

Tentative Rulings for November 6, 2025, Probate Calendar

Judge James T. Chou
Department C

**APPEARANCES MAY BE MADE
IN PERSON
OR ON ZOOM.**

To Join a Zoom Meeting, please follow this link: www.marin.courts.ca.gov

1. Click on the “Virtual Courtrooms” icon and then on “Zoom Civil / Family / Probate Court Calendar Appearance Information”
2. Scroll down to Department C – Probate for the connection information.

Any interested party who wishes to appear for oral argument on the tentative ruling **must do the following no later than 4:00 PM** one Court day prior to the scheduled hearing date (MCR 6.2.D):

1. Notify all other parties entitled to notice of the underlying petition, including the attorneys for represented parties; and
2. Advise the clerk’s office by leaving a message at **(415) 444-7046, option 5.**

There is no need to inform the Court of your intent to appear if the tentative ruling requires an appearance.

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at **(415) 444-7260**. Confidential cases include applications for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at **(415) 444-7260**.

Judge James T. Chou
Department C
9:00 Calendar

PR0000136 IN THE MATTER OF MANUEL A. RIVERA

1. First and Final Account & Report of Former Temporary Special Administrator; Petition to Settle Account; and for Exoneration of Bond, filed by Elizabeth Soloway on 7/17/25.
2. Order to Show Cause regarding why additional sanctions, in the amount of \$25 per day for the period beginning 9/26/25 through 11/6/25, should not issue for continued failure to comply with the Court's order to file a Petition to Approve Accounting.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0000247 IN THE MATTER OF NANCY A. NICHE TRUST DATED APRIL 6, 2016

1. Petition for Orders: (1) Determining the Validity of the Nancy A. Niche 2022 Trust; (2) Confirming Beneficiary of the Nancy A. Niche 2022 Trust; (3) Confirming Title to the Assets of the Nancy A. Niche 2022 Trust; (4) and Transferring Title of Assets to the Nancy A. Niche 2022 Trust, filed by Francesca Norstad on 11/13/23.
2. Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, filed by KQED Inc. on 11/26/24.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** to address the global resolution of all matters and to set a date by which dismissals of all outstanding petitions will be filed.

PR0000719 IN THE MATTER OF NANCY A. NICHE

Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Francesca Norstad on 7/15/24.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** to address the global resolution of all matters and to set a date by which dismissals of all outstanding petitions will be filed.

PR0000819 IN THE MATTER OF THE NANCY A. NICHE 2016 TRUST DATED APRIL 6, 2016

Petition for Orders: (1) Determining the Invalidity of the Nancy A. Niche 2016 Trust; and (2) Confirming Title to Assets, in the Alternative, to the Estate of Nancy A. Niche.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** to address the global resolution of all matters and to set a date by which dismissals of all outstanding petitions will be filed.

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0000341 IN THE MATTER OF DARRELL HENRY LARKS

Petition for the Termination of Probate and for Approval of Settlement Agreement, filed by Irma Larks-Arias on 9/2/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** and should be prepared to address: (1) why Decedent's interest in his late mother's estate is speculative; (2) why this settlement is in the best interest of the conservatee; and (3) whether the Court should discharge Irma Larks-Arias as personal representative in light of the request to retain jurisdiction under Code of Civil Procedure section 664.6.

PR0000358 IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD J. SHIPPY

Verified Petition: (1) for an Order Determining that the Last Will and Testament of Richard J. Shippy Dated September 21, 2023, Is Void and to Impose a Constructive Trust – Undue Influence; (2) for an Order Determining that the Last Will and Testament of Richard J. Shippy Dated September 21, 2023, Is Void and to Impose a Constructive Trust – Lack of Capacity; and (3) Financial Elder Abuse, filed by Katharine Lee Hopkins on 8/22/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0000669 IN THE MATTER OF SHERRIE LYN GROSSI

First and Final Account and Report of Executor; Petition for Settlement, for Statutory Attorney's Fees, and for Final Distribution, filed by Gary C. Grossi on 7/16/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing**.

PR0000713 IN THE MATTER OF KEVIN DAVID CARROLL

First and Final Account and Report of Administrator and Petition for Its Settlement, for Allowance of Administrator's Commission and Additional Compensation, Attorney's Fees for Ordinary Services, and for Final Distribution, filed by Marin County Public Administrator on 10/20/25.

Ruling. The matter is **continued to December 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Petitioner is ordered to file the following at least five court days prior to hearing:**

1. A Supplement to Petition, signed and verified by Petitioner, that provides the hourly rate of the Public Administrator for the purpose of determining the reasonable compensation of the public administrator under Probate Code section 7623.

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0000849 IN THE MATTER OF THE DAROLD E. SIMS TRUST

Petition to Invalidate Trust and Donative Transfers to Care Custodian, for Imposition of Constructive Trust, filed by Stephanie Stevens on 9/13/24.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** to address status of mediation and for further setting.

PR0000890 IN THE MATTER OF THOMAS BOURNE

First and Final Report of Administrator on Waiver of Account and Petition for Allowance of Statutory Compensation to Attorney and for Final Distribution, filed by Andrew Kern on 9/4/25.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. for further review.**

PR0000973 IN THE MATTER OF VERYL DEAN MAYBERRY

Petition to Determine Entitlement, filed by Sonya Garcia on 9/5/25.

Ruling. The Court does not have enough evidence to determine whether: (1) Decedent was a dependent adult, as defined by Probate Code section 21366, as of the date he executed his Will; (2) these two beneficiaries were care custodians as defined by Probate Code section 21362(a); (3) the beneficiaries provided health and social services as defined by Probate Code section 21362(b); and (4) such services were provided either during the time they were his caregivers or within 90 days before or after such period, pursuant to Probate Code section 21380(a)(3).

PR0000979 IN THE MATTER OF ERIC ALAN ARTMAN

First and Final Account and Report of Status of Administration of Estate and Petition for Settlement Thereof; for Allowance of Statutory Attorneys' and Personal Rep's Compensation; for Extraordinary Attorney Fees; and for Reimbursement of Costs Advanced; and for Final Distribution, filed by Ronald J. Levitt on 9/5/25.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to December 11, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Petitioner is ordered to file the following at least five court days prior to the hearing:**

1. A declaration setting forth the ordinary services provided by counsel so that the Court may determine whether all or a portion of the requested extraordinary fees have been fairly compensated by the statutory fee. (Please see *Estate of Hilton*, 44 Cal.App.4th 890, 912-913; *Estate of Walker*, 221 Cal.App.2d 792).

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0000982 IN THE MATTER OF NANNAPAT THERDSTEERASUKDI SUPPLEMENTAL NEEDS TRUST

Petition to Ap[prove First Account and Report of Trustee from 3/1/24 through 2/28/25, to Confirm Trustee's Fees and Approve Attorney's Fees, filed by Capital First Trust Company on 8/19/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0001024 IN THE MATTER OF MARJORIE ALEXIS TODD

1. Status Conference Re Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal
2. Petition for Final Distribution

Ruling. The November 6, 2025 hearing on the Petition for Final Distribution was set in error. **The matter is now set for December 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**

The Court notes that Item 6 of the Final Inventory and Appraisal should have been checked; however, the record reflects that no bond is required and the status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal is ordered off calendar.

PR0001164 IN THE MATTER OF GEORGE JIRI MRAZ

First and Final Account and Report of Executor and Petition for Settlement Thereof, for (1) Allowance Attorney's Compensation and Reimbursement of Costs, and (2) Final Distribution, filed by Kai Middleton on 9/2/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing.**

PR0001310 IN THE MATTER OF HUNT DECLARATION OF TRUST DATED MAY 5, 1993

1. Petition for Settlement of Account, **filed by BLD** on behalf of Jack L. Hunt, III and Bradley F. Hunt on 6/2/25.
2. Motion to Disqualify Bonnie Landles-Dowling as Counsel Because She is a Percipient Witness in this Lawsuit, filed by Susan Kendrick on 8/1/25. **Opposition filed by Christo on 10/17/25**
3. Civil Cross-Petition for Instructions Arising from Breach of Trust, filed by Susan Kendrick on 10/8/25.

Ruling. **All parties are ordered to appear.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0001347 IN THE MATTER OF THE 2020 JANIS LYNN COHEN REVOCABLE TRUST

Petition for an Order Confirming Accounts as Trust Assets, filed by Susan Render on 7/14/25.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to December 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** **Petitioner is ordered to file** account statements no later than December 4, 2025, confirming that the accounts at issue were owned by Trustor as of the date of execution of the Trust.

PR0001372 IN THE MATTER OF YASUKO AOKI 2020 TRUST

Petition for Modification of Trust, filed by Linda Ann Webster on 6/24/25.

Ruling. On October 9, 2025, this Court ordered Petitioner to file a declaration stating whether any of the assets listed in Schedule A to the Trust are located in Marin County. Petitioner has failed to follow this order. In light of Petitioner's failure to follow this Court's order, **this petition is DENIED.**

PR0001416 IN THE MATTER OF HORTON FAMILY TRUST

Petition to Determine Claim to Property, filed by Keegan M. Horton on 8/15/25.

Ruling. The matter is **continued to December 4, 2025, at 9:00** for Petitioner to file documentation confirming that the assets at issue were held by Trustors as of the date of execution of this Trust or are traceable to assets held by Trustors as of the date of execution of this Trust.

PR0001427 IN THE MATTER OF MALCOLM M. PONDER TRUST

Petition to Terminate Trust, filed by Elizabeth Anne Kane on 8/28/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing.**

PR0001428 IN THE MATTER OF ATKINSON 1994 TRUST AS RESTATED ON 1/12/2007

Petition to Terminate Trust for Stephen J. Partridge, filed by Stephen J. Partridge on 8/29/25.

Ruling. Based on the definition of a beneficiary under Probate Code section 24, **Petitioner is ordered to file a declaration** identifying all such beneficiaries, their ages, and relationships to Trustors. **Petitioner is ordered to provide 30 days' notice** to such beneficiaries. **The matter is now set for January 8, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0001432 IN THE MATTER OF MARY V. VIEIRA

Amended Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Gayleen M. Vieira-Maas on 9/3/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing**. Petitioner is ordered to comply with the following future dates:

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
 - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on March 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (Prob. Code, § 8800.)
 - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final Inventory and Appraisal is not filed at least five court days prior to hearing. (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(b), Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures.)
2. Status on Closing Estate.
 - a. Either: (1) a Petition for Final Distribution; or (2) a Report on Status of Administration shall be filed by November 5, 2026, as required by Probate Code sections 12200 and 12201.
 - b. A status hearing re filing the Petition or Report shall be set on **December 3, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m.
 - i. If neither document has been timely filed, an appearance will be required.
 - ii. If the Petition or Report is timely filed, the hearing will be set on December 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

PR0001433 IN THE MATTER OF HANS ROSER WILLIAMS

Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Natalie Williams on 9/2/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0001449 IN THE MATTER OF HELEN CHARLOTTE GILDRED

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed, filed by Marin County Public Administrator on 9/15/25.

Ruling. The matter is **continued to December 4, 2025, at 9:00. Petitioner is ordered to file**, at least five court days prior to the hearing, a typed copy of the will. (Prob. Code, § 8002(b)(1).)

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0001453 IN THE MATTER OF BRIAN W. LIN

Petition for Letters of Administration.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing**. Petitioner is ordered to comply with the following future dates:

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
 - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on March 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (Prob. Code, § 8800.)
 - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final Inventory and Appraisal is not filed at least five court days prior to hearing. (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(b), Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures.)
2. Status on Closing Estate.
 - c. Either: (1) a Petition for Final Distribution; or (2) a Report on Status of Administration shall be filed by November 5, 2026, as required by Probate Code sections 12200 and 12201.
 - d. A status hearing re filing the Petition or Report shall be set on **December 3, 2026**, at 10:00 a.m.
 - i. If neither document has been timely filed, an appearance will be required.
 - ii. If the Petition or Report is timely filed, the hearing will be set on December 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

PR0001454 IN THE MATTER OF THOMAS ANKER FANOE

Petition for Letters of Administration.

Ruling. **This matter is continued to November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. and is now related to PR0001490.**

PRO024356 IN THE MATTER OF JAKE LACUES, A MINOR

Petition for Settlement of Tenth Account and Approval of Trustee and Attorney Fees, filed by James T. Ryan on 8/4/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, the First Account and Report of Trustee will be **granted without hearing**. **Trustee is ordered to comply with the following future dates:**

1. Trustee's Eleventh Account and Report for the period 1/1/25 – 12/31/26 shall be filed by **March 11, 2027**.
2. A status hearing re filing the Eleventh Account and Report shall be set on **April 15, 2027, at 10:00 a.m.**
 - a. If the Eleventh Account and Report is not timely filed, an appearance will be required.
 - b. If the Eleventh Account and Report is timely filed, the hearing will be set on **April 15, 2027, at 9:00 a.m.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PRO2002412 IN RE ROBERT D. WOLFE LIVING TRUST AS AMENDED AND RESTATED

Motion to Modify January 19, 2024 Judgment, filed by Marc Wolfe, Lisa Wolfe, and Roger Herst on 6/6/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PRO2201543 WALTER R. HADDAD, ESTATE OF

1. Second Report of Status of Administration, filed by Tracie A. Morris and Scott M. Haddad on 10/30/25.
2. Status Conference re Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal
3. Order to Show Cause - Sanctions.

Ruling. The Second Report of Status of Administration is **continued to December 18, 2025, at 9:00**. The Second Report of Status of Administration was not timely filed; additional time for review and for proper notice is required. Notice must be given using the mandatory Judicial Council Form "Notice of Hearing – Decedent's Estate or Trust" with the box checked in Item 1 stating this is a report of status of administration. (Judicial Council Forms, form DE-120.)

The Status Conference re Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal is **ordered off calendar** as the Final Inventory and Appraisal has been filed. Sanctions are **discharged**.

PRO2301116 ROBERT KINGSLEY MALOY, ESTATE OF

Motion to Enforce Settlement Agreement.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

Judge James T. Chou

Department C 10:00 Calendar

PR0000753 IN THE MATTER OF NELSON GEORGE GORDY

Status Conference – Status Report of Administration.

Ruling. **Personal representative is ordered to appear.**

PR0000951 IN THE MATTER OF EMIL A. TANAGHO also on in PR 1178

1. Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.
2. Order to Show Cause with threat of sanctions for failure to appear on 9/4/25 and for failure to file Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **Personal representative and counsel are ordered to appear**

**PR0001178 IN THE MATTER OF THE EMIL A. TANAGHO AND MONA F. TANAGHO FAMILY TRUST
DATED APRIL 19, 2019**

Status Conference – Compliance of Court Order on 06/05/2025.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0000961 IN THE MATTER OF JOHN KRAUS

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **Personal representative and counsel are ordered to appear**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0001010 IN THE MATTER OF ELEANOR C. CRISWELL

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **Personal representative is ordered to appear** to address failure to complete Item 5 of the Final Inventory and Appraisal.

PR001062 IN THE MATTER OF KEITH STONEKING

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **Personal representative and counsel are ordered to appear** to address failure to date personal representative's signature under penalty of perjury.

PR0001110 IN THE MATTER OF NEIL ALAN ESKIND

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. The matter is ordered **off calendar**; the Final Inventory and Appraisal has been filed.

PR0001216 IN THE MATTER OF RUTH ELIZABETH WEST

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. The matter is ordered **off calendar**; the Final Inventory and Appraisal has been filed.

PR0001260 IN THE MATTER OF ROSWITHA K. BURK

1. Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal
2. Order – Show Cause – Why personal representative should not be removed, sanctioned for failure to appear, why failed to file the final inventory and appraisal

Ruling. The matter is ordered **off calendar**; the Final Inventory and Appraisal has been filed. The Order to Show Cause is **discharged**.

PR0001278 IN THE MATTER OF RUTH KATHLEEN MCCREIGHT

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

Judge James T. Chou
Department C
1:30 Calendar

PR0000003 IN THE MATTER OF JOHN KRAUS

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0000722 IN THE MATTER OF SHEILA MACDONALD

Petition for Substituted Judgment, filed by Cameron Bamberger on 6/4/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0000968 IN THE MATTER OF BIVONIA MARIA KLEIN AND TAYA SALINA KLEIN

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0001041 IN THE MATTER OF AURALEE DOUGHERTY

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

Ruling. The matter is ordered **off calendar**; the Final Inventory and Appraisal has been filed.

PR0001329 IN THE MATTER OF YARI ADIEL SOLIS

Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator of the Person, filed by Sonia Floridalma Gutierrez on 6/30/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PR0001334 IN THE MATTER OF VICTORIA DAWN GONZALES

Petition for Visitation, filed by Sabrina Tucker-Gonzales on 8/20/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0001413 IN THE MATTER OF TAYLINN ZHUKOV AND GAVIN ZHUKOV

Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Person of Minors, filed by Bridget Connolly on 8/13/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PR0001472 IN THE MATTER OF KAREN ACCACIA LYNN CARTER/FOSTER

Amended Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator of the Person, filed by Sharon Lee McKay on 11/4/25.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear.**

PRO2103285 IN THE MATTER OF MARGARET M. KINKAID

Petition – Terminate Conservatorship - Death.

Ruling. **The Parties are ordered to appear.** If this Petition is granted, Conservator shall comply with the following future date:

1. Confidential Conservatorship Care Plan.
 - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Confidential Conservatorship Care Plan shall be set on March 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m..
 - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Confidential Conservatorship Care Plan is not filed at least five court days prior to the hearing.

PRO2103960 MADELEINE MORENO, CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE

Third and Final Account and Report of Conservator and Petition for Its Settlement; Allowance of Conservator's Commission and Attorney Fees; Final Distribution to Trust, filed by Marin County Public Guardian on 9/11/25.

Ruling. Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing.**

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).

PRO2203245 IN THE MATTER OF STEPHANIE SAUNDERS

- 1) Petition – Terminate Conservatorship
- 2) Accounting – First Account Current and Report of Conservator
- 3) Order – Show Cause - Sanctions.

Ruling. The Parties are ordered to appear.

PRO31806 HOLLY HYAMS, CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE OF

Petition for Order for Payment to Fees to the Conservator of the Person and the Estate and for Attorneys' Fees, filed by County of Marin Public Guardian on 8/20/25.

Ruling. This matter is continued to November 20, 2025, at 1:30, for further review.

PLEASE NOTE: Probate cases that are designated as confidential by California law will not be posted online. For tentative rulings in those matters, please contact the judicial secretary at [\(415\) 444-7260](tel:4154447260).