

Question

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Plaintiff incorporates by reference public records from the Texas Supreme Court, and requests the court to take judicial notice of these documents. The Fifth Circuit has repeatedly held that it is proper for federal courts to take judicial notice of matters of public record, including documents filed in state court proceedings (Miller v. Dunn, 35 F.4th 1007 (5th Cir. 2022); LUV N' Care, Ltd. v. Jackel Int'l Ltd., 502 F.Supp.3d 1106 (W.D. La. 2020); Wright v. Arlington Indep. Sch. Dist., Civil Action No. 4:19-cv-00278-P (N.D. Tex. Nov 25, 2019)). Plaintiff therefore requests that this Court take judicial knowledge of the consolidated mandamus record, as its' authenticity is not reasonably disputed. Here, all record references point to the public consolidated mandamus record, as submitted to the Texas Supreme Court, a copy of which has been served upon each defendant named in this complaint either individually or through their agent. Link to the record: [https://search.txcourts.gov/SearchMedia.aspx?MediaVersionID=8e2d45b4-fb4f-40a0-93bc-](https://search.txcourts.gov/SearchMedia.aspx?MediaVersionID=8e2d45b4-fb4f-40a0-93bc-ed9ed5f3cebd&coa=cossup&DT=RECORD&MediaID=804ac8d3-9b5f-40b0-)
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bc41-bbc08c814365 All references to the record are marked herein with "REC. [page]" and are hyperlinked to take the reader directly to the reference. The record is filed under affidavit, and remains unopposed at the time of filing this complaint. Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully asks that the Court take judicial notice of the record under Federal Rule of Evidence 201, filed on June 6, 2025, in the Texas Supreme Court under case numbers 25-0361, 25-0367, 25-0378, 25-0426, and 25-0458.

II. TIMELINE OF EVENTS BACKGROUND

Morgan Michelle Myers, ("Myers") and Charles Dustin Myers, ("Plaintiff") were married on June 20, 2015, and have two daughters, C.R.M. and M.E.M, aged seven and nine. The evidence in this case will show that in early December of 2023, the entire family was blindsided by Myers' sudden announcement that she wanted a divorce from Plaintiff. REC. 717 The evidence will further show that Myers' reasoning for this divorce changes over time – beginning with how Plaintiff spoke to her, and then switches to abuse and sexual harassment, and allegations of drug abuse, claims that were only brought up in her initial pleadings. On December 12, 2023, Plaintiff discovered a large volume of text messages between Myers and two individuals identified as Debbie Price and Damen Kazlauskas of Fort Worth, Texas spanning between October 2022 and December 2023. REC. 254-714 In response to this discovery, Myers began to communicate with Defendant Daniel Kenneth Branthoover, a resident of Yukon, Oklahoma, who assisted her in the planning, drafting, traveling, and submitting of fraudulent documents to the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County designed to divest Plaintiff of his home and business operations. When these allegations were raised to the State, they failed to adjudicate them and violated the Plaintiff's constitutional rights when he was deprived of the guarantees of equal protection under the law and when he was not afforded due process before being deprived of his property. REC. 183. The central question is whether Defendants Munford, Kaitcer, Carter, and Baker are victims of the initial scheme – or willing participants in an expanded associate-in-fact enterprise that began in December of 2023 as the Myers-Branthoover enterprise.

A. The Myers-Branthoover Enterprise 1.

On December 14, 2023, Defendants Morgan Michelle Myers ("Myers") and Daniel Kenneth Branthoover ("Branthoover"), acting in concert and under deceptive pretenses, (REC. 1704), initiated text-message communications through which they formed and advanced a common plan and agreement. Over the weekend of December 15, 2023, they met in Yukon, Oklahoma, to further that plan (REC. 274-278). The deceptive text message from Defendant Branthoover claiming that he wanted to assist Plaintiff was following an attempt by Myers to receive an ex-parte order of protection from the 322nd District Court of Tarrant county, attempted on December 14, 2023 (REC. 78).

B. Interstate Travel and Transfer 2.

As part of their agreement, both Defendants planned to draft and submit an original petition for divorce and an affidavit of indigency to the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County, with the intended and foreseeable result of removing Plaintiff from his matrimonial residence at 6641 Anne Court, Watauga, Texas 76148—which also serves as his place of business for clients in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom that rely on his market data services (REC. 812 ¶ 16).

3.

During Defendant Myers's interstate travel, she transferred the parties' marital funds into Defendant Branthoover's PayPal account in the amount of \$1,576 (REC. 723). Those proceeds funded a second mobile phone (817-940-0852), listed on the fraudulent pleadings that

Myers and Branthoover jointly prepared in Oklahoma, which Myers then carried from Yukon to Texas on December 17, 2023 (REC. 86; 99; 102; 107).

C. Admissions 4. On December 16, 2023, Plaintiff reached out to Branthoover and requested that the \$1,576 be returned as they were needed for Christmas gifts for the children, and for business advertising expenses for his business. REC. 728-729. In response, defendant Branthoover admitted that the purpose of defendant Myers' visit was to help her prepare paperwork for divorce litigation and confirmed that the transfer of \$1,576 did in fact occur. REC. 730. Plaintiff's bank statement from December 2023 further confirms this transaction. REC. 723. D. Post-submission Collaboration 5. On December 18, 2023, defendant Myers submitted the fraudulently prepared original petition for divorce, and an affidavit of indigency to the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County. After these documents were submitted, defendant Branthoover sent a text message to Plaintiff on December 19, 2023, at 5:50 P.M. CST, holding himself out to be defendant Myers' attorney, showing his involvement extends past the initial help in preparing the fraudulent documents. REC. 1712-1713 6. Four days later, on December 22, 2023, defendant Myers submitted another knowingly fraudulent application for protective to the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County claiming that family violence had occurred on December 18, 2023, supported by both an affidavit and unsworn declaration. REC. 108-109. E. Significant and Intentional Misrepresentations 7. On December 27 and December 28, 2023, respectively, the documents prepared by Myers with the assistance of Branthoover were served on Plaintiff via the U.S. Constable, and contained the following misrepresentations: i. That defendant Myers could not afford court costs; REC. 72, REC. 85-96 ii. That defendant Myers had an active order of protection against the Plaintiff with a finding of family violence that had occurred during the marriage; REC. 78 at 10 iii. That defendant Myers was financially responsible for the family vehicles, rent payments, utilities, and other household expenses, making herself appear as the primary breadwinner; REC. 92 iv. That defendant Myers would be harassed or abused if Plaintiff were given her newly acquired phone number that was obtained while in Oklahoma; REC. 81 at 15. v. That defendant Myers and Plaintiff ceased living together on December 1, 2023; REC. 74 at 4 vi. That family violence occurred on December 18, 2023, in the presence of the two Children. REC. 108-109. vii. That both family vehicles were defendant Myers' separate property acquired before marriage. REC. 79 at 11B F. Evidence to the Contrary 8. On the same day Defendant Myers claimed to be in an emergency requiring the Plaintiff's prompt removal from the home, she can be seen at the home with Plaintiff and the children in no state of emergency and also still cohabitating in the marital home. REC 1715. 9. Again, on December 29, 2023, Defendant Myers can be seen with Plaintiff at the family home, smiling and laughing with the children in no state of emergency and still collaborating with Plaintiff in the marital home. REC. 1735. 10. The citation for the application for protective order ordered Respondent to show cause as to why it should not issue with a hearing scheduled for January 16, 2024. REC. 118. 11. In response to extensive misrepresentation above, Plaintiff prepared an original answer, filed a motion to consolidate, and provided background information which alleged that defendant Myers was intentionally abusing the legal process. REC. 130-132. Plaintiff was ordered to show cause on January 16, 2024, regarding the protective order application. REC. 118 G. Inclement Weather

and First Appearance 12. On January 15, 2024, the Tarrant County District Courts Facebook page sent out a notice informing the members of the public that the court would be closed on January 16, 2024, due to inclement weather. REC. 1202. 13. Unaware of the closure at the time, the parties appeared at the 322nd District Court of Tarrant County on January 16, 2024, and were met with a dark courtroom, with only one judge in the building at the time of their arrival – Defendant James Munford (“Munford”). 14. Defendant Munford summarily ordered the Plaintiff out of his home, inadvertently assisting the Myers-Branthoover associate-in-fact enterprise of achieving their primary goal in having the Plaintiff removed from his residence, despite the broader goal being to obtain a decree of divorce to permanently divest Plaintiff of his interests. REC. 183. 15. Defendant Munford’s initial order was baseless, made in the absence of any emergency, without a hearing, and disregarded the Plaintiff’s pleadings, telling Myers “you’re going to have to find evidence of family violence!” clearly aware that this order was made without any regard to the Plaintiff’s constitutional rights. 16. Defendant Jeffrey Kaitcer, (“Kaitcer”) walked into the courtroom late due to the inclement weather and turned the courtroom into a laughing matter as he began to joke with Defendant Munford, and instructed the parties to download the AppClose app for communication, and the matter was reset for January 22, 2024. There exists no record of this proceeding, only marked appearances on the docket. H. Reset #1 – January 22, 2024, Setting 17. At the January 22 reset hearing, the parties appeared only to have the case reset once more because defendant Myers allegedly retained the services of Defendant Cooper Carter, (“Carter”) in the lobby of the courthouse just moments before the hearing was scheduled to begin. No appearance can be traced to this setting by either party on the docket (REC. 1551), and once again, no hearing was held, and the case reset for a second time to February 1, 2024. REC. 186. 18. Kaitcer permitted attorney Dan Bacalis, Plaintiff’s prior attorney, to fill out the Associate Judge’s Report, and the parties never went before him as indicated by the case docket’s lack of appearance on this date by either party. I. Reset #2 – February 1, 2024, Setting 19. One day prior to the February 1 setting, both attorneys, Defendant Carter and Dan Bacalis, both amended the petition for divorce and counterpetition for divorce without the parties’ knowledge. (REC. 189, REC. 209) These amended documents were similar, submitted on the same day, and raised concerns for Plaintiff regarding his quality of representation. 20. At the February 1 setting, both parties were in the conference rooms outside of Defendant Kaitcer’s courtroom, when attorney Bacalis walks in holding a settlement agreement. When Plaintiff refused this option and requested that they go have a hearing before the judge. 21. This is when Bacalis stated, as witness affidavits corroborate, that he “knows this Judge and this is the best we can get.” and further stated “[w]e’ll be here all day. We can come back and change it later.” 22. Outraged by this response, Plaintiff paid very close attention to the settlement offer Bacalis was pressuring him to sign, and noticed the following provisions: A typed written Order conforming to this Report will follow within 20 days from the date this Report is signed. The Temporary Order shall be prepared by DAN BACALIS. Each attorney should approve the Order. The parties do not need to approve the Order. The attorney reviewing the proposed Order shall have five (5) days to do so. There arc no ten (JO) day letters. If an agreement is not reached, a Motion to Sign shall be filed and set within thirty (30) days from

