

Court of Appeals, Division One

Civil - Probate Case

1 CA-CV 25-0041 PB

DOMINGUEZ v. ROWLAND/VANDERMEER

Appellate Case Information

Case Filed: 16-Jan-2025

Case Closed:

Dept/Composition

Department E

Hon. Michael J Brown
Hon. Veronika Fabian
Hon. David D Weinzweig

Side 1. In the Matter of the Estate of:

ARTURO LOPEZ,

Deceased.

TERESA DOMINGUEZ, Petitioner/Appellee

(Litigant Group) TERESA DOMINGUEZ

- Teresa Dominguez

Attorneys for: Petitioner/Appellee

R Andrew Rahtz, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 26151)
John A Tsangeos, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 39130)
Cierra N Chaon, Esq. (AZ Bar No. 39827)

Side 2. MESHELLE ROWLAND, Respondent/Appellant

(Litigant Group) MESHELLE ROWLAND

- Meshelle Van Der Meer PRO SE

Side 3. DIRK VANDERMEER, Respondent/Appellee

(Litigant Group) DIRK VANDERMEER

- Dirk Vandermeer PRO SE

CASE STATUS

Mar 29, 2026....Pending in ASC

Table with 6 columns: PREDECESSOR CASE(S), Cause/Charge/Class, Judgment/Sentence, Judge, Role <Comments>, Trial, Dispo. Row 1: MAR, PB2023-002132, Petition for Formal Probate and Appointment of Personal Representative, Lisa Ann VandenBerg, Authoring Judge of Order.

DESCENDENT CASE(S)

ASC CV-26-0100-PR

CASE DECISION

27-Feb-2026 MEMORANDUM DECISION

Veronika Fabian.....Author
Michael Brown.....Concur
David Weinzweig.....Concur

Filed: 27-Feb-2026

Mandate:

Decision Disposition

Affirmed

75 PROCEEDING ENTRIES

- 1. 16-Jan-2025 FILED: Index of Record, Notice of Appeal from Maricopa County Superior Court filed 12/18/24
2. 16-Jan-2025 FILED: e-Record on Appeal: Instruments/Minute Entries Exhibits: Hearing Date 9/6/24 8, 14, 19, 21, 22, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 26 part 1, 26 part 2, 26 part 3, 26 part 4
3. 16-Jan-2025 FILED: Appellate Clerk Notice re: Appellant's Fee/Case Management Statement/Brief Due
4. 16-Jan-2025 FILED: Additional Record on Appeal: Physical Exhibits- Hearing Date 09/06/2024 - List # 39 40 41 42 43 in Manila Envelope;
5. 29-Jan-2025 FILED: Application for Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees or Costs and Consent to Entry of Judgment (Appellant)
6. 29-Jan-2025 FILED: (Proposed) Order Regarding Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees and Costs
7. 31-Jan-2025 ORDERED: Application for Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees or Costs and Consent to Entry of Judgment (Appellant Pro Per) = DEFERRAL GRANTED. No payments will be due until further notice. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author

