ÙWÚÒÜQJÜÁÔUWÜVÁÔŠÒÜS 3 ÒËZ(ŠÒÖ Vď∂ÀHÁGQËËË HGÎËFÁSÞV 4 5 6 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON 7 FOR THE COUNTY OF KING 8 9 In re the Matter of Case No. 22-4-08326-1 KNT 10 THE SHARON M. HAROLD OPPOSITION OF RESPONDENTS TO 11 IRREVOCABLE TRUST DATED PETITIONER TRUSTEE'S MOTION TO **CONTINUE TRIAL DATE** NOVEMBER 12, 2004, 12 a Trust. 13 14 15 I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u> 16 Grantor Sharon M. Harold ("Grantor") and Residual Beneficiaries Charles A. 17 Harold, Jr., John J. Harold, Angel Harold, Amy Jane Small, and Josette Harold 18 Ramirez (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Respondents") oppose Petitioner 19 Trustee's Motion to Continue Trial Date and respectfully request that the trial date 20 remain as currently calendared. 21 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS** 22 A. Paice Becomes the Alleged Successor Trustee and Immediately 23 Breached, and Continued to Breach, His Fiduciary Duties Owed to 24 Respondents. 25 Sometime in February or March 2010, David A. Paice ("Paice") allegedly 26 accepted becoming acting successor trustee of the Sharon M. Harold Irrevocable 27 Trust, dated November 4, 2004. No one, not even Paice himself knows the precise 28 date because within the first 60 days of his alleged tenure, Paice violated Cal. Probate OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - 1 CHARLES A. HAROLD, JR., IN PRO SE

G€GHÁÙÒÚÁGJÁ€HKÍÌÁÚT

SOÞ ŐÁÔU WÞ VŸ

HONORABLE WYMAN YIP

Without Oral Argument

Hearing Date: October 6, 2023

1455 N. TOMAHAWK ROAD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85119

EMAIL: CHUCKHAROLD@GMAIL.COM

(818) 652-6400:

1

2

 Code § 16061.7, when he failed to provide beneficiaries proper notification of his succession to acting trustee. Paice continued to breach this duty until his attorney tried unsuccessfully to cure this breach **12 years later**, in an August 9, 2022 letter to beneficiaries. Most importantly, Paice's notice of successor omitted the fact that David Llewelyn was the immediate predecessor trustee and not Bob Hatch as Paice stated, as more fully discussed in Respondents' Verified Joint Objection (Dkt. 28).

After his breach of duty to notify beneficiaries pursuant to Cal. Probate Code § 16061.7, Paice engaged in on-going and continuous breaches of his fiduciary duties by failing to provide an annual accounting of trust for 12, now 13 years, denying Grantor funds to retain legal representation, thus failing his duties of loyalty, compliance, communication, impartiality, and engaging in acts of self-dealing such as comingling, mismanagement, misappropriation, and failing to follow the stated primary objective of the Trust instrument, "to provide for Grantor."

B. Respondents Requested an Accounting and Were Forced Into this TEDRA Litigation For Doing So.

This dispute began when Respondent Amy Jane Small ("Amy") was given power of attorney with disability planning by Grantor on June 21, 2018, to assist her with moving her into an assisted living facility.

On April 27, 2022, Amy requested an accounting from Paice pursuant to Cal. Probate Code § 16060. Paice refused to supply the information stating Amy was not entitled to it, despite holding power of attorney for Grantor. Paice also claimed Grantor did not have enough money for an assisted living facility.

Instead of simply providing an accounting as required by Cal. Probate Code §§ 16062 and 16063, Paice, with Grantor's then uninformed approval, retained his first attorney and used trust funds to avoid fulfilling his duties, an obvious misuse of trust funds.

During this period, Paice and Grantor's attorney sent a letter to Amy stating Grantor had more than enough money for her immediate and future health needs, a

posture in direct conflict with Paice's original statement to Amy that Grantor did NOT have enough money for an assisted living facility.

