

LPI

LAW OFFICE PROCEDURES MANUAL

2026 REVISION #1

HIGHLIGHTS

All codes, rules, forms, and other information have been reviewed and are current. There were changes made to all sections of this publication for clarity.

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HIGHLIGHTS (2026 LOPM Revision #1)

The Litigation Chart, Checklist and Timetable have been given significant importance. They provide a guide to help manage litigation proceedings effectively and efficiently. The chapter's content is designed to assist in keeping track of important dates, deadlines, and documents, ensuring a well-organized and successful litigation process.

Judicial Council forms used as examples are frequently revised and new forms approved; caution should be exercised to use the most current form available. The use of Judicial Council forms is mandatory, and Local Court Rules must be closely followed as to Attorney's Name, Address, Office/Fax Number, State Bar Number, and email address on all forms. All forms are provided **AS AN EXAMPLE ONLY** and display a watermark with the word **SAMPLE** across the form. We have added the Judicial Council form number and/or other appropriate form number. Follow your supervising attorney's preference and direction on how to fill out any form before filing it with the court or other agencies.

Refer to our "Disclaimer" contained in this publication regarding all forms.

A. COURT STRUCTURE

The following change has occurred: the Court of Appeal, Third District, Sacramento has 1 division with 10 justices serving 23 counties.

B. CIVIL PROCEDURE

Pay close attention to the Civil Case Cover Sheet that has been revised to a three-page form. Beginning January 1, 2027, California will implement significant changes to its service-of-process rules under AB 747, allowing individuals to challenge default judgments obtained through *improper* service at any time.

C. LOCAL RULES

Several courts have changed their website address from .org to courts.ca.gov.

D. DISCOVERY

Code of Civil Procedure section 2016.090 (initial disclosures) was put in place with a sunset date in 2027, however with the passage of Senate Bill 66, it makes the initial disclosure requirement permanent. It appears the discovery rules are stricter in scope and with tighter cutoffs. Compliance is critical to avoid sanctions and/or lost discovery rights.

E. UNLAWFUL DETAINER

Key changes in landlord-tenant laws include mandatory electronic security deposit returns, enhanced protections for immigrant families, and new procedural requirements for commercial evictions.

F. REAL ESTATE LAW

A new form is required for recording transfers of ownership between grandparents and grandchildren, for reassessment exclusion claims. For transfers between grandparents and grandchildren on or after February 16, 2021, use the “Claim for Reassessment Exclusion for Transfer Between Grandparent and Grandchild Occurring on or After February 16, 2021 (BOE-19-G (P1))” form.

G. CRIMINAL LAW

An officer may detain a person based on reasonable suspicion supported by specific facts that the person is involved in criminal activity. For misdemeanors, an officer may arrest, cite, or release the person on a promise to appear only if there is a warrant or probable cause that the offense was committed in the officer’s presence. (Pen. Code, § 836(a).) As of January 1, 2025, misdemeanor shoplifting is an exception and need not occur in the officer’s presence. (Pen. Code, § 836(f).)

H. FAMILY LAW

A Joint Petition section has been added pursuant to the latest legislation and the new forms related to the Joint Petition.

I. ADOPTIONS

This chapter has undergone comprehensive review for accuracy, with proofreading and minor revisions implemented to maintain consistency and clarity.

J. PROBATE

This chapter has undergone comprehensive review for accuracy, with proofreading and minor revisions implemented to maintain consistency and clarity.

K. CONSERVATORSHIPS AND GUARDIANSHIPS

This chapter has undergone comprehensive review for accuracy, with proofreading and minor revisions implemented to maintain consistency and clarity.

L. CORPORATIONS AND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

California's Secretary of State forms are available online through the Bizfile online platform and is the fastest service for over 140 Business Filings, including Name Reservations, and Orders for Certificates of Status. To access business forms you will need to create an account. Once an account has been created, you will be able to fill out and file your necessary forms.

M. BANKRUPTCY

The Disclosure of Compensation of Attorney for Debtor was updated. There were no changes to the law.

N. APPEALS

This chapter has undergone comprehensive review for accuracy, with proofreading and minor revisions implemented to maintain consistency and clarity.