

**Tentative Rulings for January 30, 2025 Probate Calendar**

Judge James T. Chou  
Department C

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

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To Join a Zoom Meeting, please follow this link: [www.marin.courts.ca.gov](http://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.
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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.**
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There is no need to inform the Court of your intent to appear if the tentative ruling requires an appearance.

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**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

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**PR000001     IN THE MATTER OF CINDY DENISE LEAF**

Final Report of Administrator and Petition for Order of: (1) Approval of Report of Administrator; (2) Approval of Account; (3) Allowance of Attorney Statutory Compensation; (4) Waiver of Statutory Administrator Compensation; (5) Reimbursement to Petition; and (6) Final Distribution.

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

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**PR000077     IN THE MATTER OF THE JOEL P. BARTLETT DECLARATION OF TRUST, DATED JULY 25, 2001**

OSC Re Dismissal of Petition for an Order: (1) Confirming Trust Assets and Directing Transfer of Assets to Trust; and (2) for Damages in Association with Unauthorized Computer Access and Fraud.

Ruling. **All outstanding petitions are now dismissed, in light of the settlement.**

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**PR000024     IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN EUGENE MCCANN**

Report of Status of Administration.

Ruling. **Continued to March 6, 2025 at 9:00.** Petitioner is to file the following no later than February 27, 2025:

1. Verification of Report. The Report of Status of Administration is to be brought by the personal representative (Prob. C. § 12200). Administrator must file either:
  - a. A verification of the Attorney's Report; or
  - b. A new Report of Status of Administration.
2. Notice/POS. All interested parties must receive at least 15 days' notice of the Report of Status of Administration (Prob. C. § 12201(b)). Notice must be given on the mandatory form (DE-120) with the box checked in Item 1 stating this is a Report of Status of Administration.

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**PR0000459     IN THE MATTER OF OWEN MURPHY**

Motion to Set Aside Order Establishing Fact of Death.

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

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**PR0000465     IN THE MATTER OF BRUCE M. BREITMAN TRUST - 2016, AS AMENDED**

Petition - Other - Remove Trustee, to Appoint Successor Trustee, and Surcharge  
Status Conference - regarding mediation and potential trial setting

Ruling. **Off calendar** pursuant to Request for Dismissal entered on 1/23/25.

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**PR0000467     IN THE MATTER OF MARGARET MAJOR GRADE**

- 1) Petition for Probate of Lost Will and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed, filed by Mark J. Rice on 3/12/24.
- 2) Petition for Letters of Administration, filed by Daniel DeLong on 3/21/24.
- 3) Status regarding possible global settlement

Ruling. **Continued to May 28, 2025 at 9:00** for status of mediation and possible discovery.

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**PR0000531     IN THE MATTER OF JOSHUA ARMEL**

- 1) Verified Petition for Damages for: (1) Request for Order of Conveyance of Property; (2) Elder Financial Abuse; (3) Breach of Fiduciary Duty; (4) Constructive Fraud; (5) Undue Influence; (6) Cancellation of Instrument – Mohawk Avenue; (7) Cancellation of Instrument – Masonic Avenue; and (8) Rescission, filed by Joshua Armel on 4/10/24.
- 2) Petition for Accounting; Petition to Challenge Ownership of Trust Assets, filed by Tatyana Mironova on 4/30/24.

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

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**PR0000553     IN THE MATTER OF EMMA LOU PUDENZ**

Petition to Terminate Administration for Lack of Assets.

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

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**PR0000748     IN THE MATTER OF CAROLE-ANN V. TAYLOR**

Petition for order establishing a single trust under Trust Instrument.

Ruling. **Counsel is ordered to appear** and provide the Court with an update regarding the failure to file the Supplement to Petition and, if needed, Petitions to appoint GALs for any minors.

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**PR0000829     IN THE MATTER OF STEPHANIE SPERLING SJODAHL**

Domestic Partner Property Petition.

Ruling. **The parties are ordered to appear** to discuss Decedent's signature on the various documents.

