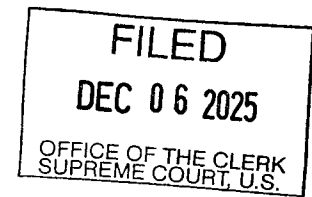


ORIGINAL

25-7120



No.

IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

STEVEN JERMAINE LEE,

Petitioner

v.

ANTOINETTE JAMEICA LEE,

Respondent

On Petition For Writ Of Certiorari
To The Appellate Court of Illinois First District

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Bro. S. Lee Bey
Petitioner: In Propria Persona
1007 S. 4th Avenue Apt 3N
Maywood, Illinois [60153]
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QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Whether the Illinois courts violated Petitioner's constitutional rights under the Fourteenth Amendment by entering judgment without adjudicating properly raised challenges to personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Whether a state court's failure to respond to jurisdictional objections constitutes a denial of due process and access to a fair tribunal.

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDING AND RELATED CASES

- Petitioner: Steven Jermaine Lee
- Respondent: Antoinette Jameica Lee
- In RE: THE MARRIAGE OF ANTOINETTE LEE AND STEVEN LEE, No. 2021D008586, Circuit Court Cook County. Judgment entered July 03, 2024.
- In RE: THE MARRIAGE OF ANTOINETTE LEE AND STEVEN LEE, No. 1-24-1564, Appellate Court First District. Judgment entered May 27, 2025.
- In RE: THE MARRIAGE OF ANTOINETTE LEE AND STEVEN LEE, No. 131981, Appellate Court First District. Judgment entered September 24, 2025.

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OPINIONS BELOW

- The Illinois Appellate Court's decision is unpublished.
- The Illinois Supreme Court denied leave to appeal on September 24, 2025, without opinion.

JURISDICTION

The judgment for which review is sought was entered by the Appellate Court of Illinois, First District, on May 27, 2025, in case No. 1-24-1564. The Supreme Court of Illinois denied discretionary review on September 25, 2025, in case No. 131981. This petition is timely filed within 90 days of the state supreme court's final judgment pursuant to Rule 13. Jurisdiction is invoked under 28 U.S.C. § 1257(a), which authorizes review of final judgments of state courts that present federal constitutional questions.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY PROVISIONS

U.S. Const. Art. 3, Sec. 2:

“The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases, in Law and Equity, arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and Treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority;—to all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers, and Consuls;—to all Cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction;—to Controversies to which the United States shall be a Party;—to Controversies between two or more States;—between a State and Citizens of another State;—between Citizens of different States;—between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and

foreign States, Citizens, or Subjects. In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all the other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make. The Trial of all Crimes, except in Cases of Impeachment, shall be by Jury; and such Trial shall be held in the State where the said Crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any State, the Trial shall be at such Place or Places as the Congress may by Law have directed.”

U.S. Const. Amend. V:

“No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.”

U.S. Const. Amend. XIV, § 1:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

28 U.S.C. § 1257(a):

“Final judgments or decrees rendered by the highest court of a State in which a decision could be had, may be reviewed by the Supreme Court by writ of certiorari where the validity of a treaty or statute of the United States is drawn in question or where the validity of a statute of any State is drawn in question on the ground of its being repugnant to the Constitution, treaties, or laws of the United States, or where any title, right, privilege, or immunity is specially set up or claimed under the Constitution or the treaties or statutes of, or any commission held or authority exercised under, the United States.”

U.S. Supreme Court Rule 13:

“Unless otherwise provided by law, a petition for a writ of certiorari to review a judgment in any case, civil or criminal, entered by a state court of last resort or a United States court of appeals (including the United States Court of Appeals for the

Armed Forces) is timely when it is filed with the Clerk of this Court within 90 days after entry of the judgment. A petition for a writ of certiorari seeking review of a judgment of a lower state court that is subject to discretionary review by the state court of last resort is timely when it is filed with the Clerk within 90 days after entry of the order denying discretionary review.”

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner was named Respondent in a dissolution of marriage proceeding in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois [A-5]. He filed motions challenging both personal and subject matter jurisdiction, asserting that the court lacked authority due to procedural defects and improper service [A-6, A-7, A-8]. These motions were stricken without hearing or explanation. A default judgment was entered [A-5], followed by Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs)[A-2, A-3, A-4]. The Illinois Supreme Court denied his Petition for Leave to Appeal without comment [A-1].

Petitioner contends that the trial court failed to establish jurisdiction on the record and did not respond to his objections, thereby violating his constitutional right to due process.

REASONS FOR GRANTING THE WRIT

- Due Process Violation: Jurisdiction is a foundational requirement for any court action. The failure to adjudicate jurisdictional objections deprives Petitioner of procedural due process under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Lack of Judicial Response: The trial court struck Petitioner’s motions without explanation, and the appellate courts failed to address the jurisdictional challenge.

This undermines the integrity of the judicial process and denies Petitioner a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

- National Importance: The case raises important questions about the constitutional limits of state court authority and the procedural safeguards required when jurisdiction is challenged.

PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE

This petition complies with the Rules of the Supreme Court of the United States, including:

- Rule 13: Filed within 90 days of the final judgment.
- Rule 14: Includes all required sections—Questions Presented, Jurisdiction, Parties, Opinions Below, Statement of the Case, and Reasons for Granting the Writ.
- Rule 33.1(b): Includes Petitioner's name, address, phone number, and email.
- Rule 33.1(g): Will be formatted to not exceed 9,000 words if filed in booklet form.
- Rule 14.1(e): Cites statutory basis for jurisdiction.
- Rule 14.1(c): Notes absence of written opinion from the Illinois Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court grant a writ of certiorari to review the judgment of the Supreme Court of Illinois and clarify the constitutional requirements for adjudicating jurisdictional challenges in state courts.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. S. Lee Bey ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Bro. S. Lee Bey

Petitioner, In Propria Persona

1007 S. 4th Avenue Apt 3N

Maywood, Illinois [60153]

Dated: February 01, 2026