

TENTATIVE RULINGS: CIVIL LAW & MOTION

Please note Friday's 8:30 a.m. Law & Motion Calendar will be called at 3:00 P.M.

Friday, October 24, 2025, at **3:00 PM**
Courtroom 18 – Hon. Kenneth G. English
Civil and Family Law Courthouse
3055 Cleveland Avenue
Santa Rosa, California 95403

The tentative rulings will become the ruling of the Court unless a party desires to be heard. If you desire to appear and present oral argument, **YOU MUST NOTIFY** the Judge's Judicial Assistant by telephone at **(707) 521-6604**, and all other opposing parties of your intent to appear, **and whether that appearance is in person or via Zoom**, no later 4:00 p.m. the court day immediately preceding the day of the hearing.

If the tentative ruling is accepted, no appearance is necessary unless otherwise indicated.

TO JOIN ZOOM ONLINE:

Department 18:

Meeting ID: **160—739—4368**

Password: **000169**

<https://sonomacourtorg.zoomgov.com/j/1607394368?pwd=aW1JTWIIL3NBeE9LVHU2NVpQIVRUT09>

TO JOIN ZOOM BY PHONE:

By Phone (same meeting ID and password as listed for each calendar):

Call: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

PLEASE NOTE: The Court's Official Court Reporters are "not available" within the meaning of California Rules of Court, Rule 2.956, for court reporting of civil cases.

Unless notification of an appearance has been given as provided above, the tentative ruling shall become the ruling of the Court the day of the hearing at the beginning of the calendar.

1. 24CV05072, Peterson Holding Company v. Pedrani: Defendants' Motion to Consolidate

Defendant Thomas Pendleton, dba T&E Trucking, and Thomas Pendleton's, individually, ("Defendants") unopposed motion for consolidation is **GRANTED**.

This action arises from a motor vehicle collision involving multiple vehicles that occurred on October 14, 2022, on Porter Creek Road in Sonoma County. (MPA in Support of Motion to Consolidate Cases, 2:21–22.) There are three separate cases relating to the accident currently pending in the Sonoma County Superior Court:

- The instant action: *Peterson Holding Company v. T&E Trucking* (24CV05072) filed on August 29, 2024, in Department 18;
- *Braithwaite v. Pendleton* (24CV05319) filed on September 11, 2024, in Department 16; and
- *Perez Chim v. T&E Trucking* (24CV05492) filed on September 18, 2024, in Department 16.

Defendants previously moved the Court to consolidate these three cases on May 14, 2025, which the Court denied for failure to comply with California Rules of Court, Rule 3.350(a)(1)(C). (See Minute Orders, dated August 13, 2025.) Defendants refiled the motion on September 4, 2025. The Court notes that Defendants have complied with Rule 3.350(a)(1)(C) by filing a notice of motion to consolidate cases in 24CV05319 and 24CV05492. Additionally, all parties across all three cases have stipulated to have the cases consolidated. (See O'Connor Declaration, Exhibit A.)

A trial court has broad discretion to consolidate actions with common questions of law or fact to avoid unnecessary costs or delay. (C.C.P. § 1048(a); *Walker v. Walker* (1960) 177 Cal.App.2d 89, 91–92.) Here, all three actions arise from the same multivehicle collision and therefore will necessarily involve common questions of law or fact. Thus, Defendants' motion is **GRANTED** in the interests of justice and judicial efficiency. Pursuant to California Rules of Court, Rule 3.350(b) and (d), the instant action, 24CV05072, is the lead case as the lowest numbered case and all documents filed must include the caption and case number of the lead case, followed by the case numbers of all the other consolidated cases.

Defendants' counsel shall submit a written order on its motion to the Court consistent with this tentative ruling and in compliance with Rule of Court 3.1312(a) and (b). This order must also be filed in cases 24CV05319 and 24CV05492 pursuant to Rule 3.350(c).

2. 25CV04226, Rantissi v. Volkswagen Group of America Inc.: Plaintiff's Demurrer to Defendant's Answer

Appearances Required.

*****This is the end of the Tentative Rulings*****