

Vandeweghe v AC Inv. Mgt.

2026 NY Slip Op 30334(U)

January 28, 2026

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 651789/2024

Judge: Andrea Masley

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK: COMMERCIAL DIVISION PART 48

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COCO VANDEWEGHE and VANDEWEGHE
MANAGEMENT, LLC,

Plaintiffs,

- v -

AC INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT,

Defendant.

INDEX NO. 651789/2024

MOTION DATE _____

MOTION SEQ. NO. 003

**DECISION + ORDER ON
MOTION**

-----X

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 003) 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108

were read on this motion to/for SEAL.

In motion sequence 003, defendant, AC Investment Management, moves pursuant to the Uniform Rules of the New York State Trial Courts (22 NYCRR) § 216.1 to seal/redact the following documents (See NYSCEF Doc. No. [NYSCEF] 106, Order to Show Cause [OSC]):

1. ACIM Bank Statements (NYSCEF 100¹.)
2. ACIM Bank Statements (NYSCEF 101².)
3. ACIM Bank Statements (NYSCEF 102³.)
4. ACIM Bank Statements (NYSCEF 103⁴.)
5. ACIM Bank Statements (NYSCEF 104⁵.)

¹ Proposed and publicly redacted version filed as NYSCEF 83.
² Proposed and publicly redacted version filed as NYSCEF 86.
³ Proposed and publicly redacted version filed as NYSCEF 90.
⁴ Proposed and publicly redacted version filed as NYSCEF 91.
⁵ Proposed and publicly redacted version filed as NYSCEF 92.
651789/2024 VANDEWEGHE, COCO ET AL vs. AC INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
Motion No. 003

Specifically, defendant argues that the company's bank statements which includes every single transaction amount to the type of internal financial information New York Courts routinely hold to be sealed, thus the bank statements should be sealed. There is no indication of public interest in this matter and this motion is unopposed.

Legal Standard

Under New York law, there is a broad presumption that the public is entitled to access to judicial proceedings and court records." (*Mosallem v Berenson*, 76 AD3d 345, 348 [1st Dept 2010] [citations omitted].) The public's right to access is, however, not absolute, and under certain circumstances, "public inspection of court records has been limited by numerous statutes." (*Id.* at 349.) For example, § 216.1(a) of the Uniform Rules for Trial Courts, empowers courts to seal documents only upon a written finding of good cause. It provides:

"Except where otherwise provided by statute or rule, a court shall not enter an order in any action or proceeding sealing the court records, whether in whole or in part, except upon a written finding of good cause, which shall specify the grounds thereof. In determining whether good cause has been shown, the court shall consider the interests of the public as well as of the parties. Where it appears necessary or desirable, the court may prescribe appropriate notice and opportunity to be heard." (Uniform Rules for Trial Cts [22 NYCRR] § 216.1 [a].)

The "party seeking to seal court records has the burden to demonstrate compelling circumstances to justify restricting public access" to the documents. (*Mosallem*, 76 AD3d at 349 [citations omitted].) Good cause must "rest on a sound basis or legitimate need to take judicial action." (*Danco Lab Ltd. v Chemical Works of Gedeon Richter, Ltd.*, 274 AD2d 1, 8 [1st Dept 2000] [internal quotation marks and citation omitted].)

Discussion

Courts have recognized a compelling interest in sealing records that contain financial information and that are of minimal public interest. (See *Dawson v White & Case*, 184 AD2d 246, 247 [1st Dept 1992]; *D'Amour v Ohrenstein & Brown*, 17 Misc 3d 1130[A], 2007 NY Slip Op 52207[U], *20 [Sup Ct, NY County 2007] [“[d]efendants ought not to be required to make their private financial information public, merely because they have been named as defendants in a lawsuit, where no substantial public interest would be furthered by public access to that information.”].)

AC Investment Management has established good cause for sealing bank statements that include transactions as they contain private financial information which has no public interest.

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that motion sequence 003 is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that the County Clerk, upon service of this order, is directed to seal NYSCEF 100, 101, 103, and 104; and it is further

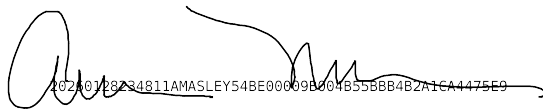
ORDERED that the County Clerk shall restrict access to the sealed documents with access to be granted only to authorized court personnel and designees, the parties and counsel of record in this action, and any representative of a party or of counsel of record upon presentation to the County Clerk of written authorization from counsel; and it is further

ORDERED that movant shall serve a copy of this order on the County Clerk in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Protocol on Courthouse County Clerk

Procedures for Electronically Filed Cases (accessible at the “E-Filing” page on the court’s website at the address www.nycourts.gov/supctmanh); and it is further

ORDERED that if any party seeks to redact identical information in future filings that the court is permitting to be redacted here, that party shall submit a proposed sealing order to the court (via sfc-part48@nycourts.gov and NYSCEF) instead of filing another seal motion; and it is further

ORDERED that this order does not authorize sealing or redacting for the purposes of trial or other court proceedings on the record, e.g. arguments on motions.



1/28/2026
DATE

ANDREA MASLEY, J.S.C.

CHECK ONE:

CASE DISPOSED

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION

GRANTED

DENIED

GRANTED IN PART

OTHER

APPLICATION:

SETTLE ORDER

SUBMIT ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

REFERENCE