the signing of this Report. IT IS SO ORDERED (REC. 233) J. Termination of Counsel and the Emergency Motion 23. With the above provisions in mind, Plaintiff signed the document and immediately fired his attorney and provided notice to the court. REC. 221. By doing so, Plaintiff gained access back to the residency, invalidated the agreement, and was able to use the time back in the house to run damage control on his business operations while preparing to expose the Myers-Branthoover enterprise to the court via a MOTION TO RECONSIDER EVIDENCE AND VACATE TEMPORARY ORDERS, which was filed on February 9, 2024, within three business days of the February 1 agreed associate judge's report being served by the clerk. REC. 240 24. In this motion, it was specifically stated that: i. "I am seeking immediate court intervention to correct procedural errors and address the misuse of the legal system by the Petitioner." REC. 244 ii. "Particularly, Dan Branthoover became involved. He is the boyfriend of the Petitioner's Mother. Shortly thereafter, I received a notice from our joint bank account stating that \$1,576 had just been withdrawn. As our bank statement for December 2023 will demonstrate - the transaction record shows the funds being transferred directly to Mr. Branthoover's PayPal account" REC. 245 iii. "The Petitioner's action of filing for divorce under an Affidavit of Inability to pay three days after transferring \$1,576 to herself starkly contravenes the mandates set forth in Chapter 10, Section 10.001 of the Civil Practice and Remedies Code". REC 247 at B2 iv. "The Petitioner violated Chapter 10, Section 10.001 a second time within the same document when she intentionally elected to waive the 60-day waiting period claiming to have an active protective order against me that found family violence had occurred during our marriage." REC 247 at B3. v. "This suit was the second attempt by the Petitioner to have me removed from the home, which ultimately succeeded." REC 248 at D1 25. The motion went on to explain the factual pattern described up to this point, putting the court on notice of the key issues with provided exhibits which were duly served on Carter. In response to Plaintiff's motion, he received the first of just two email communications from Carter throughout the case's history, where she claimed she would be filing a counter motion when disclosing her availability for the hearing on Plaintiff's emergency motion. REC. 2794 No such countermotion was filed by Carter. K. Summary Judgment and Notice of Hearing 26. By February 22, no response had been filed by Carter, so Plaintiff filed a Partial Motion for Summary Judgment. REC. 758. Plaintiff also submitted a proposed parenting plan as Exhibit D. REC. 769. No response was ever received from Carter. 27. On February 27, 2024, Defendant Munford signed and issued a notice of hearing to the parties with the hearing set for March 14, 2024. REC. 776. L. Plaintiff's Notice to the Court and Defendant Myers' Self-Help Remedies 28. On March 3, 2024, Plaintiff notified the Court that he would not be leaving the home as it was not in the best interests of his children. REC. 782. 29. The following day, on March 6, 2024, while walking his daughters to school, Myers ran inside the family home, and locked him out of the marital residence, leaving a sign on the door that said "[y]ou should have been out by Saturday you are now locked out!" REC. 1748. 30. Plaintiff called local law enforcement to help him regain entry into the home, where mother produced the agreed associate judge's report signed on February 1, 2024, and used it as a means to block Plaintiff's entrance to the home. 31. To avoid further conflict, Plaintiff was escorted into the home where he was able to grab only his computer and a few clothes and went to Flower Mound to

temporarily stay with his father until the time of the hearing on his emergency motion, scheduled for March 14, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. L. The Hearing On Plaintiff's Emergency Motion 32. On March 14, 2024, the parties arrived at the 322nd District Court, and on the way into the courtroom, defendants Myers and Carter could be seen in the conference room, quickly shuffling papers back and forth. 33. After checking in with the bailiff, Plaintiff turned around to see defendant Carter extending to him a document titled "Temporary Orders" that were the reduced version of the February 1 associate judge's report. REC. 888. 34. These orders, which were not prepared by Dan Bacalis, which were not agreed to by the parties, were reduced well outside of the 20-day requirement as ordered by the judge, and which were never filed with the clerk, stated the following misrepresentations: i. On February 1, 2024, the Court heard Petitioner's motion for temporary orders. ii. The parties have agreed to the terms of this order as evidenced by the signatures below. REC. 888. iii. The Court, after examining the record and the agreement of the parties and hearing the evidence and argument of counsel, finds that all necessary prerequisites of the law have been legally satisfied and that the Court has jurisdiction of this case and of all the parties. REC. 888. iv. The dates that the parties would have access to the family residence was altered, changing the date Plaintiff was supposed to leave from March 1, 2024, to March 20, 2024, and changing Myers' date of re-entry from March 1, 2024, to March 30, 2024, leaving a 10-day window where no one would occupy the residence. v. This modification was made to prevent Myers from being liable for illegally locking Plaintiff out of the home on March 6, 2024. 35. On the last page of the orders, Plaintiff's attorney who was terminated weeks earlier did not sign the document, and Plaintiff refused to sign the document for the forthcoming reasons: i. It claimed a hearing occurred on a motion which was never set for a hearing or served on the Plaintiff and doesn't exist on the docket. ii. It was prepared by defendant Carter, not Dan Bacalis. iii. The associate judge was presiding over a de novo request of his own prior report. iv. The matrimonial address was incorrect, as it stated "6641 Anns Court", rather than 6641 Anne Court. REC. 915, REC. 922 v. The orders were not in the best interests of the children. vi. Notwithstanding the Plaintiff's revocation of consent by filing the emergency motion, the terms were altered right before they were rendered into effect by defendant Kaitcer. vii. Plaintiff did not agree to the terms as he was in court that very day to expose Myers. M. Predicate Acts: Extortion 36. Kaitcer, knowing that no response was filed, knowing that he was presiding over a hearing to which he had no subject matter jurisdiction, and knowing that the temporary orders produced by defendant Carter was served just moments earlier, signed another associate judge's report pre-drafted by defendant Carter, which summarily denied the Plaintiff's emergency motion, ignored the fact that Carter had not provided a response, and within the report itself, Plaintiff was ordered to sign the document that Carter had just presented to him despite raising objections to its' contents, and despite his consent not being present. REC. 795. 37. Finally, defendant Kaitcer refused to consider Plaintiff's exhibits, including six affidavits prepared by his business clients who have been directly affected by his inability to provide the real-time market data services his clients relied on, who were located throughout the United States. REC. 851; REC. 854; REC. 857; REC. 860; REC. 863; REC. 867; REC. 870. 38. Following the setting, the orders were rendered into

effect without Plaintiff's signature (REC. 925) , and Plaintiff filed a request for findings of fact and conclusions of law (REC. 883), and filed and amended a "Preparatory Notice for Judicial Review" which recounted the factual timeline up to that point, and included the affidavits that Kaitcer refused to accept on March 14, 2024. REC. 798, REC. 851, REC. 854, REC. 857, REC. 860, REC. 863, REC. 867, REC. 870. 39. The orders stated they were to remain in effect until the final decree of divorce, and Plaintiff's journey of one-sided appeals began. N. One Sided Appellate Efforts, and Defective IWO 40. Following the rendition of the temporary orders on March 26, 2024, Plaintiff spent between April 8, 2024 and September 15, 2024, appealing via mandamus to the Second Court of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court. REC. 1010. 41. During the appellate efforts, Carter filed one of two motions in the case, which was a motion for pre-trial conference filed on April 24, 2024, on her behalf by Roderick D. Marx, a party not named in the suit. REC. 1014, REC. 1016. 42. Plaintiff immediately objected to the pre-trial conference, and no response was ever issued by Carter or the court. REC. 1018. 43. On April 30th, Plaintiff filed his notice of completion regarding the parenting course as ordered, despite actively trying to vacate them. REC. 1047. No parenting course was ever completed by Myers. 44. On May 2, 2024, Plaintiff's en banc reconsideration was denied in the Second Court of Appeals, and he began preparing an appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas. REC. 1067. 45. On May 19, 2024, Carter sent the second and last email correspondence that would be received in the case, which falsely claimed he agreed to the orders signed on March 14, 2024, and requested that he fill out an IWO, which Plaintiff found to be defective. REC. 1722, REC. 1728. No further correspondence was received by Carter. O. Fraudulent Intervention and Branthoover's Continued Involvement 46. On June 23rd Plaintiff filed a motion in state court entitled MOTION FOR JOINDER OF PERSONS NEEDED FOR JUST ADJUDICATION at 12:14 P.M. REC. 1075. This motion received no response from Carter. 47. On June 23rd at 1:54 P.M., directly following the submission of the motion, Branthoover texted Plaintiff stating "Lol. And here comes another denial. Please sue me individually. Please.", referring to the earlier filed motion and showing his continued oversight of the case's progression since his initial predicate acts. 48. Four days later, on June 28, 2024, the Texas Office of the Attorney General allegedly filed an intervention pleading, claiming that Plaintiff was past due on child support, and requested information from Plaintiff. REC. 1099. 49. Most notably, the certificate of service to this intervention pleading was allegedly signed by Holly Hayes, the designated attorney for the OAG, yet the name underneath the signature line reads CHOYA BURKLEY. REC. 1102. 50. Plaintiff promptly objected to the intervention, and never received any response from the OAG, Carter, or the court. REC. 1106. P. Supreme Court, Rule 12, and Emergency Temporary Orders 51. As Plaintiff continued to appeal to the Supreme Court of Texas, all prosecution came to an end in the trial court. It wasn't until September 15, 2024, that Plaintiff filed a first amended rehearing motion in the Texas Supreme Court, (REC. 1136) and after noticing Carter's lack of participation, he began to question her authority given several ambiguities surrounding her representation, and filed a rule 12 motion to show authority. REC. 1170. No response was ever received to this motion from Carter. 52. At this point, Plaintiff had been staying in Airbnb homes while he sought relief to ensure he could remain close to his daughters during this time. On September 26,

