



The Whole Enchilada

The newsletter for the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

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Save the Dates

The San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is pleased to announce our upcoming events. Be sure to save the date so that you may join us!

February 28, 2013

Judicial Reception – St. Mary's University School of Law

March 13, 2013

FBA Luncheon - Speaker: The Honorable Craig Gargotta, United States Bankruptcy Judge

April 10, 2013

FBA Luncheon - Speaker: James Ehler, Regional Counsel for the State Bar of Texas

May 17, 2013

Federal Court Practice Seminar

Volunteer Opportunity

Serve as a Judge for Moot Court and Mock Trial at St. Mary's University School of Law

- Embry Mock Trial Prelims – February 27
- 1L Moot Court - March 23 and 25
- Jimmy Derek Moot Court - April 13

Contact Naomi Howard for more information: 512.699.5988 or hownao@gmail.com

FBA - San Antonio Chapter Board

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A Message from the Chapter President

Jeffrey C. Bizon

Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated



Jeffrey C. Bizon

As we enter 2013, I am sure that many of you are in the process of reviewing 2012 and identifying goals that you wish to accomplish for 2013. For those of you that have not already, I would like to encourage you to put the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association on that list of organizations in which you would like to become more active. The following

are a few of the many ways that this can be accomplished.

If you are an alumnus of the St. Mary's University School of Law, the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and St. Mary's University School of Law are co-hosting a judicial event for students and attorneys on February 28, 2013, between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., at Alumni Room 4, St. Mary's University School of Law, with a catered reception to follow. Guest speakers include the Honorable David Ezra (Class of 1972), United

States District Court, Western District of Texas, and the Honorable Craig Gargotta (Class of 1989), United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Texas. This event is being organized by members of the Chapter's Young Lawyers and Law Students Committee. If this is a committee that you would like to join, please contact David Rivela at David.Rivela@eeoc.gov.

The Chapter is also planning its next Federal Court Brown Bag Luncheon event. This past fall, the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted Professor Michael Ariens, St. Mary's University School of Law, who presented the U.S. Supreme Court 2011-2012 Case Review, which offered one (1) hour of continuing legal education credit. The San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is always seeking new programs and ideas to help federal practitioners excel in their particular area of expertise. If this is a committee that you would like to join, please contact Brenda Ryan at bcryanlaw@yahoo.com.

These are just two of the many committees that you can join! I encourage you to reach out to discuss with me or any member of the Board of Directors these or any other activities of the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. I look forward to seeing you at our next Membership Luncheon to be held on March 13, 2013!



A Profile of Our Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustees, Part II: Johnny W. Thomas

By: Meghan E. Bishop
Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated



The Federal Bar Association brings together practitioners from all aspects of federal practice – including military law, federal civil and criminal law, bankruptcy, administrative law and government. Johnny W. Thomas epitomizes the federal lawyer,

having practiced as a Chapter 7 Trustee for the Western District of Texas since 1995 and having served his country as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, Judge Advocate General Corps (“JAG Corps”) until his retirement in 2004.

Chapter 7 trustees are private trustees assigned to Chapter 7 liquidation cases from a panel of individuals appointed by the Office of the United States Trustee to collect, liquidate and distribute to creditors the debtor’s non-exempt assets. The U.S. Trustee’s Office is a component of the Department of Justice responsible for monitoring the conduct of bankruptcy parties and private estate trustees, overseeing related administrative functions, and acting to ensure compliance in bankruptcy cases with applicable laws and procedures.

Eligibility to serve as a Chapter 7 panel trustee is governed by 28 U.S.C. § 586(d) in conjunction with 28 C.F.R. § 58.3, which sets eight minimum qualifications that can be summarized as: (1) integrity and good moral character; (2) physical and mental capability; (3) diligence, courtesy and accessibility to all parties; (4) freedom from prejudices that would interfere with unbiased performance of duties; (5) having no relation

“within the degree of first cousin to any employee of the Executive Office for United States Trustees of the Department of Justice, or to any employee of the Office of the United States Trustee for the district in which he or she is applying”; (6) being either a (a.) bar member in good standing of a state or the District of Columbia, (b.) a CPA; (c.) have sufficient undergraduate or post-graduate course study in business-related field; (d.) be a 3-L or M.B.A. candidate with a recommendation of the school’s dean and working under the direct supervision of a faculty member of the school, a member of the panel of private trustees, a bar association clinic mentor or equivalent experience; (7) providing reports to the U.S. Trustee; and (8) formal application for the position in the manner requested by the U.S. Trustee’s office (unless waived).

