

May 2008 Bench-Bar Committee Announcements

www.bonds-services.com/sdprobate

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 May aimed at improving the efficient handling of matters pending before the probate court:

- the court has new telephone numbers, effective May 5:
 - Main Number: (619) 450-7676
 - Telecourt: (619) 450-7540.
- the bench-bar committee has a website, courtesy of Bond Services. These announcements, along with announcements from prior months and helpful tips and information, are posted on the site. The URL is www.bonds-services.com/sdprobate
- when accessing probate notes on the website, it may be necessary to input the entire case number. The court has received calls from attorneys stating that the probate notes were not accessible, but upon entering the entire case number, the notes were there.
- local form PR-130 is required to be used for orders on probate accountings, on orders for distribution in probate estates, on orders related to compensation in probate proceedings, and on orders pertaining to status reports. This form may also be used in other contexts. Prior to filing an order for signature in probate proceedings, please check Local Form PR-130 to see if it applies. The form is available on the court's website, and there is a link on the bench-bar committee website to the local forms as well. www.bonds-services.com/sdprobate
- please keep in mind that using a cell phone to call in to Telecourt should be done at your own risk. If the call is dropped, then you will need to appear at the

hearing. For that reason, strongly consider using a land line when calling Telecourt. Similarly, you will lose your spot in line if you call in to telecourt and you are not on the phone when your call comes up in the queue.

- as a reminder, conservatorship accountings must now be filed using the new judicial council forms.
- as a reminder, there are several new Judicial Council forms effective July 1, 2008. These include the forms for Affidavit re Real Property of Small Value, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Guardian, Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator, and Order Appointing Probate Conservator.
- the court will be refunding graduated filing fees in excess of \$320 in probate matters upon request made by the petitioner at the time of the final accounting. Otherwise, a refund may be requested by ex parte application. Either way, the order submitted to the court upon approval should reflect the name and address of the person to whom the refund should be made.