

APRIL 27, 2026
Dept. 9
Probate Tentative Rulings

1.	25PR0056	ESTATE OF MAHAN
Status		

Letters of Administration issued on April 28, 2025. Final Inventory and Appraisal was filed on October 9, 2025.

TENTATIVE RULING #1:

APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2027, IN DEPARTMENT NINE. PETITIONER OR COUNSEL ARE ORDERED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR, OR FILE A STATUS UPDATE WITH THE COURT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THAT HEARING.

IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR REMOTELY, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE APPEARANCES CAN BE FOUND ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

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2.	25PR0057	ESTATE OF WEDDLE
Status		

Letters of Administration issued on April 28, 2025. Final Inventory and Appraisal was filed on February 9, 2026.

TENTATIVE RULING #2:

APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2027, IN DEPARTMENT NINE. PETITIONER OR COUNSEL ARE ORDERED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR, OR FILE A STATUS UPDATE WITH THE COURT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THAT HEARING.

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3.	22PR0074	ESTATE OF HILL
Status		

An Order for Final Distribution was entered by the Court on January 23, 2023. There are no receipts and no Petition for Ex Parte Discharge on file. Counsel for Petitioner is Nicholas Yonano.

TENTATIVE RULING #3:

APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

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4.	PP20210198	ESTATE OF HARNEY
Status		

Nothing has been filed since May 1, 2023. The Petitioner transferred title to the real property to herself. There is no Ex Parte Petition for Final Discharge on file. Petitioner is pro per.

TENTATIVE RULING #4:

APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

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IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR REMOTELY, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE APPEARANCES CAN BE FOUND ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

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5.	25PR0340	ESTATE OF BURGETT
Letters of Administration		

Michael Glass filed a Petition for Letters of Administration, which was heard on March 2, 2026. There were several deficiencies identified by the Court.

Thereafter, Clara Acuna filed a Petition for Letters of Administration and an Objection to Glass' Petition. Acuna objects based on the deficiencies identified by the Court in the Petition filed by Glass; she also objects based on lack of relationship between Glass and Decedent. Acuna is decedent's daughter and has priority under Probate Code § 8461.

Decedent died intestate on February 12, 2024, survived by three adult children. Petitioner is decedent's daughter.

The Petition requests full authority under the Independent Administration of Estates Act.

Waivers of bond have been filed with the court by the heirs, attached to the Petition.

A Duties/Liabilities statement (DE 147/DE 147s) was filed on March 19, 2026.

Proof of service of notice of the hearing on the Petition was filed on March 19, 2026. William Boyd filed a request for special notice and his counsel received notice of this hearing.

Proof of publication was filed on April 17, 2026.

TENTATIVE RULING #5:

BASED ON HER PRIORITY APPOINTMENT AND ABSENT FURTHER OBJECTION THE PETITION OF CLARA ACUNA IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).

A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2027, IN DEPARTMENT NINE. PETITIONER OR COUNSEL ARE ORDERED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR, OR FILE A STATUS UPDATE WITH THE COURT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THAT HEARING.

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6.	22PR0078	ESTATE OF PEABODY
Status		

Letters of Administration were issued on July 20, 2022. A Final Inventory and Appraisal was filed on January 17, 2023. There is no Petition for Final Distribution on file with the court.

Counsel filed a report regarding status indicating he has lost contact with the Administrator. No petition to be relieved as counsel has been filed.

TENTATIVE RULING #6:

A STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING IS SET FOR 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2027, IN DEPARTMENT NINE. PETITIONER OR COUNSEL ARE ORDERED TO PERSONALLY APPEAR, OR FILE A STATUS UPDATE WITH THE COURT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE THAT HEARING.

IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR REMOTELY, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE APPEARANCES CAN BE FOUND ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

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7.	26PR0067	MATTER OF GROOME REVOCABLE TRUST
Petition to Appoint Successor Trustee		

Pursuant to the Declaration of counsel, a Petition to Appoint Successor Trustee is before the Court in this matter. However, there is no Petition in the Court's file – only a Declaration, proposed Order, and Notice of Hearing.

TENTATIVE RULING #7:

HEARING CONTINUED TO MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026, AT 8:30 AM IN DEPARTMENT NINE TO ALLOW COUNSEL TO FILE THE PETITION.

IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR REMOTELY, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE APPEARANCES CAN BE FOUND ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.

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8.	25PR0006	ESTATE OF HONSVICK
Status		

Letters of Administration issued on April 28, 2025. In violation of Probate Code § 8800, no Inventory and Appraisal has been filed.

On August 13, 2025, AscensionPoint Recovery Services, LLC on behalf of Synchrony Bank filed a creditor's claim.