2024, he filed and later amended an EMERGENCY MOTION FOR TEMPORARY ORDERS and requested expedited relief by October 1, 2024, as that was when Plaintiff was forced to move away from the area due to cost of living being unsustainable. REC. 1184. No response was ever received from Carter regarding this motion. 53. By October 1, Plaintiff had no choice but to start pursuing administrative remedies, and thought the court was biased against him given the case's history up to that point. He began to prepare a Joint Motion to Recuse defendants Munford and Kaitcer and filed it with the clerk of the court on October 7, 2024. REC. 1197. Q. Predicate Act: Wire Fraud 54. On October 8, 2024, Defendant Munford signed and forwarded a "Joint Motion to Recuse" attached to his order of referral to regional presiding judge David L. Evans but was notably missing the exhibits and affidavit critical to the motion. REC. 1222 55. A copy of this exchange was sent via defendant Baker on 4:43 P.M. on October 8. REC. 1254 56. Plaintiff immediately pointed out the discrepancies between the motion filed and the motion forwarded to David L. Evans, where she replied and admitted that the full document had been e-filed and remains with the court. REC. 1255 57. Unsatisfied with this response, Plaintiff further pointed out that the filing size of the document filed and the one referring to David L. Evans was significantly different. No further correspondence was received by Baker until the following day. REC. 1256 58. The following day on October 8, 2024, defendant Munford signed and filed an "Amended Order of Referral" which had the full motion attached this time, albeit still modified as the hyperlinks and bookmarks had been removed. REC. 1282 59. This amended referral was sent via email correspondence by Baker at 11:17 A.M. on October 8, 2024, who stated that due to the size of the motion, it was split into three parts. REC. 1258. This excuse directly contradicts the standard filing procedure in Tarrant County, which was raised and subsequently ignored in an objection. REC. 1269. No response was filed in regard to the motion to recuse or objection by Carter. R. Recusal Denial and More Delays, and Federal Removal 60. Justice E. Lee Gabriel was assigned to hear the motion, which had to be rescheduled due to technical difficulties for November 7, 2024. REC. 1306. 61. The morning of the hearing, Plaintiff woke up with a dental emergency, and promptly notified all parties, and requested a reset for the hearing, which everyone agreed to. REC. 1393-1396. 62. Despite this agreement, the recusal was denied for failure to appear, and made no mention of the agreement or the emergency. REC. 1398. 63. With no other remedies left, Plaintiff removed the case to Federal Court on December 2, 2024, which was quickly remanded back on December 4, 2024. REC. 1426. 64. On December 14, 2024, defendant Branthoover texted Plaintiff, sending a threat which stated "[w]hen things all over, you get to deal with me." at 2:15 P.M. REC. 1720 65. On December 16, 2024, Plaintiff initiated suit against Daniel Kenneth Branthoover in the Western District of Oklahoma seeking relief in the form of damages from the ongoing deprivation from his home. REC. 1451. 66. Plaintiff notified the Texas court of this lawsuit on December 31, 2024. REC. 1446. S. Further Delays, Motion to Dismiss for Want of Prosecution, and the Original SAPCR 67. On January 24, 2025, Plaintiff filed a motion to dismiss for want of prosecution due to the total lack of participation in the case by the opposing party. REC. 1527. No response was ever received from Carter on this motion. 68. On January 29, 2025, defendant Myers began disposing of Plaintiff's personal belongings that remained on the family property. REC.

1629-1631. 69. On February 12, 2025, Plaintiff learned that his youngest daughter was suffering from dental pain due to Myers' failure to obtain dental insurance for the children. REC. 3281. 70. By March 14, (REC. 1833-1837) the judges had still not been reinstated from the first recusal, which led Plaintiff to reach out to Baker to request a hearing on his unopposed summary judgment that had been on the docket since February 22, 2024, where he had to remind her to reinstate the judges back into the case. REC. 1833-1837. 71. Given the delays, and since the case had been brought in bad faith initially, the Plaintiff opened an original SAPCR suit in the 233rd District Court of Tarrant County on March 18, 2025, where he argued for dominant jurisdiction in a cover letter sent to the clerk. REC. 2260. T. Counsel Suddenly Becomes Active 72. The very next day, defendant Carter filed an original answer filed on her behalf by Roderick Marx. REC. 2279. The motion was a boilerplate motion, and was followed by a motion to consolidate, which was filed in the wrong court, and was also filed on Carter's behalf by RODERICK D. MARX. REC. 2284. 73. The Plaintiff immediately responded by filing a motion to strike (REC. 1957) a Rule 12 motion to show authority challenging both Carter and RODERICK D MARX's authority (REC. 2288) and on March 24, 2025, an emergency ex-parte TRO to prevent Myers from barring Plaintiff's access to the home. (REC. 2302) No responses were ever received from Carter on these motions. 74. On March 26, 2025, an objection was filed to Carter's consolidation motion in the 233rd court. REC. 1881. 75. Plaintiff reached out to the coordinator from the 233rd and went through the process to present the motion to the judge. REC. 2338-2341. 76. On March 29, 2025, Plaintiff appeared before Associate Judge Kate Stone, who refused to hear Plaintiff's emergency motion despite no response being filed, and told him to leave the courtroom. The hearing date scheduled for April 10, 2025, as agreed by Carter and Plaintiff (REC. 2358), was actually un-set by Stone. REC. 2361. 77. The grounds for this outright refusal was due to Carter calling in a favor from the judge without even being present in the courtroom, to where Stone left the room, came back, and told the Plaintiff to leave informing him that a motion to consolidate would be filed by Carter the following week. U. Five Concurrent Mandamus Petitions 78. Subsequently, after he was turned away from the courtroom, Carter's consolidation motion wasn't filed until April 4, 2025 (REC. 2367), resulting in two mandamus petitions to try again to have the March 14, 2024, order signed by Kaitcer vacated, and to compel Kate Stone to hear the emergency TRO. See 25-0361, 25-0367. 79. On the same day the mandamus was filed against Stone, District Judge Kenneth Newell sua sponte granted Carter's consolidation motion in both courts without a hearing, and without addressing the emergency situation for the children or the Plaintiff's objections, leading to a third mandamus proceeding. REC. 2393, See also 25-0378. 80. On April 23, 2025, a notice of trial setting was served on the parties by defendant Munford in the midst of all of these issues. REC. 1773. 81. The same day, Plaintiff filed an objection and requested an emergency stay. REC. 2219. No response was received to this objection by either Munford or Carter. 82. Two days later on April 25, 2025, Plaintiff filed his second recusal motion, and amended it on April 28, 2025, this time only against Munford, and requested that the rules of procedure be followed, and objected to the involvement of the court coordinator given the prior recusal's ambiguity and significant delays caused by her involvement. REC. 2488 No response to this motion was ever filed from Carter. 83. Baker