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8. 31-Jan-2025 FILED: Request to Participate in the Pro Bono Program (Appellant Pro Per)
9. 31-Jan-2025 FILED: Motion to Stay Trial Court Proceedings (Appellant Pro Per)
10. 31-Jan-2025 FILED: Notice of Pending Motion Identified in Rule 9(e)(1) (Appellant Pro Per)
11. 3-Feb-2025 ORDERED: Request to Participate in the Pro Bono Program (Appellant Pro Per) = DENIED. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
12. 5-Feb-2025 FILED: Case Management Statement; Untitled (Invoice for Trial Transcripts) (Appellant Pro Per)
13. 5-Feb-2025 FILED: Appellant's Notice of Ordering Partial Transcripts to be Included in the Record on Appeal; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
14. 5-Feb-2025 FILED: 1st Amended Appellant's Notice of Ordering Partial Transcripts to be Included in the Record on Appeal; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
15. 13-Feb-2025 FILED: Appellee's Response to Appellant's Motion to Stay Trial Court Proceedings; Untitled (Certificate of Service) (Appellee)
16. 19-Feb-2025 RECEIPT No.: 2025-00170 ; \$165.00, Authorization: # 500116851, Applied to: TERESA DOMINGUEZ - Class B Filing Fee (\$165.00) Paid for: Platt and Westby PC - By nCourt, LLC
17. 19-Feb-2025 RECEIPT No.: 2025-00171 ; \$165.00, Authorization: # 50011685138, Applied to: TERESA DOMINGUEZ - Class B Filing Fee (\$165.00) Paid for: Platt and Westby PC - By nCourt, LLC (Memo: X-Ref: 2025-00170)
18. 19-Feb-2025 VOID RECEIPT No.: 2025-00170 - \$-165.00, Authorization: # 500116851, - Applied to: TERESA DOMINGUEZ - Class B Filing Fee (\$-165.00) Paid for: Platt and Westby PC - By: nCourt, LLC VOID Reason: X-Ref: 2025-00171. incorrect EFT number. alr.
19. 20-Feb-2025 FILED: Appellate Clerk Notice re: Appellee's Fee; Appellant's Brief Due
20. 20-Feb-2025 FILED: Settlement Conference Program Notice
21. 21-Feb-2025 FILED: Meshelle Rowland, Appellant's Reply to Teresa Dominguez, Appellee's [sic] Response to Motion to Stay Appellate Court Proceedings; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
22. 24-Feb-2025 ORDERED: Staying appeal until 03/26/2025, revesting jurisdiction in superior court and authorizing that court to consider pending motion. FURTHER ORDERED: If superior court grants motion, appellant must file a notice in this court indicating whether appellant intends to pursue appeal. If a party wants this court to review any additional filings, that party must file a timely notice of appeal or amended notice of appeal. FURTHER ORDERED: If the superior court has not ruled on the motions by 03/26/2025, appellant must file a notice in this court regarding the status of the motion. FURTHER ORDERED: Vacating the 03/17/2025 due date for the opening brief. Court will address briefing schedule after superior court rules on pending motion. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
23. 27-Feb-2025 FILED: Notice of Filing Trial Court's Minute Entries, Dated 02/03/2025 and 01/17/2025; Untitled (Certificate of Service) (Appellee)
24. 28-Feb-2025 ORDERED: Affirming the court's 02/24/2025 Order Staying Appeal. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
25. 28-Feb-2025 FILED: Rowland's Response to Dominguez's Notice of Filing Trial Court's Minute Entries, Dated February 3,2025 and January 17,2025; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
26. 3-Mar-2025 ORDERED: Taking no action on the response. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
27. 24-Mar-2025 FILED: Supplemented Superior Court e-Record with Revised Index of Record (Rulings on Rule 59 and Extension Motion)
28. 25-Mar-2025 FILED: Notice of Ruling on Pending Motions; Certificate of Service; Certificate of Service (Duplicate) (Appellant Pro Per)
[stricken per order filed on 03/27/2025]
29. 27-Mar-2025 ORDERED: Striking the notice filed on 03/25/2025. FURTHER ORDERED: Lifting the stay of this appeal. FURTHER ORDERED: The opening brief is due by 05/05/2025. If the brief is not timely filed, this court will dismiss this appeal. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
30. 2-Apr-2025 FILED: Amended Notice of Ruling on Pending Motions & Motion Requesting Relief Due to Violation of Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. Rule 2.9, 2.6 & Rule 3.3 of the Arizona Supreme Court's Ethical Rules; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
31. 2-Apr-2025 ORDERED: Amended Notice of Ruling on Pending Motions & Motion Requesting Relief Due to Violation of Ariz. R. Sup. Ct. Rule 2.9, 2.6 & Rule 3.3 of the Arizona Supreme Court's Ethical Rules (Appellant) = DENIED. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
32. 11-Apr-2025 FILED: Supplemented Superior Court e-Record with Revised Index of Record
33. 29-Apr-2025 FILED: Request for Extension of Time; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
34. 1-May-2025 ORDERED: Request for Extension of Time (Appellant Pro Per) = GRANTED. Due date EXTENDED from Monday, 05-05-2025 to Wednesday, 06-04-2025. If the brief is not timely filed, the court will dismiss this appeal. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
35. 6-May-2025 FILED: Motion to Submit Alternative Record Materials; Certificate of Service (Appellant Pro Per)
36. 13-May-2025 FILED: Objection/Response to Motion to Submit Alternative Record Materials; Certificate of Service (Appellee)

