

Tentative Rulings for January 28, 2026
Department 501

For any matter where an oral argument is requested and any party to the hearing desires a remote appearance, such request must be timely submitted to and approved by the hearing judge. In this department, the remote appearance will be conducted through Zoom. If approved, please provide the department's clerk a correct email address. (CRC 3.672, Fresno Sup.C. Local Rule 1.1.19)

There are no tentative rulings for the following cases. The hearing will go forward on these matters. If a person is under a court order to appear, he/she must do so. Otherwise, parties should appear unless they have notified the court that they will submit the matter without an appearance. (See California Rules of Court, rule 3.1304(c).) *The above rule also applies to cases listed in this "must appear" section.*

The court has continued the following cases. The deadlines for opposition and reply papers will remain the same as for the original hearing date.

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Tentative Rulings for Department 501

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Tentative Ruling

Re: ***Bernal v. Town N Country Reedley, Inc.***
Superior Court Case No. 24CECG02689

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026 (Dept. 501)

Motion: by Defendant Reedley Properties Partnership LP to Set Aside Default

Tentative Ruling:

To grant. Defendant Reedley Properties Partnership LP must file its responsive pleading(s) within ten (10) days from the date of this order.

Explanation:

Defendant Reedley Properties Partnership LP ("defendant") moves for relief from default under Code of Civil Procedure section 473, subdivision (b). That statute provides for discretionary relief from a default or default judgment that has been entered due to mistake, surprise, inadvertence or excusable neglect. (Code Civ. Proc. § 473, subd. (b).) The party seeking relief must bring their motion within a reasonable time, not to exceed six months from the date of entry of the default or default judgment. (Ibid.)

"The law favors judgments based on the merits, not procedural missteps." (*Lasalle v. Vogel* (2019) 36 Cal.App.5th 127, 134; see also *Riskin v. Towers* (1944) 24 Cal.2d 274, 279 ["the provisions of section 473 of the Code of Civil Procedure are to be liberally construed and sound policy favors the determination of actions on their merits."].) In other words, "Section 473 is often applied liberally where the party in default moves promptly to seek relief, and the party opposing the motion will not suffer prejudice if relief is granted. [Citations.] In such situations 'very slight evidence will be required to justify a court in setting aside the default.'" (*Elston v. City of Turlock* (1985) 38 Cal.3d 227, 234 superseded by statute as stated in *Wilcox v. Birtwhistle* (1999) 21 Cal.4th 973, 983.)

Defendant filed this motion within six months of the entry for default. Furthermore, defendant demonstrated excusable neglect, and took immediate actions to set aside the default. (Sara Kenney Decl., ¶¶ 7-10.) Accordingly, the court intends to grant the motion.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order adopting this tentative ruling will serve as the order of the court and service by the clerk will constitute notice of the order.

Tentative Ruling

Issued By: DTT on 1/23/2026.
(Judge's initials) (Date)

(37)

Tentative Ruling

Re: **Romo v. Croskrey**
Superior Court Case No. 25CECG03158

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026 (Dept. 501)

Motion: Plaintiff Tony Manuel Romo's Demurrer and Motion
to Strike Defendant Paul Croskrey's Cross-Complaint

Tentative Ruling:

To take off calendar as moot, due to defendant's filing a First Amended Cross-Complaint on January 2, 2026. (*Sylmar Air Conditioning v. Pueblo Contracting Services, Inc.* (2004) 122 Cal.App.4th 1049, 1054; *People ex rel. Strathmann v. Acacia Research Corp.* (2012) 210 Cal.App.4th 487, 506.) Any challenges to that amended pleading must be raised by new motion(s).

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order adopting this tentative ruling will serve as the order of the court and service by the clerk will constitute notice of the order.

Tentative Ruling

Issued By: DTT on 1/26/2026.
(Judge's initials) (Date)

(27)

Tentative Ruling

Re: ***In re Rickey Johnson***
Superior Court Case No. 26CECG00079

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026 (Dept. 501)

Motion: Petition to Compromise Minor's Claim

Tentative Ruling:

To grant the Petition. The proposed Orders have been or will be signed. No appearances are necessary.

The court sets a status conference for Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., in Department 501, for confirmation of deposit of the minor's funds into the blocked account. If petitioner files the Acknowledgment of Receipt of Order and Funds for Deposit in Blocked Account (MC-356) at least five court days before the hearing, the status conference will come off calendar.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order adopting this tentative ruling will serve as the order of the court and service by the clerk will constitute notice of the order.

Tentative Ruling

Issued By: DTT on 1/27/2026.
(Judge's initials) (Date)

(27)

Tentative Ruling

Re: ***In re Riarah Johnson***
Superior Court Case No. 26CECG00075

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026 (Dept. 501)

Motion: Petition to Compromise Minor's Claim

Tentative Ruling:

To grant the Petition. The proposed Orders have been or will be signed. No appearances are necessary.

The court sets a status conference for Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., in Department 501, for confirmation of deposit of the minor's funds into the blocked account. If petitioner files the Acknowledgment of Receipt of Order and Funds for Deposit in Blocked Account (MC-356) at least five court days before the hearing, the status conference will come off calendar.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order adopting this tentative ruling will serve as the order of the court and service by the clerk will constitute notice of the order.

Tentative Ruling

Issued By: DTT on 1/27/2026.
(Judge's initials) (Date)

(27)

Tentative Ruling

Re: ***Andres Martin v. Sethi Management, Inc.***
Superior Court Case No. 24CECG04028

Hearing Date: January 28, 2026 (Dept. 501)

Motion: Compel Initial (12x); Request for Admission (4x)

Tentative Ruling:

These motions will be taken off calendar as it does not appear from the court's record that moving papers were filed.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1312(a), and Code of Civil Procedure section 1019.5, subdivision (a), no further written order is necessary. The minute order adopting this tentative ruling will serve as the order of the court and service by the clerk will constitute notice of the order.

Tentative Ruling

Issued By: DTT **on** 1/27/2026.
(Judge's initials) (Date)