TENTATIVE RULING #8:

APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

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9.	26PR0065	MATTER OF REISCHMAN REVOCABLE TRUST
Petition to Appoint Successor Trustee		

Petitioner Ronald Reischman, as beneficiary of the Bernard L. Reischman and Anna M. Reischman Revocable Family Trust (“Trust”) dated November 20, 1997, hereby requests orders of this Court appointing a successor trustee pursuant to California Probate Code § 17200. The Trust is currently without a trustee. Petitioner and proposed successor trustee is the sole current beneficiary of the Trust.

The trustors are both deceased. The Third Amendment to the Trust names two successor trustees – one is deceased, and the other has resigned. The Trust does not provide for a process to nominate a successor trustee. Pursuant to Probate Code §§ 15660 and 17200, the Court has the authority to appoint a successor trustee.

Notice of the Petition was given on March 23, 2026.

TENTATIVE RULING #9:

ABSENT OBJECTION THE PETITION IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).

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10.	26PR0034	ESTATE OF ROY
Petition for Letters Testamentary		

Decedent died testate on June 15, 2008, survived by three adult sons. Petitioner is decedent's son.

The Petition requests full authority under the Independent Administration of Estates Act.

The Original Will has not been lodged with the court, because according to Attachment 3f(3) it has been lost. However, a copy of the Will is included with the Petition.

Petitioner is named as Executor in the Will. The Will waives bond.

A Duties/Liabilities statement (DE 147/DE 147s) was filed on February 13, 2026.

Proof of service of notice of the hearing on the Petition was filed on March 18, 2026.

Proof of publication was filed on April 9, 2026.

TENTATIVE RULING #10:

ABSENT OBJECTION THE PETITION IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).

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11.	26PR0066	MATTER OF HALL REVOCABLE TRUST
Petition for Removal, etc.		

Petitioner and Respondent are the children of settlor Adelaide Hall and both are beneficiaries of the Trust, which is attached to the Petition as Exhibit A.

In 2025 settlor executed a Fourth Amendment to the Trust which is attached to the Petition as Exhibit B. The Fourth Amendment removed Petitioner as successor co-trustee, and established Respondent as the sole successor trustee. The Fourth Amendment to the Trust also gave Petitioner the right to receive certain real property that is an asset of the Trust “at fair market value . . . as part of his one-half (1/2) share of the trust”, to be distributed to Petitioner 30 days after settlor’s death.

Petitioner asserts that he has exercised his option to receive the real property but that Respondent has refused to transfer the property, in violation of the terms of the Trust. In the interim, Respondent’s attorney informed Petitioner that no distribution could occur until 120 days after the Notification of Trustee was sent to Petitioner. Petition, Exhibit C. Petitioner attempted to meet with Respondent’s attorney in January, 2026, but the meeting was cancelled, and in February, 2026, Petitioner was informed that Respondent’s attorney was on vacation. Later, Respondent’s attorney claimed that Petitioner had cancelled the meeting, but Petitioner asserts that it was Respondent’s attorney who cancelled the meeting.

In February, 2026, Respondent informed Petitioner that he could pick up furniture from the property, but that the time for Petitioner to acquire the property had expired, even though the Trust does not put any time limit on the period for Petitioner to exercise his option. Further, the 120 days referenced in Respondent’s letter as the period during which no distributions could be made would not have run until March, 2026.

Petitioner believes that Respondent is attempting to sell the property to a third-party buyer in violation of the terms of the Trust.

The Petition alleges breach of fiduciary duty in violation of Probate Code §§ 16002, 16003 and 16004. Petitioner further seeks immediate suspension and ultimately, removal of the trustee pursuant to Probate Code § 16420(a) and appointment of a professional fiduciary. Petitioner also requests the Court to order distribution of the real property in accordance with the terms of the Trust, and to enjoin the sale of the real property. Petitioner requests attorneys’ fees.

TENTATIVE RULING #11:

TENTATIVE RULING #11: APPEARANCES ARE REQUIRED AT 8:30 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, IN DEPARTMENT NINE.

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12.	26PR0072	MATTER OF SILAN LIVING TRUST
Petition for Order Confirming Trust Assets		

The Petitioner, the presently acting Trustee of THE SHELIA A. SILAN LIVING TRUST ("Trust"), dated January 21, 2022, seeks to confirm the terms of the Trust, and trust assets. At the time of the trustor's death, she owned real property located at 6600 Summerhill Road. The Schedule A of the Trust indicates this property to be a Trust asset. Additionally, the trustor had a Pour-Over Will directing all of her property to be held and administered pursuant to the Trust.