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37.	14-May-2025	ORDERED: Vacating the 06/04/2025 due date for the opening brief. The order ruling on the pending motion will set a due date to file the opening brief. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
38.	15-May-2025	FILED: Reply to Objection; Certificate of Service; Untitled (Email Correspondence) (Appellant Pro Per)
39.	16-May-2025	ORDERED: Motion to Submit Alternative Record Materials (Appellant Pro Per) = GRANTED in part and allowing appellant to file a recording of the 07/09/2024 proceedings. Appellant must file and serve the recording as required under Rule 11(f), Arizona Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure, if she has not done so already. FURTHER ORDERED: Denying the motion as to the request to submit narrative statements. FURTHER ORDERED: Appellant must file the opening brief by 06/18/2025. If appellant does not file the brief timely, the court will dismiss this appeal. Hon David B Gass - Author
40.	19-May-2025	FILED: Appellate Application for Additional Deferral of Transcripts Fees and Consent to Entry of Judgement (Appellant Pro Per)
41.	22-May-2025	ORDERED: Appellate Application for Additional Deferral of Transcripts Fees and Consent to Entry of Judgement (Appellant Pro Per) = DENIED. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
42.	3-Jun-2025	FILED: Expedited Motion Seeking Instructions/Directions from the Court on How to Proceed; Expedited Motion Seeking Instructions/Directions from the Court on How to Proceed (Duplicate) (Certificate of Service) (Appellant Pro Per)
43.	4-Jun-2025	ORDERED: Expedited Motion Seeking Instructions/Directions from the Court on How to Proceed (Appellant Pro Per) = DENIED appellant's request to file a narrative statement. FURTHER ORDERED: Denying appellant's request for an order directing appellees to obtain the transcripts without prejudice to appellant seeking such relief in the superior court. Hon David B Gass - Author
44.	18-Jun-2025	FILED: Brief and Appendix for Respondent-Appellant Meshelle Rowland; Brief and Appendix for Respondent-Appellant Meshelle Rowland (Duplicate); Brief and Appendix for Respondent-Appellant Meshelle Rowland (Duplicate) (Appellant/Pro Per)
45.	26-Jun-2025	FILED: Appellant's Motion for Leave to File Amended Opening Brief; Certificate of Service; Exhibit A - Detailed Timeline and Summary of Email Correspondence (Appellant Pro Per)
46.	27-Jun-2025	ORDERED: Vacating the 07/28/2025 due date for the answering brief. The order ruling on the pending motion for leave to file amended opening brief will set a due date to file the answering brief. Steven C Lawrence ProTem Judge - Author
47.	15-Jul-2025	ORDERED: Appellant's Motion for Leave to File Amended Opening Brief (Appellant Pro Per) = GRANTED. FURTHER ORDERED: Appellant may file an amended opening brief by 08/14/2025. If appellant does not timely file an amended brief, the answering brief to the 06/18/2025 opening brief is due 09/23/2025. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
48.	2-Aug-2025	FILED: Reporter's Transcript - 09/11/2024 - Bench Trial Day 2 (Christ Strauch) (Appellant)
49.	2-Aug-2025	FILED: Reporter's Transcript - 09/06/2024 - Bench Trial Day 1 (Charles Wright) (Appellant)
50.	2-Aug-2025	FILED: Reporter's Transcript - 09/13/2024 - Bench Trial Day 3 (Alexis Beaulieu) (Appellant)
51.	2-Aug-2025	FILED: Escribers Invoice (Appellant)
52.	8-Aug-2025	FILED: Reporter's Transcript - 07/09/2024 - Pre-Trial Scheduling Conference (John Buckley) (Appellant Pro Per)
53.	15-Aug-2025	FILED: Amended Opening Brief & Appendix for Respondent - Appellant Meshelle Rowland; Certificate of Service; Copy of order regarding Deferral or Waiver of Court Fees and Costs filed in Superior Court Maricopa County on 06/19/2025; Audio File (Appellant Pro Per)
54.	15-Aug-2025	FILED: Reporter's Transcript - 07/09/2024 - Trial Setting Conference (AUDIO FILE) (Appellant Pro Per) [Stricken per order filed 08/19/2025]
55.	19-Aug-2025	ORDERED: Striking the documents labeled "audio files" filed in the court on 08/15/2025. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
56.	10-Sep-2025	FILED: Appellee's Motion to Continue Deadline for Response to Appellant's Amended Opening Brief; Certificate of Service (Appellee)
57.	11-Sep-2025	ORDERED: Appellee's Motion to Continue Deadline for Response to Appellant's Amended Opening Brief (Appellee) = GRANTED. Due date EXTENDED from Tuesday, 09-23-2025 to Thursday, 10-23-2025. The court will not grant any further extension absent new and unforeseen circumstances. If the brief is not timely filed, the court will submit this appeal for decision on the record and the opening brief. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
58.	17-Oct-2025	FILED: Appellee's Response to Appellant's Amended Opening Brief; Certificate of Compliance; Certificate of Service (Appellee Dominguez) [Striken per order filed 10/20/2025 - jb]
59.	20-Oct-2025	ORDERED: Striking the answering brief filed on 10/17/2025. FURTHER ORDERED: A replacement answering brief that complies with the Arizona Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure must be filed by 10/30/2025. If a replacement brief is not timely filed, the court will submit this appeal for decision on the record and the opening brief. Melina Brill ProTem Judge - Author
60.	20-Oct-2025	FILED: Appellee's Response to Appellant's Amended Opening Brief; Certificate of Compliance; Certificate of Service (Appellee Dominguez)

