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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

LOTTI BLUEMNER, an individual,
Plaintiff,

vs.

ERGO MEDIA CAPITAL, LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; ERIK
H. GORDON, an individual; and DOES 1-
20, inclusive,
Defendants.

CASE NO. CV 15-01392 MMM (AJWx)
ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO REMAND

On February 28, 2014, Lotti Bluemner filed this action in Los Angeles Superior Court against Ergo Media Capital, LLC (“Ergo”), Erik H. Gordon (collectively, “defendants”), and certain fictitious defendants.¹ The complaint alleged nine claims based on Bluemner’s purportedly wrongful termination by defendants.² On February 26, 2015, defendants removed the action to this court,

¹Notice of Removal (“Removal”), Docket No. 1 (Feb. 26, 2015), Exh. A (“Complaint”).

²Complaint.

1 invoking the court’s diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332.³

2 On March 30, 2015, Bluemner filed a motion to remand, asserting that defendants’ removal
3 was untimely.⁴ Defendants oppose the motion.⁵ Pursuant to Rule 78 of the Federal Rules of Civil
4 Procedure and Local Rule 7-15, the court finds the motion appropriate for decision without oral
5 argument. The hearing calendared for June 15, 2015 is therefore vacated, and the matter taken off
6 calendar.

7
8 **I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

9 Bluemner alleges that Gordon is the sole owner of ErGo Media.⁶ In April 2012, Gordon
10 offered Bluemner a position as his Los Angeles-based personal assistant with a salary of \$90,000
11 per year plus a performance bonus and full health insurance coverage.⁷ She accepted the offer the
12 day it was made.⁸ As Gordon’s Los Angeles-based assistant, Bluemner’s tasks included maintaining
13 and overseeing his Beverly Hills residence and vehicles, making Gordon’s property and vehicles
14 available to friends and guests, acting as a social liaison at events, traveling domestically and
15 internationally with Gordon, making purchases for Gordon and his friends with a credit card in her
16 name Gordon supplied, and various other personal assistant duties.⁹ The complaint asserts that some
17 of Bluemner’s primary duties, in addition to those above, included procuring admission to
18 nightclubs, attending social events with his friends, and helping to obtain and entertain women in
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³Removal.

22 ⁴Motion to Remand (“Motion”), Docket No. 20 (Mar. 30, 2015).

23 ⁵Opposition to Motion to Remand (“Opposition”), Docket No. 25 (May 22, 2015).

24 ⁶Complaint, ¶ 2.

25 ⁷*Id.*, ¶ 13.

26 ⁸*Id.*

27 ⁹*Id.*, ¶ 18(a-j).

1 whom that was romantically interested.¹⁰ Bluemner maintains she was hired as “eye-candy” or
2 “bait” for other attractive women so that they would notice Gordon and his friends.¹¹ Once
3 employed, she asserts, she was subjected to “unwanted flirtatious comments, references to her body
4 parts, sexual advances, and occasional uninvited touching by . . . Gordon.”¹²

5 Bluemner alleges that she was always on call when Gordon was in town.¹³ Throughout the
6 employment relationship, Bluemner attended various events and made various trips with Gordon as
7 his personal assistant. On many occasions, at his direction, she purportedly obtained prostitutes and
8 narcotics to facilitate his partying; she also allegedly “baby-sat” him when he was intoxicated or
9 vulnerable to people seeking to take advantage of him.¹⁴ On approximately May 26, 2012, Bluemner
10 traveled to Las Vegas with Gordon and his guests; the group purportedly procured strippers and
11 narcotics, and Gordon asked Bluemner several times to take off her top and perform a strip dance.
12 She asserts she refused to do so.¹⁵ On December 8, 2012, out of fear that she would lose her job,
13 Bluemner acquiesced to Gordon’s request that she allow him to do “lines of cocaine off . . . [her]
14 exposed breasts in front of multiple persons.”¹⁶ As a result of this and other incidents during her
15 employment, Bluemner alleges she was humiliated and suffered emotional distress and physical pain
16 and anguish.¹⁷

17 The complaint asserts that Gordon often praised Bluemner for her work, and that he paid her
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19 ¹⁰*Id.*, ¶ 19.

20 ¹¹*Id.*, ¶ 21.

21 ¹²*Id.*, ¶ 24. Gordon purportedly requested that Bluemner perform strip dances, take off her top
22 in the hot tub, take photographs pictures of her naked breasts, and lie in bed with him while he was
23 “high.” (*Id.*, ¶ 24.)

24 ¹³*Id.*, ¶ 20.

25 ¹⁴*Id.*, ¶¶ 22–23.

26 ¹⁵*Id.*, ¶¶ 17–18.

27 ¹⁶*Id.*, ¶ 25.

28 ¹⁷*Id.*, ¶ 75.

1 an end-of-the-year bonus of \$8,250.00. She contends that, prior to her termination, she did not
2 receive any negative feedback from Gordon.¹⁸ When Bluemner learned in December 2012 that she
3 was pregnant, she sought reassurances from Gordon – apparently without disclosing that she was
4 pregnant – that she would have security and long-term employment as his personal assistant.¹⁹ He
5 purportedly stated that he was “very pleased,” that she was doing an “amazing job,” and that her job
6 was secure for the foreseeable future.²⁰ To confirm his review, Bluemner requested that a mutual
7 friend meet with him to inquire about Bluemner’s performance; Gordon purportedly gave the friend
8 a similar positive review.²¹ In reliance on Gordon’s statements, Bluemner “committed to her
9 pregnancy,” and leased a larger apartment at a higher rent to accommodate the birth of her child.²²

10 At the end of March 2013, Bluemner told Gordon she was pregnant; she asserts that the way
11 she was treated changed immediately; she was purportedly excluded from social events and trips in
12 which she had typically been included.²³ Nonetheless, Bluemner allegedly continued to perform
13 other assistant duties, e.g., working with real estate agents to secure Gordon a new residence.²⁴

14 On July 11, 2013, after he returned from a trip abroad on which Bluemner was not invited,
15 Gordon emailed Bluemner to say that he was terminating her, effective immediately, and that he
16 would issue her last paycheck on July 15, 2013, six weeks prior to her due date.²⁵ He advised
17 Bluemner that her health benefits would be terminated at the end of July, and accused her of

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19 ¹⁸*Id.*, ¶¶ 28–29.

20 ¹⁹*Id.*, ¶ 30.

21 ²⁰*Id.*, ¶ 31.

22 ²¹*Id.*, ¶ 32.

23 ²²*Id.*, ¶ 33. Her new apartment and the corresponding charges amounted to \$4,000 per month.
24 (*Id.*)

25 ²³*Id.*, ¶ 34. Mutual friends had stated that Gordon commented “Las Vegas was not place for a
26 pregnant girl.” (*Id.*)

27 ²⁴*Id.*, ¶ 36.

28 ²⁵*Id.*, ¶ 39.

1 numerous acts of misconduct, including stealing by conspiring to receive a “kick-back” on his
2 potential purchase of a his new home, failing properly to maintain his residence and vehicles, and
3 misuse of the credit card he had given her.

4 5 **II. DISCUSSION**

6 **A. Legal Standard Governing Removal Jurisdiction**

7 “Except as otherwise expressly provided by Act of Congress, any civil action brought in a
8 State court of which the district courts of the United States have original jurisdiction, may be
9 removed by the defendant or the defendants, to the district court of the United States for the district
10 and division embracing the place where such action is pending.” 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). “If at any
11 time before final judgment[, however,] it appears that the district court lacks subject matter
12 jurisdiction, the case shall be remanded.” 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c).

13 The right to remove a case to federal court is entirely a creature of statute. See *Libhart v.*
14 *Santa Monica Dairy Co.*, 592 F.2d 1062, 1064 (9th Cir. 1979). The removal statute, 28 U.S.C. §
15 1441, allows defendants to remove when a case originally filed in state court presents a federal
16 question or is between citizens of different states and involves an amount in controversy that exceeds
17 \$75,000. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a), (b); see also 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332(a). Only state court
18 actions that could originally have been filed in federal court can be removed. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a);
19 see *Caterpillar, Inc. v. Williams*, 482 U.S. 386, 392 (1987); *Ethridge v. Harbor House Rest.*, 861
20 F.2d 1389, 1393 (9th Cir. 1988).