continued to be involved in the recusal process, this time erroneously forwarding an order of referral from defendant Kaitcer, who was not named in the recusal motion. REC. 2615. 84. Plaintiff immediately objected on April 29, 2025, naming two issues: 1) the coordinator was still involved, and 2) the order of referral sent by Kaitcer was erroneous. REC. 2620. 84. Plaintiff objected to the order of assignment of John H. Cayce (REC. 3149) which was issued on May 7, 2025, due to the unresolves issues. REC. 2620. 85. David L. Evans overruled this objection on May 15, 2025, leading to mandamus petition 25-0426, a direct appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. REC. 3507. 86. On May 20, 2025, John H. Cayce summarily denied the recusal, including the denial of a motion to recuse Kaitcer which was never filed, leading to mandamus petition 25-0458, a second direct appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. 87. All five petitions were denied both initially and on rehearing, and all emergency motions to stay proceedings were dismissed. The only insights given from the appellate courts was: "Denied, per curiam." No response was filed by any implicated judge or opposing counsel. V. Federal RICO Case and the Push Towards Final Trial 88. In June of 2025, Plaintiff amended his complaint against Daniel Kenneth Branthoover and enjoined Myers as a defendant, which they defended pro-se. 89. Plaintiff communicated this action with the trial court, and no further action was taken in the case until August of 2025, when defendant Munford sua sponte set the case for final trial on December 10, 2025. 90. Plaintiff immediately objected to this trial setting, and moved to recuse Munford for a third time. 91. The court coordinator continued to be involved in the process, leading to a subsequent motion to recuse the regional presiding judge, David L. Evans. 92. Plaintiff now prepares this suit to hold defendants accountable for their collective actions, and to prevent their common goal from being achieved, which is to obtain defendant Myers a final decree of divorce. 93. For the forthcoming reasons, the conduct outlined herein constitutes conduct of an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity, as several predicate acts were committed, the enterprise shares a common purpose, and Plaintiff has suffered direct and ongoing injury to business and property as a direct result of the defendant's collective predicate acts. RICO The timeline and evidence provided demonstrate that the Myers-Branthoover group constitutes an association-in-fact enterprise under RICO, with a common goal to deprive the Plaintiff of his home and business through a pattern of racketeering activity—specifically, wire fraud, Travel Act violations, and fraudulent court filings—causing direct injury to the Plaintiff's business and property. The conduct, structure, and continuity among the participants, as well as the use of interstate communications and travel, satisfy the elements of a RICO claim in the Tenth Circuit, with the liability of other defendants depending on their knowledge and intent. A. Summary The Myers-Branthoover enterprise, as detailed in the factual timeline, meets the Tenth Circuit's requirements for a RICO claim by establishing an association-in-fact enterprise with a defined structure, purpose, and continuity. The group's coordinated actions—including interstate transfer of funds, preparation and submission of fraudulent legal documents, and ongoing manipulation of court proceedings—constitute a pattern of racketeering activity, with predicate acts of wire fraud and Travel Act violations that are related and continuous. Plaintiff's direct and ongoing injury to his business and property, including loss of home, business operations, and client relationships, is proximately caused by the enterprise's acts. While Myers and Branthoover's

liability is clear, the involvement of other defendants (Munford, Kaitcer, Carter, and Baker) may be characterized as inadvertent or willing participation, depending on their knowledge and intent, but the core elements of a RICO violation are satisfied by the conduct of Myers and Branthoover as outlined in the enumerated timeline. The additional acts committed by each defendant, as alleged, furthered the scheme of the enterprise despite each additional defendant having actual knowledge of the fraudulent scheme.

RICO Statutory Framework The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961–1968, provides a civil cause of action for individuals injured in their business or property by reason of a pattern of racketeering activity conducted through an enterprise affecting interstate or foreign commerce. The most commonly invoked provision, § 1962(c), prohibits any person employed by or associated with an enterprise from conducting or participating in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity. Section 1962(d) further prohibits conspiracies to violate any of the substantive RICO provisions. To establish a civil RICO claim under § 1962(c), a plaintiff must prove: i. The existence of an enterprise; ii. The enterprise's engagement in, or effect on, interstate or foreign commerce; iii. The defendant's employment by or association with the enterprise; iv. The defendant's participation, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of the enterprise's affairs; v. The defendant's participation through a pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debt. See *100 Mount Holly Bypass v. Axos Bank*, Case No. 2:20-CV-856-TS-CMR (D. Utah Jul 27, 2021).

B. Predicate Acts and Pattern Requirement RICO defines "racketeering activity" to include a wide range of criminal offenses, including wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343) and violations of the Travel Act (18 U.S.C. § 1952). A "pattern of racketeering activity" requires at least two predicate acts within a ten-year period, but the acts must be related and amount to or pose a threat of continued criminal activity. The Supreme Court has clarified that a RICO violation requires both an "enterprise" and a "pattern of racketeering activity," with the enterprise being a group of persons associated for a common purpose, and the pattern involving a series of criminal acts (*United States v. Harris*, 695 F.3d 1125 (10th Cir. 2012)). The Tenth Circuit has further explained that, to establish a pattern, it is not enough to simply show that two predicate acts occurred within ten years; the acts must also be related and pose a threat of continued criminal activity (*U.S. v. Smith*, 413 F.3d 1253 (10th Cir. 2005)). Note, however, that *U.S. v. Smith* has been stated as overruled by *United States v. Nissen*, 555 F.Supp.3d 1174 (D. N.M. 2021) on unrelated grounds, but its articulation of the pattern requirement remains consistent with current law.

C. Enterprise and Association-in-Fact An "enterprise" under RICO includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or group of individuals associated in fact, even if not a legal entity. For an association-in-fact enterprise, the Tenth Circuit requires: i. A purpose; ii. Relationships among those associated with the enterprise; iii. Longevity sufficient to permit the associates to pursue the enterprise's purpose; iv. A decision-making framework or mechanism for controlling the group; v. Functioning as a continuing unit; vi. Existence separate and apart from the pattern of racketeering activity. See *100 Mount Holly Bypass*. D.

Conspiracy Section 1962(d) makes it unlawful to conspire to violate any of the substantive RICO provisions. A RICO conspiracy does not require the establishment of an enterprise but requires that a defendant adopts the goal

of furthering or facilitating a criminal endeavor that would satisfy the elements of a substantive RICO offense (United States v. Martinez, 543 F.Supp.3d 1209 (D. N.M. 2021); United States v. Randall, 661 F.3d 1291 (10th Cir. 2011)). E. Injury Requirement RICO provides a private right of action for individuals injured in their business or property through fraudulent conduct, and there is no requirement that the conduct be connected to organized crime in a civil setting (Plains Resources, Inc. v. Gable, 782 F.2d 883 (10th Cir. 1986)). ANALYSIS F. Existence of an Association-in-Fact Enterprise The timeline establishes that Myers and Branthoover formed an association-in-fact enterprise beginning in December 2023 (§§ 1-7, 93). Their collaboration was structured, with Myers as the petitioner in the divorce and Branthoover as the planner, drafter, and facilitator of fraudulent documents and financial transactions. The group had a clear purpose: to divest the Plaintiff of his home and business through fraudulent legal filings and manipulation of court processes (§§ 1-7, 93). The enterprise's structure is evidenced by: i. The initial planning and agreement to meet in Yukon, Oklahoma, to draft fraudulent documents (§§ 1-3); ii. The use of interstate communications and travel to further the scheme (§§ 2-3); iii. Ongoing coordination and adaptation to changing circumstances, including the preparation and submission of false affidavits and pleadings, and manipulation of court proceedings (§§ 5-7, 34, 93). This satisfies the Tenth Circuit's requirements for an association-in-fact enterprise, which does not require a formal legal entity but does require a common purpose, relationships, and sufficient longevity to pursue the enterprise's goals. G. Structure, Purpose, Relationships, and Continuity The Myers-Branthoover group meets the requirements for an association-in-fact enterprise: i. Purpose: The shared goal was to deprive the Plaintiff of his home, business, and property interests through fraudulent means (§§ 1-7, 93). ii. Relationships: Myers and Branthoover maintained ongoing communications, coordinated actions, and divided roles in the scheme (§§ 1-7, 93). iii. Longevity and Continuity: The enterprise operated over a substantial period, from at least December 2023 through present day 2025, with multiple related acts and ongoing adaptation to changing circumstances (§§ 1-93). iv. Decision-Making Framework: The group planned, agreed on steps, and executed those steps in a coordinated manner (§§ 1-7, 93). v. Existence Separate from Predicate Acts: The enterprise was formed for the purpose of achieving a specific goal and engaged in multiple acts over time to accomplish that goal. H. Predicate Acts: Wire Fraud, Travel Act Violations, and Fraudulent Filings The timeline identifies multiple predicate acts that qualify as racketeering activity under RICO: i. Wire Fraud: Myers transferred \$1,576 in marital funds to Branthoover's PayPal account during interstate travel, and these funds were used to purchase a phone for use in the fraudulent scheme (§§ 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 34). The use of electronic communications (text messages, emails) to plan and execute the scheme further supports the wire fraud allegation (§§ 1-7, 34). ii. Travel Act Violations: Myers traveled from Texas to Oklahoma to meet with Branthoover, where they planned and prepared fraudulent legal documents, which were then transported back to Texas and submitted to the court (§§ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7). iii. Fraudulent Filings: The preparation and submission of false affidavits and pleadings to the court, containing material misrepresentations about financial status, family violence, and property ownership, constitute further predicate acts (§§ 5, 6, 7, 34). At least two related predicate acts

within ten years are required (U.S. v. Smith, 413 F.3d 1253 (10th Cir. 2005)), and the timeline shows multiple, related predicate acts over a substantial period (§§ 1–93).

I. Pattern of Racketeering Activity: Relatedness and Continuity The predicate acts were not isolated incidents but part of an ongoing scheme. The acts were related in that they all aimed to deprive the Plaintiff of his property and business, and they posed a threat of continued criminal activity, as the enterprise continued to operate and adapt its tactics over time (§§ 1–93). The timeline shows that the enterprise’s activities extended over a substantial period, with multiple acts occurring over months and involving ongoing coordination and adaptation to changing circumstances.

J. Injury to Business or Property Plaintiff suffered direct and ongoing injury to his business and property as a result of the enterprise’s actions. He was deprived of his home and business operations, lost access to marital funds, and was unable to provide services to clients, resulting in financial harm (§§ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 37). These injuries are precisely the type of harm RICO is designed to redress. *Plains Resources, Inc. v. Gable*, 782 F.2d 883 (10th Cir. 1986).

K. Participation of Other Defendants: Inadvertent or Willing The timeline raises the question of whether Munford, Kaitcer, Carter, and Baker were victims of the initial scheme or willing participants in the expanded enterprise. The evidence suggests that, at a minimum, Myers and Branthoover were the core members of the enterprise, with others potentially becoming involved through their actions in the legal proceedings (§§ 14–93).

i. Inadvertent Participation: Some defendants may have participated inadvertently, such as by issuing orders or facilitating court processes without knowledge of the underlying scheme (§§ 14–93).

ii. Willing Participation: Others may have become willing participants if they knowingly furthered the enterprise’s objectives or ignored clear evidence of fraud and misrepresentation (§§ 14–93). RICO does not impose liability for inadvertent or unwitting participation; there must be knowing and willful involvement in the conduct of the enterprise’s affairs. For the forthcoming reasons, Plaintiff alleges that the Defendants are willing participants in the scheme.

