

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
FIRST DEPARTMENT

Suazo v. 501 Madison-Sutton LLC

Suazo, 2026 NY Slip Op 03411 (Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division First Department 2026) · No. Index No. 305735/14; Appeal No. 6769; Case No. 2025-06311 · Decided June 2, 2026

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, First Department modified an order concerning indemnification claims arising from a worker's ladder-fall accident at a construction site. The court denied summary judgment on common-law indemnification because factual issues remained regarding the ladder's ownership, Superior Acoustics' negligence, and GC Contractors' supervision and notice. It conditionally granted GC Contractors contractual indemnification against Superior and affirmed dismissal of Superior's contractual indemnification claim against Atlantic Interiors because no indemnification agreement was in effect when the accident occurred.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, First Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Moulton, J.P.; Kapnick, J.; González, J.; Shulman, J.; Chan, J.
JURISDICTION	New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department
DECIDED	June 2, 2026
DOCKET	Index No. 305735/14; Appeal No. 6769; Case No. 2025-06311
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appeal from an order of Supreme Court, Bronx County, granting summary judgment on common-law and contractual indemnification claims, granting Atlantic Interiors summary judgment dismissing Superior Acoustics' contractual indemnification claim, and denying Superior's cross-motion for summary judgment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the summary-judgment rulings for whether triable issues of fact existed and whether the moving parties were entitled to judgment as a matter of law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published and precedential New York Appellate Division decision, subject to correction before publication in the Official Reports.

PARTIES

Superior Acoustics, Inc. v. 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, 501 Madison Avenue LLC, GC Contractors, Inc., Atlantic Interiors, Inc.

TOPICS

construction law

contracts

negligence

appellate procedure

standard of review

PRACTICE AREAS

construction law

contract indemnification

negligence

summary judgment

appellate procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether 501 Madison-Sutton LLC and GC Contractors were entitled to summary judgment on their common-law indemnification claim against Superior Acoustics.
2. Whether the contractual indemnification provision in the purchase order between GC Contractors and Superior applied to plaintiff's accident and required contractual indemnification.
3. Whether GC Contractors' contractual indemnification should be granted conditionally because an issue of fact existed concerning GC's own negligence.
4. Whether Atlantic Interiors was entitled to summary judgment dismissing Superior's contractual indemnification claim based on a written indemnification agreement executed after the accident.

HOLDINGS

1. Summary judgment for the 501 defendants and GC Contractors on their common-law indemnification claim against Superior was improper because factual issues existed concerning Superior's negligence and GC Contractors' negligence.
2. The broad contractual indemnification provision in the purchase order between GC Contractors and Superior applied to plaintiff's accident because the accident occurred during plaintiff's performance of work subcontracted to Atlantic.
3. GC Contractors was entitled to conditional, but not unconditional, contractual indemnification against Superior because an issue of fact remained concerning GC Contractors' negligence.
4. Atlantic Interiors was entitled to summary judgment dismissing Superior's contractual indemnification claim because no indemnification agreement between Superior and Atlantic was in effect on the accident date, and the post-accident written agreement did not demonstrate an intent to apply retroactively.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“To be entitled to common-law indemnification, [the proposed indemnitee] must show (1) that it has been held vicariously liable without proof of any negligence or actual supervision on its part; and (2) that the proposed indemnitor was either negligent or exercised actual supervision or control over the injury-producing work” ([*1])

“A visibly defective ladder available for use on the premises constitutes a dangerous condition” ([*2])

*“The post-accident agreement is “devoid of any language demonstrating an intention by the parties that it be retroactively applied”” ([*2])*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, an employee of Atlantic Interiors, was injured on March 6, 2014, when he fell from a ladder while performing spackling and taping work on drywall at a building owned by the 501 defendants. GC Contractors was the general contractor and had subcontracted the drywall work to Superior Acoustics, which had an oral agreement with Atlantic to perform work related to the drywall installation. The parties disputed ownership and authorized use of the ladder, and the record presented factual questions concerning Superior's negligence and GC Contractors' notice of and failure to remedy a visibly defective ladder.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Marco Suazo was injured in a workplace ladder accident and previously obtained partial summary judgment on his Labor Law § 240(1) claim. In this appeal concerning indemnification claims among the property owners, general contractor, and subcontractors, the Appellate Division modified Supreme Court's order by denying summary judgment on the common-law indemnification claim against Superior and conditionally granting GC Contractors' contractual indemnification claim, while otherwise affirming.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The order was modified to deny the 501 defendants' and GC Contractors' motion for summary judgment on common-law indemnification against Superior and to grant GC Contractors conditional contractual indemnification against Superior; the order was otherwise affirmed.

CASES CITED

- Suazo v. 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, 235 AD3d 513, 513 [1st Dept 2025]
- Naughton v. City of New York, 94 AD3d 1, 10 [1st Dept 2012]
- Herrero v. 2146 Nostrand Ave. Assoc., LLC, 193 AD3d 421, 422-423 [1st Dept 2021]
- Jaycox v. VNO Bruckner Plaza, LLC, 146 AD3d 411, 412 [1st Dept 2017]
- Worth Constr. Co., Inc. v. Admiral Ins. Co., 10 NY3d 411, 415 [2008]
- Pimentel v. DE Frgt. LLC, 205 AD3d 591, 594 [1st Dept 2022]
- Madkins v. 22 Little W. 12th St., LLC, 191 AD3d 434, 436 [1st Dept 2021]
- Podhaskie v. Seventh Chelsea Assoc., 3 AD3d 361, 362 [1st Dept 2004]
- Temmel v. 1515 Broadway Assoc., L.P., 18 AD3d 364, 365 [1st Dept 2005]
- Perez Juarez v. Rye Depot Plaza, LLC, 140 AD3d 464, 465 [1st Dept 2016]
- Kolakowski v. 10839 Assoc., 185 AD3d 427, 428 [1st Dept 2020]

OPINION

Suazo v. 501 Madison-Sutton LLC 2026 NY Slip Op 03411

PER CURIAM.

Suazo v 501 Madison-Sutton LLC - 2026 NY Slip Op 03411 skip to main content It appears you are using Adblock. Please disable Adblock to best experience our website. Law Reporting Bureau Thomas J.K. Smith, State Reporter Court Decisions Resources About Home All Court Decisions Decisions Suazo v 501 Madison-Sutton LLC 2026 NY Slip Op 03411 June 2, 2026 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This decision is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Marco Suazo, Plaintiff, v 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, et al., Defendants-Respondents. [A Third-Party Action] 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, et al., Second Third-Party Plaintiffs-Respondents, Superior Acoustics, Inc., Second Third-Party Defendant-Appellant. Superior Acoustics, Inc., Third Third-Party Plaintiff-Appellant, Atlantic Interiors, Inc., Third Third-Party Defendant- Respondent. Decided and Entered: June 02, 2026 Index No. 305735/14|Appeal No. 6769|Case No. 2025-06311| Before: Moulton, J.P., Kapnick, González, Shulman, Chan, JJ. Mauro Lilling Naparty, LLP, Woodbury (Jessica L. Smith of counsel), for appellant. Gallo Vitucci Klar LLP, New York (Ryan S. Ulrich of counsel), for 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, 501 Madison Avenue LLC, and GC Contractors, Inc., respondents. Goldberg Segalla, LLP, White Plains (William T. O'Connell of counsel), for Atlantic Interiors, Inc., respondent. [*1] Order, Supreme Court, Bronx County (Myrna Socorro, J.), entered on or about July 31, 2025, which, to the extent appealed from as limited by the briefs, granted the motion of defendants 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, 501 Madison Avenue LLC (501 Defendants), and GC Contractors, Inc. for summary judgment on their contractual and common-law indemnification claims against second third-party defendant and third third-party plaintiff Superior Acoustics, Inc., granted the motion of third third-party defendant Atlantic Interiors, Inc. for summary judgment dismissing Superior's contractual indemnification claim, and denied Superior's motion for summary judgment on that claim, unanimously modified, on the law, to deny defendants' motion for summary judgment on their common-law indemnification claim against Superior, grant GC Contractors conditional contractual indemnification against Superior, and otherwise affirmed, without costs. Plaintiff, an employee of third third-party defendant Atlantic, was injured on March 6, 2014, when he fell from a ladder while performing spackling and tape work on drywall at a building owned by 501 defendants. Defendant GC Contractors, the general contractor, subcontracted the drywall work to second third party defendant Superior. On the date of the accident, Superior had an oral contract with Atlantic to perform certain work related to the installation of the drywall. On a prior appeal, we affirmed Supreme Court's award of partial summary judgment to plaintiff on his Labor Law § 240(1) claim (see Suazo v 501 Madison-Sutton LLC, 235 AD3d 513 , 513 [1st Dept 2025]). This appeal concerns defendants' various claims of common law and contractual indemnification against each other. Supreme Court should not have awarded summary judgment to 501 defendants and GC

