PUBLICATION UPDATE

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California Trial Guide

Publication 114 Release 54 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

Legislation and case updates

 This release updates the publication with additions to the Code of Civil Procedure, as well as new case law.

Section 128.5 sanctions return. Code of Civil Procedure section 128.5 which lay dormant after January 1, 1995 became active again effective January 1, 2015. (Stats. 2014, ch. 425, § 1.) Code of Civil Procedure section 128.7 which took effect on January 1, 1995 remains in effect. The two sections are discussed in Section 2.01.

Handwriting analysis is not subject to the *Kelly* test for scientific reliability.

In *People v Lucas* [(2014) 60 Cal. 4th 153, 225, 177 Cal. Rptr. 3d 378, 333 P.3d 587], the California Supreme Court held that the method of handwriting analysis offered by the prosecution "was not sufficiently 'scientific' to require a hearing on its reliability under the *Kelly* test." The case is discussed in Section 50.162.

Court of Appeal advises trial courts how to set time limits on trials.

In California Crane School, Inc. v. National Com. for Certification of Crane Operators [(2014) 226 Cal. App. 4th 12, 171 Cal. Rptr. 3d 752], the court held that a trial judge has authority under Evidence Code sections 352 and 765 to set reasonable time limits for a trial in days or hours. The court went on to provide detailed advice to judges on how to determine a reasonable time for a trial. The case is discussed in Section 20.10.

A party who failed to make a timely disclosure of expert witness information may nevertheless move to exclude the expert witnesses of the opposing party who failed to make a timely disclosure.

In Cottini v. Enloe Medical Center [(2014) 226 Cal. App. 4th 401, 428, 172 Cal. Rptr. 3d 4], held that where the trial court may, under its inherent power, nevertheless exclude the expert testimony offered by a party who has unreasonably failed to comply with these same requirements prior to the discovery cut off date. This case is discussed in Section 100.02[3][e].

Discovery may be limited when its intrusiveness into the privacy of third

parties outweighs the likelihood that it will lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

In In re Marriage of Williamson [(2014) 226 Cal. App. 4th 1303, 1319, 172 Cal. Rptr. 3d 699], the wife appealed from the award of spousal and child support contending, inter alia, that the trial court erred in quashing her subpoenas for documents from the various trusts established by her husband's family. The court allowed discovery only of one trust (the "von Platen Trust") and even then only as it relates to the husband. The court held that in weighing the privacy interests of the third party, they should consider among other things "the nature of the information sought, its inherent intrusiveness, and any specific showing of a need for privacy." The case is discussed in Section 100.52[6][i].

A notice of intention to move for a new trial filed *before* the time permitted by statute is premature, void, and of no **effect.** [Ochoa v. Dorado (2014) 228 Cal. App. 4th 120, 132, 174 Cal. Rptr. 3d 889; italics added]. See discussion of time periods for new trial motions in Section 92.02.

Depo Book reorganized. The topic of Simultaneous Exchanges of Expert Witnesses has been expanded and given its own subsection in The Depo Book (Unit 100). See § 100.02[4].

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