Anyone who has interacted with Johnny can discern quickly that he possesses the first four qualifications – integrity, capability, courtesy, competence and an open mind. Johnny is soft-spoken, exceedingly professional and not easily riled. He grew up in Wichita Falls, Texas and subsequently attended college on an ROTC scholarship at Kansas State College in Pittsburg, Kansas. His intention was to be a teacher, which was a natural fit given his affinity for journalism and history. His plan was to eventually attend the University of Chicago to earn a post graduate degree in history. A recruiter at one point suggested law school, thinking Johnny would have a more direct impact on the lives of others than as a journalist or historian. Then, as a junior in college he took a military justice class reserved for seniors and earned the highest grade in the class. This small boost of confidence convinced him that maybe law school was right for him and he attended the University of Kansas, passing the bar there in 1977. It was in Kansas where he met his wife,



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Pamula, who is from Chicago, and with whom he has two children. His eldest son, John is currently a Ph.D. candidate in engineering at the University of Texas, Arlington and his youngest daughter, Whitney, is a first year law student at the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Johnny served in the JAG Corps and was assigned, among other places (including here in San Antonio at Fort Sam Houston), to Seoul, Korea during a time of high tension between North Korea and the U.S. military assigned to the Korean Demilitarized Zone. A lasting memory from his time in Korea is the daily ritual of his Korean neighbors cleaning the streets in front of their houses, earning his respect for their hard-working nature and valuing what they had.

In 1985, upon return to the States and leaving active duty, he opened his own general practice with partner Homer B. Walls, consisting primarily of criminal, mental health and ad litem appointments. He eventually ended his criminal law practice and expanded into bankruptcy and probate law. He represented debtors and creditors, focusing on real estate foreclosures and small businesses. Johnny transitioned to become a Chapter 7 trustee, after one of the Assistant U.S. Trustees for the Western District of Texas encouraged him to apply. At the time he had no idea how involved such a job would turn out to be, and he is grateful to have had such a trusted and capable paralegal, Peggy Morris, with him for now over twenty years. Johnny's system of managing cases has developed over the years and he now also employs one clerk, Daniel Morris, for his

general practice and one clerk, Ed Giles, for his bankruptcy cases.

His practice has been most altered by the passage of the BAPCA in 2005, which affected the cost for debtors and created new legal tools for creditors. Johnny most enjoys those parts of his job that put him in contact with young lawyers and the role he can play in helping debtors through trying times. He loves watching good lawyering, saying that the demonstration of intelligent point/counterpoint reminds him of watching a good basketball game. The worst part about being an attorney for Johnny is the hard cases – the times he has to sell someone's home or a family heirloom. And, even though it has to be done, Johnny does so with sensitivity and professionalism.

When it comes to ethics, Johnny lives by advice he heard from a judge sitting on the Supreme Court of Kansas: "Imagine everything you do is on the cover of the New York Times - if you do not want what you are about to do to be in the New York Times, then don't do it." He also takes seriously the advice given to him by one of his commanding generals: "Saw the wood in front of you." In other words, focus on your own actions and not those of others. Johnny still does his own yard work, takes pride in his home repairs, likes to exercise, bike, and attend Spurs and Silver Stars games.

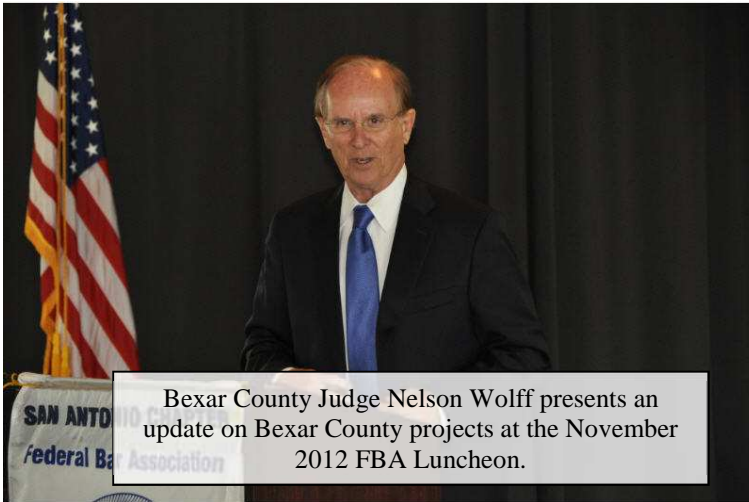
Integrity, capability, courtesy, competence and an open mind – these are the characteristics of Johnny Thomas, Chapter 7 trustee.



