

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Northwest Administrators, Inc. v. Traxx Equipment Co., LLC

Northwest Administrators · No. C25-1292-KKE · Decided January 26, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington grants Northwest Administrators, Inc.’s motion for default judgment against Traxx Equipment Co., LLC. The action concerns delinquent contributions to a pension trust under a collective bargaining agreement, along with liquidated damages, interest, attorney’s fees, and costs. The court concludes that jurisdiction is proper, the Eitel factors favor default judgment, and the requested relief is adequately supported by evidence.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Kymberly K. Evanson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	January 26, 2026
DOCKET	C25-1292-KKE
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for default judgment after Defendant failed to appear or respond to the complaint and the court entered an order of default.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Entry of default judgment is discretionary. The court independently verifies subject-matter and personal jurisdiction, accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true but does not establish legally insufficient claims or unsupported facts by default, and reviews the requested damages for reasonableness and evidentiary support.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- default judgment
- default
- erisa
- employee benefits
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court had subject-matter and personal jurisdiction to enter default judgment.
2. Whether the Eitel factors supported entry of default judgment against Traxx.
3. Whether Northwest Administrators provided sufficient evidence to establish entitlement to and the amount of delinquent contributions, liquidated damages, interest, attorney's fees, and costs.

HOLDINGS

1. The court had subject-matter jurisdiction under ERISA and the Taft-Hartley Act and personal jurisdiction over Traxx because Traxx's registered agent was properly served.
2. Default judgment was warranted because the Eitel factors, considered as a whole, favored judgment for Northwest Administrators.
3. Northwest Administrators sufficiently established entitlement to \$5,893.98 in delinquent contributions, \$1,178.80 in liquidated damages, \$423.49 in interest, \$1,053.00 in attorney's fees, and \$500.00 in costs.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“A court’s decision to enter a default judgment is discretionary.” (at 2)

“Default judgment is “ordinarily disfavored[,]” because courts prefer to decide “[c]ases on their merits whenever reasonably possible.”” (at 2)

“At the default judgment stage, the court takes “the well-pleaded factual allegations” in the complaint “as true[,]” but “necessary facts not contained in the pleadings, and claims which are legally insufficient, are not established by default.”” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Northwest Administrators, Inc. is the authorized administrative agency for and assignee of the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust Fund. Traxx Equipment Co., LLC agreed through a collective bargaining agreement and the Trust Agreements to make pension contributions and to pay liquidated damages, interest, attorney's fees, and costs for delinquent payments. Traxx failed to make required contributions, was properly served, and did not appear or respond to the action.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Northwest Administrators, Inc. filed an action seeking delinquent pension-fund contributions, liquidated damages, interest, attorney's fees, and costs. Traxx Equipment Co., LLC was properly served but failed to appear or defend, and the court entered an order of default. The court granted Northwest Administrators' motion for default judgment after applying the Eitel factors and reviewing evidence supporting the requested relief.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Tuli, 172 F.3d 707, 712 (9th Cir. 1999)
- Aldabe v. Aldabe, 616 F.2d 1089, 1092 (9th Cir. 1980)
- Eitel v. McCool, 782 F.2d 1470, 1471-72 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Cripps v. Life Ins. Co. of N. Am., 980 F.2d 1261, 1267 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Curtis v. Illumination Arts, Inc., 33 F. Supp. 3d 1200, 1211-12 (W.D. Wash. 2014)
- PepsiCo, Inc. v. Cal. Sec. Cans, 238 F. Supp. 2d 1172, 1176-77 (C.D. Cal. 2002)
- Geddes v. United Fin. Grp., 559 F.2d 557, 560 (9th Cir. 1977)
- Landstar Ranger, Inc. v. Parth Enters., 725 F. Supp. 2d 916, 922 (C.D. Cal. 2010)
- Camacho v. Bridgeport Fin., Inc., 523 F.3d 973, 978 (9th Cir. 2008)

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