21 A plaintiff may seek remand if the removal is untimely. 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) “provides two
22 thirty-day windows during which a case may be removed – during the first thirty days after the
23 defendant receives the initial pleading or during the first thirty days after the defendant receives a
24 paper ‘from which it may first be ascertained that the case is one which is or has become removable’
25 if ‘the case stated by the initial pleading is not removable.’” *Harris v. Bankers Life & Cas. Co.*, 425
26 F.3d 689, 692 (9th Cir. 2005) (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)).

27 The Ninth Circuit “strictly construe[s] the removal statute against removal jurisdiction,” and
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1 “[f]ederal jurisdiction must be rejected if there is any doubt as to the right of removal in the first
2 instance.” *Gaus v. Miles, Inc.*, 980 F.2d 564, 566 (9th Cir. 1992) (citing *Boggs v. Lewis*, 863 F.2d
3 662, 663 (9th Cir. 1988), *Takeda v. Northwestern Nat’l Life Ins. Co.*, 765 F.2d 815, 818 (9th Cir.
4 1985), and *Libhart*, 592 F.2d at 1064). “The ‘strong presumption’ against removal jurisdiction
5 means that the defendant always has the burden of establishing that removal is proper.” *Id.* (citing
6 *Nishimoto v. Federman-Bachrach & Assocs.*, 903 F.2d 709, 712 n. 3 (9th Cir. 1990); *Emrich v.*
7 *Touche Ross & Co.*, 846 F.2d 1190, 1195 (9th Cir. 1988)). Doubts as to removability must be
8 resolved in favor of remanding the case to state court. *Matheson v. Progressive Specialty Ins. Co.*,
9 319 F.3d 1089, 1090 (9th Cir. 2003).

10 **B. Whether the Court Should Remand This Action to Los Angeles Superior Court**

11 Bluemner contends that defendants’ removal was untimely. Defendants counter (1) that they
12 were not properly served and that their default was thereafter entered, making it impossible for them
13 to remove. It is well settled that a court lacks power to exercise jurisdiction over a defendant, and
14 hence the thirty-day removal period does not begin to run, “in the absence of [] service (or waiver
15 of service by the defendant).” *Murphy Brothers, Inc. v. Michetti Pipe Stringing, Inc.*, 526 U.S. 344,
16 350 (1999).

17 Where a defendant has not been properly served, courts look to whether the defendant has
18 waived service under state law in gauging the timeliness of removal. See *Jenkins v. MTGLQ*
19 *Investors*, 218 Fed. Appx. 719, 724 (10th Cir. Feb. 9, 2007) (Unpub. Disp.) (“Because, as the district
20 court concluded, MTGLQ was never properly served with a copy of the summons . . . absent waiver
21 of service . . . the thirty-day period for filing a notice of removal set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)
22 never started to run”); *Maddaloni Jewelers, Inc. v. Rolex Watch U.S.A., Inc.*, No. 02 CIV. 6438
23 (SAS), 2002 WL 31509881, *3 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 6, 2002) (“The key question . . . is whether
24 defendants waived formal service of process”); see also *Russell v. Gordon*, No. CV-12-0514-JLQ,
25 2012 WL 4793651, *4 (E.D. Wash. Oct. 9, 2012) (“The question Plaintiff presents is whether the
26 removal clock was nevertheless started where the defendant has, by its conduct, waived service”);
27 *Marina Bay Towers Urban Renewal II, L.P. v. City of N. Wildwood*, No. CIV 09-369 NLH KMW,
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1 2009 WL 2568203, *3 (D.N.J. Aug. 13, 2009) (“It appears that plaintiff has never formally served
2 the City, [but] the City’s appearance at the injunction hearing . . . may constitute a waiver of service
3 under state law”).

4 California Code of Civil Procedure § 1014 provides, in relevant part, that a defendant
5 generally appears in an action “when the defendant answers, demurs, files a notice of motion to
6 strike, files a notice of motion to transfer pursuant to Section 396b, moves for reclassification
7 pursuant to Section 403.040, gives the plaintiff written notice of appearance, or when an attorney
8 gives notice of appearance for the defendant.” CAL. CODE CIV. PROC. § 1014. This list is not
9 exclusive, however. *Hamilton v. Asbestos Corp.*, 22 Cal.4th 1127, 1147 (2000). A defendant who
10 invokes the authority of the court or who affirmatively seeks relief available only if the court has
11 jurisdiction over the defendant is deemed to have made a general appearance. *Factor Health
12 Management v. Superior Court*, 132 Cal.App.4th 246, 250 (2005). “[W]hether a party engaged in
13 an act that amounts to an appearance is ‘fact specific.’” *Air Mach. Com SRL v. Superior Court*, 186
14 Cal.App.4th 414, 426 (2010).