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75 PROCEEDING ENTRIES

61.	11-Nov-2025	FILED: Reply Brief of Appellant; (Duplicate) Reply Brief of Appellant; (Duplicate) Reply Brief of Appellant (Appellant Rowland)
62.	11-Nov-2025	FILED: Appendix Part 1 of 2 (Appellant Rowland)
63.	11-Nov-2025	FILED: Appendix Part 2 of 2 (Appellant Rowland)
64.	12-Nov-2025	FILED: Motion for Leave to File Amicus Declaration of Bernadette Hersey; Certificate of Service; Motion for Leave to File Amicus Declaration of Bernadette Hersey (Duplicate) (Amicus Curiae)
65.	12-Nov-2025	FILED: Amicus Declaration of Bernadette Hersey Regarding the Capacity of Arturo Lopez on June 11, 2020; Amicus Declaration of Bernadette Hersey Regarding the Capacity of Arturo Lopez on June 11, 2020 (Duplicate) (Amicus Curiae)
66.	17-Nov-2025	ORDERED: Motion for Leave to File Amicus Declaration of Bernadette Hersey (Amicus Curiae) = DENIED. Hon Randall M Howe - Author
67.	26-Dec-2025	CLNDR: CONFERENCE, Department E, 2-12-26, COURTROOM 2.
68.	29-Dec-2025	FILED: Memorandum – to Clerk of Superior Court Re: any additional record not already transmitted due within 10 days
69.	8-Jan-2026	FILED: Supplemented Superior Court e-Record with Revised Index of Record
70.	27-Feb-2026	MEMORANDUM DECISION (Affirmed) Hon Veronika Fabian - Author; Hon Michael J Brown - Concur; Hon David D Weinzweig - Concur
71.	27-Feb-2026	FILED: Decision Distribution Notification
72.	10-Mar-2026	FILED: Statement of Costs; Certificate of Service (Appellee)
73.	27-Mar-2026	ORDERED: Statement of Costs (Appellee) = GRANTED/awarding Appellee her taxable costs in the amount of \$233.61. Hon Veronika Fabian - Author
74.	1-Apr-2026	FILED: Email Notice from ASC re: Petition for Review filed 03/29/2026; request for partial record
75.	1-Apr-2026	FILED: Letter forwarding partial record to Arizona Supreme Court