Paice's attorney shortly thereafter withdrew her representation because of the inherent conflict of interest between Paice using Trust funds against the interest of Grantor and the other beneficiaries.

Paice then retained Lane Powell and hired an accountant/CPA to compile a tabulation (not an actual accounting) of 12 previous years' worth of trust financial information. Per the CPA, the financial data Paice supplied to him "omit[ted] substantially all of the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." It was later discovered that the alleged accounting did not balance and was short either \$8,000 or \$6,000, depending on how one views the conflicting back up information. Paice's accounting stated that Grantor received a cashier's check for \$8,000, but Grantor's records show that she received a cashier's check in the amount of \$2,000.

Paice and his attorney then soon after provided this flawed accounting to Respondents without (1) the backup data he provided the accountant, and without (2) the "omitted" information referenced in the accountant's cover letter.

Accompanying this alleged accounting to beneficiaries was a letter from Paice's attorney, Mr. Schilbach, threatening to spend future trust funds on litigation unless a Release of Liability for Paice, his wife and his daughter was signed by all beneficiaries.

Since Respondents refused to sign the Release, Paice commenced this TEDRA action and illegally used trust funds to pay for his attorney fees and costs. Paice's litigious response was a disproportionate reaction to a simple request to fulfill his duty to supply an accounting to Grantor and beneficiaries.

Respondents take issue with the "facts" as stated by Paice in his motion. While it is true that the relief sought and/or issues raised in the TEDRA Petition included the approval of Paice's "accounting," and the removal and replacement of Paice as Trustee, Paice's motion did not include any mention regarding the "expend[iture] of

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - 3

CHARLES A. HAROLD, JR., IN PRO SE 1455 N. TOMAHAWK ROAD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85119 (818) 652-6400;

4

5 6

7

8 9 10

11 12

13

14 15

16 17

18 19

20

21

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

Trust resources on counsel for the Trustee." (Motion to Continue Trial, Dkt 112 at 2.) Pages 9 to 11 of the Verified Petition (Dkt 1) are absent of any mention of using or approving Trust funds to pay for counsel for Paice, nor is it even slightly implied when read with and interpretation most favorable to Paice.

III. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENTS</u>

A. Extending the Trial Date Defeats the Legislative Intent of TEDRA.

TEDRA was enacted as a means to streamline and provide efficient resolution of conflicts that may arise in the administration of trusts and probate estates. TEDRA's aim was to reduce the reliance on court litigation and promote timely resolutions through alternative dispute resolution methods. A trial is not mediation. The motion to continue trial is a motion to discourage a timely resolution which is the legislative intent of TEDRA. In addition, continuing trial would further diminish Trust assets by extending, not reducing litigation. Respondents ask the Court, do average TEDRA actions last as long as this one, over 14 months as Paice is requesting by way of his extension request?

Respondents were not given the opportunity to resolve this matter in a reasonable exchange of conversations, correspondence and proposed solutions because Paice offered beneficiaries an all or nothing, take it or leave it, sign the release of liability or face litigation solution, a position that breaches Cal. Probate Code § 16040.

Had Paice not breached his duty of loyalty and his duty to administer the Trust "with reasonable care, skill, and caution under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims to accomplish," we would not be before this Court today.

B. A Continuance Of The Trial Date Would Waste Additional Trust Assets.

Paice's request to continue trial is a violation of several statutes: Cal. Probate Code §§ 16006 (Duty to preserve trust property), 16007 (Duty to make trust property)

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - 4

CHARLES A. HAROLD, JR., IN PRO SE 1455 N. TOMAHAWK ROAD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85119 (818) 652-6400;

productive), 16011 (Duty to Defend against losses to Trust (including those instigated by him)), 16014 (Duty to Apply full extent of skills), and 16040 (Duty to administer Trust with reasonable care of prudent person), and 16046 (Duty of Prudent investor rule).

