

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA
AT CHARLESTON

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION;
PATRICIA NOLAND, as an individual
and on behalf of all others
similarly situated; and DALE
MANUEL, as an individual and on
behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiffs, and

THORNTON COOPER,

Intervening Plaintiff,

v.

Civil Action No. 2:11-CV-0989

NATALIE E. TENNANT, in her
capacity as the Secretary of
State; EARL RAY TOMBLIN, in his
capacity as the Chief Executive
Officer of the State of West
Virginia; JEFFREY KESSLER, in his
capacity as the Acting President
of the Senate of the West Virginia
Legislature; and RICHARD THOMPSON,
in his capacity as the Speaker of
the House of Delegates of the West
Virginia Legislature,

Defendants.

**JUDGMENT AND
ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

By its Opinion and Order of September 25, 2012, the Supreme Court of the United States reversed this court's Order of January 3, 2012, as amended on January 4, 2012, and remanded the case for further proceedings, including consideration in the

first instance of Counts Two and Three of the plaintiffs' Complaint filed November 4, 2011, which assert pendent claims under, respectively, the numerical equivalence and compactness requirements of Article I, section 4 of the Constitution of West Virginia. See Tennant v. Jefferson Cnty. Comm'n, 133 S. Ct. 3 (2012) (per curiam). A certified copy of the Supreme Court's judgment was filed in this court on October 31, 2012.

The Supreme Court's judgment is dispositive of Count One of the plaintiffs' Complaint, which asserts a numerical equivalence claim under Article I, § 2 of, and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to, the Constitution of the United States. The Court's judgment is likewise dispositive of the same claim comprising part of Count One of the intervening plaintiff's Complaint filed December 3, 2011. Judgment on both claims is therefore ENTERED on behalf of the defendants.

Subject matter jurisdiction of the claims so disposed was premised on the existence of a federal question, see 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and on the alleged deprivation under state law "of any right, privilege or immunity secured by the Constitution of the United States," 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3). This court's authority to adjudicate the pendent claims asserted by the plaintiffs and the intervening plaintiff, each of which arises under state law, is predicated on supplemental federal jurisdiction, which pertains to "any civil action of which the district courts have

original jurisdiction" with respect to "all other claims that are so related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy." 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

According to applicable principles of law, "trial courts enjoy wide latitude in determining whether or not to retain jurisdiction over state claims when all federal claims have been extinguished." Shanaghan v. Cahill, 58 F.3d 106, 110 (4th Cir. 1995). In exercising the discretion so afforded, we are entitled to evaluate any of "[s]everal factors, including convenience and fairness to the parties plus concerns for judicial economy." Crosby v. City of Gastonia, 635 F.3d 634, 644 n.11 (4th Cir. 2011) (citing Shanaghan). Section 1367 itself specifies additional factors that may persuade a district court to forgo supplemental jurisdiction over a particular claim, including where "the claim raises a novel or complex issue of State law." 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(1).

On remand, the defendants have urged our attention to the factors set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c), suggesting that we "should dismiss the remaining claims to allow them to proceed in State Court." Defendants' December 3, 2012 Response to Order on Remand at 3. We construe the defendants' suggestion as a motion to dismiss, which, upon considering the factors discussed in

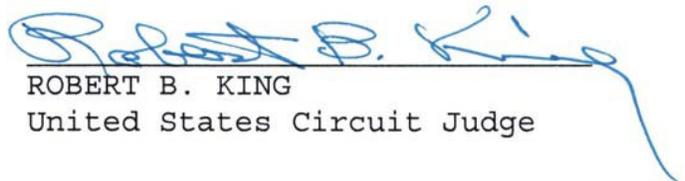
Shanaghan and Crosby, and in particular the statutory factor above identified, we believe is well-taken.

The pendent claims in this litigation indeed raise novel and complex issues of West Virginia law that the courts of the State should be given first opportunity to resolve. We therefore GRANT the defendants' motion and DISMISS Counts Two and Three of the plaintiffs' Complaint, together with the remainder of Count One of the intervening plaintiff's Complaint, without prejudice to refileing in the appropriate state court.

It is so ORDERED.

DATED: January 25, 2013.

For the Court:


ROBERT B. KING
United States Circuit Judge