

California Practice Guide PROBATE

CHAPTERS 1-12

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LINDA DIAMOND RAZNICK

(OCTOBER 2, 1951 - NOVEMBER 15, 2025)



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Mr. Ross has held leadership positions in national and state trust and estate organizations, including serving for many years on the Executive Committee, and in 1990-1991, as Chair of the former Probate and Trust Section of the California State Bar (now the Trusts and Estates Section of the California Bar Association). Mr. Ross has been a Fellow in the American College of Trust & Estate Counsel for 41 years and has held many leadership positions in the College, serving as President in 2006-2007. Mr. Ross is a member of the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law (and past Executive Council member). Mr. Ross co-edited the first edition of the California Guide to the Rules of Professional Conduct for Estate Planning and Trust Counsel. For over four decades, Mr. Ross was a frequent lecturer on probate, trust and conservatorship topics. Mr. Ross has authored and updated this Practice Guide annually since 1986.



Jeryll S. Cohen is a partner of and Co-Leader of the Trust & Estate Dispute Resolution & Litigation Team of the firm Saul Ewing LLP, practicing in the areas of estate planning, litigation and dispute resolution concerning trusts and estates, conservatorships and guardianships. She received her J.D. in 1986 from Loyola Law School, cum laude.

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PREFACE

This Practice Guide is designed for and dedicated to California probate attorneys and probate paralegals, and to other practitioners who would like to learn how to handle both routine and more complex decedents' estate administrations in California. The text covers all of the applicable statutes, including relevant tax statutes, and makes extensive reference to pertinent case law and local court rules. "Practice Pointers," other practical tips and suggestions and model forms are provided to illustrate the most accurate and efficient approaches to handling California probates.

Probate lawyers must stay on top of several rapidly changing fields: They must know the substantive and procedural rules governing decedents' estate administrations . . . and they must have a good grasp of property law, domestic relations law, tax law and related matters. The goal of this Practice Guide is to help you meet the ever-changing demands in these fields and to give you the practical background necessary to serve your clients competently and confidently. We will continue to Update the text annually so that you will be sure to have the most current law at your fingertips.

Of course, no book is a substitute for thorough research, analysis and case preparation. Nor will any book eliminate the need for innovative and creative thinking in probate practice. However, we believe this Practice Guide will give you the basic information and tools you need to handle probate matters effectively from commencement to conclusion.

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