenGate
21 Capital, LLC*, 769 F. App’x 429, 432 (9th Cir. 2019). Here, given the court’s conclusion that the
22 transactions at issue arise under the Customer Agreement, any amendment Ms. Tater offered
would be futile and dismissed for the same reasons that the court dismisses the current
complaint. See, e.g., *id.* (“[The plaintiff] has presented no compelling argument that its amended
complaint would not have been subject to the forum-selection clauses. Thus, the amended
complaint would have been subject to dismissal under the same forum non conveniens analysis
as the initial complaint.”).

1 **C. Motion to Extend the Deadline to Join Parties and Motion to Compel**

2 The court has also reviewed Ms. Tater’s motion for extension of time to extend the
3 deadline to join parties and her motion to compel production of documents and concludes
4 that neither motion impacts the *forum non conveniens* analysis. (See 7/30/19 Mot. for
5 Extension; Mot. to Compel.) Even if the court granted Ms. Tater additional time to add
6 parties, adding parties would not change the fact that Ms. Tater’s allegations arise under
7 an enforceable forum-selection clause. As for the motion to compel, even if the court
8 assumed that Ms. Tater’s requests were valid under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34
9 and granted her motion, her discovery requests have little-to-no relationship to the motion
10 to dismiss. (See Mot. to Compel at 1-2); see *Young v. Wachovia FSB*, No. C11-0552JCC,
11 2011 WL 3022301, at *1 (W.D. Wash. July 22, 2011) (dismissing case despite pending
12 discovery requests because discovery requests “appear to have no relation to the motion
13 to dismiss”). Moreover, Ms. Tater did not request discovery or move to compel until
14 long after her June 10, 2019 deadline to oppose the motion to dismiss had passed. Ms.
15 Tater’s discovery requests were not emailed until July 5, 2019 and her motion to compel
16 was not filed until July 31, 2019. (See Mot. to Compel.) Thus, even if the discovery she
17 sought had some relevance to the motion to dismiss, she did not request it in time to offer
18 it in opposition to the *forum non conveniens* argument.

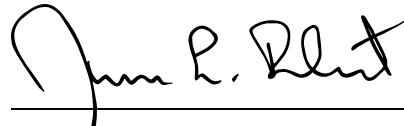
19 Because neither Ms. Tater’s motion for extension of time to extend the deadline to
20 join parties nor her motion to compel production of documents would impact the
21 outcome of Ms. Tater’s case, the court DENIES both motions as MOOT.

22 //

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Based on the foregoing analysis, the court DENIES Ms. Tater’s motion for
3 extension of time to oppose the motion to dismiss and for court-appointed counsel (Dkt.
4 # 26), GRANTS the OANDA Defendants’ motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 10), and
5 DISMISSES Ms. Tater’s action WITHOUT PREJUDICE. Because the court dismisses
6 Ms. Tater’s action on *forum non conveniens* grounds, the court DECLINES to decide
7 whether the court has jurisdiction over OANDA Canada and whether Ms. Tater’s
8 complaint states a claim for relief under Federal Rule 12(b)(6). Finally, because the court
9 grants the motion to dismiss, it also DENIES as MOOT Ms. Tater’s motion for extension
10 of the deadline to join additional parties (Dkt. # 34) and her motion to compel production
11 of documents (Dkt. # 36).

12 Dated this 21st day of September, 2019.

13
14 

15 JAMES L. ROBART
16 United States District Judge
17
18
19
20
21
22