

June 2008 Bench-Bar Committee Announcements

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The purpose of the bench-bar committee is to serve as a liaison between the probate bar and the probate court. Our goal is to promote the effective and efficient administration of matters pending before the probate court by encouraging communication between the bench and bar as to how that goal can be achieved. To effectuate our purpose, we have designated two liaisons, Jerilyn Jones and Diane Ritchey-Andrews, to serve as channels of communication from practicing attorneys to the court. Between monthly meetings, our liaisons will gather suggestions, comments, and compliments for purposes of communicating them to the court at the monthly bench-bar meetings. The court, in turn, will gather monthly suggestions for presentation to the bar regarding steps attorneys can take to improve the efficient handling of matters before the court.

The probate examiners, the court, and the bench-bar committee have prepared several tips for the month for June aimed at improving the efficient handling of matters pending before the probate court:

- Effective July 11, 2008, telecourt for the Monday calendar in Department PC2 will open at **11:30 a.m. on Fridays** instead of at 11:00.
- As a reminder, the report required by conservators within 60 days of appointment concerning the appropriate level of care for the conservatee by Probate Code §2352.5 applies to general conservatorships **and** limited conservatorships.
- Effective immediately, the probate examiners' notes will remain posted on the website for sixty days following the hearing on the matter.
- Priority processing is available in situations where an order is urgently needed to meet a priority. In order to have a proposed order processed on a priority basis, a detailed explanation will be needed setting forth the nature of the emergency sufficient to justifying processing the order on a priority basis. Priority processing will not be provided unless the order has been submitted during the week of the hearing. Priority processing is not available where an order has been previously submitted and rejected. If a proposed order does not qualify for priority processing, it will be processed in due course—there is no need to submit a new proposed order.
- As a friendly reminder, all conservators and guardians must be bonded in an amount sufficient to qualify for the new recovery bond requirement no later than June 30, 2008.
- The probate court has provided a link to the probate hearings scheduled for the

next five days on the probate court's website.

- There are several new or revised Judicial Council forms which take effect this year. The forms on the Judicial Council website are current, but the forms in Legal Solutions or other software packages may not be. There are links to the Judicial Council forms on the probate court's website and on www.bondsolutions.com/sdprobate. Some of those forms include the Affidavit re Real Property of Small Value, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator, and Order Appointing Probate Conservator.