

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Axos Financial, Inc. v. Legent Group, LLC

No. 15, 2026 · No. No. 15, 2026 · Decided March 24, 2026

SUMMARY

The Delaware Supreme Court dismissed an appeal as interlocutory because the Court of Chancery had not yet resolved the amount of attorneys’ fees awarded in connection with discovery sanctions. The Court held that the January 8, 2026 order titled “Final Order and Judgment” was not final for purposes of appeal and directed that the filing fee be applied to any future appeal from a final order.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Abigail M. LeGrow; Traynor, Justice; Legrow, Justice; Griffiths, Justice
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
DECIDED	March 24, 2026
DOCKET	No. 15, 2026
DISPOSITION	dismissed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants below appealed from the Court of Chancery's post-trial opinion, sanctions decision, and implementing order while the amount of attorneys' fees awarded in connection with discovery conduct remained unresolved.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Supreme Court reviewed whether the challenged order was a final judgment appealable as of right; absent compliance with Supreme Court Rule 42, its review was limited to a trial court's final judgment.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	precedential
PARTIES	Axos Financial, Inc., Axos Securities, LLC, Axos Clearing, Inc., Axos Clearing LLC v. Legent Group, LLC, COR Advisors LLC, St. Cloud Capital Partners II, L.P., Carlos P. Salas

TOPICS

- interlocutory appeal
- final judgment rule
- appellate jurisdiction
- appellate procedure
- attorney fees

PRACTICE AREAS

Appellate procedure

Civil procedure

Commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the appeal was properly taken from a final judgment when the amount of attorneys' fees awarded by the Court of Chancery remained unresolved.
2. Whether the appeal should be dismissed as interlocutory for failure to comply with Supreme Court Rule 42.

HOLDINGS

1. An order is not final for purposes of appeal when the amount of attorneys' fees awarded remains unresolved; the appeal was therefore interlocutory.
2. The appeal was dismissed as interlocutory under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 29(b), and the filing fee was directed to be applied to any future appeal from a final order in the case.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"A final judgment is generally defined as one that determines the merits of the controversy or defines the rights of the parties and leaves nothing for future determination or consideration." (3)

"The mere titling of an order as a 'Final Order and Judgment' is not dispositive of its finality for purposes of appeal." (3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Court of Chancery entered a post-trial opinion for plaintiffs and awarded plaintiffs attorneys' fees and costs arising from defendants' discovery conduct. Although the court later entered a Final Order and Judgment awarding identified costs, the amount of attorneys' fees remained unresolved in a separate order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court of Chancery issued a post-trial opinion in favor of plaintiffs and separately awarded attorneys' fees and costs in part for defendants' discovery conduct. After entering an order resolving costs but leaving the amount of attorneys' fees unresolved, the Court of Chancery appeal was filed. The Delaware Supreme Court issued a notice to show cause and dismissed the appeal as interlocutory under Supreme Court Rule 29(b), applying Supreme Court Rule 42.

DISPOSITION

dismissed

CASES CITED

- Legent Group, LLC v. Axos Fin'l, Inc., 2025 WL 3124529 (Del. Ch. Nov. 7, 2025)

- Legent Group, LLC v. Axos Fin'l, Inc., 2025 WL 3126872 (Del. Ch. Nov. 7, 2025)
- Julian v. State, 440 A.2d 990, 991 (Del. 1982)
- Showell Poultry, Inc. v. Delmarva Poultry Corp., 146 A.2d 794, 796 (Del. 1958)
- Gaffin v. Teledyne, Inc., 602 A.2d 1081, 1991 WL 181488, at *1 (Del. Aug. 23, 1991) (TABLE)
- Wollner v. PearPop, Inc., 281 A.3d 1271, 2022 WL 2903103, at *1 (Del. July 21, 2022) (TABLE)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE AXOS FINANCIAL, INC., AXOS, § SECURITIES, LLC, AXOS CLEARING, § INC., and AXOS CLEARING LLC, § No. 15, 2026 § Defendants Below, § Court Below—Court of Chancery Appellants, § of the State of Delaware § v. § C.A. No. 2020-0405 § LEGENT GROUP, LLC, COR § ADVISORS LLC, ST. CLOUD CAPITAL § PARTERS II, L.P., and CARLOS P. § SALAS, § § Plaintiffs Below, § Appellees. § Submitted: January 30, 2026 Decided: March 24, 2026 Before TRAYNOR, LEGROW, and GRIFFITHS, Justices.

