## <u>Tentative Rulings for March 25, 2025</u> <u>Department 503</u>

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.
(Tentative Rulings begin at the next page)

# **Tentative Rulings for Department 503**

Begin at the next page

(27)

## <u>Tentative Ruling</u>

Re: Hudson Insurance Company v. Cory Brown

Superior Court Case No. 23CECG02023

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025 (Dept. 503)

Motion: (1) by Defendant James Hill to Compel Responses to Request

for Admissions, Set One,

(2) by Defendant James Hill to Compel Responses to Demand

for Production, Set One,

(3) by Defendant James Hill to Compel Answers to Special

Interrogatories, Set One,

(4) by Defendant James Hill to Compel Answers to Form

Interrogatories, Set One

### **Tentative Ruling:**

To grant. Within 20 days of service of the order by the clerk, Hoblit Chrysler Jeep Dodge shall serve objection-free responses to Form and Special Interrogatories, Set One, and Request for Production of Documents, Set One, and produce all responsive documents.

The matters specified in Defendant James Hill's Requests for Admission (Set One) are deemed admitted, unless Hoblit Chrysler Jeep Dodge serves, before the hearing, a proposed response to the requests for admission that is in substantial compliance with Code of Civil Procedure section 2033,220.

To award sanctions against Hoblit Chrysler Jeep Dodge in the amount of \$710.20, to be paid within 20 calendar days of the date of this order, with the time to run from the service of this minute order by the clerk. (Code Civ. Proc., §2030.290, subd. (c); Code Civ. Proc., §2031.300, subd. (c).)

#### **Explanation:**

According to the supporting declaration the subject discovery was served on December 6, 2024. (See Chavez, Decls.  $\P$  3.) Yet, no responses were ever received (*Id.* at  $\P$ 11), and although oppositions have been filed, they only promise future compliance, i.e. there is no evidence responses have been served.

Accordingly, defendant's motion to deem admitted the request for admission, set one, must be granted. (Code of Civ. Proc., § 2033.280; see also *St. Mary v. Superior Court* (2014) 223 Cal.App.4th 762, 778.) Similarly, the motion to compel responses to the interrogatories and requests for production are also granted. (Code Civ. Proc., §§ 2030.290, subd. (c), 2031.300, subd. (b).)

Monetary sanctions are mandatory unless the court finds that the party acted "with substantial justification" or other circumstances that would render sanctions "unjust." [Code Civ. Proc., §§ 2030.290, subd. (c) and 2031.300, subd. (c).) Considering only untimely extension requests were offered, the court does not so find. The court finds that the reasonable amount of attorney fees to award as sanctions on these simple and substantively uncontested motions is a total of \$710.20 (representing the fees incurred for preparing one motion plus two additional filing fees).

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 Rulin	ıg			
Issued By:	JS	on	3/24/2025	
-	(Judge's initials)		(Date)	

(46)

## **Tentative Ruling**

Re: Andre Torigian, SR v. Premier Drywall and Construction Inc.

Superior Court Case No. 25CECG00824

Hearing Date: March 25, 2025 (Dept. 503)

Motion: Petition to Release Property from Mechanic's Lien

#### **Tentative Ruling:**

To deny without prejudice. (Civ. Code § 8480.)

## **Explanation:**

A property owner subject to a mechanic's claim of lien may petition the court for an order to release the property from the claim of lien pursuant to Civil Code section 8480. Prior to petitioning the court for a release order, a petitioner must, at least 10 days prior to filing the petition, give the claimant written notice and demand recordation of a release. (Civ. Code § 8482.) The petition must be verified and allege:

- a) the date the lien was recorded, and include a copy of the lien;
- b) the county in which the lien is recorded;
- c) the book and page or series number in the official records where the lien is recorded;
- d) the legal description of the property subject to the claim of lien;
- e) whether an extension of credit has been granted under Section 8460, if so to what date, and that the time for commencement of an action to enforce the lien has expired;
- f) that the owner has given the claimant notice under Section 8482 demanding that the claimant execute and record a release of the lien and that the claimant is unable or unwilling to do so or cannot with reasonable diligence be found;
- g) whether an action to enforce the lien is pending;
- h) whether the owner of the property or interest in the property has filed for relief in bankruptcy or there is another restraint that prevents the claimant from commencing an action to enforce the lien. (Civ. Code § 8484.)

The hearing date for the petition must be set for 30 days or less from the date of filing the petition and the court is to rule on the petition no later than 60 days after filing. (Civ. Code § 8486 subd. (a).) Petitioner must serve a copy of the petition and a notice of hearing at least 15 days prior to the hearing. (Id. at subd. (b).) Service shall be made in the same manner as service of summons, or by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the claimant as provided in section 8108. (Ibid.) At the hearing, the claimant is deemed to controvert both the petition and compliance with the service requirements. (Civ. Code § 8488 subd. (a).) Prevailing party is entitled to attorney's fees. (Id. at subd. (c).)

The petition must be denied as it was not verified by petitioners. Counsel for petitioners signed a verification, but without any explanation why petitioners could not verify it or why an attorney verification is appropriate for this petition.

In addition, petitioners provide no declarations or other evidence to demonstrate that notice and demand for release of lien was properly served on respondent prior to filing the petition, or that the address of service for respondent is the appropriate one. Civil Code section 8108 states that notice must be given at a person's residence, place of business, or address shown on the contract, building permit, or other document specified in section 8108. The only address for respondents known to this court is the one that appears on the Claim of Mechanics Lien attached to the petition as Exhibit A, and the address of service is different. Petitioners must prove that the address or service was appropriate.

Petitioners do not identify "the book and page or series number in the official records where the lien is recorded." (Civ. Code § 8484 subd. (c).) Petitioners also provide no basis for the amount of attorney's fees or costs being requested in the petition. Petitioner provides no proposed order.

If petitioners chose to amend their petition and reset for a new hearing date, they should remedy the identified defects and provide a proposed order for the court to consider.

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	9			
Issued By:	JS	on	3/24/2025	
-	(Judge's initials)		(Date)	