15 Here, defendants filed motions to set aside their defaults under California Code of Civil
16 Procedure § 473 on October 6, 2014.²⁶ Although the basis of the motion was improper service,
17 defendants did not assert jurisdictional objections at the time they sought this relief. To the contrary,
18 Gordon – the sole owner/member of ErGo – stated in his declaration that the purpose of the motion
19 was “to request that the default against [him] be set aside and that [he] be allowed to defend th[e]
20 action on the merits.”²⁷ By failing to move to quash service at the time they sought to have their
21 defaults set aside, defendants’ “appearance in the section 473 matter was a general appearance
22 because [t]he[y] only contested the merits of the default and failed to raise any jurisdictional
23 objection.” *Venuta v. Loban*, No. A098143, 2002 WL 31598847, *2 (Cal. App. Nov. 20, 2002)²⁸

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25 ²⁶Removal, Exhs. T and X (Motions to Set Aside Default).

26 ²⁷*Id.*, Exh. U (Declaration of Erik Gordon).

27 ²⁸“Although the court is not bound by unpublished decisions of intermediate state courts,
28 unpublished opinions that are supported by reasoned analysis may be treated as persuasive

1 (citing 366-388 *Geary St., L.P. v. Superior Court*, 219 Cal.App.3d 1186, 1193 (1990)).²⁹ “[A]
2 general appearance is the equivalent of personal service of summons for jurisdictional purposes,
3 dispensing with any need to effect such service and curing defective service or other lack of notice.”
4 See 366-386 *Geary St.*, 219 Cal.App.3d at 1193; see also CAL. CIV. PROC. CODE § 410.50(a) (“A
5 general appearance by a party is equivalent to personal service of summons on such party”). Thus,
6 defendants waived any jurisdictional defect arising from defective service on October 6, 2014;
7 assuming the other prerequisites to removal were met by that date, the thirty day removal period was
8 triggered.

9 Defendants maintain, however, they could not file a notice of removal after their defaults
10 were entered in state court and before the defaults had been set aside. There is *no* authority for this
11 proposition. To the contrary, “the Ninth Circuit does not prohibit a defendant from removing a case,
12 assuming that removal is timely, even if default judgment has been previously entered against the
13 defendant. Therefore, an entry of default against a [] defendant does not abrogate [d]efendants’
14 right to removal.” *Ali v. Downey Sav. & Loan*, No. CV 10 3798 GAF FMO, 2010 WL 2720505,
15 *1 (C.D. Cal. July 7, 2010) (citing *Butner v. Neustadter*, 324 F.2d 783, 785 (9th Cir. 1963) (“The
16 federal court takes the case as it finds it on removal and treats everything that occurred in the state
17 court as though it had been validly rendered in the federal proceeding”)); cf. *Kizer v. Sherwood*, 311

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19 authority.” *Scottsdale Ins. Co. v. OU Interests, Inc.*, No. C 05-313 VRW, 2005 WL 2893865, *3
20 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 2, 2005) (citing *Employers Ins. of Wausau v. Granite State Ins. Co.*, 330 F.3d 1214,
21 1220 n. 8 (9th Cir. 2003) (“[W]e may consider unpublished state decisions, even though such
opinions have no precedential value”)).

22 ²⁹Section 418.10(d) expressly provides that a motion to quash service, if joined with a § 473
23 motion, will not be deemed a general appearance by the defendant. CAL. CODE CIV. PROC. §
24 418.10(d) (“No default may be entered against the defendant before expiration of his or her time to
25 plead, and no motion under this section, or under Section 473 or 473.5 when joined with a motion
26 under this section, or application to the court or stipulation of the parties for an extension of the time
27 to plead, shall be deemed a general appearance by the defendant”). Section 418.10(d) would be
28 superfluous if filing a § 473 motion based on defective service were not deemed a general
appearance. Cf. *Bouchard v. Superior Court*, No. B251658, 2014 WL 2703624, *5 (Cal. App. June
16, 2014) (“As discussed, pursuant to the plain language of section 418.10, subdivision (d),
Bouchard was permitted to join his jurisdictional motion with one that recognized the court’s
authority to set aside his default without being deemed to have made a general appearance”).

