

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PETERSEN-DEAN INC.,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
DIETER FOLK, et al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. 15-cv-05522-NC

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE:  
JURISDICTION**

Re: ECF 99, 108

Before the Court are plaintiff’s Motion to Vacate Dismissal and Enforce Settlement Agreement (ECF 99) and defendants’ Counter-motion to Compel Arbitration (ECF 108). Both motions arise from the settlement agreement that resolved this case. On September 14, 2016, the parties filed a “Stipulation of Dismissal With Prejudice” under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii). ECF 93. That same day, the Court granted the proposed order and dismissed the case with prejudice. ECF 94.

Before the Court may assess the merits of the competing motions, it first must consider whether it has jurisdiction to do so. Federal district courts are courts of limited jurisdiction; “[t]hey possess only that power authorized by Constitution and statute, which is not to be expanded by judicial decree.” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994) (citation omitted). Accordingly, “[i]t is to be presumed that a cause lies outside this limited jurisdiction, and the burden of establishing the contrary rests upon the party asserting jurisdiction.” *Id.*; *Chandler v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 598 F.3d

1 1115, 1122 (9th Cir. 2010).

2 In *Kokkonen*, the Supreme Court considered whether it had jurisdiction to enforce  
3 the terms of a settlement agreement reached in a U.S. district court. The Court found that  
4 it did not, unless the Court “embod[ied] the settlement contract in its dismissal order” or  
5 “retain[ed] jurisdiction over the settlement contract.” 511 U.S. at 381-82.

6 None of the exceptions in *Kokkonen* applies here. The parties in their Stipulation of  
7 Dismissal did not ask the Court to retain jurisdiction and did not expressly incorporate the  
8 terms of the settlement agreement. ECF 93. The Court’s dismissal order accordingly did  
9 not retain jurisdiction. ECF 94.

10 The Court finds that the post-settlement disputes presented here are of the same  
11 type that were dismissed in *Kokkonen* and *Warner v. Cate*, Case No. 11-cv-05039 YGR,  
12 2017 WL 5560651 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2017). Here, as in those cases, it appears that the  
13 Court lacks jurisdiction to enforce the settlement agreement.

14 In addition, the Court is not persuaded that plaintiff’s motion to set aside the  
15 dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6) is timely. A motion under Rule  
16 60(b) must be made within a “reasonable time.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(c). Here, the dismissal  
17 was entered September 14, 2016, and plaintiff’s motion to set aside the dismissal was filed  
18 January 17, 2018, which is more than 16 months later.

19 The Court therefore orders both parties to show cause in writing filed by February  
20 20, 2018, why it has jurisdiction to consider the motions at ECF 99 and 108. The Court  
21 VACATES the February 21 hearings in this case and will re-notice them if it determines  
22 that jurisdiction is satisfied.

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24 Dated: February 13, 2018

  
NATHANAEL M. COUSINS  
United States Magistrate Judge