Respondents have been very clear from the outset of this litigation that their intent is to ensure there are sufficient funds for Grantor to live comfortably in an appropriate care facility. In fact, this is a specific duty required by Paice outlined in the Trust instrument and supported by California Probate Code, "to provide for Grantor" not himself. Respondents' intent in this case is to cease the expenditure of Trust funds for Paice's personal use.

If this matter is continued into next year as requested in the instant motion, it would breach the spirit and goal of TEDRA legislation and result in the waste of additional trust assets which are presently being quickly depleted. In fact, Amy had arranged for Grantor to move into a small boutique facility located in Reno several months ago; however, due to this litigation, she no longer qualifies due to lack of sufficient Trust assets caused by Paice's improper administration of the Trust and by his use of Trust funds for attorney fees to defend himself for his indefensible acts.

C. This Motion Is Procedurally Premature.

There are currently three motions to be considered by this Court in the upcoming weeks, all three of which are potentially dispositive of the TEDRA action. Therefore, trial may become unnecessary.

(1) The Motion for Partial Summary Judgment

The referenced motion will be heard on October 6. If the Court bars the use of Trust funds for Paice's legal representation, it will be because he breached his statutory duties which preclude him from using Trust funds for attorney fees and costs to certify his alleged accounting. If the Court determine that Paice is not a legitimate trustee Paice will have no standing to ask this Court to approve an accounting that never happened and release him from liability.

(2) The Motion for Revision

As discussed in the instant motion, the hearing on the Motion for Revision is set for November 3, 2023. The motion seeks a review by this Court to determine if any judicial errors were committed in denying and dismissing the Petition for Protective Order filed in *Harold v. Paice*, King County Superior Court, No. 23-2-03980-7 KNT. If judicial errors are found, the Protection findings could be overturned resulting in the TEDRA proceeding being dismissed in its entirety. Therefore, any ruling on the instant motion to extend a trial that may not materialize is premature.

(3) The Motion to Dismiss

This dispositive motion is set for November 3, 2023, immediately following the Protection Revision hearing. Again, depending on the ruling by this Court, if granted, the Motion to Dismiss may make a trial moot. It is therefore premature for this Court to grant a continuance of the trial date.

D. Respondents Have Proposed Binding Mediation to Paice.

At the time of this filing, Paice has not responded to Respondents' September 27 offer to send this matter to binding mediation. Additionally, Grantor has offered to pay for mediation out of Trust funds because she understands that binding mediation will end this litigation at a significantly lower cost to her estate. Respondents remind Paice that under California Probate Code § 16040 and the other sections referenced above, he has an on-going duty to administer the Trust with the reasonable care of a prudent person under similar circumstances. Binding mediation is the most reasonable care under the circumstances since it will also fulfill Paice's other duties stated above such as preserving trust assets, the prudent investor duty and the duty to incur only reasonable costs. Paice's duties are absolute, despite himself being engaged in this, self-initiated litigation.

///

///

ng || ///

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - 6

CHARLES A. HAROLD, JR., IN PRO SE 1455 N. TOMAHAWK ROAD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ 85119 (818) 652-6400;

1 2 3

E. <u>Paice's Prosecution of Grantor and Affecting Her Trust Is the Actual and Proximate Cause of Several of Grantor's Maladies and Health Issues.</u>

The 90-day stay granted by this Court, based upon the recommendation of Grantor's doctor, was an immense benefit to Grantor's health. Unfortunately, since Grantor's health issues continue to worsen, it is not sufficient. After the lifting of the stay on August 24, 2023, Respondent Charles A. Harold, Jr. spoke with Grantor's health provider. He was told that this litigation continues to adversely affect her health. (Harold Decl. ¶ 2.) It is imperative that this matter conclude as soon as possible for Grantor's sake. Respondents remind the Court that Grantor is 86 years old and asks the Court to take judicial notice that a very low percentage of people live very much longer past this age. Since Paice's self-initiated and unnecessary litigation is the actual and proximate cause of several of Grantor's health issues, Respondents ask the Court to shorten this proceeding for the benefit of Grantor's health and deny the instant motion.

F. <u>Discovery Is Not Relevant In This Proceeding.</u>

Paice argues in the instant motion that trial needs to be continued in order for him to propound discovery and take depositions. This Court should note that since the filing of his original Petition in December 2022 and the onset of the 90-day stay on May 24, 2023, Paice has propounded only one set of interrogatories to each Respondent, all identical. In addition, since the lifting of the stay on August 24, 2023, Paice has had more than 30 days to file a motion to compel and to take depositions and propound further discovery but did not do so. While it is true that during the stay the proceedings were at a standstill, the stay did not preclude Paice from preparing discovery during those 90 days and serving it on Respondents immediately after the stay was lifted. Again, Paice chose not to do so.

Evidence Rule 401 defines "relevant evidence" as:

OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - 8

Evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.

The only issue in the "determination of the action" is Paice's alleged accounting of trust. As Respondents have shown time and time again, Paice's tabulation is not an accounting, does not balance, is a violation of California Probate Codes §§ 16062, 16063 and 16322 because it was never created annually as required, was constructed 12 years later and "omit[ted] substantially all of the disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."

Case law and California Probate Codes preclude the certification of Paice's alleged accounting.

The only person who has knowledge about the alleged accounting is Paice. For 12, now 13 years, the financial posture and health of the Trust was intentionally hidden from Grantor and withheld from beneficiaries when he violated his duty for 13 years in a row.

Respondents contend that the only relevant evidence in this matter is held by Paice.

Paice is unresponsive to reasonable requests for information under Cal. Probate Code § 16061. One example is an unanswered request to provide detailed receipts about the cost Paice paid for his alleged accounting of Trust. (Harold Dec. ¶ 3. Ex. 1.)

Only Paice can attempt to enlighten the Court about his inexplicable behavior. Only Paice can explain why he breached so many of his fiduciary duties for the past 13 years. Only Paice can explain why Respondents are before this Court because as Respondents have demonstrated, Paice's reason to initiate TEDRA proceedings do not seem properly based in law or common sense.

There is no discovery Paice can propound on Respondents that "is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence."

1 Discovery in this proceeding is a waste of time and Grantor's Trust funds. 2 Paice's argument regarding discovery as a reason to continue trial should not be given 3 significant weight by this Court for the reasons stated in this section. 4 IV. CONCLUSION 5 For all the reasons stated herein, Respondents respectfully request that this 6 Court deny Petitioner's Motion to Continue Trial Date and that the trial date remain as 7 currently scheduled. In the alternative, the parties can revisit the continuance of the 8 trial after the rulings are issued regarding the dispositive motions before this Court. 9 DATED: September 29, 2023 s/Charles A. Harold, Jr. Charles A. Harold, Jr., Residual Beneficiary and 10 Respondent in pro se 1455 N. Tomahawk Rd. 11 Apache Junction, AZ 85119 12 Tel: 818-652-6400 E-mail: chuckharold@gmail.com 13 DATED: September 29, 2023 s/Sharon M. Harold 14 Sharon M. Harold, Grantor and 15 Respondent in pro se 100 River Bend Rd. #103 16 Reedsport, OR 97467 Tel: (541) 662-1937 17 Email: smharold7@gmail.com 18 DATED: September 29, 2023 s/John Harold John Harold, Residual Beneficiary and 19 Respondent in pro se 20 230 Westmont Dr. Reedsport, OR 97467 21 Tel: (541) 662-6262 Email: john6231@live.com 22 23 DATED: September 29, 2023 s/Angel Harold 24 Angel Harold, Residual Beneficiary and 25 Respondent in pro se 9317 Balcom Ave. 26 Northridge, CA 91325 Tel: (661) 289-4238 27 Email: angelharold25@gmail.com 28

APPENDIX



PROBATE CODE

Section 16006

16006. The trustee has a duty to take reasonable steps under the circumstances to take and keep control of and to preserve the trust property. (Enacted by Stats. 1990, Ch. 79.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16040

16040. (a) The trustee shall administer the trust with reasonable care, skill, and caution under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent person acting in a like capacity would use in the conduct of an enterprise of like character and with like aims to accomplish the purposes of the trust as determined from the trust instrument.

