### **PUBLICATION UPDATE**

Route to:		

## California Wills & Trusts

Publication 00034 Release 24A April 2011

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010

 On December 17, 2010 the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 reinstated the estate tax effective for decedents dying and transfers made after December 31, 2009.

## New California Probate Code §§ 21360–21392

• With the enactment of new Probate Code §§ 21360–21392 effective January 1, 2011, and the related repeal of Probate Code §§ 21350–21356 effective January 1, 2014, the term "disqualified persons" will no longer be used after 2013.

### New California Probate Code § 16069

The trustee is not required to account to the beneficiary of a revocable trust (as defined in Prob. Code § 15800), provide the terms of the trust to such beneficiary, or provide requested information to such beneficiary pursuant to Prob. Code § 16061, for the period when

the trust may be revoked or when the beneficiary and the trustee are the same person.

## **Transferring Shares in a Professional Corporation**

 Effective January 1, 2008, there is an exception in regards to transferring shares in a dental corporation.

Release 24A is completely updated to reflect all significant 2010 state and federal legislation, administrative regulations, IRS materials, and significant judicial decisions.

Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. On December 17, 2010 the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 ("2010 Tax Act") reinstated the estate tax effective for decedents dying and transfers made after December 31, 2009. The 2010 Tax Act also extended the sunset provisions of the 2001 Tax Act to December 31, 2012. See § 2.02.

New California Probate Code §§ 21360–21392. With the enactment of new Probate Code §§ 21360–21392 effective January 1, 2011, and the related repeal of Probate Code §§ 21350–21356 effective

January 1, 2014, the term "disqualified persons" will no longer be used after 2013, although most of the concepts of the repealed statutes will be retained in the new statutory framework. See § 4.05[3][c].

New California Probate Code § 16069. New Prob. Code § 16069 states that the trustee is not required to account to the beneficiary of a revocable trust (as defined in Prob. Code § 15800), provide the terms of the trust to such beneficiary, or provide requested information to such beneficiary pursuant to Prob. Code § 16061, for the period when the trust may be revoked or when the beneficiary and the trustee are the same person. See § 96.02[7].

Transferring Shares in a Professional Corporation Effective January 1, 2008, there is an exception in regards to transfers shares in a dental corporation. Upon a licensed dentist's death or incapacity certain non-dentists who are the trustee or successor trustee of a trust or subtrust may, subject to certain requirements, contract with another licensed dentist or dentists to continue the dental practice for a period not exceeding 12 months if the practice meets specified criteria and conditions, including providing a specific notice to the Dental Board of California. See § 140.08[5].

**Significant case law** includes the following:

• Definition of Care Custodian for purposes of Prob. Code § 21362.

Estate of Austin (2010) 188 Cal. App. 4th 512, 115 Cal. Rptr. 3d 481. Although plaintiff, a decedent's daughter, sought to invalidate gifts given by the decedent to defendant while the decedent was residing in a nursing home, plaintiff failed to prove defendant was the decedent's care custodian as a result of the limited services de-

- fendant performed for the decedent while the decedent was not in a nursing home; therefore, the gifts were valid. § 4.05[3][c].
- Example of an "interested person". Estate of Kraus (2010) 184
  Cal. App. 4th 103, 108 Cal. Rptr. 3d 760, 2010 Cal. App. LEXIS 572. Trust beneficiaries have standing to seek restitution for misappropriated funds, even when their rights in the decedent's estate have not been conclusively determined; Prob. Code, § 850, by its clear and plain terms, does not require the probate court to find that the property in question belongs to the interested petitioning party). See § 36.07[1]
- Example of a proceeding that does not violate a no-contest clause. Balian v. Balian (2010) 179 Cal. App. 4th 1505; 102 Cal. Rptr. 3d 470. In accordance with Prob. Code § 21320(b)(1), a proposed modification under Prob. Code § 15409 of a trust containing a no contest clause to delete a special needs provision because the settlor misunderstood the circumstances was not a contest under Prob. Code § 21303 and a Prob. Code § 21320 safe harbor petition was properly granted. See § 40.06[3].
- Spendthrift Provisions. Chatard v. Oveross (2009) 179 Cal. App. 4th 1098; 101 Cal. Rptr. 3d 883; 2009 Cal. App. LEXIS 1908. When breach of fiduciary duty by a beneficiary-trustee resulted in harm to the trust, the interest of the beneficiary-trustee in the spendthrift trust could properly be impounded to satisfy the claim of

- other beneficiaries for surcharge. See § 81.08[4].
- The definition of "principal" includes money received from an entity in total or partial liquidation of the entity. Manson v. Shepherd (2010) 188 Cal. App. 4th 1244; 116 Cal. Rptr. 3d 1. Substantial evidence supported trial court's implied finding that development company indicated at or near the time of a distribution to trust that the corporation was making the distribution in partial liquidation where minutes of corporation's board meeting reflected that board wanted to sell a parcel

of real property to, in part, provide cash to trust so trust would in turn pay its debt to company. See § 95.02[1][c].

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# CALIFORNIA WILLS & TRUSTS

Release 24A

Publication 34

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April 2011

As Done

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