

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

INTERCON SOLUTIONS, INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 1:12-cv-6814
)	
BASEL ACTION NETWORK)	Judge
and JAMES PUCKETT)	
)	
Defendants.)	

JOINT NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332, 1441(b), and 1446, Defendants Basel Action Network and James Puckett (collectively “Defendants”) hereby file this Notice of Removal of this case, with full reservation of all defenses, from the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County Department, Chancery Division, to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. In support of this Notice, Defendants state as follows:

BACKGROUND

1. On or about June 27, 2012, Plaintiff filed this action in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County Department, Chancery Division. Plaintiff asserts four claims of defamation and false light against Defendants and alleges that it has suffered damages in excess of \$50,000 as to each of those claims.

2. On July 25, 2012, defendant James Puckett was served with the summons and Complaint at his home in Seattle, Washington. On July 27, 2012, Basel Action Network, received a copy of the summons and Complaint from a process server.

3. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), a true and legible copy of all processes, pleadings, orders, and other papers or exhibits of every kind on file in the state court is attached to this Notice as Exhibit A.

VENUE

4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), venue in this Court is proper as this Court is the United States District Court for the district and division corresponding to the place where the state court action was pending.

TIMELINESS

5. This Notice is being filed within thirty (30) days of service of the Complaint and Summons on the first-served Defendant, James Puckett, and is therefore timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b).

NOTICE TO PLAINTIFF

6. Concurrently with the filing of this Notice and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Defendants have provided Plaintiff written notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal, and Defendants have provided written notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal to the clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County Department, Chancery Division, attaching thereto a copy of this Notice of Removal.

THE PARTIES

7. Plaintiff is a California corporation, with its principal place of business in Chicago, Heights, Illinois.

8. Defendant Basel Action Network is a Washington corporation, with its principal place of business in Seattle, Washington. Basel Action Network is therefore a citizen of Washington for diversity purposes. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(c)(1). Defendant James Puckett

resides in Washington and is a citizen of Washington. There is thus complete diversity under 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

BASIS FOR JURISDICTION

9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, this Court has original jurisdiction based on diversity of citizenship among the parties. Complete diversity exists between Plaintiff, a citizen of California and/or Illinois, on the one hand, and Defendants, who are both citizens of Washington, on the other.

10. Plaintiff seeks damages in excess of \$50,000 for each of its four claims against Defendants. Thus, the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(b).

NO WAIVER AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

11. Nothing in this Notice of Removal shall be interpreted as a waiver or relinquishment of Defendants' right to assert any defense or affirmative matter including, without limitation, the defenses of (1) lack of personal or subject matter jurisdiction; (2) improper venue; (3) insufficiency of process; (4) failure to state a claim; (5) statute of limitations; and (6) any other procedural or substantive defense available under state or federal law.

12. Defendants reserve the right to amend or supplement this Notice of Removal.

JURY DEMAND

13. Defendants request a trial by jury of the maximum number of jurors permitted by law on all issues.

Based on the foregoing, Defendants Basel Action Network and James Puckett request that this Court assume full jurisdiction over this case as provided by law.

Dated: August 24, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher B. Essig
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*Attorneys for Defendants Basel Action Network
and James Puckett*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by U.S.

Mail and e-mail on plaintiff's counsel listed below this 24th day of August, 2012:

Paul E. Starkman
Svetlana Zavin
PEDERSEN & HOUP, P.C.
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Chicago, IL 60601

By: /s/Christopher B. Essig