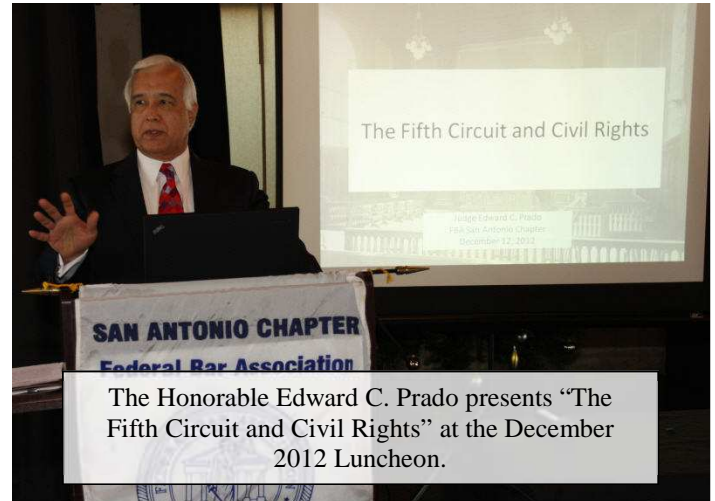
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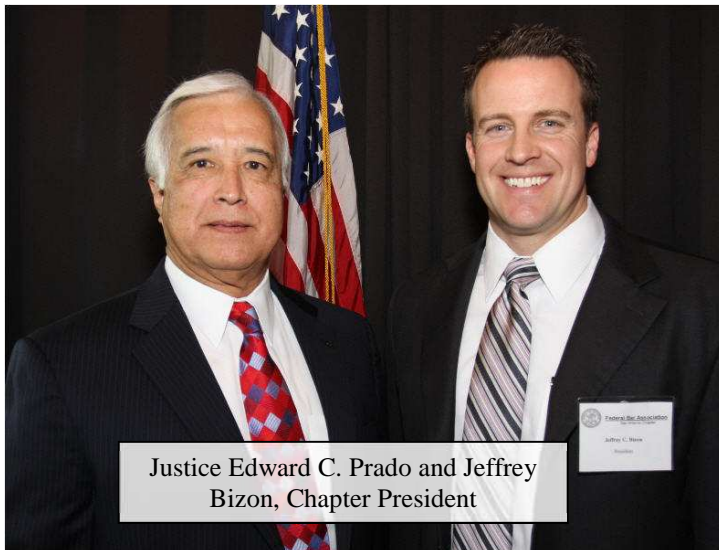
Chapter Monthly Luncheons



Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff presents an update on Bexar County projects at the November 2012 FBA Luncheon.



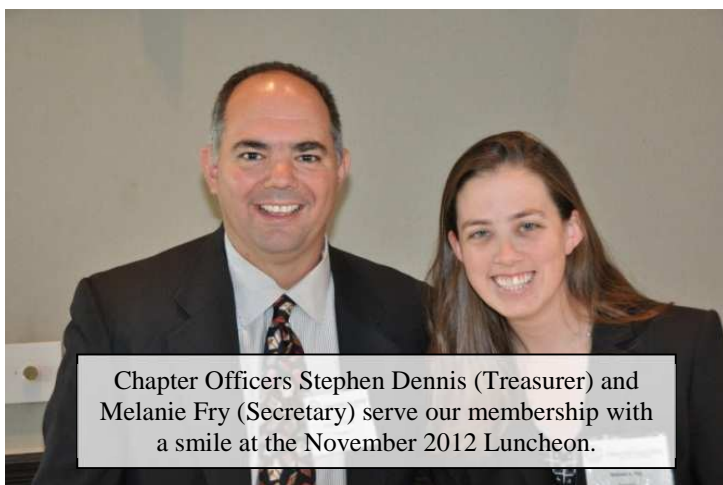
The Honorable Edward C. Prado presents "The Fifth Circuit and Civil Rights" at the December 2012 Luncheon.



