

FILED

November 12, 2021

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

In re:

HARLAN PAGE CONFER, III and
CHARLOTTE CLUFF CONFER,

Debtors.

Case No. 21-20167-A-13

JACOB WATSON and JAMES WATSON,

Plaintiffs,

V.

HARLAN PAGE CONFER and CHARLOTTE
CLUFF CONFER,

Defendants.

Adv. No. 21-2024-A

BHS-2

MEMORANDUM

1 To prevail in an action for fraud, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), the
2 plaintiffs must prove that the defendants made a representation that
3 they knew to be false. *In re Britton*, 950 F.2d 602, 604 (9th Cir.
4 1991). They must do so by a preponderance of the evidence. *Grogan v.*
5 *Garner*, 498 U.S. 279, 284-285 (1991).

6 In proving up a default judgment, the court may accept well-
7 pleaded facts as true. *TeleVideo Systems, Inc. v. Heidenthal*, 826 F2d
8 915, 917 (9th Cir. 1987). But it need not do so and may require
9 additional evidence. *Quirindongo Pacheco v. Rolon Morales*, 953 F.2d
10 15, 16 (1st Cir. 1992).

11 Here, the plaintiffs rely on but a single sentence: "In that
12 conversation [November 2, 2021], Mr. Confer stated he never intended
13 to go through with the sale of [295 San Joaquin Drive, Red Bluff,
14 California] to my brother and I." Decl. J. Watson 3:5-7, ECF No. 41.
15 Circumstantial evidence is not helpful. As to Ms. Confer, the
16 statement does not show fraud. As to Mr. Confer, the court is
17 unwilling to find fraud based on a single sentence in a declaration,
18 which purports to summarize a defendant's statement made 21 months
19 after the events giving rise to this dispute.

20 The plaintiff's request for a default judgment will be denied
21 without prejudice.

22 Dated: November 12, 2021

23
24
25 /s/
Fredrick E. Clement
26 United States Bankruptcy Judge
27
28

Instructions to Clerk of Court

Service List - Not Part of Order/Judgment

The Clerk of Court is instructed to send the Order/Judgment or other court generated document transmitted herewith *to the parties below*. The Clerk of Court will send the document via the BNC or, if checked ☐, via the U.S. mail.

Attorney for the Plaintiff(s)	Attorney for the Defendants(s) (if any)
Trustee David P. Cusick P.O. Box 1858 Sacramento, CA 95812-1858	Office of the U.S. Trustee Robert T. Matsui United States Courthouse 501 I Street, Room 7-500 Sacramento, CA 95814
Harlan and Charlotte Confer 295 San Joaquin Drive Red Bluff, CA 96080-2239	