

Honorable Daniel S. Belsky

Probate Department Courtroom Staff:

Courtroom Clerk: Melisa Wong-Jimenez

Bailiff: Randy Steadman

Courtroom: (619) 844-2054

Virtual Appearances

Court appearances may be made either in person or virtually, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Virtual appearances must be made using the department's Microsoft Teams ("MS Teams") video link or by calling the department's MS Teams conference phone number and using the assigned conference ID number. The MS Teams video conference links and phone numbers can be found at <http://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/ProbateVirtualHearings>.

All Ex Parte Matters

A party seeking ex parte relief must provide notice in compliance with California Rule of Court 3.1203 to all persons entitled to notice. A separate Declaration of Notice that complies with California Rule of Court 3.1204 must accompany every request for an Ex Parte order. The Court will not consider a request to waive notice when the recipient or the recipient's address is unknown unless the declaration required by California Rule of Court 7.52 is submitted

In addition to compliance with California Rules of Court 3.1200 et seq., all applicants for ex parte relief must comply with San Diego Superior Court Rules 4.7.5 and 4.7.6, including submission of a separately prepared proposed order.

Counsel are reminded that, per California Rule of Court 3.1202(c), an Ex Parte Application requires an affirmative factual showing by declaration containing competent testimony based on personal knowledge of irreparable harm, immediate danger or some other statutory basis for ex parte relief.

Contested and/or Personal Appearance Ex Parte Applications

Contested Ex Parte Applications, or those where counsel wishes to see the Judge, will be heard on Tuesdays at 08:45 a.m. and Fridays at 8:45 a.m. Moving papers, and declarations, should be filed by 10:00 a.m. on the court day preceding the hearing. A reservation may be obtained by submitting to the Business Office the Probate Ex Parte Coversheet (PR-136) with an Ex Parte Application and order. There is a limit on the number of reservations.

Parties appearing ex parte must serve the application, or any written opposition, on all other appearing parties at the first reasonable opportunity. Absent exceptional circumstances, no hearing shall be conducted unless such service has been made. See California Rule of Court 3.1206.

Law and Motion

Law and Motion matters are heard on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. on Friday. **(Beginning on 12/1/22 hearings on motions will commence at 2:00 P.M.)** In most cases the Court will post a Tentative Ruling by 3:00 p.m. the preceding Thursday. The ruling may be accessed here at <https://www.sdcourt.ca.gov/sdcourt/probate2/tentativerulings>. If all counsel wish to submit on the Tentative Ruling rather than appear for argument, please contact the department clerk to advise the Court. Please read the tentative ruling before appearing for the motion hearing.

Deadlines for filing Law and Motion Pleadings are governed by the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court. Provisions of Division IV of the San Diego Superior Court Rules that are otherwise applicable to probate matters are not applicable to Law and Motion matters and will not be observed by the Court to the extent that they are inconsistent with the Code of Civil Procedure.

If a matter settles, or a hearing otherwise becomes unnecessary, counsel should notify the Courtroom clerk in Dept. 504 at the earliest opportunity so that limited Court resources will not be wasted reviewing the matter and the freed time may be used for other matters.

Case Management Conferences

The Court expects compliance with San Diego Superior Court Rule 4.22.6 in advance of all Case Management Conferences, unless compliance is expressly waived by the Court.

Trials and Evidentiary Hearings

The Court's trial/hearing schedule is on Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a 15-minute recess in the morning and afternoon. The parties must complete their matters within the time allotted.

Parties are reminded of the provisions of San Diego Superior Court Rules 4.22.8 and 4.22.9 relating to Trial Readiness Conferences and Rule 4.22.11 relating to trial briefs, motions in limine, witness and exhibit lists, and marking of exhibits.

Guidelines for parties and witnesses appearing virtually for trials and evidentiary hearings in this department can be found here.

Parties are advised that one week prior to trial, joint witness lists and joint exhibit binders must be filed with the court and trial briefs must be filed and served on each other. Exhibits are to be placed in three 3-ring binders that have a table of contents, tabbing and pagination for multi-page exhibits. One binder shall be for the Court, one is for the witness stand and one is for the clerk, which shall have the official exhibit tags attached. Witness lists are to contain time estimates for direct and cross-examination. If there are any witnesses that are appearing virtually, they are to be provided with paper copies of exhibits.

Please confirm with the Clerk that exhibits have been properly marked prior to the commencement of trial.

Hearings on Sales of Real Property

Reports of Sale and Petitions for Order Confirming Sale of Real Property in Probate ([JC Form #DE-260/GC-060](#)) are heard on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.

When there is a successful overbid in open court on a sale of real property, an “Increased Bid in Open Court” ([SDSC PR065](#)) must be completed, signed, and filed with the court before the conclusion of the hearing; otherwise, confirmation is not effective. Any overbidding party must present proof of an appropriate deposit when submitting the SDSC PR-65 form at the hearing.

Probate Code § 10311(a)(2) requires that an Increased Bid in Open Court be made by a responsible person. In making the determination whether the “responsible person” requirement has been met, the court will consider whether the overbidding party has in his or her possession at the confirmation hearing sufficient certified funds or cashier’s checks as a deposit in an amount equal to at least 10% of the amount he or she will bid, and a loan qualification letter or bank statements verifying the buyer’s ability to complete the sale.

A potentially overbidding party is encouraged to confer with the moving party in advance of the hearing so the moving party can ascertain whether the overbidding party is qualified to bid, typically by presenting the above-referenced deposit.

Due to the foregoing logistical requirements, the court encourages the moving party and any overbidding party to appear in person (rather than virtually) at the hearing to minimize the necessity for a continuance.

Additional requirements regarding sales of real property are found in Chapter 13 of the San Diego Superior Court Rules.

Telecourt

For matters that are set to be heard on the Court's "Estate Appointments" calendar, which is held on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., as well as matters that are set to be heard on the Court's "Accountings" calendars, which are held on Tuesdays at 09:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. for continued matters, the Court conducts Telecourt on the immediately preceding Monday at 4:00 p.m. For matters that are set to be heard on the Court's "Miscellaneous" Probate calendar, which is held on Wednesdays at 09:00 a.m., the Court conducts Telecourt on the preceding Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.

Tele court is appropriate only for non-contested matters that are ready for pre-approval and noncontested requests for continuances. The Court will not continue a matter during Tele court unless all parties who have appeared in the matter agree in advance to the request, including court appointed counsel and guardians ad litem.

Telecourt is **not** available for the "Guardianship Appointment" calendar called on Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. (**Guardianship matters commencing at 2pm beginning on 02/08/2023**), the "Review Hearing" calendar called at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, or the "Conservatorship Appointment" calendar called on Thursday at 09:00 a.m.

The Telecourt phone number is **(619) 844-2817**.

Thank you,

Judge Daniel S. Belsky