VICTIM OR PARTICIPANT RICO liability extends to those who knowingly participate in the conduct of the enterprise’s affairs, even if they were not original members (RICO: A Primer (2022-01-31)). The timeline raises the question of whether Munford, Kaitcer, Carter, and Baker were victims of the initial scheme or willing participants in the expanded enterprise. The evidence suggests that, at a minimum, Myers and Branthoover were the core members of the enterprise, with others becoming involved through their actions in the legal proceedings (§§ 14–93). The timeline demonstrates that Carter, Kaitcer, and Myers engaged in extortion by leveraging the threat of adverse legal action, fraudulent court orders, and the manipulation of judicial process to coerce Plaintiff into relinquishing property and business interests, satisfying the elements of extortion as a predicate act under RICO and the Travel Act. Munford and Baker, for their part, committed wire fraud by intentionally sending altered or incomplete court documents via interstate email, with the intent to mislead, obstruct relief, and further the enterprise’s objective of finalizing the divorce and depriving Plaintiff of his property, thus meeting the requirements for wire fraud as a RICO predicate act. These acts, as detailed in the timeline, are not isolated but part of a coordinated pattern of racketeering activity within an association-in-fact enterprise, as required by RICO in the Tenth Circuit. The conduct of each defendant is tied to specific predicate acts—extortion

for Carter, Kaitcer, and Myers (notably at timeline events 33–37), and wire fraud for Munford and Baker (notably at events 54–59, 83)—demonstrating knowing and willful participation in the enterprise’s broader scheme to deprive Plaintiff of his home and business through fraudulent and coercive means. A. Extortion and Wire Fraud The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961–1968, provides a civil cause of action for injury to business or property caused by a pattern of racketeering activity conducted through an enterprise affecting interstate commerce. Predicate acts under RICO include extortion (as defined by the Hobbs Act and the Travel Act) and wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343), among others. Extortion is defined as obtaining property from another, with his consent, induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear, or under color of official right. The Travel Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1952, includes extortion as an “unlawful activity” and does not require it to be part of a business enterprise (U.S. v. Welch, 327 F.3d 1081 (10th Cir. 2003)). The Tenth Circuit recognizes that extortion under the Travel Act can be established by showing threats or coercion to obtain something of value, including property or legal rights, in violation of state or federal law. Wire fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1343 requires (1) a scheme to defraud or obtain property by false or fraudulent pretenses, (2) intent to defraud, and (3) use of interstate wire communications to execute the scheme (Clinton v. Sec. Benefit Life Ins. Co., 63 F.4th 1264 (10th Cir. 2023); United States v. Holloway, 826 F.3d 1237 (10th Cir. 2016)). The Tenth Circuit requires that the deprivation of property be a central object of the scheme, and that the use of wires (including email) be knowing and in furtherance of the fraudulent scheme (United States v. Tao, 629 F.Supp.3d 1083). B. Extortion by Carter, Kaitcer, and Myers Extortion, as a RICO predicate act, is defined broadly under federal law and the Travel Act. It includes obtaining property or rights through threats, coercion, or misuse of official process (U.S. v. Welch, 327 F.3d 1081 (10th Cir. 2003)). The Tenth Circuit does not require extortion to be part of a business enterprise for Travel Act purposes; a single act suffices if it has the requisite interstate nexus. The timeline shows the following: i. Event 33–34: Carter, with Myers, prepared and presented “Temporary Orders” that misrepresented facts (e.g., that Plaintiff agreed to terms he did not, that a hearing occurred when it did not, and that the orders were in the best interests of the children). These orders altered the dates of access to the home to shield Myers from liability for locking Plaintiff out, and were presented to Plaintiff in a context where he was under threat of losing his home and business. iii. Event 36: Kaitcer, knowing the orders were disputed and that no response had been filed, signed an associate judge’s report pre-drafted by Carter, summarily denying Plaintiff’s emergency motion and ordering Plaintiff to sign the disputed document, despite his objections and lack of consent. iv. Event 35: Plaintiff refused to sign the orders for multiple reasons, including their fraudulent content and the lack of due process, but the orders were rendered into effect without his signature. These acts collectively demonstrate the use of legal process and the threat of adverse judicial action to coerce Plaintiff into surrendering his property and business interests. The manipulation of court orders, the misrepresentation of facts, and the pressure to sign under threat of losing his home constitute extortion under the Travel Act and RICO (U.S. v. Welch, 327 F.3d 1081 (10th Cir. 2003)). Myers’s role is clear: she was the beneficiary and instigator of the fraudulent filings and the manipulation of court

process, using the threat of legal action and the actual deprivation of Plaintiff's property to achieve her goal. Carter and Kaitcer acted in concert with Myers, knowingly facilitating the extortion by preparing, presenting, and enforcing fraudulent orders, and by using the authority of the court to coerce Plaintiff. The fact that Plaintiff was ordered to sign a document he objected to, under threat of continued deprivation of his home and business, is classic extortion by color of official right. All three defendants knew that Plaintiff did not agree to the order, as he had just fired his attorney to challenge any basis for an agreement. This implies that despite the motion being served on all defendants, they chose to ignore the allegations of a fraudulent scheme and further the affairs of the enterprise. These actions meet the requirements for extortion as a RICO predicate act: they involved the wrongful use of threats and official process to obtain property (the home and business) from Plaintiff, with his consent induced by fear of further loss or legal harm. The acts were not isolated but part of a coordinated scheme to achieve the enterprise's goal of finalizing the divorce and divesting Plaintiff of his property B. Wire Fraud by Munford and Baker Wire fraud under 18 U.S.C. § 1343 requires a scheme to defraud, intent to defraud, and use of interstate wire communications to execute the scheme (*Clinton v. Sec. Benefit Life Ins. Co.*, 63 F.4th 1264 (10th Cir. 2023); *United States v. Holloway*, 826 F.3d 1237 (10th Cir. 2016)). The Tenth Circuit recognizes that sending altered or incomplete court documents via email, with the intent to mislead or deprive someone of property or rights, can constitute wire fraud if the deprivation of property is a central object of the scheme (*United States v. Tao*, 629 F.Supp.3d 1083). The timeline shows the following: i. Event 54: Munford signed and forwarded a "Joint Motion to Recuse" attached to his order of referral, but the document was missing critical exhibits and affidavits necessary for Plaintiff's relief. ii. Event 55: Baker sent a copy of this incomplete filing via email, representing it as the full document. iii. Event 56–57: When Plaintiff pointed out the discrepancies, Baker provided inconsistent explanations, first claiming the full document was e-filed, then later stating it was split into three parts due to size. iv. Event 58: Munford signed and filed an "Amended Order of Referral" with the full motion attached, but with hyperlinks and bookmarks removed, further impairing the document's integrity. v. Event 59, 83: Baker continued to forward altered or incomplete orders and referrals, even when procedural irregularities were raised. These acts involved the knowing use of interstate email to transmit altered or incomplete court documents, with the intent to prevent Plaintiff from obtaining relief and to further the enterprise's goal of finalizing the divorce and depriving Plaintiff of his property. The use of email to transmit these documents satisfies the interstate wire requirement, and the intent to defraud is evidenced by the deliberate alteration and misrepresentation of the filings. The conduct of Munford and Baker meets the elements of wire fraud: (1) a scheme to defraud Plaintiff of property and rights, (2) intent to defraud by preventing relief and misleading the court and Plaintiff, and (3) use of interstate wire communications (email) to execute the scheme (*Clinton v. Sec. Benefit Life Ins. Co.*, 63 F.4th 1264 (10th Cir. 2023)). The deprivation of property (Plaintiff's home and business) was a central object of the scheme, not a minor part. RELATIONSHIP AND CONTINUITY All these acts—extortion by Carter, Kaitcer, and Myers, and wire fraud by Munford and Baker—were committed in furtherance of the Myers-Branthoover enterprise's overarching objective: to finalize the

divorce and divest Plaintiff of his home and business. The acts were coordinated, continuous, and related, satisfying the RICO pattern requirement. The timeline shows that each defendant's conduct was not an isolated error or routine administrative act, but part of a deliberate scheme to use the legal process, threats, and fraudulent communications to achieve the enterprise's unlawful goals. DAMAGES The harm inflicted upon Plaintiff is staggering. He has lost the home in which he lived for nearly a third of his life, the companionship of his spouse, and the society of his children. His income has collapsed. For two years he has been consigned to a futile appellate gauntlet, even as Defendants Munford, Kaitcer, Baker, and Carter have repeatedly exceeded the bounds of their lawful authority in furtherance of a broader scheme. What began as a concerted effort by Myers and Branthoover to dispossess Plaintiff of his residence and property metastasized into a calculated plan to procure a final decree of divorce once the initial objective had been achieved. The objective was plain: by engineering a final decree, Defendants would not only hobble Plaintiff's ability to bring this suit but also invite invocation of the Rooker-Feldman doctrine and related abstention principles to preclude federal jurisdiction. Now, after two years of unrelenting effort, Plaintiff seeks the only meaningful remedy remaining: federal redress to halt the ongoing abuses of authority, to unwind tainted actions, and to compensate him fully for the catastrophic losses Defendants have wrought. Take each piece in the TABLE OF CONTENTS, research the topic, and tie it to the factual timeline, filling out each element of the RICO complaint and tie each element to the factual allegations by enumerated paragraph number. What are the requirements for the prayer for relief section in a civil RICO complaint in the Fifth Circuit, including damages, injunctive, declaratory, and other relief?