Justice Edward C. Prado and Jeffrey Bizon, Chapter President



Sylvia Cardona, John Paniszczyn, Judge Pamela Mathy, and Jeffrey Bizon at the January 2013 Luncheon.



Chapter Officers Stephen Dennis (Treasurer) and Melanie Fry (Secretary) serve our membership with a smile at the November 2012 Luncheon.



Naomi Howard, St. Mary's Law School Liaison, presents at the November 2012 Luncheon.



San Antonio Hosts National FBA Officers and Board Members

The National FBA Board of Directors and staff held its Winter meeting on January 26, 2013 in sunny San Antonio, Texas. On Friday, the Board of Directors experienced true Texas hospitality, as the San Antonio FBA Chapter hosted a reception at the Plaza Club for Board members, Executive Director, Karen Silberman and Manager of Chapters and Circuits, Jane Zaretskie. Prior to the reception, the San Antonio Chapter sponsored a CLE for our military members. Earlier in the day, National President, Bob DeSousa, Treasurer, Matt Moreland, Ms. Silberman, Ms. Zaretskie, Judges Xavier Rodriguez, Pamela Mathy, Ronnie King, and Craig Gargotta, FBA local members Beth Smith, Todd Hedgepeth, Bill Kirk, and John Paniszczyn met over lunch to discuss issues of concern to the federal judiciary and practitioners and how the FBA could be of help. While the CLE was being conducted, the Honorable Ronald B. King became tour guide, and provided a tour of the newly renovated Hippolito F. Garcia Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse to members of the Board of Directors. Judge King's hospitality and knowledge of the history of the courthouse "wowed" the Board members.

Several members of the San Antonio Chapter attended the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday. After the meeting, the National Board of Directors took advantage of San Antonio's perfect weather conditions and enjoyed a barge ride on the San Antonio River. Several of the members of the San Antonio Chapter attended a dinner hosted by the National Board of Directors on Saturday evening. The National Board of Directors expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome and events enjoyed by the members, which surrounded the task of the meeting on Saturday.



Todd Hedgepeth, Patrick O'Keefe,
Beth Smith (Director of FBA
National BOD) & Bill Kirk



Kay Perry (President-Elect SA
Chapter) & Karen Silverman
(Executive Director of FBA)



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Committees

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Kay Perry/(210) 287-4348

Government Contract:

Joan Fowler Gluys/(210) 524-3821

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John Paniszczyn/(210) 384-7325

Luncheon Programs:

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Younger Lawyers/Law Students:

David Rivela/(210) 281-7619

Open Doors to the Federal Court:

Brenda Ryan/(210) 321-7170

Newsletter:

Abigail Ottmers/(210) 978-7402

Federal Bar Association San Antonio Chapter

c/o Jeffrey C. Bizon

Chapter President

P.O. Box 460878

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Interested in becoming a member of the Federal Bar Association?

Contact:

Federal Bar Association, San Antonio Chapter

P.O. Box 460878

San Antonio TX 78246

www.fedbarsatx.org

Federal Bar Association Presents – A Judicial Reception

The San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and St. Mary's University School of Law are pleased to welcome three distinguished federal judges to campus on February 28, 2013. The Honorable David Ezra (St. Mary's J.D., '72), the Honorable Craig Gargotta (St. Mary's J.D., '89), and the Honorable Henry Bemporad (Stanford J.D., '88) will be speaking in St. Mary's University School of Law's Alumni Room from 4-5 pm on Thursday, February 28, 2013, with a free catered reception to follow from 5-6 pm.

All of the judges are excited to share their legal experiences and words of advice to students interested in pursuing a federal legal career. Students are also invited to attend the free catered reception immediately following the conclusion of the talk to meet the judges and other distinguished members of San Antonio's federal legal community.

Thursday, February 28, 2013 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Law Alumni Room Refreshments will be served.



