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USA v. Chang

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NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

No. 06-3630

JOYCE P. CHANG, ELAINE Y. CHANG a/k/a ELAINE Y. DARER, MICHAEL T. CHANG, and CHERYL A. CHERNE,

Defendants - Appellants,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, <u>Plaintiff - Appellee</u>.

On Appeal from the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey (D.C. Civ. No. 02-4834) District Judge: Honorable Garrett E. Brown, Jr.

Submitted Under Third Circuit L.A.R. 34.1(a) September 20, 2007

Before: SLOVITER, SMITH, and GARTH, Circuit Judges.

(Opinion Filed: September 21, 2007)

OPINION

Re: GARTH, Circuit Judge

This appeal essentially involved a fraudulent transfer of monies where no consideration was paid by the recipients. The facts, which are somewhat convoluted, are taken primarily from the District Court's opinion, inasmuch as the briefs of the parties were not helpful in this respect. However, inasmuch as we write only for the parties, we will not describe the facts in detail but only in summary fashion.

The defendant, David Chang, the father of the three Chang children, and a close friend, Cheryl Cherne, received a total of \$525,000 from David Chang through his two alter ego corporations, "Saska Corporation" and "Dakota Management, Inc."

The defendant, David Chang, through his alter ego company, "River Road Realty Development Corp.," had generated over \$17 million from the sale of a property. After the payment of various costs, liens and expenses, the defendant, David Chang, paid \$441,750 into "Dakota" and \$1,630,832.99 into "Saska." Thereafter, "Saska" sent \$150,000 to Joyce Chang and \$120,000 to Michael Chang. Later "Saska" paid \$120,000 to Elaine Chang and "Dakota" paid \$75,000 to Cheryl Cherne. "Dakota" also paid \$60,000 to Elaine Chang. No consideration was given for any of these transfers which total the sum of \$525,000 noted above. At the time of the transfers, David Chang was insolvent.

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The Small Business Administration holds two judgments against the defendant, David Chang. One in the amount of 2.1 million dollars and the second in the aggregate amount of approximately \$995,000. The government, on behalf of the Small Business Administration to whom David Chang owed monies, sought to recover the \$525,000 as fraudulent transfers under New Jersey law. Various defenses were raised by the defendants, largely centered on the fact that David Chang was not the alter ego of his entities; that David Chang's payments were to satisfy financial obligations to his children; that David Chang had a debt obligation to Cheryl Cherne, that David Chang was not insolvent; etc., etc.

In a reasoned and well crafted opinion the District Court rejected all of David Chang's defenses and granted summary judgment in favor of the United States. In our review, we applied the same plenary standard that the District Court applied. Having independently examined the record and the briefs, we are satisfied that the District Court's opinion and Judgment should be affirmed substantially for the reasons stated in the District Court's opinion.

The Order granting summary judgment in favor of the United States will be affirmed.