1 F.Supp. 809, 811 (M.D. Pa. 1970) (“there is no question that under the general removal statute,28
2 U.S.C. § 1441-1450, it is within the power of a Federal Court to set aside a default judgment
3 rendered by a State Court before removal of a particular case”).

4 Furthermore, it has long been the rule that a removal constitutes a special appearance that
5 does not waive a defendant’s right to contest service of process. See *Barnard v. Watson*, No. 14-
6 CV-0024-TOR, 2014 WL 2573238, *1 n. 1 (E.D. Wash. June 9, 2014) (“Defendants did not waive
7 this challenge [(to service of process)] by removing the case to this Court,” citing *Wabash W. Ry.*
8 *v. Brow*, 164 U.S. 271, 279 (1896) (holding that the removal of a case from state court to federal
9 court constitutes a special appearance and does not waive the defendant’s right to contest service of
10 process)); *Maplebrook Townhomes LLC v. Greenbank*, No. 10-CV-03688-LHK, 2010 WL 4704472,
11 *4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 12, 2010) (same). Thus, the fact defendants were still in default on October 6,
12 2014 is of no consequence.

13 Finally, defendants argue that even if they could have removed while in default, and even if
14 they waived service of process as of October 6, 2014, their removal was timely because neither of
15 § 1446(b)’s 30-day removal windows was triggered. The court does not agree. Defendants assert
16 that Bluemner is a California citizen based on allegations in the complaint; because they rely
17 exclusively on Bluemner’s allegations in this regard, the case stated by the initial pleading was
18 removable, and first of § 1446’s third-day removal periods was triggered as soon as defendants made
19 a general appearance on October 6, 2014. See *Harris*, 425 F.3d at 694 (“the first thirty-day period
20 for removal in 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) only applies if the case stated by the initial pleading is removable
21 on its face”). Stated differently, in the notice of removal, defendants rely exclusively on facts
22 alleged in the complaint to establish Bluemner’s citizenship. Bluemner pled that she “is now, and
23 at all times mentioned herein was, an individual residing and doing business in the County of Los
24 Angeles, State of California.”³⁰ Defendants assert that because Bluemner lived in Los Angeles from
25 May 2012 to July 11, 2013, she is a California domiciliary for purposes of diversity jurisdiction.³¹

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27 ³⁰Complaint, ¶ 1.

28 ³¹Removal, ¶ 47.

1 Whether or not this suffices to plead her citizenship (which it does not), the information on which
2 defendants rely was stated on the face of the complaint.³²

3 Defendants also argue that Bluemner’s complaint failed adequately to allege their citizenship
4 as it pled only that Gordon maintained a residence in Beverly Hills, California where he “resided
5 . . . for significant portions of time.”³³ Although this is insufficient to plead either Gordon’s or
6 ErGo’s citizenship, a defendant is “presumed to know its own citizenship.” *Leon v. Gordon*
7 *Trucking, Inc.*, _ F.Supp.3d _, 2014 WL 7447701, *5 (C.D. Cal. Dec. 31, 2014); *Traeger Grills E.,*
8 *LLC v. Traeger Pellet Grills, LLC*, No. 11-CV-536-AC, 2011 WL 5439330, *5 (D. Or. Nov. 9,
9 2011) (“Because a defendant is presumed to know its own citizenship and common sense dictates
10 that the defendant is in the best position to determine citizenship, Defendant’s request for more than
11 thirty days to determine its own citizenship is inconsistent with Congress’s strict thirty-day
12 limitation for removal as outlined in § 1446(b)”); *Cretian v. Job1USA, Inc.*, No. 09-CV-770-ST,
13 2009 WL 4841039, *1 (D. Or. Dec. 11, 2009) (“[d]efendant ‘is presumed to know its own
14 citizenship; indeed it is in the best position to know it’ for purposes of removal”); *Villareal v.*
15 *Demarco*, No. CV090452 PA (VBKx), 2009 WL 279111, *2 (C.D. Cal. Feb. 5, 2009) (“Defendants
16 assert that the Complaint did not allege the citizenship of the Defendants, and that they did not learn
17 there was complete diversity until Plaintiff’s counsel faxed them proofs of service for both
18 Defendants. However, Defendants are in the best position to know their own citizenship”); *KDY,*
19 *Inc. v. Hydroslotter Corp.*, No. 08-4074 SC, 2008 WL 4938281, *4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 17, 2008) (“In
20 the present case, Defendants have not argued that they belatedly discovered their own geographical
21 locations. Rather, they have instead attempted to use the language of § 1446(b) as a justification for
22 their own neglect in timely removing their case; although courts are not to look to the subjective
23 knowledge of a defendant, Defendants here admit that they did not learn their own geographical
24 location from any of Plaintiff’s papers. This is not surprising, as courts surely can presume that a