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**PR0000830     IN THE MATTER OF ROY R. DAYTON**

Spousal Property Petition.

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

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**PR0000836     IN THE MATTER OF GERTRUDE M. BUSH REVOCABLE INTER VIVOS TRUST DATED  
AUGUST 25, 1995 AND ALL SUBTRUSTS CREATED THEREAFTER**

Petition for Order Accepting Resignation of Trustee; Appointing Successor Trustee; and Confirming Trust Property.

Ruling. **Continued to March 6, 2025 at 9:00.** Petitioner is to file one of the following no later than February 27, 2025:

1. Copy of the bank statement confirming title to Wells Fargo Account -0097; or
2. A Declaration explaining why Petitioner is unable to provide such statement.

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**PR0000840     IN THE MATTER OF LOREN RICHARD PICARD**

- 1) Application for order to produce decedent's Google email Google account contents.
- 2) Petition for letters of special administration.

Ruling. **Continued to March 6, 2025 at 9:00.** Petitioner is to file the following no later than February 27, 2025:

1. Proof of Service confirming that all interested parties received at least 15 days' notice of the Amended Petition for Letters of Special Administration filed 1/24/25. Please note that Petitioner must use the mandatory Judicial Counsel Form DE-120.

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**PR0000874     IN THE MATTER OF FREDERICK BRUCE DODGE**

Spousal Property Petition.

Ruling. **Continued to February 20, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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**PR0000875     IN THE MATTER OF ROGER L. MARCUS TRUST 9/15/1999**

Petition for Determination of Construction of Trust Instrument, to Ascertain Trust Beneficiaries and Confirmation of Trustee.

Ruling. **Continued to February 27, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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**PR0000876     IN THE MATTER OF MARIE-THERESE HYNES HELM**

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary.

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

Future dates.

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
  - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on June 5, 2025 at 10:00.
  - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final I&A is not filed at least 5 court days prior to hearing.
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 February 5, 2026, as required by Prob. C §§ 12200 & 12201.
  - b. A status hearing re filing a Petition or Report shall be set on February 26, 2026 at 10:00.
    - 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 February 26, 2026 at 9:00.

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**PR0000880     IN THE MATTER OF THE STEINBERG TRUST DATED MAY 6, 2020**

Petition for Order Confirming Trust Assets.

Ruling. **Continued to February 27, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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**PR0000983     IN THE MATTER OF MARY JANE MARE HARDING**

Petition for Probate of Lost Will and for Letters of Administration with Will Annexed.

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

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**PR0000990     IN THE MATTER OF HELEN L. SITCHLER**

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary.

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

Future dates.

3. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
  - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on June 5, 2025 at 10:00.
  - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final I&A is not filed at least 5 court days prior to hearing.
4. Status on Closing Estate.
  - a. Either: (1) a Petition for Final Distribution; or (2) a Report on Status of Administration shall be filed by February 5, 2026, as required by Prob. C §§ 12200 & 12201.
  - b. A status hearing re filing a Petition or Report shall be set on February 26, 2026 at 10:00.
    - 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 February 26, 2026 at 9:00.

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**PR0000992     IN THE MATTER OF TONY VALIS**

Petition for letters of administration.

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

Future dates.

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
  - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on June 5, 2025 at 10:00.
  - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final I&A is not filed at least 5 court days prior to hearing.
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 February 5, 2026, as required by Prob. C §§ 12200 & 12201.
  - b. A status hearing re filing a Petition or Report shall be set on February 26, 2026 at 10:00.
    - 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 February 26, 2026 at 9:00.

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**PR0000998     IN THE MATTER OF XIAORU LANG HOYTT**

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary.

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

Future dates.

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
  - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on June 5, 2025 at 10:00.
  - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final I&A is not filed at least 5 court days prior to hearing.
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 February 5, 2026, as required by Prob. C §§ 12200 & 12201.
  - b. A status hearing re filing a Petition or Report shall be set on February 26, 2026 at 10:00.
    - 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 February 26, 2026 at 9:00.

