

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION

ALERDING CASTOR HEWITT LLP, )  
 )  
 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 v. )  
 )  
 PAUL FLETCHER, )  
 CAROLE WOCKNER, )  
 )  
 Defendants. )

No. 1:16-cv-02453-JPH-MJD

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CAROLE WOCKNER, )  
 PAUL FLETCHER, )  
 )  
 Counter )  
 Claimants, )

v. )  
 )  
 ALERDING CASTOR HEWITT LLP, )  
 )  
 Counter )  
 Defendant. )

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WAYNE GOLOMB, )  
 GRACEIA GOLOMB, )  
 )  
 Miscellaneous. )

**ORDER**

Defendants, Paul Fletcher and Carole Wockner, removed this case to this Court after alleging that this Court has diversity jurisdiction over this matter. Dkt. 1. For the Court to have diversity jurisdiction over the parties, the amount in controversy must exceed \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs,

and the litigation must be between citizens of different states. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). When determining the citizenship of a limited partnership, “the citizenship of all the limited partners, as well as of the general partner, counts.” *Hart v. Terminex Int’l*, 336 F.3d 541, 542 (7th Cir. 2003) (quoting *Mkt. St. Assocs. Ltd. P’ship v. Frey*, 941 F.2d 588, 589 (7th Cir. 1991)).

Here, Defendants allege the parties are diverse because Defendants are citizens of California and Plaintiff “is an Indiana limited liability partnership with its principal office” in Indiana. Dkt. at 2. This is insufficient because, as an LLP, Plaintiff’s citizenship is based on the citizenship of its members, not its place of association or principle place of business.

Counsel has an obligation to analyze subject-matter jurisdiction, *Heinen v. Northrop Grumman Corp.*, 671 F.3d 669, 670 (7th Cir. 2012), and a federal court always has the responsibility to ensure it has jurisdiction. *Hukic v. Aurora Loan Servs.*, 588 F.3d 420, 427 (7th Cir. 2009). The Court’s obligation includes knowing the details of the underlying jurisdictional allegations. See *Evergreen Square of Cudahy v. Wis. Hous. and Econ. Dev. Auth.*, 776 F.3d 463, 465 (7th Cir. 2015) (“the parties’ united front is irrelevant since the parties cannot confer subject-matter jurisdiction by agreement...and federal courts are obligated to inquire into the existence of jurisdiction *sua sponte*”).

Therefore, the Court **ORDERS** Plaintiff to file jurisdictional statement by January 25, 2019, that provides the citizenship of its limited partners and any general partner. Should that statement leave the Court’s jurisdiction unresolved, the Court will require the parties to conduct further investigation

and file a joint jurisdictional statement regarding the underlying jurisdictional allegations before the litigation moves forward.

**SO ORDERED.**

Date: 1/11/2019



James Patrick Hanlon  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of Indiana

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