

Chun Ho Chung v Grigoropoulos Law Group PLLC

2025 NY Slip Op 33047(U)

August 1, 2025

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 654537/2024

Judge: Melissa A. Crane

Cases posted with a "30000" identifier, i.e., 2013 NY Slip Op 30001(U), are republished from various New York State and local government sources, including the New York State Unified Court System's eCourts Service.

This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK COUNTY

PRESENT: HON. MELISSA A. CRANE PART 60M

Justice

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INDEX NO. 654537/2024

CHUN HO CHUNG,

MOTION DATE 05/27/2025

Plaintiff,

MOTION SEQ. NO. 002

- v -

THE GRIGOROPOULOS LAW GROUP PLLC,CHRISY
GRIGOROPOULOS

DECISION + ORDER ON
MOTION

Defendant.

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The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 002) 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42

were read on this motion to/for SEAL

Upon the foregoing documents, it is

In Motion Sequence No. 02, plaintiff, Chun Ho Chung, moved to seal Exhibit C and redact Exhibits H of the Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. Plaintiff's motion is unopposed and is granted.

Pursuant to § 216.1 (a) of the Uniform Rules for Trial Courts, this Court may seal or redact a filing "upon a written finding of good cause, which shall specify the grounds thereof." "[T]he court shall consider the interests of the interests of the public as well as of the parties" in determining whether there is good cause (22 NYCRR § 216 [a]). The Court must also balance the risk of privacy concerns stemming from public access to the information against the "compelling public interest in exposure of this information," if any (see MBIA Ins. Corp. v Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 2013 WL 450030, *9 (Sup Ct, NY County Jan. 3, 2013).

The moving party has the burden to set forth compelling circumstances to justify restricting public access and must demonstrate “a sound basis or legitimate need to take judicial action” (*Danco Labs., Ltd. v Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter*, 274 AD2d 1, 6 [1st Dept 2000]). “[T]here is a broad presumption that the public is entitled to access to . . . court records” (*Mosallem v Berenson*, 76 AD3d 345, 348-350 [1st Dept 2010]).

The Appellate Division First Department Rule, 22 NYCRR 603.25[c][1] sets forth that

“All statements of retainer or closing statements filed shall be deemed to be confidential and the information therein contained shall not be divulged or made available for inspection or examination to any person other than the client of the attorney filing said statements except upon written order of the presiding justice of the Appellate Division.”

Furthermore, New York courts have recognized the highly confidential nature of bank account and taxpayer ID numbers. 22 NYCRR 214.12 (requiring redaction of, inter alia, bank account numbers and taxpayer ID numbers²); *Mehra v Teller*, 2021 N.Y. Slip Op. 31481[U] [N.Y. Sup Ct, New York County 2021] (good cause exists to redact bank account numbers); *In re Afilalo*, 139 AD3d 175, 180 [1st Dept 2016] (granting motion to redact party's bank account numbers). Courts have also found that good cause exists to protect the name of a party's bank. *Digital Gadgets, LLC v Lieder Enterprises Inc.*, 2021 N.Y. Slip Op. 31584[U] [N.Y. Sup Ct, New York County 2021] (granting motion “to redact the name of plaintiffs [sic] bank”). If revealed, such information could cause harm to Defendants (and potentially to third parties) by facilitating fraud or misappropriation of funds.

Lastly, New York Courts have also found that good cause exists to redact individual's contact information, noting that individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy over such information and that there is minimal public interest to compel its disclosure. (See, e.g., *Novolex Holdings, LLC v Illinois Union Ins. Co.*, 2021 N.Y. Slip Op. 32833[U] [N.Y. Sup Ct, New York County 2021] (ordering redacted versions of email communications that contain email addresses and phone numbers to be publicly filed); see also *YH Lex Estates LLC v HFZ Capital Group LLC* [N.Y. Sup Ct, New York County 2022] ("personal email addresses and telephone numbers ... satisfy the requirements of 22 NYCRR 216.1[a]").

Here, movant has established good cause to seal Exhibits C and redact Exhibit H. Specifically, movant has demonstrated that these documents contain, inter alia, retainer and closing statements, personal third-party information. Moreover, movant has established that there is little or no public interest in the disclosure of this information. Therefore, plaintiff's unopposed motion, Motion Sequence No. 02 is granted.

Accordingly it is,

ORDERED that plaintiff's unopposed motion to seal and redact is granted; and it is further

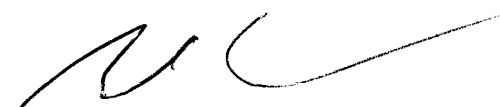
ORDERED that upon service of a copy of this Order upon the Clerk of the Court, the Clerk shall permit the NYSCEF Doc 27 to be and remain sealed wherever it shall appear in connection with this action and NYSCEF Doc 33 to be and remain redacted wherever it shall

appear in connection with this action. In addition, NYSCEF Doc 32 (the court’s confidential copy) shall remain sealed. Until further Order of the Court, the Clerk of the Court shall deny access to those unredacted and unsealed documents to anyone other than the Clerk’s staff, authorized court personnel, counsel of record for any party to this case, and any party, provided that the clerk of the Court shall not seal or redact any documents not referenced in this Order, or otherwise as described below, or as set forth in another Order of this Court; and it is further

ORDERED that nothing in this Order shall be construed as authorizing the sealing or redactions of any documents or evidence to be offered at trial; and it is further

ORDERED that such service upon the County Clerk shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Protocol on Courthouse and County Clerk Procedures for Electronically Filed Cases (accessible at the “E-Filing” page on the court’s website – www.nycourts.gov/supctmanh).

8/1/2025
DATE


SA A. CRANE
J.C.

CHECK ONE:

CASE DISPOSED
 GRANTED DENIED

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION
 GRANTED IN PART

OTHER

APPLICATION:

SETTLE ORDER

SUBMIT ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

REFERENCE