

**Matter of Samuel**

2025 NY Slip Op 34649(U)

December 17, 2025

Surrogate's Court, New York County

Docket Number: File No. 2016-2735

Judge: Rita Mella

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

**ENTERED**

**DEC 17 2025**

DATA ENTRY DEPT  
New York County Surrogate's Court

SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

-----X  
In the Matter of Petition of Percy Samuel and Shao Ling  
Teng to Probate an Instrument Dated October 13, 2015,  
as the Will of

KWEN CHEN,

Deceased.

DECISION and ORDER

File No.: 2016-2735

-----X  
In the Matter of the Petition of Lingzhen Ji to Probate an  
Instrument Dated December 28, 2014, as the Will of

KWEN CHEN,

Deceased.

File No.: 2016-2735/H

-----X  
M E L L A, S.:

The court considered the following papers on this motion to withdraw as counsel:

Papers Considered

Numbered

Order to Show Cause (OSC) Motion of Charlotte C. Lee, Esq. and  
William X. Zou, Esq., to Withdraw as Counsel, Affirmations of  
Charlotte C. Lee, Esq. and William X. Zou, Esq., with Exhibits

1, 2, 3

At the call of the calendar on November 18, 2025, the court granted the motion of co-counsel to withdraw in these two probate proceedings in the estate of Kwen Chen. One proceeding is by Percy Samuel (Co-Preliminary Executor) and Shao Ling Teng to probate an instrument dated October 13, 2015, and the other is by Lingzhen Ji (Co-Preliminary Executor) to probate an instrument dated December 28, 2014. Charlotte Lee, Esq., and Bill Zou & Associates PLLC by William X. Zou, Esq., (Lee and Zou) moved by order to show cause to withdraw as co-counsel to Co-Preliminary Executor Lingzhen Ji and other parties, namely, Shao Wu Teng, Shao Ping Teng, Shao Wen Teng, Xue Ming Teng, and Tao Teng (together, the Clients), pursuant to CPLR 321(b)(2).

Here, the record reflected a lack of communication as between Lee and Zou and their Clients sufficient to establish good cause for co-counsel's withdrawal (*see* Rule 1.16[c][7]; Rule 1.16[c][12], 22 NYCRR 1200; *Bok v Werner*, 9 AD3d 318 [1st Dept 2004]; *Tartaglione v Tiffany*, 280 AD2d 543 [2d Dept 2001]). Further, none of the Clients requested to appear on the return of the motion before the court or otherwise responded to or opposed the motion, which was served on each of them. It is therefore:

ORDERED that the motion of Charlotte C. Lee, Esq., and Bill Zou & Associates PLLC to withdraw as co-counsel to Lingzhen Ji, to Shao Wu Teng, to Shao Ping Teng, to Shao Wen Teng, to Xue Ming Teng, and to Tao Teng in the above-captioned proceedings is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that the above captioned proceedings are stayed for 30 days after the Clerk of the Court's service by First-Class Mail International mail of this Decision and Order as follows, to:

- (1) Shao Wu Teng (or Teng Shao Wu)  
Room 102, 80 Ninghai Li  
Liangxi District  
Wuxi  
214011 Jiangsu  
CHINA
- (2) Shao Wen Teng (or Teng Shao Wen)  
Room 503, 138 Caozhang Xincun  
Ying Long Street  
Liangxi District,  
Wuxi  
214000 Jiangsu  
CHINA
- (3) Xue Ming Teng (or Teng Xue Ming)  
Room 401, 2<sup>nd</sup> Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Qian Tang Jiang Road  
Tai Xiang Xiao Qu  
Urumqi  
830000 Xinjiang  
CHINA

- (4) Tao Teng (or Teng Tao)  
Ganghanju  
141 Mingzhu Road, Zhicheng Street  
Changxing  
Huzhou  
313100 Zhejiang  
CHINA
- (5) Shao Ping Teng (or Teng Shao Ping)  
Room 103, 73<sup>rd</sup> Building, Donggang Xincun  
Residential Quarter  
Industrial Park District  
Suzhou  
215021 Jiangsu  
CHINA

And by First Class Mail to:

- (6) Lingzhen Ji (or Ji Ling Zhen),  
75 Baxter Street, Apt. 29,  
New York, NY 10013;
- (7) Petitioners Percy Samuel and Shao Ling Teng, to their counsel -  
(a) Jules Haas, Esq.,  
488 Madison Avenue, Suite 1120,  
New York, NY 10022  
and by EMAIL to [attorney.haas845@gmail.com](mailto:attorney.haas845@gmail.com); and  
(b) Percy M. Samuel, Esq.,  
Percy M. Samuel, PC,  
591 Astor Street,  
Elmont, NY 11003  
and by EMAIL to [pmsamuel@percysamuel.com](mailto:pmsamuel@percysamuel.com);
- (8) Movant -  
Charlotte Lee, Esq,  
277 Broadway, Suite 400,  
New York, NY 10007-2035  
and by EMAIL to [cleee@charlottelee.com](mailto:cleee@charlottelee.com); and
- (9) Movant -  
William Zou, Esq.,  
Bill Zou & Associates PLLC,  
136-20 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 10D,  
Flushing, NY 11354  
and by EMAIL to [zoulawoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:zoulawoffice@yahoo.com);

and it is further

ORDERED that if new counsel does not file with the court and serve on all other appearing parties a notice of appearance together with an authorization by the party to appear in this matter within the 30-day period after service of this Decision and Order on each of them, each such party shall be considered self-represented (*pro se*) to the extent that they appeared in the above-captioned matters and shall promptly provide their phone numbers and email contact information, if any, to the court and other appearing parties (*see* CPLR 321[c]).

This constitutes the order of the court.

Dated: December 17, 2025

  
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SURROGATE