

COURTROOM INFORMATION

Department 1

Stanley Mosk Courthouse | 5th Floor, Room 534 | (213) 633-0601

Judge Lawrence P. Riff, Supervising Judge of Civil Courts

Courtroom Staff:

Cecilia Guerrero, Judicial Assistant
Rosalie M. ("May") Cruz, Courtroom Assistant

Courtroom and Phone Hours:

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

MASTER CALENDAR – TRIAL COURT ASSIGNMENTS:

Department 1 serves as a Master Calendar for specified civil trial court assignments.

CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE RIFF FOR ALL PURPOSES (NOT DEPARTMENT 1 MASTER CALENDAR MATTERS)

Judge Riff hears matters in Department 1 for the unlimited civil cases assigned to him for all purposes.

To schedule hearings or informal conferences in these cases, call the courtroom to obtain a date. Most hearings and IDCs are set on Thursdays.

Department 1 does not use the Court Reservation System (CRS) to schedule motions in cases assigned to Judge Riff for all purposes.

Tentative rulings in these cases will be posted on the Court's tentative ruling website. See lacourt.org, online services, tentative rulings for more information.

EX PARTE APPLICATIONS IN DEPARTMENT 1:

Parties must follow Los Angeles County Court Local Rules and California Rules of Court regarding ex parte notice. The moving party should indicate in the declaration regarding notice whether any opposition to the application is expected.

Ex parte applications are heard at 8:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. Unless the litigant is exempt from mandatory electronic filing requirements, ex parte applications must be electronically filed no later than 10:00 a.m. the court day before the hearing. Any written opposition must be electronically filed by 8:30 a.m. the day of the ex parte hearing.

A courtesy copy of the opposition must be submitted by 8:30 a.m. the day of the ex parte hearing to the Department 1 resource account at SMCDept1@lacourt.org. (No other materials may be submitted to that resource account except as provided herein without a court order.)

DEPARTMENT 1 MASTER CALENDAR MOTIONS:

Motions for matters (other than those assigned to Judge Riff for all purposes) are heard every Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

Parties must obtain and schedule a motion hearing date for such motions via the online Court Reservation System (CRS) on the Los Angeles Superior Court website. Motion fee payments are required at the time the motions are scheduled online.

The following motions may be scheduled in Department 1:

- Motion to Transfer (seeking to move a case from one Los Angeles Superior Court district to another);
- Motion for Reconsideration (seeking reconsideration of the granting of a CCP 170.6 challenge; assignment of a Temporary Judge in Probate; denial of a request to relate cases; or any previous order of Department 1);
- Motion to relate cases where the designated judge does not order related any of the cases set forth in the Notice of Related Cases (if the cases are all pending in the Central District or are pending in two or more different districts). (See Cal. R. Ct., rule 3.300(h)(1)(D); LASC Local Rule 3.3(f)(3).)
- Motion to coordinate non-complex cases where the motion seeks to transfer a case or cases to the Central District. (LASC Local Rule 3.3(h).)
- Motion to appoint referee for all purposes. (LASC Local Rule 2.24(a)(2); Code Civ. Proc. § 638.)

If you cannot schedule a motion using the CRS System, please contact the courtroom directly.

Appearance at the hearing may be made in person or via LA Court Connect. Tentative rulings, if any, are available at the time of the hearing and also on the Court's tentative ruling website. See lacourt.org, online services, tentative rulings for more information.

For motions in cases assigned to Judge Riff for all purposes, see the information on page 1.

NOTICES OF RELATED CASES:

Department 1 rules upon Notices of Related Cases where the Notice of Related Cases contains a non-complex civil case and either a probate or a family law case, and the cases are all pending in the Central District or pending in two different districts. (LASC Local Rule 3.3(f)(2).)

If the cases are all pending in a district other than Central, the Supervising Judge of that district determines if the cases should be related. (*Ibid.*)

For related case determinations made in Department 1, a courtesy copy of **each** Notice of Related Cases must be submitted to the Department 1 resource account at SMCDept1@lacourt.org. (No other materials may be submitted to that resource account except as provided herein without a court order.)

Any response to the Notice of Related Case must be filed and served in accordance with CRC 3.300(g) with a courtesy copy submitted to the Department 1 resource account at SMCDept1@lacourt.org.