ORDER Upon consideration of the notice to show cause and the responses, it appears to the Court that: (1) On November 7, 2025, the Court of Chancery issued a post-trial opinion in favor of plaintiffs below-appellees (“Plaintiffs”)¹ and a letter decision granting in part Plaintiffs’ motion for attorneys’ fees and costs they incurred in connection with 1 Legent Group, LLC v. Axos Fin’l, Inc. 2025 WL 3124529 (Del.

Ch. Nov. 7, 2025) (hereinafter “Opinion”). defendants below-appellants’ (“Defendants”) discovery conduct.² In the Opinion, the court directed the parties to submit a form of implementing order or competing forms of order within ten business days.

In the Sanctions Decision, the court directed Plaintiffs to submit an implementing order within seven business days. (2) Defendants moved for reargument of the Sanctions Decision, while Plaintiffs submitted an order implementing the Sanctions Decision.

The parties submitted competing forms of order implementing the Opinion. The parties later submitted a stipulation and proposed order permitting the parties to brief the appropriate form of order implementing the Sanctions Decision.

The court granted the proposed order. (3) On December 9, 2025, the court denied Defendants’ motion for reargument of the Sanctions Decision and granted a modified version of Defendants’ form of order implementing the Opinion.

The implementing order required Plaintiffs to submit their bill of costs, which they did on December 19, 2025. (4) On January 7, 2026, Defendants filed this appeal of the Opinion, the Sanctions Decision, and the December 9, 2025 order implementing the Opinion. That same day

the parties completed briefing on the appropriate form of order implementing the Sanctions Decision.

On January 8, 2026, the Court of Chancery 2 Legent Group, LLC v. Axos Fin'l, Inc., 2025 WL 3126872 (Del. Ch. Nov. 7, 2025) (hereinafter "Sanctions Decision"). 2 entered an order—titled Final Order and Judgment—that awarded Plaintiffs the costs identified in their bill of costs. That January 8 order provided that the attorneys' fees and costs awarded in the Sanctions Decision would be resolved in a separate order.

(5) On January 9, 2026, the Senior Court Clerk issued a notice directing Defendants to show cause why this appeal should not be dismissed for their failure to comply with Supreme Court Rule 42 in appealing an apparent interlocutory order.

In their response to the notice to show cause, Defendants state that they filed the appeal out of an abundance of caution because all issues except attorneys' fees had been resolved. In the event that the Court determines this appeal is interlocutory, Defendants request a stay pending issuance of an order resolving the fees or, if this appeal is dismissed, transfer of the filing fee to any future appeal that they file in this case.

Plaintiffs contend that this appeal must be dismissed as interlocutory because the amount of attorneys' fees awarded in the Sanction Decision remains unresolved. (6) Absent compliance with Rule 42, this Court is limited to the review of a trial court's final judgment.³ "A final judgment is generally defined as one that determines the merits of the controversy or defines the rights of the parties and leaves nothing for future determination or consideration."⁴ "The mere titling of an order as 3 Julian v. State, 440 A.2d 990, 991 (Del.

1982). 4 Showell Poultry, Inc. v. Delmarva Poultry Corp., 146 A.2d 794, 796 (Del. 1958). 3 a 'Final Order and Judgment' is not dispositive of its finality for purposes of appeal."⁵ As Plaintiffs contend and Defendants implicitly acknowledge, this appeal is interlocutory because the amount of attorneys' fees awarded in the Sanctions Decision remains unresolved in the Court of Chancery.

This appeal therefore is interlocutory and must be dismissed. 6 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that this appeal is DISMISSED under Supreme Court Rule 29(b). The filing fee paid by Defendants shall be applied to any future appeal they file from a final order entered in this case. BY THE COURT: /s/ Abigail M. LeGrow Justice 5 Gaffin v. Teledyne, Inc., 602 A.2d 1081, 1991 WL 181488, at *1 (Del.

Aug. 23, 1991) (TABLE). 6 See., e.g., Wollner v. PearPop, Inc., 281 A.3d 1271, 2022 WL 2903103, at *1 (Del. July 21, 2022) (TABLE) (dismissing appeal as interlocutory where the amount of the attorneys' fee award remained unresolved). 4

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