

Young Deloitte worker wins multimillion-dollar inheritance after grandfather's last-minute diary note is ruled a valid will - as businessman's only daughter loses bid for the estate

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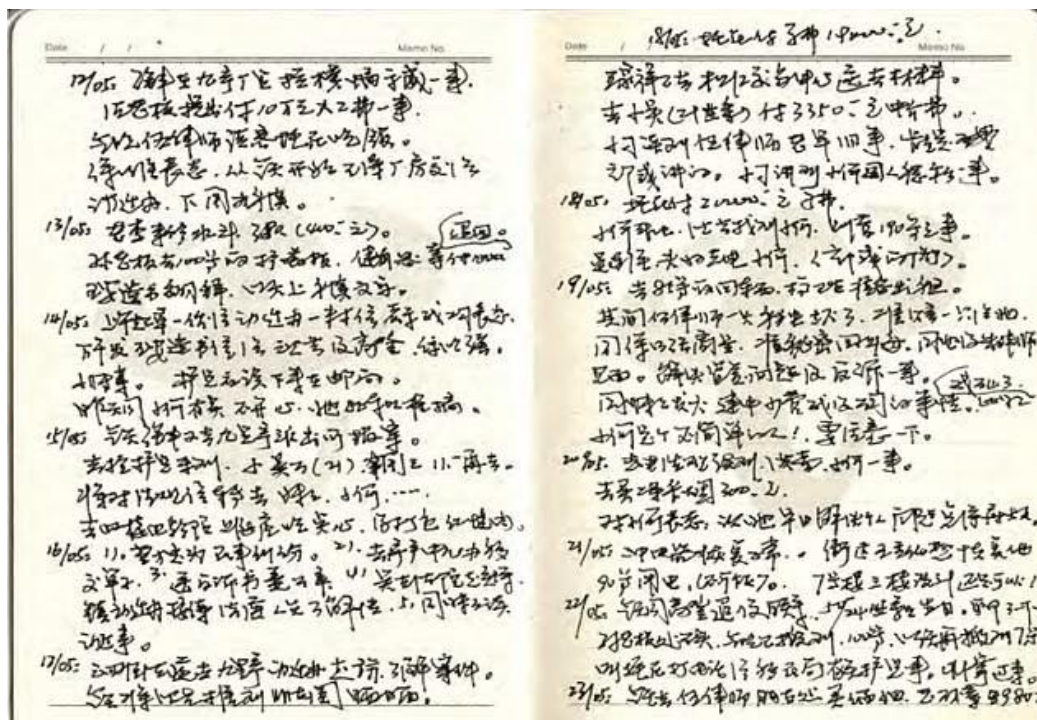
A wealthy [Sydney](#) businessman who feared he was suffering heart trouble scribbled a note in his diary declaring 'The above can also count as the Will' before dying two days later, sparking a bitter family war over a multimillion-dollar fortune spanning Australia and [China](#).

Justice Stephen Free ruled the May 22, 2023, diary entry was Jianping Shen's valid final will, awarding 40 per cent of his estate to his carer and de facto partner Eva Wu, and 60 per cent plus all shares in the family company structure to his favoured grandson, Gordon Dang.

The judgment rejected claims by Mr Shen's only daughter, Yun Shen, that the diary note had been forged, with the court describing that theory as 'bordering on the absurd'.

'The proposition that Ms Wu snuck away from the attention of others and had the physical and emotional composure to perform a sophisticated and time-consuming forgery, without being detected by any of the other people in the house, is entirely implausible,' Justice Free wrote.

Mr Shen was 77 when he died suddenly of cardiac arrest on May 24, 2023, leaving behind a sprawling estate that included Sydney, Shanghai and [Beijing](#) properties, luxury Mercedes vehicles, company interests and valuable Chinese assets.



NSW Supreme Court Justice Stephen Free ruled the May 22, 2023, diary entry (pictured) was Jianping Shen's valid final will

The judge also found Gordon, Ms Shen and her de facto partner Lei Dang returned to Mr Shen's home the day after his death and removed documents from a locked filing cabinet. When Ms Wu later returned, she found the cabinet had been prised open and emptied.

At the centre of the dispute was a handwritten diary entry Mr Shen made on May 22 after recording that he had begun suffering 'physical discomfort' and suspected he may have heart disease.

The note stated that 60 per cent of his assets, as well as the family trust, should go to his 'eldest nephew', a reference the judge later found was intended to mean grandson Gordon, while 40 per cent should go to 'the last person taking care of' him.

It concluded with the extraordinary line: 'The Will shall be done in the next few days. The above can also count as the Will!'

Ms Shen and Gordon, whose LinkedIn lists him as a full-time consultant at professional services firm Deloitte based in Sydney, initially argued the entry had been forged, prompting a battle of handwriting experts and months of evidence about Mr Shen's final years.

Justice Free accepted evidence from forensic handwriting specialist Kiki Wong, a former Scotland Yard expert, that the diary entry had been written by Mr Shen.



Forensic handwriting specialist Kiki Wong (pictured), a former Scotland Yard expert, gave evidence that the diary entry had been written by Mr Shen