Doc. 38

Resnick's "Request for Dismissal," ECF No. 18. For the reasons stated below, the 2 motions to dismiss filed by Marc Resnick and Chere Resnick, ECF Nos. 13 and 3 18, are **denied**; and the motion to dismiss filed by David and Jane Doe Herrera, 4 ECF No. 20, is **granted**. The Court first considers the motions based on personal 5 jurisdiction, ECF Nos. 13 and 20.

Standard for Personal Jurisdiction

This federal court uses the long-arm statute of Washington State when considering personal jurisdiction, which runs to the full extent of federal due process. RCW 4.28.185(1); Chan v. Soc. Expeditions, Inc., 39 F.3d 1398, 1405 10 (9th Cir. 1994). In considering motions to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, the Court determines two issues in considering whether the Defendants have 12 purposefully established the minimum contacts with the forum state necessary to 13 grant specific jurisdiction: (1) whether the Defendants purposefully directed their 14 activities at residents of the forum, and (2) whether this litigation is a result of alleged injuries arising out of or related to those activities. Genetic Veterinary 16 Sciences, Inc. v. Canine EIC Genetics, LLC, No. 13-cv-422-TOR, 2014 WL 17 2894301, at *4 (E.D. Wash. June 25, 2014) (citing Burger King v. Rudzewicz, 471 18 U.S. 462, 472-73 (1985)). If these factors are met, the Court considers whether 19 specific jurisdiction would comport with fair play and substantial justice under due 20 process concerns. *Int'l Shoe Co. v. Washington*, 326 U.S. 310, 320 (1945).

When using affidavits, plaintiffs must demonstrate facts that if true would support jurisdiction. Doe v. Unocal Corp., 248 F.3d 915, 922 (9th Cir. 2001). Any uncontroverted allegations in the complaint are taken as true; conflicts between parties' affidavits are resolved in plaintiff's favor; and the Court construes all 25|| evidentiary materials in the light most favorable to plaintiff. Gordon v. Ascentive, 26 LLC, No. CV-05-5079-FVS, 2005 WL 3448025, at *1 (E.D. Wash. Dec. 15, 2005) (citing Ochoa v. J.B. Martin & Sons Farms, 287 F.3d 1182, 1187 (9th Cir. 2002)).

21

28

Defendant Marc Resnick

The Court construes pro se Defendant Marc Resnick's Request for 3 Dismissal, ECF No. 13, as a Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(2) Motion to Dismiss for Lack 4 of Personal Jurisdiction. Per the affidavits and evidence presented, Mr. Resnick 5 co-owned a Washington corporation, and directed Plaintiff to deposit funds into 6 that corporation's Washington bank account. These funds are the funds alleged to 7 have been fraudulently kept by Defendants. ECF No. 15 at 3; Compl. ¶¶ 1.3 & 3.1. 8 This constitutes directing activities and conducting business in Washington; and the claims in the instant case arise from these actions. Defendant's blanket 10 assertion that "all defendants in this claim live and operate their business in the state of California," ECF No. 13 at 1, is insufficient to overcome the Plaintiff's 12 specific, sworn allegations establishing personal jurisdiction. RCW 4.28.185(1)(a) 13 (granting personal jurisdiction upon "the transaction of any business within this 14 state").

The Court next finds jurisdiction over Marc Resnick fair under due process 16 concerns. The defendant has the burden to show personal jurisdiction would be 17 unfair. Core-Vent Corp. v. Nobel Indus. AB, 11 F.3d 1482, 1487-88 (9th Cir. 18 1993). Seven factors are considered: "(1) the extent of the defendants' purposeful 19 interjection into the forum state []; (2) the burden on the defendant of defending in 20 the forum; (3) the extent of conflict with the sovereignty of the defendants' state; (4) the forum state's interest in adjudicating the dispute; (5) the most efficient judicial resolution of the controversy; (6) the importance of the forum to the plaintiff's interest in convenient and effective relief; and (7) the existence of an alternative forum." Id. The Court considers factors raised by the parties. Id.

First, Marc Resnick raises the second factor, claiming it will burden him to 26 litigate the case from California. There is some merit to this; however, this concern must be balanced with the fact that Marc Resnick co-owned a business based in 28 Washington State.

15

23

25

Marc Resnick impliedly raises the third factor, when he alleged that the Orange County Sheriff's Department is investigating an alleged extortion 3 involving some of the parties in this case. However, the Court finds civil litigation 4 in the Eastern District of Washington will not limit California's ability to conduct 5 a criminal investigation in California.