Answer (Fifth Circuit)

Short response

In the Fifth Circuit, the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint must request (1) compensatory damages for injury to business or property, (2) mandatory treble damages, (3) reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and may also seek (4) injunctive and declaratory relief, though the availability of equitable remedies for private plaintiffs remains unsettled. The relief must be tied to concrete financial loss proximately caused by the RICO violation, and any request for non-monetary relief should be forward-looking to prevent or restrain future RICO violations.

Summary

A civil RICO plaintiff in the Fifth Circuit is entitled by statute to recover three times the actual damages sustained, plus reasonable attorney's fees and costs, for injuries to business or property resulting from a RICO violation. While monetary relief is mandatory upon a showing of injury and causation, the availability of injunctive and declaratory relief is less certain, with courts generally permitting such relief only to prevent future violations rather than to compensate for past harm.

The prayer for relief section should therefore include a demand for compensatory damages (for concrete financial loss), treble damages as required by statute, attorney's fees and costs, and, where appropriate, requests for injunctive or declaratory relief to prevent ongoing or future racketeering activity. Any additional relief sought must be justified by the facts and the remedial purposes of RICO, and the complaint should clearly tie each form of relief to the specific injuries and ongoing risks identified in the factual allegations.

Background and Relevant Law

Statutory Framework

The Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), codified at 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961–1968, provides a private right of action for any person injured in their business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962. Section 1964(c) mandates that a successful plaintiff “shall recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including a reasonable attorney’s fee.” This provision is not discretionary; treble damages and attorney’s fees are required for prevailing plaintiffs ([Civil Rico: A Tool of Advocacy](#) (2024-01-01); [Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc., 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 \(5th Cir. 1984\)](#)).

Section 1964(a) also authorizes courts to issue orders to prevent and restrain violations of section 1962, including “ordering any person to divest himself of any interest, direct or indirect, in any enterprise; imposing reasonable restrictions on the future activities or investments of any person...; or ordering dissolution or reorganization of any enterprise.” However, the Fifth Circuit has not definitively ruled on whether private plaintiffs may obtain all forms of equitable relief, such as injunctions or declaratory judgments, under RICO ([Richard v. Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc., 355 F.3d 345, 354–55 \(5th Cir. 2003\)](#)).

Case Law

Fifth Circuit and district court decisions confirm that the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint must include:

- Compensatory damages for injury to business or property, which must be a concrete financial loss proximately caused by the RICO violation ([Creel v. Dr. Says, LLC, Civil Action 4:18-CV-00615 \(E.D. Tex. Mar 31, 2022\)](#); [Xenos Yuen v. Triple B Servs. LLP, CIVIL ACTION NO. H-18-3277 \(S.D. Tex. Jun 08, 2019\)](#)).
- Treble damages, which are mandatory and not subject to the court’s discretion ([Interstate Nat’l Dealer Servs. v. MSRV Repair LLC, 6:24-CV-00170-ADA-DTG \(W.D. Tex. Jun 20, 2025\)](#); [Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc., 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 \(5th Cir. 1984\)](#)).
- Reasonable attorney’s fees and costs of suit, which are also mandatory for prevailing plaintiffs ([Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc., 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 \(5th Cir. 1984\)](#)).

- Other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, such as charges for photocopying, paralegal assistance, travel, and telephone usage, may also be recoverable ([Interstate Nat'l Dealer Servs. v. MSRV Repair LLC](#), 6:24-CV-00170-ADA-DTG (W.D. Tex. Jun 20, 2025)).

The Fifth Circuit has recognized that while RICO is to be liberally construed to effectuate its remedial purposes, damages must be premised on actual harm to business or property, not on speculative or intangible injuries ([Creel v. Dr. Says, LLC, Civil Action 4:18-CV-00615 \(E.D. Tex. Mar 31, 2022\)](#)).

Equitable Relief

The availability of injunctive and declaratory relief for private RICO plaintiffs is unsettled in the Fifth Circuit. The court in [Richard v. Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc., 355 F.3d 345 \(5th Cir. 2003\)](#) expressly reserved ruling on whether all forms of injunctive or equitable relief are foreclosed to private plaintiffs under RICO. However, the Second Circuit and other authorities have interpreted section 1964(a) to permit equitable remedies only to prevent and restrain future RICO violations, not to compensate for past harm. Disgorgement, for example, is generally not available to private plaintiffs if it is intended to compensate for past injuries rather than to prevent future violations.

Secondary Materials

Secondary sources reinforce that only damages to business or property proximately caused by the RICO violation are compensable, and that treble damages and attorney's fees are mandatory. The prayer for relief should be tailored to the concrete financial losses suffered and should not include speculative or intangible injuries ([Civil Rico: A Tool of Advocacy](#) (2024-01-01)).

Analysis

1. Compensatory Damages

A civil RICO plaintiff must allege and prove a concrete financial loss to business or property as a result of a violation of section 1962. The damages must be directly tied to the predicate acts constituting the RICO violation ([Creel v. Dr. Says, LLC, Civil Action 4:18-CV-00615 \(E.D. Tex. Mar 31, 2022\)](#); [Xenos Yuen v. Triple B Servs. LLP, CIVIL ACTION NO. H-18-3277 \(S.D. Tex. Jun 08, 2019\)](#)). In the context of the factual timeline, this would include losses such as deprivation of the home, loss of business operations, lost client relationships, and any other quantifiable financial harm proximately caused by the alleged racketeering activity (see, e.g., timeline ¶¶ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 37).

The complaint must specify the nature and amount of these damages, and the prayer for relief should request an award of compensatory damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

2. Treble Damages

Section 1964(c) requires that any damages awarded for injury to business or property be trebled. The court has no discretion to reduce or deny treble damages if liability is established ([Interstate Nat'l Dealer Servs. v. MSRV Repair LLC](#), 6:24-CV-00170-ADA-DTG (W.D. Tex. Jun 20, 2025); [Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc.](#), 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 (5th Cir. 1984)). The prayer for relief must therefore explicitly request treble damages.

Treble damages under RICO are partly punitive and are intended to deter racketeering activity. Courts have held that the award of treble damages may offset the need for prejudgment interest, as the punitive nature of the award is designed to make the plaintiff more than whole ([Allstate Ins. Co. v. Plambeck](#), 802 F.3d 665, 673 (5th Cir. 2015)).

3. Attorney's Fees and Costs

Attorney's fees and costs are also mandatory for prevailing civil RICO plaintiffs. Congress intended these provisions to encourage private enforcement of RICO and to provide strong incentives for civil litigants to pursue racketeering claims ([Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc.](#), 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 (5th Cir. 1984)). The prayer for relief should request an award of reasonable attorney's fees and all costs of suit, including reasonable out-of-pocket expenses such as paralegal fees, travel, and other litigation costs ([Interstate Nat'l Dealer Servs. v. MSRV Repair LLC](#), 6:24-CV-00170-ADA-DTG (W.D. Tex. Jun 20, 2025)).

4. Injunctive and Declaratory Relief

The Fifth Circuit has not definitively resolved whether private plaintiffs may obtain injunctive or declaratory relief under RICO. However, courts have generally permitted such relief only to prevent or restrain future RICO violations, not to compensate for past harm ([Richard v. Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc.](#), 355 F.3d 345, 354-55 (5th Cir. 2003)). The Second Circuit's approach, which is persuasive but not binding, is that equitable remedies under section 1964(a) are forward-looking and designed to prevent future violations.

Accordingly, a prayer for injunctive or declaratory relief should be carefully tailored to seek only orders that would prevent ongoing or future racketeering activity. For example, the complaint may request an injunction prohibiting defendants from continuing the alleged racketeering conduct, or a declaratory judgment that certain actions constitute a RICO violation. Requests for disgorgement or restitution are more problematic and may be denied if they are intended to compensate for past injuries rather than to prevent future harm.

5. Other Relief

The prayer for relief may also include a catch-all request for “such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.” This allows the court flexibility to grant additional remedies consistent with the facts and the remedial purposes of RICO.

6. Tying Relief to Factual Allegations

Each form of relief requested must be tied to the specific injuries and ongoing risks identified in the factual timeline. For example:

- Compensatory damages should be linked to the loss of the home, business operations, and client relationships (timeline ¶¶ 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 37).
- Treble damages should be requested for all compensatory damages proven.
- Attorney’s fees and costs should be requested for all legal work and expenses incurred in pursuing the RICO claim.
- Injunctive relief should be requested to prevent further deprivation of property or ongoing racketeering activity, if the facts support a continuing threat (e.g., ongoing manipulation of court proceedings, continued deprivation of business assets).
- Declaratory relief may be appropriate to clarify the parties’ rights and obligations under RICO, particularly if there is an ongoing dispute about the legality of certain conduct.

Exceptions and Caveats

- The Fifth Circuit has not definitively ruled on the availability of all forms of equitable relief for private RICO plaintiffs. While injunctive and declaratory relief may be available to prevent future violations, courts are unlikely to grant such relief to compensate for past harm ([Richard v. Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc., 355 F.3d 345, 354–55 \(5th Cir. 2003\)](#)).
- Disgorgement and restitution are generally not available to private plaintiffs if they are intended to compensate for past injuries rather than to prevent future violations.
- Any request for punitive damages beyond treble damages is not supported by the statute, as treble damages are considered partly punitive ([Allstate Ins. Co. v. Plambeck, 802 F.3d 665, 673 \(5th Cir. 2015\)](#)).
- The plaintiff must demonstrate standing by showing a concrete financial loss to business or property proximately caused by the RICO violation ([Creel v. Dr. Says, LLC, Civil Action 4:18-CV-00615 \(E.D. Tex. Mar 31, 2022\)](#)).

