



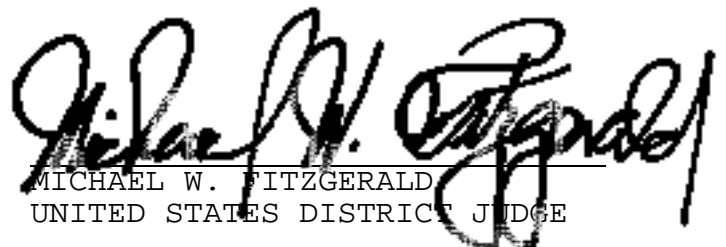
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Simply stated, this action could not have been originally filed in federal court because the complaint does not competently allege facts supporting either diversity or federal-question jurisdiction, and therefore removal is improper. 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), see Exxon Mobil Corp. v. Allapattah Svcs., Inc., 545 U.S. 546, 563 (2005). Defendants' notice of removal asserts that "[f]ederal question [jurisdiction] exists because Defendant's [sic] Answer . . . depend[s] on the determination of Defendant's [sic] rights and Plaintiff's duties under federal law." (Notice at 2, ll. 26-28). These allegations are inadequate to confer federal question jurisdiction. See Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. v. Thompson, 478 U.S. 804, 808 (1986) ("A defense that raises a federal question is inadequate to confer federal jurisdiction.").

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that (1) this matter be REMANDED to the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Boulevard, Norwalk, California, 90650, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1447(c); (2) the Clerk send a certified copy of this Order to the state court; and (3) the Clerk serve copies of this Order on the parties.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: April 19, 2016

  
MICHAEL W. FITZGERALD  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE