

Tentative Rulings for August 13, 2026, 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.

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Judge James T. Chou
Department C
9:00 Calendar

PR0000136 IN THE MATTER OF MANUEL A. RIVERA

Motion for New Trial, filed by Christine E. Gibson on 7/2/26.

Ruling.

Parties are ordered to appear.

PR0000476 IN THE MATTER OF CLARA BULLOCK

First and Final Account and Report of Personal Representative and for Allowance of Statutory Fees to Personal Representation and Attorney for Personal Representative, and for Final Distribution, filed by Bishlam Bullock on 7/9/26.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to September 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** Petitioner is **ordered to:**

1. **File** a Supplement to Petition, signed and verified by Petitioner, that:
 - a. Explains why David Tate, Jr., is no longer entitled to distribution, as alleged in the 7/12/24 Supplement to Petition; and
 - b. Identifies Mr. Tate's successors in interest.
2. **Mail** notice to all interested parties, including any additional parties identified in Issue 1, using the mandatory Judicial Council Form "Notice of Hearing – Decedent's Estate or Trust". (Judicial Council Forms, form DE-120.)
3. **File** a copy of the DE-120 that was mailed, with the Proof of Service completed on page 2 showing that all interested parties received at least fifteen days' notice of the Report of Status of Administration. (Prob. C. §11601.)
4. **Submit** a proposed Order to the Court. (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(C), Submission of Proposed Orders.)
5. The documents must be filed/submitted at least **five court days prior to hearing.** (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(b), Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures.)

PR0000547 IN THE MATTER OF JOHN HAMPTON LYNCH, III

Petition to Approve Report on Status of Administration, and Request for Reissued Letters Testamentary, filed by John H. Lynch, IV on 7/22/26.

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Ruling. Absent objections, the Report of Status of Administration is **accepted and approved**. Personal Representative is **ordered** to:

1. **Submit** a proposed Order to the Court, no later than five court days from the date of this hearing; and
2. **Comply** with the following future dates:
 - a. Status on Closing Estate.
 - i. Either: (1) a Petition for Final Distribution; or (2) a Report of Status of Administration shall be filed by July 27, 2028, as required by Probate Code sections 12200-12201.
 - ii. A status hearing re filing the Petition or Report shall be set on August 17, 2028, at 10:00 a.m.
 1. If neither document has been timely filed, an appearance will be required.
 2. If the Petition or Report is timely filed, the hearing will be set on August 17, 2028, at 9:00 a.m.

PR0000940 IN THE MATTER OF MARY ANN HOWARD

First and Final Account and Report of Administrator and Petition for Its Settlement, for Allowance of Administrator's Commission and Attorney's Fees for Ordinary Services, and for Final Distribution, filed by Marin County Public Administrator on 7/10/26.

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

PR0000941 IN THE MATTER OF NOEL HENRY MARKLEY

First and Final Account and Report of Administrator and Petition for Its Settlement; for Allowance of Administrator's Compensation for Ordinary Services, for Additional Compensation Under Probate Code § 7623, for Attorney's Fees for Ordinary Services; and for Final Distribution, filed by Marin County Public Administrator on 7/23/26.

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

PR0001056 IN THE MATTER OF FABIO ANGIULI CORTARA

1. Motion to Be Relieved as Counsel, filed by Thomas J. LaLanne on 7/23/26.
2. Ex Parte Motion to Continue Trial, filed by Thomas LaLanne on 7/29/26.

Ruling.

Parties are ordered to appear.

PR0001100 IN THE MATTER OF JAMES BRYAN BYRNES

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1. Final Account and Report of Executor and Petition for Settlement and Approval; for (1) Allowance of Statutory Attorney's Compensation and Executor's Compensation, and (2) Final Distribution, filed by Gianna Rehge on 6/30/26.
2. Petition to Compel Accounting of the Estate of James B. Byrnes, filed by Kevin Tracy on 5/6/26.

Ruling.

Parties are ordered to appear.

PR0001308 IN THE MATTER OF SHEILA B. BOND

Verified Report on Status of Administration, filed by Christopher Kennaugh on 7/23/26.

Ruling. Absent objections, the Report of Status of Administration is **accepted and approved**. Personal Representative is **ordered** to:

1. **Submit** a proposed Order to the Court, no later than five court days from the date of this hearing; and
2. **Comply** with the following future dates:
 - a. Status on Closing Estate.
 - i. Either: (1) a Petition for Final Distribution; or (2) a Report of Status of Administration shall be filed by October 15, 2026, as required by Probate Code sections 12200-12201.
 - ii. A status hearing re filing the Petition or Report shall be set on November 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
 1. If neither document has been timely filed, an appearance will be required.
 2. If the Petition or Report is timely filed, the hearing will be set on November 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

PR0001343 IN THE MATTER OF DIANE G. CLADIANOS-VICKERS

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary, filed by Kip Eldredge on 5/22/26.

Ruling.

This matter is continued to September 17, 2026 for Petitioner to comply with this court's June 25, 2026 order. While the court is now in possession of the will in this matter, Petitioner has failed to properly serve the office of the Marin County Public Administrator.

PR0001594 IN THE MATTER OF THE NAGASHIMA FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST

1. Petition to Contest and Invalidate Handwritten Document Dated December 29, 2024 Based on Undue Influence and/or Lack of Capacity, filed by Catharine Nagashima, by and through her

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agent under a limited power of attorney, Mary Nishi, Yutaka Nahashima, Gen Nagashima, Rebecca Rawson, Kendra Sutich, Kameron Mengel, and Jessica Benton on 12/12/25.

2. Petition for Instructions to Determine Validity of December 2024 Amendment to the Nagashima Family Revocable Trust, filed by Todd C. Hedin on 2/4/26.

Ruling.

Parties are ordered to appear.

PR0001651 IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER D. KELLEY

Final Account and Report of Administrator, Petition for Allowance of Statutory Fees to Attorney; and for Final Distribution, filed by Justice Kelley on 6/29/26.

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

PR0001727 IN THE MATTER OF MARTHA LAVERN GRANT

Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Monique S. Johnson on 3/23/26.

Ruling.

JTC

Monique S. Johnson is ordered to appear to address her failure to date the Notice of Petition to Administer Estate. Ms. Johnson will have no authority to act unless and until her petition is granted and her proposed order is signed by the court.

If her petition is granted, Ms. Johnson 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 January 7, 2027, 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 August 19, 2027, as required by Probate Code sections 12200 and 12201.
 - b. A status hearing re filing the Petition or Report shall be set on September 9, 2027, 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 September 9, 2027, at 9:00 a.m.
3. Petitioner is ordered to submit a proposed Order to the Court, no later than five court days from the date of granting of her petition.

PR0001775 IN THE MATTER OF JOE WAHNSIEDLER

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Amended Petition for Probate of Lost Will and for Letters Testamentary, filed by Helene Robertson on 7/9/26.

Ruling.

Counsel Thomas Wrobel is ordered to appear to address the date of the Second Supplemental filed on July 22, 2026, listing a signature date of July 21, **2006**, and the date of mailing, item 4(a) of the DE-121 filed on July 27, 2026.

PR0001787 IN THE MATTER OF OSCAR CARLSON

Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Linnea Carlson on 4/29/26.

Ruling.

Parties are ordered to appear to address why this petition should not be denied.

PR0001866 IN THE MATTER OF LUCILLE H. SCHWARZMANN REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST

Petition of Trustee, Kim Schwarcz, to Resign as Trustee of the Sub-Trust of the Lucille H. Schwarzmnn Revocable Trust Dated October 30, 2015, for the Benefit of Susan Burke; for the Appointment of a Trustee; Nomination of William Hall as Trustee of the Sub-Trust; and for Settlement of All Accounts of the Subtrust from September 25, 2018 through Marh 31, 2026, filed by Kim Schwarcz on 6/22/26.

Ruling.

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

PR0001867 IN THE MATTER OF MICHAEL R. GERLING TRUST AS AMENDED AND RESTATED

Petition for Order Confirming Trust Assets, filed by Miles Richardson on 6/22/26.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to September 17, 2026, at 9:00. Petitioner is ordered to:**

1. **Mail** direct notice to August Gerling and to attorney Sam Storey, using the mandatory Judicial Council Form "Notice of Hearing on Petition to Determine Claim to Property." ((Cal. Rules of Court, rule 7.51(a); Judicial Council Forms, form DE-115.)
2. **File** a copy of the DE-115 that was mailed, with the Proof of Service completed on page 2 showing that all interested parties received at least fifteen days' notice of the Report of Status of Administration. (Prob. C. §11601.)
3. The Proof of Service must be filed/submitted at least **five court days prior to hearing**. (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(b), Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures.)

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PR0001869 IN THE MATTER OF THOMAS A. MacNICHOLS IRREVOCABLE TRUST

Petition for Instructions; Appointment of Successor Trustee and Approval of Prior Trustee's Accountings per Probate Code 17200, filed by Kim Schwarcz on 6/23/26.

Ruling.

Absent objections, the petition is granted. Petitioner is ordered to submit a proposed Order to the Court, no later than five court days from the date of this hearing.

PR0001894 IN THE MATTER OF GISELA SCHARIAT

Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Markus Schariat on 7/13/26.

Ruling. This matter is **continued to September 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.** Petitioner is ordered to address the following:

1. File a Supplement to Petition, signed and verified by Petitioner, stating whether Decedent was survived by any issue of a predeceased child. (Item 5a(7)-(8).) If so, please provide their names, ages, relationships to Decedent, and address.
2. Mail notice of the Petition for Probate to all interested parties, including any parties identified in Issue 1, using the mandatory Judicial Council Form "Notice of Petition to Administer Estate." (Judicial Council Forms, form DE-121.)
3. File a copy of the DE-121 that was mailed, with the Proof of Service completed on page 2 showing that all interested parties received at least fifteen days' notice of the Petition for Probate. (Prob. Code, § 8110.)
4. File Proof of Publication of Notice. (Prob. Code, § 8120 et seq.)
5. Submit proposed Order on the mandatory form "Order for Probate." (Judicial Council Forms, form DE-140.)
6. All documents must be filed or submitted at least five court days prior to hearing. (Super. Ct. Marin County, Local Rules, rule 6.2(b), Filing, Hearing, and Continuance Procedures.)

PR0001926 IN THE MATTER OF CAROL G. POOL

Petition to Establish Fact, Date, and Place of Marriage, filed by Carol G. Pool on 8/4/26.

Ruling.

This matter is continued to September 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for further review. Petitioner is ordered to file, at least five court days prior to hearing, a pleading explaining why Peter Ziegler's distribution amount should not be deposited with the County Treasurer pursuant to Probate Code § 11851 or to the State pursuant to Probate Code § 11900.

PRO1802115 ROSEMARY THERESA BOCK, ESTATE OF

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Petition for Order on Report of Administrator; for Waiver of Account; for Statutory Administrator's and Attorney's Compensation; for Reimbursement of Costs Advanced; and for Final Distribution, filed by Holger Siegwart on 7/15/26.

Ruling. This matter is continued to **September 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for further review.**

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Judge James T. Chou
Department C
10:00 Calendar

PR0001235 IN THE MATTER OF PATRICIA RAISER

Status Conference - Final Distribution or Report on Status of Administration

Ruling. This matter is **ordered off calendar** as moot.

PR0001437 IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD ROY LOWRY

Status Conference – Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

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

PR0001668 IN THE MATTER OF THELMA GALLEGIONI

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

Ruling. Personal representative Ermanno Gallegioni, Jr. and attorney Mario G. Paolini, Jr. are **ordered to appear**.

PR0001669 IN THE MATTER OF ANNE LEWIN

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

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

PR0001670 IN THE MATTER OF TIM FIRMAN

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

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

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PR0001675 IN THE MATTER OF RICHARD VALLS

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

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

PR0001676 IN THE MATTER OF DARRELL LYNN PHIPPS

Status Conference - Filing of Final Inventory and Appraisal

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

PRO2102394 IN RE THE SANDY FIELDS REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, TRUST OF

Status Conference – Second Account

Ruling. Trustee Sarah Berger and attorney Mercy Hall are **ordered to appear**.

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Judge James T. Chou
Department C
1:30 Calendar

PR0001084 IN THE MATTER OF MARCIA DINKELSPIEL

Status Conference re Transfer to Marin

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

PRO36840 CONSERVATORSHIP OF CAROLE CULVER

Verified Sixteenth and Seventeenth Account and Report of Conservators of the Person and Estate of Carole Culver, filed by James Pappin and Sidney Scarboro on 4/23/26.

Ruling.

Absent objections, this Petition will be **granted without hearing** and the Conservatorship of the Estate of Carole Culver is hereby terminated.

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