Conclusion

In summary, the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint in the Fifth Circuit must include a demand for compensatory damages for concrete financial loss, mandatory treble damages, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, and may include requests for injunctive and declaratory relief to prevent future violations. Each form of relief must be supported by the factual allegations and the statutory requirements of RICO. The complaint should avoid seeking relief for speculative or intangible injuries, and any request for equitable relief should be forward-looking and justified by the ongoing risk of racketeering activity. The statutory framework and case law make clear that monetary relief is mandatory for prevailing plaintiffs, while equitable relief is available only in limited circumstances to prevent future harm.

Legal Authorities

[Allison v. Citgo Petroleum Corp., 151 F.3d 402 \(5th Cir. 1998\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

The plaintiffs' claims for compensatory and punitive damages must therefore focus almost entirely on facts and issues specific to individuals rather than the class as a whole: what kind of discrimination was each plaintiff subjected to; how did it affect each plaintiff emotionally and physically, at work and at home; what medical treatment did each plaintiff receive and at what expense; and so on and so on. Under such circumstances, an action conducted nominally as a class action would 'degenerate in practice into multiple lawsuits separately tried.' Castano, 84 F.3d at 745 n. 19 (citing Fed.R.Civ.P. 23 (advisory committee notes)). ... There, a plaintiff class suing under the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act sought injunctive and declaratory relief as well as compensatory damages. The district court certified the class under Rule 23(b)(2), but only with respect to the nonmonetary claims. On appeal, we concluded that the recovery of class-wide money damages would be highly speculative without proof of individual injury. See *id.* at 386. Given the differing nature of each plaintiff's claim for money damages and the problems involved with proving separate damages for each class member, we held that 'the district court wisely used its discretion to limit the class aspects to the declaratory action.' *Id.*

Summary

Challenges of seeking compensatory and punitive damages in class actions due to the individual-specific nature of such claims. It highlights the court's discretion in limiting class certification to non-monetary claims like injunctive and declaratory relief when individual damages are speculative and varied. This is relevant to understanding how courts in the Fifth Circuit

might approach the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint, particularly in distinguishing between individual and class-wide claims.

[Price v. Pinnacle Brands, Inc., 138 F.3d 602 \(5th Cir. 1998\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

RICO provides a private civil action to recover treble damages for injury suffered as a result of a violation of its substantive provisions. To state a civil RICO claim under § 1962, a plaintiff must allege: (1) the conduct (2) of an enterprise (3) through a pattern (4) of racketeering activity. As a preliminary matter, however, a plaintiff must establish that he has standing to sue. 'The standing provision of civil RICO provides that '[a]ny person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor ... and shall recover threefold the damages he sustains.' Thus, a RICO plaintiff must satisfy two elements--injury and causation. In dismissing this action, the district court concluded that plaintiffs had not suffered any injury to their business or property.

Summary

Requirements for a civil RICO claim, emphasizing the need for a plaintiff to demonstrate injury and causation to have standing. It also highlights that RICO allows for the recovery of treble damages for injuries suffered due to a violation of its provisions. The passage does not explicitly address injunctive or declaratory relief, but it does mention that there is some question about the availability of equitable remedies under RICO, with different circuits having varying interpretations.

[Allstate Ins. Co. v. Plambeck, 802 F.3d 665 \(5th Cir. 2015\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

The court did not abuse its discretion in denying prejudgment interest. It could reasonably have concluded that Allstate's recovery of treble damages sufficiently offset the loss it suffered from being deprived of the use of its money caused by the fraud. Treble damages under RICO are partly punitive, allowing recovery to 'exceed actual provable damages.' *Gil Ramirez Grp., L.L.C. v. Hous. Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 786 F.3d 400, 412-13 (5th Cir.2015). Allstate has already been made more than whole on the damages it could prove, and it has not shown that the prejudgment interest would exceed that extra recovery. We agree with the Second Circuit that a district court does not necessarily abuse its discretion in relying on the extracompensatory nature of RICO treble damages in denying prejudgment interest.

Summary

Court's discretion in awarding prejudgment interest in a RICO case, noting that treble damages under RICO are partly punitive and can exceed actual provable damages. This suggests that in the Fifth Circuit, the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint can include treble damages, which are designed to make the plaintiff more than whole. The court has discretion in awarding prejudgment interest, especially if treble damages already provide sufficient compensation.

[Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies, Inc., 731 F.2d 1160 \(5th Cir. 1984\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

Moreover, the provision for attorney's fees in section 1964(c) was intended by Congress, like the provision for treble damages, to encourage private enforcement of the laws on which RICO is predicated. These provisions provide strong incentives to civil litigants and are integral to the effort of Congress to enlist the aid of civil claimants in deterring racketeering, as defined by 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1961... It is clear to us that attorney's fees are an essential part of the relief that Congress intended to make available to parties injured by racketeering violations. Rather than making a fee award a matter of the trial court's discretion, as it is under 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1988, Congress made the fee award mandatory to successful civil RICO plaintiffs.

Summary

The passage highlights that in civil RICO claims, Congress intended for attorney's fees and treble damages to be mandatory for successful plaintiffs, providing strong incentives for private enforcement of RICO laws. This is integral to the relief sought in civil RICO actions.

[Joffroin v. Tufaro, 606 F.3d 235 \(5th Cir. 2010\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

Appellants alleged that these were “racketeering activities” in violation of RICO. See 18 U.S.C. § 1962. Appellants alleged that because RICO provides a cause of action for “[a]ny person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962,” 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), they were entitled to damages. Appellants sought treble damages for assessments paid that were diverted for Appellees' use and not utilized for the maintenance of the common areas or diverted for work performed for other Clipper entities.

Appellants also sought treble damages for the total amount of contracts procured that were not in the interest of the CEMHOA as well as any kickbacks received by Appellees for such contracts.

Summary

In a civil RICO complaint in the Fifth Circuit, plaintiffs can seek damages if they are injured in their business or property by a violation of section 1962. Specifically, they can seek treble damages for losses incurred due to racketeering activities, such as diverted funds or contracts not in the interest of the plaintiff. This aligns with the general RICO provision under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).

[Interstate Nat'l Dealer Servs. v. MSRV Repair LLC, 6:24-CV-00170-ADA-DTG \(W.D. Tex. Jun 20, 2025\)](#)

U.S. District Court — Western District of Texas

Extract

The Court finds that the plaintiffs' requested relief is proper. Treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and other costs of suit are recoverable under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) for RICO offenses. See 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) (allowing any person injured from a violation of § 1962 to recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including attorneys' fees); see also *Vanderbilt Mortg. & Fin., Inc. v. Flores*, No. C-09-312, 2011 WL 2160928, at * 21 (S.D. Tex. May 27, 2011) (collecting cases finding that the prevailing party under RICO could recover reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, including charges for photocopying, paralegal assistance, travel, and telephone usage).

Summary

In a civil RICO complaint, the prayer for relief can include treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and other costs of the suit. This is supported by 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), which allows for the recovery of threefold the damages sustained and the cost of the suit, including attorneys' fees. The passage also references a case that supports the recovery of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

[Euristhe v. Beckmann](#)

U.S. District Court — Northern District of Texas

Extract

RICO provides civil liability relief for activities that violate 18 U.S.C. § 1962 and harm the plaintiff. To bring an action under RICO, a plaintiff must allege

“(1) conduct (2) of an enterprise (3) through a pattern (4) of racketeering activity.” *Sedima, S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co., Inc.*, 473 U.S. 479, 496 (1985); see also *Crowe v. Henry*, 43 F.3d 198, 204 (5th Cir. 1995). The threshold requirement for stating a civil cause of action under RICO is that the plaintiff must be “ ‘injured in his business or property by reason of a violation’ of the [RICO]’s substantive restrictions.”

Summary

Basic elements required to bring a civil RICO action, which includes demonstrating conduct of an enterprise through a pattern of racketeering activity that results in injury to the plaintiff's business or property. This is foundational for understanding what relief can be sought, as the relief must address the injury caused by the RICO violation.

[*Xenos Yuen v. Triple B Servs. LLP*, CIVIL ACTION NO. H-18-3277 \(S.D. Tex. Jun 08, 2019\)](#)

U.S. District Court — Southern District of Texas

Extract

A plaintiff in a civil action may recover damages under the RICO statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1961, et seq., if he is able to allege and prove: 1) a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962(a), (b), (c), or (d), and 2) injury to business or property as a result of such violation. 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) ('Any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor in any appropriate United States district court...').

Summary

Requirements for a plaintiff to recover damages under the RICO statute, which include proving a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1962 and demonstrating injury to business or property as a result of such violation. This is relevant to the prayer for relief section in a civil RICO complaint, as it specifies the conditions under which a plaintiff may seek damages.

