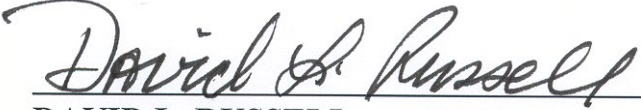




division embracing the place where such action is pending.” 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a). Moreover, removal statutes are to be strictly construed. *See Shamrock Oil & Gas Corp. v. Sheets*, 313 U.S. 100, 108 (1941). Mayes County is not within this District; thus, removal to this District is improper. Defendants may seek transfer of the case to this District through motion practice in the proper venue for the case at this time—the Northern District of Oklahoma.

**IT IS SO ORDERED** this 26th day of August 2024.

  
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DAVID L. RUSSELL  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE