

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

SJB GROUP, LLC, ET AL

CIVIL ACTION

VERSUS

NO. 12-181-BAJ-DLD

TBE GROUP, INC.

ORDER

The court *sua sponte* notes the potential insufficiency of the plaintiff's allegation of the citizenship of the parties as follows;

1. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege the *citizenship* rather than mere residence of an individual. In addition, see [28 U.S.C. §1332\(c\)\(2\)](#) for infants, minors and an incompetent. The *citizenship* of _____ is not provided.
2. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege both the state of incorporation and principal place of business of each corporate party. See, e.g., [Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Co. v. Pargas, Inc., 706 F.2d 633 \(5th Cir. 1983\)](#). The state of incorporation and principal place of business of _____ is not provided.¹
3. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must allege both the state of incorporation and principal place of business of each corporate party. See, e.g., [Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Co. v. Pargas, Inc., 706 F.2d 633 \(5th Cir. 1983\)](#). **Even when a liability insurer takes on its insured's citizenship under [28 U.S.C. § 1332\(c\)\(1\)](#), its own citizenship still is considered in determining whether complete diversity exists.** The state of incorporation and principal place of business of _____ is not provided.²
4. X A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a limited liability company. The citizenship of a limited liability company for diversity purposes is determined by the citizenship of **its members**. The citizenship of **all of the members** of a limited liability company must be

¹The phrase "principal place of business" in §1332(c)(1) refers to the place where a corporation's high level officers direct, control, and coordinate the corporation's activities, *i.e.*, its "nerve center," which will typically be found at its corporate headquarters. [Hertz Corp. v. Friend, 130 S.Ct. 1181, 175 L.Ed.2d 1029 \(2010\)](#)

²See footnote 1.


properly alleged. In the event a member of a limited liability company is another limited liability company, the members of that limited liability company must be properly alleged as well. See [Harvey v. Grey Wolf Drilling Co.](#), 542 F.3d 1077, 1080 (5th Cir. 2008). The complete citizenship of plaintiff, **SJB GROUP, LLC**, is not provided.

5. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a general partnership and a limited liability partnership. For a general partnership, case law suggests that a partnership has the citizenship of each one of its partners. See [International Paper Co. v. Denkmann Assoc.](#), 116 F.3d 134, 137 (5th Cir. 1997). A limited liability partnership or L.L.P. also has the citizenship of each one of its partners, both general and limited. See [Carden v. Arkoma Associates](#), 494 U.S. 185, 110 S.Ct. 1014, 108 L.Ed.2d 157 (1990). The citizenship of _____ is not provided.
6. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of Underwriters at Lloyd's, London. The citizenship of Underwriters at Lloyd's, London has not been provided. See [Corfield v. Dallas Glen Hills LP](#), 355 F.3d 853 (5th Cir. 2003), *cert. denied*, 541 U.S. 1073, 124 S.Ct. 2421, 158 L.Ed.2d 983 (2004).
7. _____ A party invoking diversity jurisdiction must properly allege the citizenship of a sole proprietorship. A business entity cannot be both a corporation and sole proprietorship; therefore the court seeks to clarify the identity of plaintiff/defendant. Case law suggests that the citizenship of a sole proprietorship for diversity purposes is determined by the citizenship of its members and/or owners. See [Linder Enterprises v. Martinringle](#), 2007 WL 3095382 (N.D. Tex.). The citizenship of _____ is not provided.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to [28 U.S.C. §1653](#), that, on or before **May 10, 2012**, the plaintiff shall file an amended complaint providing its citizenship, by setting forth all citizenship particulars required to sustain federal diversity jurisdiction.

Signed in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 24, 2012.



MAGISTRATE JUDGE DOCIA L. DALBY