

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

METALWORKING LUBRICANTS COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v

Case No. 2016-153187-CB  
Hon. Wendy Potts

DON LADEHOFF,

Defendant.

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**OPINION AND ORDER RE: BUSINESS COURT JURISDICTION**

At a session of Court  
Held in Pontiac, Michigan On  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ JUN 02 2016 \_\_\_\_\_~~

On May 25, 2016, Plaintiff filed the present Complaint for Breach of Contract and Injunctive Relief on allegations that Defendant has failed to sign a Confirmation Agreement upon termination of his employment with Plaintiff as required by the parties' Restated Employment Agreement. Contemporaneous with the filing of the Complaint, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Assignment to the Business Court – claiming that this is a business or commercial dispute because “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, directors, officers, agents, employees, suppliers, or competitors, and the claims arise out of those relationships.” See MCL 600.8031(1)(c)(ii).

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” in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$25,000.00. See MCL 600.8035(1) and (3). The phrase “amount in controversy” refers to the amount of damages claimed. *Szyslo v Akowitz*, 296 Mich App 40, 51; 818 NW2d 424 (2012).

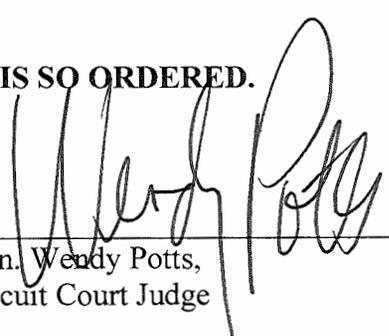
Upon review of Plaintiff’s Complaint, the Court observes that Plaintiff is not seeking monetary damages in excess of \$25,000.00. Rather, Plaintiff is requesting the Court to compel Defendant to sign the Confirmation Agreement and enter injunctive relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiff.

As written, Plaintiff’s Complaint does not qualify as a business or commercial dispute as defined by MCL 600.8035(1) for the reason that it does not involve a claim for monetary damages exceeding \$25,000.00 as required.

The Court shall provide Plaintiff with an opportunity to amend its Complaint to include a request for monetary damages exceeding \$25,000.00, if warranted, within seven (7) business days from the date of this Opinion and Order or the case shall be excluded from business court jurisdiction and reassigned to the general civil docket.

Dated: JUN 02 2016

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
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Hon. Wendy Potts,  
Circuit Court Judge