San Antonio Chapter Sponsors Moot Court Competition at St. Mary's University School of Law

The San Antonio Chapter sponsored a moot court competition at St. Mary's University School of Law in January and February 2013. The winning team, Mariel Puryear and Courtney Miller, took home the top prize along with \$1,200, while the finalist team of Zachary Zurek and Matthew Powell received \$600. Zachary Zurek was also named best advocate.

Many thanks to the 20+ FBA members that participated in judging the moot court competition. It was a successful event thanks to your participation.





Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011: How it May Impact Your Practice

By: United States Magistrate Judge Pamela Mathy,
Sylvia Cardona, Shareholder, Langley & Banack, Inc., and
John Paniszczyn, Chief, Civil Division, United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas

A. Introduction

Removal is the procedure whereby a defendant can transfer a case from state court to federal court. As a general rule, any civil action brought in state court is removable by a defendant if the federal district court has original jurisdiction over the case. The right to remove a case from state to federal court is a creation of statute and is governed by federal law.¹ The primary removal statutes are 28 U.S.C. § 1441 (governing removal based on diversity, most federal questions, and when non-diverse claims are joined with federal questions) and 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (establishing the procedure for accomplishing removal). In general, a defendant may remove a case that could have been brought in federal district court originally under 28 U.S.C. § 1441, that is: (1) if the action arises under federal law, (2) if diversity jurisdiction exists, or (3) because a statute confers jurisdiction upon a federal court.²



identify and collect recurring problems encountered by litigants and judges when applying certain jurisdictional and venue statutes. The Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Act of 2011 ("Act") implemented 17 proposals recommended by the Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction and Judicial Conference.³ The Act is the first congressional attention to removal in ten years.

The Act made some important revisions to federal jurisdictional law and venue.⁴ The Act also revised removal procedures in several situations. Among the revisions, the four key changes to federal removal procedures address cases in which:

- (1) federal claims are joined with nonremovable claims;
- (2) there are multiple defendants;
- (3) removal is sought after one year and the plaintiff acted in bad faith; and
- (4) the amount in controversy is not specified in the complaint.⁵

In the 1990's the Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction began to

For removed cases, the Act is effective for any suit commenced in state court—within the meaning

¹ Grubbs v. General Elec. Credit Corp., 405 U.S. 699, 705, 92 S. Ct. 1344, 1348-49 (1972).

² See 28 U.S.C. § 1441; Powers v. South Cent. United Food & Comm. Workers Union & Employers Health & Welfare Trust, 719 F.2d 760, 763 (5th Cir. 1983); see also 28 U.S.C. § 1442a (a case against a member of the United States armed forces may be removed at "any time before trial"); 28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)(2) (a civil tort action against federal employee within scope of employment may be removed "any time before trial").

³ See Lamar Smith, Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act of 2011, H.R. Rep. No. 112-10 (Feb. 11, 2011) ("H.R. Rep. 112-10").

⁴ For example, the Act amended statutes affecting jurisdiction over certain cases involving resident aliens and corporations. See *id.* at 4.

⁵ See *id.* at 11-17.



of state law— on or after January 6, 2012.⁶ Suits filed in state court before the effective date may remain governed by the former statutes. Practitioners should first reference the Act when addressing a removal/remand issue for any suit commenced on or after January 6, 2012.

Although the Act made important revisions to the federal law of removal, the basic premise of the removal/remand equation remains unchanged: removal/remand is a “fight” for perceived “home field” or “home court” advantage. For the state court plaintiff, state court was the chosen home field (assuming the plaintiff had a choice) and a defendant’s effective removal defeats, on some level, the state court plaintiff’s initial assessment of perceived advantages. Thus, we turn to a few practice pointers, or observations about the removal/remand process, first from the standpoint of the state court plaintiff and second from the viewpoint of the state court defendant.

B. Practice Pointers from the Perspective of the State Court Plaintiff

Although certainly not an extensive account for all changes instituted by the Act, or its ramifications, there are four key matters any state court plaintiff who wishes to avoid removal must consider when drafting and filing a state court petition:

- (1) The pleaded allegations and causes of actions should reflect only state court claims.