Probate Code § 850 permits a trustee who has a claim to property, the title to or possession of which is held by another, to file a petition requesting that the court make an order pursuant to Probate Code § 856 authorizing and directing the person having title to or possession of real property to execute a conveyance or transfer to a person entitled thereto, or granting other appropriate relief. Probate Code § 851 requires the Petitioner to serve notice of the hearing and a copy of the Petition at least 30 days prior to the hearing to each person claiming an interest in or having title to or possession of the property. When the matter concerns a decedent estate, notice shall also be given to any heir or devisee whose interest may be affected by the Petition in accordance with Probate Code § 1200.

Probate Code § 857 provides that in the event that the court issues such an Order:

(a) The order is prima facie evidence of the correctness of the proceedings and of the authority of the personal representative or other fiduciary or other person to make the conveyance or transfer.

(b) After entry of an order that the personal representative, other fiduciary, or other person execute a conveyance or transfer, the person entitled thereunder has the right to the possession of the property, and the right to hold the property, according to the terms of the order as if the property had been conveyed or transferred in accordance with the terms of the order.

Notice of the hearing and a copy of the Petition were mailed at least 30 days prior to the hearing, to each person claiming an interest in or having title to or possession of the property, as well as any heir or devisee whose interest may be affected by the Petition. The notice and Petition were mailed and filed on March 25, 2026.

Pursuant to Probate Code §850 and *Estate of Heggstad* (1993) 16 Cal.App. 4th 943, 947-950, the Court finds sufficient evidence that decedent intended the above-mentioned assets be part of the Trust.

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TENTATIVE RULING #12:

ABSENT OBJECTION THE PETITION IS GRANTED AS REQUESTED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).

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13.	24PR0282	ESTATE OF MASTERS
Petition for Release of Funds & Objection		

Petitioner Guy Sorber (“Petitioner”) brings this Petition for Release of Life Insurance Proceeds. Petitioner states that he and decedent were married at the time of decedent’s death on September 22, 2024, but there was a pending dissolution. Decedent maintained a life insurance policy with Fidelity and Petitioner claims he is the named beneficiary.

As part of the dissolution proceedings, the life insurance proceeds were ordered to be held in the attorney trust account of Layla Cordero, who was decedent’s attorney in the divorce. While Objector Madeline Sorber (“Objector”) acknowledges the insurance proceeds would not normally be part of the estate proceedings since a beneficiary was named, she argues that the proceeds have become subject to probate because the policy did not name contingent beneficiaries.

Objector further alleges that the issue requires an order from probate court because (i) the Petitioner is now the ex-spouse and not a surviving spouse, (ii) the intent of the decedent that the ex-spouse not receive anything from her estate, (iii) the Family Law Court failing to rule on the distribution of the life insurance proceeds, (iv) the community property interest in the proceeds of the life insurance policy, and (v) the uncertainty of the named contingent beneficiaries, the Probate Court needs to rule as to the interest of the estate in the policy proceeds.

In his Petition, Petitioner cites to California Probate Code § 5040 for the proposition that a nonprobate transfer in an insurance policy is effective according to the terms of the instrument. Pursuant to the Notice of Entry of Judgment, the effective date of termination of marital status is September 3, 2024 and decedent’s death of date is after. Section 5040 actually supports Objector’s position and causes the nonprobate transfer to fail. Under § 5040(b), the nonprobate transfer was revocable at the time of death, there is not clear and convincing evidence that decedent intended to preserve the transfer to Petitioner but rather evidence to the contrary¹, and there is no court order maintaining the transfer to Petitioner.

Therefore, Probate Code § 5040 stops the nonprobate transfer to Petitioner. The Court hereby denies the Petition and orders that the life insurance proceeds be treated as an asset of the estate and be distributed accordingly.

¹ Prior to her death, decedent indicated to her counsel that she intended to change the beneficiary designation on her life insurance policy. (Exhibit E to Objection) Further, in her Will, she expressly omits Petitioner. (Exhibit C to Objection)

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TENTATIVE RULING #13:

ABSENT OBJECTION THE PETITION IS DENIED. ANY PERSON WHO HAS AN OBJECTION MAY MAKE IT ANY TIME, EVEN ORALLY AT THE HEARING (PROBATE CODE § 1043).

THE STATUS OF ADMINISTRATION HEARING SET FOR DECEMBER 14, 2026 AT 8:30 AM IN DEPARTMENT NINE REMAINS ON CALENDAR.

IF A PARTY OR PARTIES WISH TO APPEAR REMOTELY, INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE APPEARANCES CAN BE FOUND ON THE COURT'S WEBSITE.