Department 1 shall schedule a Non-Appearance Case Review for the Notice of Related Case determination not more than 60 days after the Notices of Related Case are received in Department 1.

The party who filed the Notice of Related Case will be notified of the Court's ruling by mail and be required to give notice to all other parties.

REASSIGNMENT OF CASES:

Department 1 processes case reassignments arising in the Central District. Reassignment of a case may occur due to recusal by the bench officer, a peremptory challenge, a case deemed not complex or case deemed not to be a personal injury action for purposes of the PI Hub courts, among other reasons. The reassignment will be acted upon as promptly as possible.

TEMPORARY JUDGE AND JUDICIAL REFERENCE STIPULATIONS:

The Supervising Judge in Department 1 approves Stipulations for the Appointment of a Privately Compensated Temporary Judge (see California Rule of Court, Rule 2.830 *et seq.*) and for Judicial References for Probate and Civil cases for all districts.

The Stipulation and Order must have a copy of the Temporary Judge's Oath of Office, Consent and Certification, and the Scope of Appointment.

Stipulation and Order fees must be paid prior to submission to Department 1. A copy of the paid fee receipt must be submitted with the Stipulation to Department 1.

VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS:

Any request to file new litigation by a person previously determined to be a vexatious litigant must be presented for filing at the filing window in the Clerk's Office in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for determination by the Supervising Judge Department 1. The party will be notified of the Court's ruling via U.S. Mail.

Any request to remove a person from the vexatious litigant list shall be submitted to the judicial officer who declared the party a vexatious litigant. If that judicial officer is no longer a judicial officer of the Court, the request must be presented for filing at the filing window in the Clerk's Office in the Stanley Mosk Courthouse for determination by the Supervising Judge Department 1. The party will be notified of the Court's ruling via U.S. Mail.

SUBMISSION OF TRIAL-READY CASES FOR CONSIDERATION OF ASSIGNMENT TO A TRIAL COURT

Department 1 may, upon request of the judicial officer assigned for all purposes, and for good cause shown, assign a trial court to conduct trial proceedings in a trial-ready case. Department 1 shall act on the request either at a non-appearance case review or at hearing set by Department 1.

Before Department 1 will consider such a request, the parties must:

- represent the case is trial-ready and that all discovery is complete; and
- have filed their:

- Brief Statement of the Case,
- Joint Witness List (with the parties' "must call" witnesses so identified and expected duration of direct- and cross-examination together with a cumulative total of hours of witness testimony);
- Joint exhibit list (with reasonably specific descriptions);
- Trial briefs;
- Jury Instructions (agreed-upon and the parties' disputed, all clearly identified);
- Special Verdict form(s); and
- Motions in limine and oppositions and replies thereto.

Counsel should expect the judicial officer assigned for all purposes will carefully evaluate the parties' trial estimates based on witness testimony and will advise Department 1 of the likely duration of trial including proposed time limits to be imposed. (See, *California Crane School, Inc. v. National Com. For Certification of Crane Operators*, (2014) 226 Cal.App.4th 12.)

No physical notebooks or binders are required to be lodged with Department 1 unless and until so ordered by Department 1.

VOTER CONFIDENTIALITY PETITIONS:

Department 1 rules on Petitions to Have Voter Registration Information Declared Confidential. (LASC Local Rule 2.8(e); Elec. Code § 2166.)

Petitioners must use mandatory forms LASC CIV 273 – Petition to Have Voter Registration Information Declared Confidential and LASC CIV 274 – (Proposed) Order to Have Voter Registration Information Declared Confidential.

The Supervising Judge will act on the filing without a hearing. The petitioner will be notified of the Court's ruling via U.S. Mail.

SAFE AT HOME NAME CHANGE APPLICATIONS:

Such applications are routed to Department 1 for determination and hearing (if necessary.)

INSPECTION WARRANTS:

Specified regulatory inspection warrants are considered and ruled upon by Department 1.

COMPLEX CASES:

Please contact the Judicial Assistant to the Assistant Supervising Judge of Complex, Department 7, (213) 310-7007, at the Spring Street Courthouse for all questions concerning Complex Cases including the status of any request that a case be designated complex and assigned to a complex civil department.

COMPLAINTS:

Complaints about any judicial officers concerning an alleged violation of the Code of Judicial Ethics may be submitted in writing to the Office of the Presiding Judge, Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014.