As the drafter of the petition, the state court plaintiff must steer far from any claims or allegations that could trigger removal by a defendant. By way of

example, a plaintiff should not allege any causes of actions that could trigger a federal question or plead a state law claim where federal law is preemptive. Similarly, bringing suit against a federal official or an agency may entice a sued defendant to remove the case. Finally, should the pleading combine both state and federal law claims and the case is removed to federal court, the Act now requires the federal district court to sever the claims over which it does not have original or supplemental jurisdiction and remand the severed claims to the state court from which the action was removed. Consequently, a plaintiff may find herself fighting two lawsuits, one in federal court and the other in state court.

- (2) The chosen defendants and the amount in controversy collectively should not provide for complete diversity.

Should the amount in controversy exceed the amount specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) (\$75,000.00), the state court plaintiff will face potential removal if suit is brought against diverse defendants. But, there is no complete diversity if suit is brought against a local defendant. Under the “no local defendant rule” (also referred to as the “forum-defendant”),

[a] civil action otherwise removable solely on the basis of the jurisdiction under section 1332(a) of this title may not be removed if any of the parties in interest properly joined and served as defendants is a citizen of the State in which such action is brought.⁷

To the extent a plaintiff is relying on the local defendant to defeat diversity, the filing plaintiff should pay great attention to pleadings as alleged against that local defendant. Section 1332(a) requires that the party be “*properly joined and served.*” Therefore, a defendant who is improperly joined merely to defeat



⁶ See Federal Courts Jurisdiction & Venue Clarification Act of 2011, Pub. L. No. 112-63, § 105, 125 Stat. 758, 762 (2011).

⁷ 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2).



diversity could be disregarded by the court.⁸ Further, the Act provides a bad faith exception for the removal of a case after the one-year limit on removal petitions where a plaintiff acted in “bad faith.”⁹ Thus, a plaintiff may no longer use the method of adding a nondiverse party to prevent removal from state court, wait a year, and then voluntarily dismiss the nondiverse party.

When a plaintiff relies on the local defendant to defeat diversity, the plaintiff should make attempts to serve the local defendant as soon as possible. Although district courts have applied the requirements of 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2) differently, the Act did not address the inconsistencies.¹⁰ Consequently, it is not known how courts will impose the requirements of service pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2) post implementation of the Act. To avoid removal by diverse defendants where the local defendant is not yet served, the plaintiff should attempt service upon the local defendant as soon as possible as a matter of precaution.

- (3) The amount in controversy should be specified.

Naturally, a plaintiff wanting to avoid removal amongst diverse defendants, will plead an amount in controversy lower than \$75,000. The Act imposes important revisions to section 1446(c)’s requirements in the removal process based on diversity of citizenship, including opportunities for the defendants to plead and prove the jurisdictional amount is met.

⁸ See Smallwood v. Illinois Central Railroad Co., 385 F.3d 568, 571 (5th Cir. 2004).

⁹ 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(1).

¹⁰ See Regal Stone Ltd. v. Longs Drug Stores California, L.L.C., Case No. 11-4540 SC, 2012 WL 685756, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2012) (holding, “[w]here one defendant in state court is a citizen of the state, but has not been served, removal to federal court on diversity of citizenship groups by other defendants who are not citizens of the state is proper.”).

28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(2) allows a defendant to assert an amount in controversy in the notice of removal if the initial pleading seeks non-monetary relief or a money judgment in instances where “the State practice either does not permit demand for a specific sum or permits recovery of damages in excess of the amount demanded.”¹¹ In such cases, defendants may now assert the amount in controversy in the notice of removal and “[t]he removal will succeed if the district court finds by a *preponderance of the evidence* that the amount in controversy exceeds the amount specified in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a), presently \$75,000.”¹²

Removal is allowed after the 30-day removal period if the defendant later discovers that there is a sufficient amount in controversy. The new subparagraph 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(3)(A) states:

If the case stated by the initial pleading is not removable solely because the amount in controversy does not exceed the amount specified in section 1332(a), information relating to the amount in controversy in the record of the State proceeding, or in responses to discovery, shall be treated as an “other paper” under subsection

(b)(3).

The provision also allows the defendants to take discovery in the state court to help determine the amount in controversy.¹³ Also, removal will be allowed beyond the one-year limitation on removal of diversity actions if the district court finds that the plaintiff deliberately failed to disclose the actual amount in controversy to prevent removal.¹⁴

- (4) Consider serving diverse defendants at

¹¹ 28 U.S.C. § 1446 (c)(2).

¹² H.R. Rep. No. 112-10, at 16 (emphasis added).

¹³ See id.

¹⁴ 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c)(3)(B) (such conduct “shall be deemed bad faith under paragraph (1)”).





the outset of the case.

In the past, defendants were permitted only thirty (30) days from the date the first defendant was served to remove the action. The revisions to section 1446(b)(2)(B) allow each defendant thirty (30) days from that defendant's own date of service (or receipt of the initial pleadings) to seek removal. Although not mandatory, a plaintiff may seek to serve all defendants at the outset of the case in order to limit the time period for removal.¹⁵

C. Practice Pointers from the Perspective of the State Court Defendant

Generally stated, most attorneys appreciate that suing a federal employee (acting within the scope of his or her employment) or federal entity in state court will result in removal of the action to federal court by the United States Attorney's Office.¹⁶ Typically, a notice of removal will be filed by the government, which, upon filing, divests the state court of any jurisdiction.¹⁷

Apparently less appreciated is that a removal will also likely result in a state court attempt to subpoena federal employees or federal agency records.¹⁸ Under a new provision effective November 9, 2011, 28 U.S.C. §1442(c), a subpoena involving a federal employee may be separately removed from the underlying state court action. Under these circumstances, the state court

action can proceed in all matters except the issues related to the subpoena. Prior to this revision, the whole state court suit was removed, the subpoena issue resolved in federal court and then the case was usually remanded back to state court.

Removals are also appropriate on behalf of the federal government when the case involves a contract dispute involving the United States,¹⁹ where there is a United States lien on real property,²⁰ or when the case involves any other United States interests in real property.²¹ Likewise, attempts to criminally prosecute federal officials (*i.e.*, "spite suits") will trigger a removal.²² Removal is also appropriate where a state court action involves an area of federal preemption.²³

Other areas of federal preemption subjecting a state court action to removal would generally include postal or custom matters, banking, securities, broadcasting, admiralty, ERISA, the military, national security and of course, federal taxes.

Having a state court action involuntarily removed by the federal government typically results in significant delays and expense and; occasionally subjects the plaintiff to parallel track lawsuits.²⁴ Careful considerations of the costs and benefits should be weighed before involving the



¹⁵ But see 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A) ("When a civil action is removed solely under section 1441(a), all defendants who have been properly joined and served must join in or consent to the removal of the action.").

¹⁶ 28 U.S.C. §§1442, 1442a.

¹⁷ 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d) ("the State court shall proceed no further unless and until the case is remanded.")

¹⁸ 28 U.S.C. §1442.

¹⁹ 28 U.S.C. §§ 1491, 1346.

²⁰ 28 U.S.C. § 2410.

²¹ 28 U.S.C. § 2409a.

²² 28 U.S.C. §1442(a).

²³ See, e.g., Arizona v. United States, __ U.S. __, 132 S. Ct. 2492, __ L. Ed.2d __ (2012) (state law conflicting or interfering with federal immigration efforts).

²⁴ 28 U.S.C. § 1441(c)(2) ("upon removal the district court shall ... sever claims and shall remand the severed claims to the State court from which the action was removed.").



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federal government and its employees in any state court action.

D. Conclusion

The Federal Courts Jurisdiction and Venue Clarification Act resolves some conflicts in the lower courts. But, it is always difficult to superimpose a handful of statutory provisions on a complex network

of rules that have been established, through the years, in court decisions. The Act provides the practitioner with an opportunity to re-visit the law of removal to ensure an understanding of the current rules. It is important to be aware of the Act when doing research on removal, as some removal cases decided before the Act will no longer apply to cases filed in state court on or after January 6, 2012.



Susan Kilgore, Todd Hedgepeth, Patrick O'Keefe (Director of FBA National BOD), Matt Moreland and Bill Kirk attend a reception for the National Federal Bar Association Board Members (Jan. 2013)



Chapter President Jeffrey Bizon prepares for his remarks at the November 2012 Luncheon.



SA Chapter Members, Susan Kilgore and Vienna Gerlach, attend a reception for the National Federal Bar Association Board Members (Jan. 2013)