The final factor addressed by the parties involved the possibility of an alternative forum. Marc Resnick suggests he would welcome litigating this case in 8 California. However, co-defendant's Chere Resnick and Kenvox US reside in 9 Washington; as do the bank accounts in question in this litigation. The other 10 California co-defendants, David and Jane Doe Herrera, are dismissed from this case. Thus, the superiority of an alternative forum is not clearly established.

Balancing these factors, the Court finds personal jurisdiction over defendant 13 Marc Resnick is fair and comports with due process. Co-owning a Washington 14 business should give Marc Resnick fair warning he may be haled into court in this forum. Thus, Marc Resnick's Request for Dismissal, ECF No. 13, is **denied**.

Defendants David Herrera and Jane Doe Herrera

The Court next considers David and Jane Doe Herrera's 12(b)(2) Motion to 18 Dismiss for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction, ECF No. 20. David and Jane Doe 19 Herrera's sworn affidavit states they reside in California, have never lived in or 20 been residents of Washington, and that their only connection to the case is that 21 David Herrera contracted with Marc Resnick to ship watches from China to a U.S. 22 state, not Washington State. ECF No. 20-2. In contrast, Plaintiff only makes bare assertions that David Herrera participated in the alleged conspiracy and the legal 24 conclusion that Herrera conducted business in Washington. Compl. ¶ 3.14; ECF 25 No. 15 at 3. Indeed, Plaintiff has made no specific reply to David Herrera's 26 motion.

David and Jane Doe Herrera have shown they have no connection with 28 Washington sufficient to establish specific jurisdiction in this case; their specific

11

12

16

17

27

factual allegations defeat the bare assertions of Plaintiff. As a final point, the 2 Court abides by current Ninth Circuit precedent prohibiting the "conspiracy theory 3 of personal jurisdiction." Chirila v. Conforte, 47 Fed. App'x 838, 842-43 (9th Cir. 4 2002). Thus, David and Jane Doe Herrera's motion to dismiss, ECF No. 20, is granted.

Defendant Chere Resnick

The Court now considers Defendant Chere Resnick's pro se "Request for 8 Dismissal," ECF No. 18, which argues that Plaintiff Mirza Minds is "not in good standing" and thus is unable to sue, and that Kenvox US L.L.C. has been defunct 10 since December 31, 2014, and thus is unable to be sued. The Court construes this request as a Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss.

Washington law holds that corporations can sue after dissolution if such suit 13 is part of winding up the corporation's business and affairs. RCW 14|| 23B.14.050(2)(e); Ballard Square Condo. Owners Ass'n v. Dynasty Const. Co., 15|| 158 Wn. 2d 603, 610 (2006) (en banc). Nevada provides largely the same. N.R.S. 16 \ 78.585(1) (two year statute of limitations).

In Washington, canceled or dissolved LLCs can be sued within three years 18 of the dissolution. RCW 25.15.303; Chadwick Farms Owners Ass'n v. FHC LLC, 19 166 Wn. 2d 178, 193 (2009) (en banc). Chere Resnick states that Kenvox USA has 20 been defunct since December 31, 2014. ECF No. 18 at 1. This places it well within 21|| the statute of limitations. See also N.R.S. § 86.505.

Even if this motion were meritorious, it would not excuse Defendant Chere 23 Resnick from the case; it would only exclude the corporation. See Rowland v. Cal. 24 Men's Colony, 506 U.S. 194, 202 (1993) (only attorneys may appear on behalf of 25|| corporations); Lloyd Enters., Inc. v. Longview Plumbing & Heating Co., 91 Wash. 26 App. 697, 701 (1998) (same). Thus, for the above reasons, Chere Resnick's 27 Request for Dismissal, ECF No. 18, is **denied**.

5

6

11

12

17

22

28||

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. **Defendant** Marc Resnick's Request for Dismissal, ECF No. 13, is **DENIED.**
- 2. Defendant Chere Resnick's Request for Dismissal, ECF No. 18, is **DENIED.**
- 3. Defendants David and Jane Doe Herrera's Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Personal Jurisdiction, ECF No. 20, is **GRANTED.** Defendants David and Jane Doe Herrera are dismissed from this case.

9 IT IS SO ORDERED. The District Court Executive is hereby directed to 10 file this Order and provide copies to counsel.

DATED this 3rd day of November, 2015.



Stanley A. Bastian
United States District Judge