- (b) The settlor may expand or restrict the standard provided in subdivision (a) by express provisions in the trust instrument. A trustee is not liable to a beneficiary for the trustee's good faith reliance on these express provisions.
- (c) This section does not apply to investment and management functions governed by the Uniform Prudent Investor Act, Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 16045). (Amended by Stats. 1995, Ch. 63, Sec. 4. Effective January 1, 1996.)



PROBATE CODE

Section 16060

16060. The trustee has a duty to keep the beneficiaries of the trust reasonably informed of the trust and its administration. (Enacted by Stats. 1990, Ch. 79.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16061

16061. Except as provided in Section 16069, on reasonable request by a beneficiary, the trustee shall report to the beneficiary by providing requested information to the beneficiary relating to the administration of the trust relevant to the beneficiary's interest. (Amended by Stats. 2010, Ch. 621, Sec. 3. (SB 202) Effective January 1, 2011.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16061.7

16061.7. (a) A trustee shall serve a notification by the trustee as described in this section in the following events: (1) When a revocable trust or any portion thereof becomes irrevocable because of the death of one or more of the settlors of the trust, or because, by the express terms of the trust, the trust becomes irrevocable within one year of the death of a settlor because of a contingency related to the death of one or more of the settlors of the trust. (2) Whenever there is a change of trustee of an irrevocable trust. (3) Whenever a power of appointment retained by a settlor is effective or lapses upon death of the settlor with respect to an inter vivos trust which was, or was purported to be, irrevocable upon its creation. This paragraph shall not apply to a charitable remainder trust. For purposes of this paragraph, "charitable remainder trust" means a charitable remainder annuity trust or charitable remainder unitrust as defined in Section 664(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. (4) The duty to serve the notification by the trustee pursuant to this subdivision is the duty of the continuing or successor trustee, and any one cotrustee may serve the notification. (b) The notification by the trustee required by subdivision (a) shall be served on each of the following: (1) Each beneficiary of the irrevocable trust or irrevocable portion of the trust, subject to the limitations of Section 15804. (2) Each heir of the deceased settlor, if the event that requires notification is the death of a settlor or irrevocability within one year of the death of the settlor of the trust by the express terms of the trust because of a contingency related to the death of a settlor. (3) If the trust is a charitable trust subject to the supervision of the Attorney General, to the Attorney General. (c) A trustee shall, for purposes of this section, rely upon any final judicial determination of heirship, known to the trustee, but the trustee shall have discretion to make a good faith determination by any reasonable means of the heirs of a deceased settlor in the absence of a final judicial determination of heirship known to the trustee. (d) The trustee need not provide a copy of the notification by trustee to any beneficiary or heir (1) known to the trustee but who cannot be located by the trustee after reasonable diligence or (2) unknown to the trustee. (e) The notification by trustee shall be served by any of the methods described in Section 1215 to the last known address. (f) The notification by trustee shall be served not later than 60 days following the occurrence of the event requiring service of the notification by trustee, or 60 days after the trustee became aware of the existence of a person entitled to receive notification by trustee, if that person was not known to the trustee on the occurrence of the event requiring service of the notification. If there is a vacancy in the office of the trustee on the date of the occurrence of the event requiring service of the notification by trustee, or if that event causes a vacancy, then the 60-day period for service of the notification by trustee commences on the date the new trustee commences to serve as trustee. (g) The notification by trustee shall contain the following information: (1) The identity of the settlor or settlors