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**PR0001015     IN THE MATTER OF MARTHA C. BROWN**

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary.

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

Future dates.

1. Final Inventory and Appraisal.
  - a. A status hearing for the filing of the Final Inventory and Appraisal shall be set on June 5, 2025 at 10:00.
  - b. An appearance will be required on that date if the Final I&A is not filed at least 5 court days prior to hearing.
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 February 5, 2026, as required by Prob. C §§ 12200 & 12201.
  - b. A status hearing re filing a Petition or Report shall be set on February 26, 2026 at 10:00.
    - 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 February 26, 2026 at 9:00.

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**PR0001024    IN THE MATTER OF MARJORIE ALEXIS TODD**

Petition for Probate of Will and for Letters Testamentary.

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

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**PR0001033    IN THE MATTER OF DENNIS D. STUART**

Spousal Property Petition.

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

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**PRO075643    IN THE MATTER OF THE JOHN B. DOE SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST**

Petition for Instructions to Approve the Sale of Petitioner's Real Property to the Special Needs Trust.

Ruling. **Continued to February 20, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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**PRO095188    CHRISTINE SHEPHERD HELM, ESTATE OF**

- 1) Order to show cause; removal as a result of failure to take any action/prosecute case.
- 2) Supplemental Report of Executor on Waiver of Account and Petition for Its Settlement, and for Allowance of Fees to Attorney.

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

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**PR02001571    DAVID FREDERICK COURY, ESTATE OF**

- 1) Petition for Approval of Executor's Second Accounting and Report Thereon, filed by James W. Haworth on 6/3/24.
- 2) Status hearing re filing Final Accounting by James Haworth.
- 3) Status hearing re filing Status Report by Tamara Hull.

**Ruling. Attorney Haworth is ordered to appear to explain failure to file his final accounting and failure to respond to Attorney Hull's requests for transfer of files and assets and to meet and confer. If Mr. Haworth fails to appear, the Court will issue an Order to Show Cause as to why he should not be surcharged for these failures.**

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**PRO2102193    DUCK YO QUOSS, ESTATE OF**

Order to show cause regarding dismissal and why all outstanding petitions should not be dismissed.

Ruling. All outstanding petitions are dismissed.

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**PRO2102432 DUCK YO QUOSS, ESTATE OF**

Order to show cause regarding dismissal.

Ruling. All outstanding petitions are dismissed.

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**PRO2300893 LOUIS THEODORE KIRCOS, ESTATE OF**

Petition regarding status report of administration.

Ruling. **Continued to February 20, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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**PRO2301725 IN THE MATTER OF ANDREA JOY MORGAN, ESTATE OF**

Petition regarding approval of report of status of administration.

Ruling. **Continued to February 20, 2025 at 9:00 for further review.**

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Judge James T. Chou  
Department C  
10:00 Calendar

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**PR000201    IN THE MATTER OF DEIDRA ANN CARSON**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Appearance is required.**

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**PR000424    IN THE MATTER OF CHARLES KENNETH LEWIS**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Off calendar – Final I&A has been filed.**

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**PR000552    IN THE MATTER OF ISABEL PONCE FLORES**

- 1) Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.
- 2) Order to show cause why the court should not issue sanctions for failure to appear on 12/12/24 and the failure to file inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Counsel is ordered to appear to address why he should not be sanction in the amount of \$149 for failure to appear on 12/12/24 and failure to file Final I&A.**

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**PR000730    IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM CLINT STOCK**

- 1) Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.
- 2) Order to show cause regarding failure to file final inventory and appraisal and failure to appear on 01/09/2025.
- 3) Order to show cause why sanctions in the amount of \$149 should not issue for the failure to appear.

