

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Zeyu Wang v. Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Co.

Wang · No. C25-0825-KKE · Decided January 22, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington grants the parties' stipulated motion concerning the standard of review in Zeyu Wang's ERISA action for long-term disability benefits. The court agrees to employ de novo review if the matter proceeds to trial.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE 7 ZEYU WANG, CASE NO. C25-0825-KKE 8 Plaintiff(s), ORDER GRANTING
PARTIES' 9 v. STIPULATED MOTION ON STANDARD OF REVIEW 10 HARTFORD LIFE
AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO, 11 Defendant(s). 12 13 Plaintiff Zeyu Wang brings this
action under the Employee Retirement Income Security 14 Act ("ERISA") to recover long-term
disability benefits denied by Defendant Hartford Life and 15 Accident Insurance Co. In the
parties' joint status report (Dkt.

No. 18), Wang raised an unresolved 16 issue: the appropriate standard of review of the record.
Dkt. No. 18 at 2. Thus, in issuing the case 17 schedule, the Court set a briefing schedule on the
standard of review. Dkt. No. 19.

On January 18 21, 2026, the parties filed a stipulated motion requesting "that for the purposes of
this case ..., the 19 Court will employ a de novo standard of review if this matter proceeds to
trial." Dkt. No. 20 at 1. 20 // 21 // 22 // 23 // 24 1 The Court GRANTS the parties' stipulated
motion. See *Rorabaugh v. Cont'l Cas. Co.*, 2 321 Fed. Appx. 708, 709 (9th Cir.

2009) (a court may accept the parties' stipulation to de novo 3 review). 4 Dated this 22nd day of
January, 2026. 5 A 6 Kymberly K. Evanson 7 United States District Judge 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24