

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Sono International Co., Ltd. v. TFI Tutti LLC

Sono International · No. No. 34, 2026 · Decided April 27, 2026

SUMMARY

The Delaware Supreme Court refused an interlocutory appeal from a Superior Court decision exercising personal jurisdiction over Sono International under an alter-ego theory. The Court held that the strict standards for interlocutory review under Supreme Court Rule 42 were not met and that the potential benefits did not outweigh the costs and disruption of an interlocutory appeal.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Abigail M. LeGrow; Chief Justice Traynor; Justice Legrow; Justice Griffiths
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of the State of Delaware
DECIDED	April 27, 2026
DOCKET	No. 34, 2026
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Sono International sought interlocutory review of the Superior Court's denial of its motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction and the Superior Court's subsequent refusal to certify an interlocutory appeal under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 42.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Applications for interlocutory review are committed to the Court's sound discretion and must satisfy the strict certification standards of Delaware Supreme Court Rule 42(b).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published and precedential Delaware Supreme Court order concerning the standards for interlocutory review.
PARTIES	Sono International Co., Ltd. v. TFI Tutti LLC, Woo Yong Choi, Floris Tutti International, Inc.

TOPICS

- interlocutory appeal
- appellate procedure
- standard of review
- personal jurisdiction
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

appellate procedure

civil procedure

corporate law

contracts

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Delaware Supreme Court should accept interlocutory review of the Superior Court's denial of Sono International's motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction.
2. Whether the proposed interlocutory appeal satisfied the strict certification requirements of Delaware Supreme Court Rule 42(b), including the substantial-importance and interests-of-justice requirements.

HOLDINGS

1. The application for interlocutory review did not satisfy the strict standards for certification under Delaware Supreme Court Rule 42(b), and the interlocutory appeal was refused.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“that Sono America was completely dominated and controlled by Sono International; that Sono International provided funds whenever requested; that all material decisions were made by Sono International; that Sono America observed no separate corporate formalities; that [Sono America] had no independent business or financial base; and that [Sono America’s] three employees exercised no independent decision-making authority” (¶ 3)

“Exceptional circumstances that would merit interlocutory review of the Superior Court’s decision do not exist in this case” (¶ 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Sono International, a Korean company, entered into a business arrangement with Woo Yong Choi and TFI Tutti LLC to expand into the United States, while Sono International's subsidiary, Sono America, supplied capital. The parties formed Daemyung Tutti, LLC and executed a Joint Venture Agreement containing a Delaware forum-selection clause. The plaintiffs later added Sono International to the litigation under an alter-ego theory, alleging that Sono International dominated and controlled Sono America, supplied its funds, made its material decisions, and disregarded corporate formalities.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The plaintiffs sued Sono America in the Superior Court for claims including breach of contract, fraud, misrepresentation, tortious interference, and breach of the implied covenant. After non-contract claims were dismissed, the plaintiffs amended their complaint to add Sono International under an alter-ego or veil-piercing theory. The Superior Court denied Sono International's personal-jurisdiction motion, then denied its application to certify an interlocutory appeal. The Delaware Supreme Court refused interlocutory review.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- TFI Tutti LLC v. Sono Am., Inc., 2025 WL 3688737 (Del. Super. Dec. 19, 2025)
- TFI Tutti LLC v. Sono Am., Inc., 2026 WL 560363 (Del. Super. Feb. 27, 2026)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN AI ASSISTANT

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