

PROBATE NOTES FOR DEPARTMENT 2, OCTOBER 2, 2026

1. **Estate of Gwendolyn Marie Barendregt (PR12750).** Judge Carrillo is disqualified in this matter, and it has been referred to the Presiding Judge for reassignment. The Court will notify the parties of the new court date.
2. **Estate of Mark Thomas Bellinger (PR12414).** Review Hearing. No appearances required. On June 29, 2026, administrators advised the Court they needed more time to prepare and file a Petition for Final Distribution. More time was required, in part, to sell real property. The July 10, 2026, review hearing was vacated. On September 21, 2026, administrators filed a status report in which they disclosed real property owned by the estate is in escrow to sell. They request an additional 90 days to complete the sale. Based on this record, good cause exists to grant a continuance to 1/15/27, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 2.
3. **Estate of Louis A. Benoit Jr. (PR12133).** Final Distribution Hearing. Appearances required. The Court previously requested further information and clarification regarding: 1) reimbursement of \$17,436.78 to original administrator; 2) former administrator's request for 2/3 of the statutory fee in spite of her absence from the state for an extended period of time, which required substitution of new administrator; 3) the deposit of proceeds from sale of real property into an interest-bearing account and an update on the amount in that account; 4) the plan for distribution to the "Estate of Louis"; and, 5) the request for extraordinary fees. Minute Order Aug. 7, 2026.

On September 14, 2026, administrator filed a Supplement to First and Final Account and Report of Administrator. Petitioner addresses the first concern of the Court by providing a written explanation and records pertaining to foreclosure on the estate property and the cost to "reinstate" the loan. Petitioner addresses the second concern of the Court by providing a written explanation pertaining to former administrator's absence. Petitioner did not address the third concern of the Court. Petitioner addressed the fourth concern of the Court by providing a declaration made by Cheryl Bamberger that pertains to Louis Bamberger's share of this estate in which she agrees to hold harmless and indemnify administrator for transfer of assets to declarant as Trustee of the Louis and Cheryl Bamberger Living Revocable Trust. Petitioner provided a written explanation and billing records in support of the request for extraordinary fees, in response to the fifth concern of the Court.

On the same date, administrator filed a Second Supplement to First and Final Account and Report of Administrator. Petitioner's counsel provided documentation pertaining to the additional cost of a bond premium and requested reimbursement.

The Court's concern regarding the current value of the estate and whether the proceeds from the sale of real property is held in an interest-bearing account have not been addressed. See Cal. Prob. Code § 9652. The proposed order lodged on September 14, 2026, lists the value of cash in the bank to be the same as it was in September 2023. An explanation is required.

4. **Estate of Shirley Bianchi (PR12834).** Probate Will/Issue Letters. Appearances required. A will must be in writing, signed by the testator or other person authorized by law, with

that signature being witnessed by two persons who were present at the time or who witnessed the testator's acknowledgement of the signing. Cal. Prob. Code § 6110(a)-(c). When not executed in compliance with these requirements, a proponent may present clear and convincing evidence the testator intended the document to serve as her will. Cal. Prob. Code § 6110(c)(2). Alternately, a holographic, or handwritten, will that does not comply with the requirements of section 6110 is valid so long as the material provisions and signature are in the handwriting of the testator/decedent. Cal. Prob. Code § 6111. It is unclear from the submitted will whether the witnesses saw the decedent sign the paper or what they understood the paper to mean. Form DE-135, Proof of Holographic Instrument, has not been submitted to verify decedent's handwriting. Petitioner will need to explain which section of the Probate Code should apply. No written objections to the will have been filed. Hearing will be held to address the concerns of the Court and to determine whether any objections will be stated by any interested party.

5. **Estate of Donald Burns (PR12835).** Letters of Administration. No appearances required. Documents are in order. Brother and sister of decedent have demonstrated sufficient relation to serve as administrators. Cal. Prob. Code § 8461. Letters will issue. Review on the inventory and appraisal is set on 2/5/2027 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept 2, and the Review on the PC 12200 is set on 10/15/2027 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept 2.
6. **Estate of Charles Clifford Collins, Jr. (PR12773).** Letters of Administration. Appearances required. This is a continued hearing on a petition to admit a foreign will to probate and to issue Letters of Testamentary for the petitioning personal representative. The Court requires an update regarding status of competing probate case filed in Michigan.
7. **Estate of Asterio Navarro (PR12836).** Letters of Administration. No appearance required. This matter pertains to real property located in Tuolumne County owned by an intestate non-resident decedent who died in another state. Property is valued at \$24,000. Petitioner is decedent's surviving spouse. Petitioner has demonstrated sufficient relation to serve as administrator. Cal. Prob. Code § 8461. No written objections have been filed. Assuming no objections are stated in court, letters will issue. Review on the inventory and appraisal is set on 2/5/2027 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept 2, and the Review on the PC 12200 is set on 10/15/2027 at 8:30 a.m. in Dept 2.
8. **Estate of Michael Donovan Patterson (PR12771).** Review Hearing. Appearances required. On May 1, 2026, the Court granted petition to admit a will to probate and issued Letters Testamentary to the executor. Since then, notices to the State of California Department of Health Care Services, and to the Franchise Tax Board have been filed as required pursuant to section 9202 of the Probate Code. The Court requests an update.
9. **Estate of Richard Anthony Remington (PR12840).** Probate Will/Issue Letters. Appearances required. In the Confidential filing the date of birth of the personal representative is listed as 8/25/26 and it is unclear if this is the correct date. Court requests additional information. Documents appear generally in order. However, evidence of publication of the hearing has not yet been filed. See Cal. Probate Code § 8120. No written objections have been filed. The court requests status of publication.