Ruling. **Counsel is ordered to appear to address by what date a Final I&A can be filed.**

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**PR000790    IN THE MATTER OF BENJAMIN R. FLETCHER**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Off calendar – Final I&A has been filed.**

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**PR0000792     IN THE MATTER OF EDWARD L. MORGAN**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Off calendar – Final I&A has been filed.**

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**PR0000818     IN THE MATTER OF GEORGE CEDELL HARMON**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **Off calendar – Final I&A has been filed.**

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**PR0000823     IN THE MATTER OF NORMA B. CONNOR**

Status regarding filing of final inventory and appraisal.

Ruling. **The status hearing re filing Final I&A is continued to May 1, 2025 at 10:00. The court denies the request to approve the Report of Status of Filing of a Final Inventory and Appraisal, finding no statutory requirement to do so.**

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**PRO2002254     IN RE THE Yael ILINETSKY SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST, TRUST OF**

Status regarding proof that Massachusetts Court has accepted jurisdiction and supervision of special needs trust.

Ruling. **Appearance is required** to update the court regarding proof that Massachusetts Court has accepted jurisdiction and supervision of special needs trust.

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**PRO2002255     IN RE THE YOEL ILINETSKY SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST, TRUST OF**

Status regarding proof that Massachusetts Court has accepted jurisdiction and supervision of special needs trust.

Ruling. **Appearance is required** to update the court regarding proof that Massachusetts Court has accepted jurisdiction and supervision of special needs trust.

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Judge James T. Chou  
Department C  
1:30 Calendar

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**PR0000453     IN THE MATTER OF ANDREW M. TOMASINI**

First accounting and report of successor conservator.

Ruling. **Continued to March 6, 2025 at 1:30.** Petitioner is to file the following no later than February 27, 2025:

1. Final Inventory & Appraisal (the Court was unable to find this in the documents received from the Del Norte Court).
2. Account statements to confirm beginning and ending assets on hand.

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**PR0000764     IN THE MATTER OF NANCY B. CONE**

Report of Sale and Petition for Order Confirming Sale of Real Property.

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

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**PR0000791     IN THE MATTER OF GABRIELLE SAMARA TABER SINGER**

Petition for Appointment of Limited Probate Conservator of the Person.

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

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**PR0000871     IN THE MATTER OF MONROE JAMES GROSHONG NAKO 'OKA**

Amended Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Person.

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

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**PR0001057     IN THE MATTER OF ALINA NURISTANI**

Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian of the Person

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

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**PRO1901309 ELIZABETH ANNE BEISENSTEIN, CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND THE ESTATE**

Third Account and Report of Conservator and Petition for Its Settlement; for Approval of Conservator's Fees and Periodic Payments, for Approval of Attorneys' Fees and Costs Advanced; for Reduction of Bond; and for Approval to Abandon Fidelity Investments Account.

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

1. Successor Conservator is to file the Fourth Account for the period 7/1/24 – 6/30/26 by September 10, 2026.
2. A hearing shall be set for October 22, 2026 at 1:30 for either.
  - a. Hearing on the Fourth Account; or
  - b. Explanation as to why it was not timely filed.

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**PRO2100745 CLYDE E. EATON, CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE**

Second Account Current and Report of Conservator.

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

1. Conservator is to file the Third Account for the period 12/30/23 – 12/31/25 by March 12, 2026.
2. A hearing shall be set for April 23, 2026 at 1:30 for either.
  - a. Hearing on the Third Account; or
  - b. Explanation as to why it was not timely filed.

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**PRO2101712 IN THE MATTER OF YOUNG PARK**

Second Account and Report of Conservator and Petition for Settlement; for Decrease of Bond; for Approval of Conservator's Fees; for Approval of Attorney's Fees and for Reimbursement of Costs Advanced.

Ruling. **Continued to March 6, 2025 at 1:30 for further review.**

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**PRO2203245 STEPHANIE SAUNDERS AHLBERG, CONSERVATORSHIP OF THE PERSON AND ESTATE**

- 1) Status regarding filing of first accounting and previously ordered sanctions.
- 2) Order to show cause why conservator should not be removed.

Ruling. **Counsel and Conservator are ordered to appear.**

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