of the trust and the date of execution of the trust instrument. (2) The name, address, and telephone number of each trustee of the trust. (3) The address of the physical location where the principal place of administration of the trust is located, pursuant to Section 17002. (4) Any additional information that may be expressly required by the terms of the trust instrument. (5) A notification that the recipient is entitled, upon reasonable request to the trustee, to receive from the trustee a true and complete copy of the terms of the trust. (h) If the notification by the trustee is served because a revocable trust or any portion of it has become irrevocable because of the death of one or more settlors of the trust, or because, by the express terms of the trust, the trust becomes irrevocable within one year of the death of a settlor because of a contingency related to the death of one or more of the settlors of the trust, the notification by the trustee shall also include a warning, set out in a separate paragraph in not less than 10-point boldface type, or a reasonable equivalent thereof, that states as follows: "You may not bring an action to contest the trust more than 120 days from the date this notification by the trustee is served upon you or 60 days from the date on which a copy of the terms of the trust is delivered to you during that 120-day period, whichever is later." (i) Any waiver by a settlor of the requirement of serving the notification by trustee required by this section is against public policy and shall be void. (j) A trustee may serve a notification by trustee in the form required by this section on any person in addition to those on whom the notification by trustee is required to be served. A trustee is not liable to any person for serving or for not serving the notice on any person in addition to those on whom the notice is required to be served. A trustee is not required to serve a notification by trustee if the event that otherwise requires service of the notification by trustee occurs before January 1, 1998. (Amended by Stats. 2017, Ch. 319, Sec. 87. (AB 976) Effective January 1, 2018.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16062

16062. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in Section 16064, the trustee shall account at least annually, at the termination of the trust, and upon a change of trustee, to each beneficiary to whom income or principal is required or authorized in the trustee's discretion to be currently distributed. (b) A trustee of a living trust created by an instrument executed before July 1, 1987, is not subject to the duty to account provided by subdivision (a). (c) A trustee of a trust created by a will executed before July 1, 1987, is not subject to the duty to account provided by subdivision (a), except that if the trust is removed from continuing court jurisdiction pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 17350) of Chapter 4 of Part 5, the duty to account provided by subdivision (a) applies to the trustee. (d) Except as provided in Section 16064, the duty of a trustee to account pursuant to former Section 1120.1a of the Probate Code (as repealed by Chapter 820 of the Statutes of 1986), under a trust created by a will executed before July 1, 1977, which has been removed from continuing court jurisdiction pursuant to former Section 1120.1a, continues to apply after July 1, 1987. The duty to account under former Section 1120.1a may be satisfied by furnishing an account that satisfies the requirements of Section 16063. (e) Any limitation or waiver in a trust instrument of the obligation to account is against public policy and shall be void as to any sole trustee who is either of the following: (1) A disqualified person as defined in former Section 21350.5 (as repealed by Chapter 620 of the Statutes of 2010). (2) Described in subdivision (a) of Section 21380, but not described in Section 21382. (Amended by Stats. 2016, Ch. 86, Sec. 250. (SB 1171) Effective January 1, 2017.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16063

16063. (a) An account furnished pursuant to Section 16062 shall contain the following information: (1) A statement of receipts and disbursements of principal and income that have occurred during the last complete fiscal year of the trust or since the last account. (2) A statement of the assets and liabilities of the trust as of the end of the last complete fiscal year of the trust or as of the end of the period covered by the account. (3) The trustee's compensation for the last complete fiscal year of the trust or since the last account. (4) The agents hired by the trustee, their relationship to the trustee, if any, and their compensation, for the last complete fiscal year of the trust or since the last account. (5) A statement that the recipient of the account may petition the court pursuant to Section 17200 to obtain a court review of the account and of the acts of the trustee. (6) A statement that claims against the trustee for breach of trust may not be made after the expiration of three years from the date the beneficiary receives an account or report disclosing facts giving rise to the claim. (b) All accounts filed to be approved by a court shall be presented in the manner provided in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 1060) of Part 1 of Division 3. (Repealed and added by Stats. 1997, Ch. 724, Sec. 26. Effective January 1, 1998.



PROBATE CODE

Section 16322

16322. "Accounting period" means a calendar year unless another 12-month period is selected by a fiduciary. The term includes a portion of a calendar year or other 12-month period that begins when an income interest begins or ends when an income interest ends. (Added by Stats. 1999, Ch. 145, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2000