

STATE OF MICHIGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

JULIAN M. LEVANT,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 2019-171861-CB

Hon. Martha D. Anderson

REGUS MANAGEMENT GROUP,

Defendant.

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OPINION AND ORDER REMOVING CASE FROM BUSINESS COURT

On February 14, 2019, Plaintiff filed the present Complaint on allegations that Defendant has breached the parties' oral agreement whereby Defendant would receive Plaintiff's mail and turn that mail over to Plaintiff. Instead, Defendant purportedly rejected Plaintiff's mail and sent that mail back marked as "undeliverable." Plaintiff alleges further that Defendant is not entitled to possession of the lease premises. The Court observes that Plaintiff has not filed a Notice of Assignment to the Business Court.

This Court has an obligation to question sua sponte its jurisdiction over the subject matter of an action. *Yee v Shiawassee Co Bd of Comm'rs*, 251 Mich App 379, 399; 651 NW2d 756 (2002). Subject matter jurisdiction is determined by the allegations in the pleadings. *Trost v Buckstop Lure Co, Inc*, 249 Mich App 580, 587-588; 644 NW2d 54 (2002).

Business court jurisdiction is limited to actions involving a "business or commercial dispute." MCL 600.8035(3). The statute defines a business or commercial dispute as:

- (i) An action in which all of the parties are business enterprises.
- (ii) An action in which one or more of the parties is a business enterprise and the other parties are its or their present or former owners, managers, shareholders, members of a limited liability company or a similar business organization,

- directors, officers, agents, employees, suppliers, guarantors of a commercial loan, or competitors, and the claims arise out of those relationships.
- (iii) An action in which 1 of the parties is a nonprofit organization, and the claims arise out of that party's organizational structure, governance, or finances.
MCL 600.8031(1)(c).

Here, Plaintiff has not provided any factual allegations within the Complaint to support the premise that all of the parties are business enterprises or that Plaintiff is a present or former owner, manager, shareholder, member of a limited liability company or a similar business organization, director, officer, agent, employee, supplier, guarantor of a commercial loan, or competitor of Defendant for this case to qualify for business court jurisdiction under either MCL 600.8031(1)(c)(i) or (ii). Since Plaintiff is neither a business enterprise nor an individual in one of the relationships listed in MCL 600.8031(1)(c)(ii), this action does not involve a business or commercial dispute. Additionally, there are no allegations in the Complaint from which the Court could conclude that jurisdiction is proper under § 8031(1)(c)(iii). As a result, the Court finds that this action does not qualify as a business or commercial dispute as defined by MCL 600.8035(1). For these reasons, this action is excluded from business court jurisdiction and the Court orders the case reassigned to the general civil docket.

This case will be coded CZ unless counsel files a stipulated order to change it otherwise.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

February 28, 2019
Date

/s/ Martha D. Anderson
Hon. Martha D. Anderson
Business Court Judge