[*Richard v. Hoechst Celanese Chemical Group, Inc.*, 355 F.3d 345 \(5th Cir. 2003\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

Richard contends that the district court erred in dismissing his claim for equitable relief in the form of a disgorgement of the Appellees' past profits. He argues that equitable relief should be available for private civil RICO plaintiffs under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(a)-(c). This Court has not decided whether

equitable relief is available to a private civil RICO plaintiff. *Price v. Pinnacle Brands*, 138 F.3d 602, 605 n. 5 (5th Cir.1998) (stating that this Court 'has specifically reserved ruling on whether all forms of injunctive relief and other equitable relief are foreclosed to private plaintiffs under RICO') (internal quotations omitted). The circumstances before us do not necessitate that we reach this question today. Even if equitable relief were available to a private party, disgorgement is not a proper remedy given the circumstances present in this case. Section 1964(a) provides: ... 18 U.S.C. § 1964(a). The Second Circuit has considered the conditions for disgorgement under this statute in a RICO suit. *United States v. Carson*, 52 F.3d 1173, 1181 (2d Cir.1995). The Second Circuit interpreted § 1964(a) to mean that equitable remedies are only proper to 'prevent and restrain future conduct rather than to punish past conduct.' *Id.* at 1182. The court reasoned that the three examples of permissible remedies in § 1964(a) were forward-looking, and focused on preventing future RICO violations. *Id.* at 1181. With respect to the disgorgement remedy sought, the Second Circuit noted that disgorgement is generally available under § 1964. *Id.* However, when disgorgement is sought for the purpose of compensating a party for past injuries, the court held that the plain language of § 1964 bars relief.

Summary

The Fifth Circuit has not definitively ruled on whether equitable relief, such as injunctive relief, is available to private civil RICO plaintiffs. It also highlights that equitable remedies under § 1964(a) are intended to prevent future conduct rather than compensate for past injuries, as interpreted by the Second Circuit.

[Creel v. Dr. Says, LLC, Civil Action 4:18-CV-00615 \(E.D. Tex. Mar 31, 2022\)](#)

U.S. District Court — Eastern District of Texas

Extract

The RICO standing provision is found in 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c). That subsection states: Any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor in any appropriate United States district court and shall recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee. 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c). In construing § 1964(c), the Supreme Court has noted that 'the plaintiff only has standing if, and can only recover to the extent that, he has been injured in his business or property by the conduct constituting the violation'-that is, the predicate act. *Sedima, S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co., Inc.*, 473 U.S. 479, 496 (1985). Despite the acknowledgement that 'RICO is to 'be liberally construed to effectuate its remedial purposes,' *Id.* at 498 (quoting Pub.L. 91-452, § 904(a), 84 Stat. 947), damages for the commission of predicate acts must be premised upon a finding that a plaintiff's business or property was harmed. See *Id.* at 500. Simply, a plaintiff must demonstrate RICO injury through a 'concrete financial loss.' *Price*, 138 F.3d at 606; see *United States v. Hager*, 879 F.3d 550, 554 (5th Cir. 2018).

Summary

For a civil RICO complaint in the Fifth Circuit, the plaintiff must demonstrate a concrete financial loss to have standing. The damages must be directly tied to the injury in business or property caused by the predicate act. The statute allows for recovery of threefold the damages sustained, along with the cost of the suit and reasonable attorney's fees. The passage also notes that while RICO is to be liberally construed to effectuate its remedial purposes, the damages must be premised on actual harm to business or property.

[OWL CONST. CO., INC. v. Ronald Adams Contractor, 642 F.Supp. 475 \(E.D. La. 1986\)](#)

U.S. District Court — Eastern District of Louisiana

Extract

In order to prevail in a civil action under RICO, plaintiff must establish the following elements by a preponderance of the evidence: 1) a violation of the substantive RICO statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1962; and 2) an injury to his business or property by reason of such violation. 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c); *Sedima S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co.*, ___ U.S. ___, 105 S.Ct. 3275, 87 L.Ed.2d 346 (1985); *Alcorn County, Miss. v. U.S. Interstate Supplies*, 731 F.2d 1160 (5th Cir.1984).

Summary

Fundamental requirements for a civil RICO action, which include proving a violation of the RICO statute and an injury to business or property. This is relevant to the prayer for relief section because it establishes the basis upon which relief can be sought, including damages and other remedies.

[James v. Meinke, 778 F.2d 200 \(5th Cir. 1985\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

A civil RICO claimant must prove (1) a violation of the substantive RICO statute, 18 U.S.C.A. Sec. 1962 (West 1984), and (2) an injury to the plaintiff's 'business or property by reason of a violation of Section 1962,' 18 U.S.C.A. Sec. 1964(c) (West 1984). *Alcorn County v. U.S. Interstate Supplies*, 731 F.2d 1160, 1167 (5th Cir.1984).

Summary

Fundamental requirements for a civil RICO claim, which are proving a violation of the substantive RICO statute and demonstrating an injury to the

plaintiff's business or property due to that violation. This is relevant to understanding the basis upon which relief can be sought in a civil RICO complaint.

[Euristhe v. Beckmann, Civil Action 4:23-cv-00653-O-BP \(N.D. Tex. May 13, 2024\)](#)

U.S. District Court — Northern District of Texas

Extract

RICO “provides a private civil action to recover treble damages for injury ‘by reason of a violation of its substantive provisions.’” *Sedima, S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co.*, 473 U.S. 479, 481 (1985) (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c)). “Broadly stated, a civil RICO claimant must prove (1) a violation of the substantive RICO statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1962, and (2) an injury to the plaintiffs business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962.”

Summary

A civil RICO claimant must demonstrate a violation of the substantive RICO statute and an injury to business or property resulting from that violation. The passage specifically mentions the recovery of treble damages, which is a form of relief available under RICO. This indicates that the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint should include a request for treble damages, as well as any other appropriate relief such as injunctive or declaratory relief, depending on the specifics of the case.

[Smoky Greenhaw Cotton Co., Inc. v. Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith, Inc., 785 F.2d 1274 \(5th Cir. 1986\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

But the statute requires no more than this. Where the plaintiff alleges each element of the violation, the compensable injury necessarily is the harm caused by the predicate acts sufficiently related to constitute a pattern, for the essence of the violation is the commission of those acts in connection with conduct of an enterprise. Those acts are, when committed in the circumstances delineated in Sec. 1962(c), 'an activity which RICO was designed to deter.' Any recoverable damages occurring by reason of a violation of Sec. 1962(c) will flow from the commission of the predicate acts.

Summary

The passage explains that in a RICO claim, the compensable injury is the harm caused by the predicate acts that form a pattern of racketeering

activity. The damages recoverable under RICO are those that result from the commission of these predicate acts. This indicates that the prayer for relief in a civil RICO complaint should focus on the damages directly resulting from the predicate acts, as these are the injuries RICO is designed to address.

[HCB Fin. Corp. v. McPherson, 8 F.4th 335 \(5th Cir. 2021\)](#)

U.S. Court of Appeals — Fifth Circuit

Extract

RICO makes it 'unlawful for any person employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity. ...' 18 U.S.C. § 1962(c). The statute 'provides a private civil action to recover treble damages for injury 'by reason of a violation of' its substantive provisions.' Sedima, S.P.R.L. v. Imrex Co., 473 U.S. 479, 481, 105 S.Ct. 3275, 87 L.Ed.2d 346 (1985) (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c)).

Summary

Under RICO, a plaintiff can pursue a private civil action to recover treble damages for injuries caused by a violation of RICO's substantive provisions. This suggests that in the prayer for relief section of a civil RICO complaint, a plaintiff can request treble damages as a form of relief. The passage does not explicitly mention injunctive or declaratory relief, but it establishes the basis for seeking monetary damages under RICO.

[98 F.4th 198 D&T Partners L.L.C. v. Baymark Partners Mgmt., L.L.C.](#)

Extract

RICO is also more than a criminal statute. When drafting the legislation, Congress incorporated provisions in RICO that allow private plaintiffs to seek redress in federal court. If their lawsuit succeeds, the statute provides a big payout: Plaintiffs are entitled to triple damages, court costs, and attorney's fees. 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c).

Summary

The passage provides insight into the relief available under the RICO statute for civil cases. It specifies that successful plaintiffs are entitled to triple damages, court costs, and attorney's fees, as per 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c). This is relevant to the prayer for relief section in a civil RICO complaint, as it outlines the types of monetary relief that can be sought. The passage does

not specifically mention injunctive or declaratory relief, but it highlights the financial remedies available.

[Civil Rico: A Tool of Advocacy](#)

The Brief - American Bar Association - 2024-01-01

Extract

The civil RICO cause of action is created by 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), which provides: 'Any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor in any appropriate United States district court and shall recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee' ... Only damages to 'business or property' occurring 'by reason of' and proximately caused by the RICO violations are compensable under § 1964(c). Further, under Sedima, the plaintiff's compensable injury is the harm caused by the predicate acts. ... Section 1964(c) dictates the award of treble damages for civil RICO violations. It provides that the plaintiff 'shall recover threefold the damages he sustains' in addition to costs and attorney fees. This is not discretionary. Imposition of treble damages is required by RICO.

Summary

A civil RICO complaint must include a prayer for relief that seeks treble damages, which are mandatory under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) for violations of section 1962. The plaintiff must demonstrate a concrete financial loss to business or property proximately caused by the RICO violations. Additionally, the plaintiff is entitled to recover the costs of the suit and reasonable attorney's fees. The passage does not specifically address injunctive or declaratory relief, but these are typically included in civil complaints as appropriate.

[§ 2.07 Other Potential Charges](#)

Intellectual Property and Computer Crimes - Full Court Press - 2020-00-00

Extract

RICO also provides for civil remedies. Under Section 1964 'any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962' may bring a civil action in either state or federal court for redress. Thus, a plaintiff in a civil action must show, in addition to one of the four acts described in § 1962, an injury to business or property. A showing of such injury requires proof of concrete financial loss, not 'mere injury' to a valuable intangible property interest.

Summary

The passage outlines that for a civil RICO claim, a plaintiff must demonstrate an injury to business or property, which requires proof of concrete financial loss. This is relevant to the prayer for relief section, as it informs the type of damages that can be claimed. The passage does not specifically address injunctive or declaratory relief, but it does highlight the necessity of showing financial loss for damages.

This memo was compiled by Vincent AI based on vLex materials available as of September 20, 2025. [View full answer on vLex](#)