



Supreme Court of New Zealand | Te Kōti Mana Nui o Aotearoa

23 JULY 2026

MEDIA RELEASE

Jinxing Liu v Hua Wu also known as Danny Wu

(SC 166/2025)

Hearing in the Supreme Court 6 August 2026

CASE HISTORY SYNOPSIS

This synopsis is provided to assist in understanding the history of the case and the issues to be heard by the Court. It does not represent the views of the panel that will hear the appeal in the Supreme Court.

Background

This case concerns the interaction between the doctrine of duress and the illegal contract provisions in the Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017 (CCLA). A contract induced by duress is voidable, meaning the victim may raise duress as a defence to an action or apply to a court for avoidance of the agreement, unless the victim is found to have affirmed the contract. By contrast, under section 73 of the CCLA, an illegal contract is void, meaning it “is of no effect”.

In 2018, the appellant, Mr Wu, made dispositions to the respondent, Mr Liu, comprising cash and property worth approximately \$1.2 million. The dispositions were made pursuant to a Deed of Full and Final Settlement (the Deed) which required Mr Wu to pay an earlier loan of \$1.2 million to Mr Liu.

Mr Wu brought a claim in the High Court seeking to recover the value of the dispositions. On 7 October 2024, Lang J found that the loan the Deed purported to document was false, and that Mr Wang and his then-wife’s entry into the Deed was procured by way of blackmail on the part of Mr Liu and his son. As the Deed was entered into under duress, it was therefore voidable. However, Mr Wu’s failure to make any attempt to avoid the Deed amounted to affirmation of the Deed. Lang J therefore dismissed Mr Wu’s claim.

On 22 October 2025, the Court of Appeal allowed Mr Wu’s appeal, accepting Mr Wu’s argument raised on appeal that the Deed was void and of no legal effect in accordance with section 73(1) of the CCLA. While the Court did not have to address Mr Wu’s alternative argument that the Judge had erred in finding affirmation of the Deed, the Court indicated it would have allowed the appeal on this ground too.

This appeal

Leave to appeal was granted by the Supreme Court on 14 April 2026. The approved questions are:

- (a) whether the Court of Appeal erred in determining that the Deed was illegal and void, rather than voidable on the basis that it was entered into under duress; and
- (b) whether the Court of Appeal erred in failing to determine that, had the Deed's validity properly been addressed on the basis that it was voidable for duress and not void for illegality, the Deed was affirmed by the respondent, as the High Court had found.

Viewing of hearing

The courtroom is open to the public.

This hearing of the appeal will also be live-streamed. Details about access to the live-stream and the conditions of access will be posted on the [Courts of New Zealand website](#) shortly before the hearing. No recording is permitted.

The panel

The Hon Justice Kós	The Hon Justice Ellen France	The Rt Hon Chief Justice Winkelmann	The Hon Justice Williams	The Hon Justice Campbell
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Judges as seen from the public gallery

Counsel

- Jinxing Liu (Appellant): *A T Grant and D E Archibald*
- Hua Wu also known as Danny Wu (Respondent): *S W B Foote KC and A E Simkiss*

Sitting hours

Court will begin at 10:00am and conclude at 4:00pm with adjournments taken from 11:30am to 11:45am and from 1:00pm to 2:15pm. There is no afternoon adjournment.

Enquiries

Any enquiries about the hearing should be directed via email to supremecourt@justice.govt.nz. While attending the hearing, enquiries can also be directed to the Court Registry, which is located outside the main courtroom in the Supreme Court foyer.

Contact person:

Sue Leaupepe, Supreme Court Registrar (04) 914 3613

High Court decision: [\[2024\] NZHC 2903](#) (7 October 2024)

Court of Appeal decision: [\[2025\] NZCA 560](#) (22 October 2025)

Supreme Court leave decision: [\[2026\] NZSC 28](#) (14 April 2026)