

March 2008 Bench-Bar Committee Announcements

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

- the court will be getting a new main telephone number on May 5. That number is (619) 450-7676.
- per statewide Rules of Court, all court appointed attorneys must have Form GC-010 on file with the court no later than April 1 in order to remain on the list of attorneys eligible to be appointed by the court. Please see the handouts provided with you today or the court's website for more details.
- by June 30, every conservator or guardian of an estate must post a bond sufficient to provide for an estimated amount to cover an action for recovery on the bond. The amount is calculated per Rule 7.207 of the statewide Rules of Court. Please see the handouts provided with you today or the court's website for more details.
- to ensure law and motion matters are set on the law and motion calendar, type "Law & Motion" on the line just above the title of the pleading being filed.
- if you use Legal Solutions, to avoid delays in processing orders, be sure to set the software to "show pennies." This is done by opening a form, selecting "Options" from the menu bar, and clicking on "Show Pennies" if there is no check mark next to this menu selection. Apparently, the software truncates pennies by default.
- the order clerk matches proposed orders to examining notes. To expedite processing of orders, if you notice a clerical or typographical error in the examiners' notes, be sure to request at the hearing or at telecourt that the minute order correct the error if you cannot correct the error prior to your hearing.
- as a friendly reminder, telecourt is designed for continuances and preapprovals.

Please consider using telecourt as a means of eliminating the need to appear in person if your matter falls into either category. Otherwise, please appear in person so that others whose matters a continuance or preapproval may take advantage of telecourt.

- as a friendly reminder, in conservatorship matters, the court investigator needs an extra copy of the Petition for Appointment of Probate Conservator, the Confidential Supplemental Information, and the Confidential Conservator Screening Form. This is especially important in temporary conservatorships, where time is of the essence.
- as a friendly reminder, if you are the court appointed attorney in a conservatorship matter, the court investigator will need a copy of your report.