

**Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara**



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**Public Comment Period Closes for Changes to Local Rule
Addressing Private Professional Fiduciary Fees**

Court's second phase aimed at strengthening Probate practices begins.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (November 14, 2012): yesterday, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara's (Court) judges voted to adopt minor changes that resulted from public input to the updated Local Rule aimed at strengthening procedures surrounding private professional fiduciary (PPF) fees. During the mandatory 45 day public comment period, the Court received 34 comments from the public and professional organizations, including those received at a public forum hosted by Assemblymember/Senator-elect Jim Beall. All public comments have been compiled and posted to the Court's website, along with the updated Local Rule (Probate Local Rule 11V).

Passage of this final language by the Bench is nearly the last step before the Local Rule becomes effective. Before it can go into effect on January 1, 2013, it will first be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), where it is evaluated to ensure that the proposed changes do not conflict with the California Rules of Court.

"While updating our Local Rule certainly moves the Court forward, our work is not yet done," said Assistant Presiding Judge Brian Walsh. "We hit the ground running when it came to making the changes the Court could do internally, but now is the time to turn our eyes outward and ask, 'Where else could and should we go?'"

With this sentiment in mind, the Court asked the members of its PPF task force to join in a new effort to look holistically at probate practices. On October 30th, the reconstituted group held a meeting to discuss other Probate issues and the appropriate players to spearhead these efforts; the task force members include representatives from Superior Court, Office of County Counsel, Office of the Public Defender, Assemblymember Jim Beall's Office, Assemblymember Jerry Hill's Office, Catholic Charities' Long Term Care, Silicon Valley Independent Living Center and the Administrative Office of the Courts, as well as various members of Santa Clara's legal community.

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