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26 ³²Defendants also contend that ErGo payroll records list Bluemner’s “home address” as “being
27 continuously in Los Angeles.” (Removal, ¶ 47.) That adds nothing to the allegations in the complaint,
28 however, and hence does not render the first § 1446 removal window inapplicable.

³³Complaint, ¶ 4.

1 defendant is aware of various basic personal facts, including the location of one’s citizenship,
2 without delving into the prohibited area of a defendant’s subjective knowledge”); *Dugdale v.*
3 *Nationwide Mut. Fire Ins. Co.*, No. CV05-0138, 2006 WL 335628, *6 (E.D. Va. Feb. 14, 2006)
4 (“[A]lthough . . . a defendant need not investigate a plaintiff’s citizenship, certainly a defendant is
5 responsible for knowing its own citizenship, and could not ignore such only to later claim that
6 subsequent documents revealed to the defendant its own citizenship”); *Day v. Zimmer, Inc.*, 636
7 F.Supp. 451, 453 (N.D.N.Y. 1986) (finding that, even if plaintiff misidentifies a defendant’s address,
8 “obviously defendant is in the best position to know its residence for diversity purposes”).

9 The fact that the amended complaint did not adequately allege defendants’ citizenship
10 therefore does not relieve defendants of the obligation to remove in a timely fashion. Because
11 defendants are charged with knowledge of their own citizenship, and because they rely solely on
12 information alleged in the complaint to plead Bluemner’s citizenship, the thirty day removal clock
13 was triggered on the case stated in the complaint on October 6, 2014, when defendants waived any
14 objection to service of process by making a general appearance. Defendants filed their notice of
15 removal more than four months later, on February 26, 2015.³⁴ The removal was therefore untimely,
16 and the court must grant Bluemner’s motion to remand.

17 C. Whether Bluemner is Entitled to Attorneys’ Fees and Costs

18 Bluemner seeks attorneys’ fees under 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c) in the event of remand. “Under
19 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c), “[a]n order remanding the case may require payment of just costs and any
20 actual expenses, including attorney fees, incurred as a result of the removal.” *Federal Home Loan*
21 *Mortg. Corp. v. Lettenmaier*, No. CV–11–165–HZ, 2011 WL 1297960, *1 (D. Or. Apr. 5, 2011)
22 (quoting 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c)). “Absent unusual circumstances, courts may award attorney’s fees
23 under § 1447(c) only where the removing party lacked an objectively reasonable basis for seeking
24 removal. Conversely, when an objectively reasonable basis exists, fees should be denied.” *Id.*
25 (quoting *Martin v. Franklin Capital Corp.*, 546 U.S. 132, 141 (2005)).

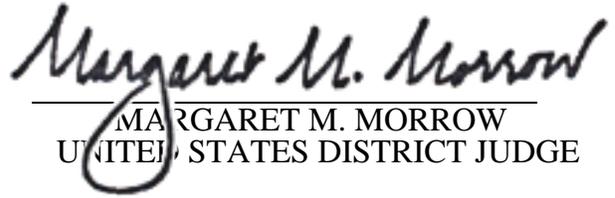
26 “Removal is not objectively unreasonable solely because the removing party’s arguments
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28 ³⁴Removal at 1.

1 to remand the action to Los Angeles Superior Court forthwith. Bluemner's request for attorneys'
2 fees and costs is denied.

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DATED: June 4, 2015


MARGARET M. MORROW
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE