

jurisdictional issues may be raised by the court *sua sponte*.” *Am. Library Ass’n v. FCC*, 401 F.3d 489, 492 (D.C. Cir. 2005) (internal citations omitted). Federal district courts have original jurisdiction over civil actions arising under federal statutes. 28 U.S.C. § 1331. Plaintiff’s claims here all arise under state law or common law. Defendant raises a federal claim in his First Amended Counterclaim, *see* Def.’s Notice, Ex. 3, but “a counterclaim – which appears as part of the defendant’s answer, not as part of the plaintiff’s complaint – cannot serve as the basis for ‘arising under’ jurisdiction.” *Holmes Group, Inc. v. Vornado Air Circulation Sys.*, 535 U.S. 826, 831 (2002). Thus, there is no federal question jurisdiction here.

Federal district courts also have original jurisdiction over civil actions where the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and there is diversity of citizenship between the parties. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332. A court lacks diversity jurisdiction if there are litigants from the same state on opposing sides of the controversy. *See id.* § 1332(a)(1); *Prakash v. Am. Univ.*, 727 F.2d 1174, 1178 n.25 (D.C. Cir. 1984). A corporation is deemed to be a citizen of the state in which it is incorporated *and* the state where it maintains its principal place of business. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). Plaintiff BI Solutions is a Virginia corporation with its principal place of business in Washington, D.C. Mr. Campbell is a resident of Virginia. As both parties are citizens of Virginia, the Court lacks diversity jurisdiction, as well. Accordingly, this case will be remanded to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. A memorializing order accompanies this memorandum opinion.

Date: August 7, 2009

/s/
ROSEMARY M. COLLYER
United States District Judge