Contractors on their common law indemnification claim against Superior. "To be entitled to common-law indemnification, [the proposed indemnitee] must show (1) that it has been held vicariously liable without proof of any negligence or actual supervision on its part; and (2) that the proposed indemnitor was either negligent or exercised actual supervision or control over the injury-producing work" (*Naughton v City of New York*, 94 AD3d 1, 10 [1st Dept 2012]). Because there are issues of fact as to the negligence of Superior and GC Contractors, common law indemnification cannot be imposed on Superior. All parties deny ownership of the ladder involved in plaintiff's accident. There is conflicting evidence as to whether the ladder belonged to Superior or Atlantic, and whether Atlantic was authorized to use Superior's ladders. Accordingly, Superior's negligence remains an open question (see *Herrero v 2146 Nostrand Ave. Assoc., LLC* , 193 AD3d 421 , 422-423 [1st Dept 2021]). [*2] There is also a triable issue of fact concerning GC's negligent failure to monitor the safety of the worksite. A visibly defective ladder available for use on the premises constitutes a dangerous condition (see *id.* at 422-423; *Jaycox v VNO Bruckner Plaza, LLC* , 146 AD3d 411, 412 [1st Dept 2017]). Thus, there are issues of fact as to whether GC Contractors had actual or constructive notice of the defective ladder and could have remedied it (see *Herrero* , 193 AD3d at 423). Supreme Court correctly found that the broad contractual indemnification provision contained in the purchase order between GC Contractors and Superior applied to plaintiff's accident. Contrary to Superior's contentions, the indemnification provision covered claims arising from plaintiff's performance of Superior's work subcontracted to Atlantic (see *Worth Constr. Co., Inc. v Admiral Ins. Co.* , 10 NY3d 411, 415 [2008]). Whether Superior exercised control over plaintiff's work or provided the ladder is irrelevant. The indemnification agreement was triggered by virtue of the accident occurring in the course of plaintiff's work (see *Pimentel v DE Frgt. LLC* , 205 AD3d 591 , 594 [1st Dept 2022]). However, given that there is an issue of fact concerning GC Contractors' negligence, Supreme court should have conditionally granted GC Contractors' contractual indemnification claim (see *Madkins v 22 Little W. 12th St., LLC* , 191 AD3d 434 , 436 [1st Dept 2021]). The court properly granted Atlantic's motion for summary judgment on Superior's contractual indemnification claim. There was no indemnification agreement between Superior and Atlantic in effect at the time of the accident and no evidence that the indemnification provision contained in the parties' written agreement executed approximately one month after the accident was intended to apply retroactively (see *Podhaskie v Seventh Chelsea Assoc.* , 3 AD3d 361, 362 [1st Dept 2004]). The post-accident agreement is "devoid of any language demonstrating an intention by the parties that it be retroactively applied" (*Temmel v 1515 Broadway Assoc., L.P.* , 18 AD3d 364, 365 [1st Dept 2005]; see *Perez Juarez v Rye Depot Plaza, LLC* , 140 AD3d 464, 465 [1st Dept 2016]). The conclusory statements by Superior's owner in his deposition and affidavit do not create a triable issue of fact concerning whether the parties intended the agreement to apply retroactively (see *Kolakowski v 10839 Assoc.* , 185 AD3d 427, 428 [1st Dept 2020]). THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT. ENTERED: June 2, 2026

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