



for Subsequent Administration and Appointment of Personal Representative filed with this Court by Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., on May 19, 2023.

Present at the hearing were Elizabeth J. Palmer, Esquire, attorney for Petitioner Laura V. Jones, Respondent Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., and his attorney, Paul B. Ferrara, III, Esquire, and Eric B. Laquiere, Esquire, attorney for Katherine E. Anderson.

Based upon a review of the record in this matter, evidence and testimony presented at the hearing, and the laws of the State of South Carolina, the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law:

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

1. The Decedent, Veronique W. Pickett, died on December 18, 2018. At the time of her death, she was a resident of Virginia Beach, Virginia, but owned real property in Charleston County, South Carolina.

2. At the time of her death, the Decedent was survived by her son, Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., and her two granddaughters, Laura V. Jones and Kathleen E. Anderson.

3. On March 1, 2019, Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., son of the Decedent, filed an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative.

4. On March 11, 2019, Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr. (hereinafter, Respondent), was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate and the Decedent's Will, dated March 31, 1999, was admitted to probate.

5. Pursuant to the Will, the devisees of the Estate are as follows with their respected shares as indicated:

50%: Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., Trust as established under the Will of Veronique H.W. Pickett dated March 31, 1999

25%: Laura V. Jones Trust as established under the Will of Veronique H.W. Pickett dated March 31, 1999

25%: Kathleen E. Anderson Trust as established under the Will of Veronique H.W. Pickett dated March 31, 1999

6. By letter dated June 21, 2019, the Court notified Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., that the Estate's Inventory and Appraisal was overdue and demanded that it be filed within twenty days. Not receiving the requested filings, by letter dated September 21, 2020, the Court again demanded that the Inventory and Appraisal and other required documents, be filed within 20 days. On March 25, 2021, the Court sent a final demand that Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., file the required documentation, including, a Final Accounting and Proposal for Distribution. None of the requested or required documents were filed.

7. Due to Respondent's failure to file required documents after multiple demands by the Court dating back to June 21, 2019, the Court ultimately closed the Estate by Order dated January 19, 2022, pursuant to Rule 4. Bayard Scott Pickett, Jr., has not subsequently been reappointed as Personal Representative.

8. As of the date of the hearing in this matter, 4 ½ years after opening the Estate and being appointed as Personal Representative, Respondent had never filed an Inventory and Appraisal. Respondent also failed to file an Interim Accounting in those 4 ½ years, although he testified at the hearing that the Estate originally had approximately \$80,000 in cash.

9. Additionally, Respondent testified at the hearing that he had, just that day, attempted to file an Inventory and Appraisal listing the Decedent's real property, located in Mt. Pleasant, SC, and valuing it at \$4,000,000.

10. Respondent further testified that he had just recently transferred the proceeds from the sale of the real property out of an Estate account and into various accounts, some of which are neither Estate, nor fiduciary.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

11. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter and venue is proper pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §§ 62-1-302 and 62-3-201(b).

12. This Court finds that proper notice was given to all parties with an interest in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 62-1-401.

13. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 62-3-614(2), a special administrator may be appointed “in a formal proceeding by order of the court on the petition of any interested person and finding, after notice and hearing, that appointment is necessary to preserve the estate or to secure its proper administration including its administration in circumstances where a general personal representative cannot or should not act.”

14. The Court finds that the appointment of a Special Administrator is necessary to preserve the Estate and to secure its proper administration. Therefore, the Court appoints C. Mac Gibson, Esquire as the Special Administrator of this Estate. Mr. Gibson has extensive experience in probate matters and has agreed to serve as a fiduciary to this Court.

15. Mr. Gibson, as Special Administrator, shall proceed with the administration of the Decedent’s Estate pursuant to the South Carolina Probate Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 62-3-614, C. Mac Gibson, Esquire, is hereby appointed as Special Administrator of the Estate of Veronique W. Pickett; it is further

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Attorney Gibson shall not be required to obtain a bond and shall have all powers of a general Personal Representative in proceeding with the administration of this Estate; it is further

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that all parties shall fully cooperate with the Special Administrator to ensure efficient and effective administration of the Estate; it is further

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that the Special Administrator shall keep records of all his time devoted to this file and shall submit an Affidavit of Attorney's Fees, itemized statement of his bill, and a proposed order to the Court. These fees shall be paid from the Estate, upon Court approval, pursuant to the South Carolina Probate Code; it is further

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Petitioner Laura V. Jones may submit to the Court, and serve on all parties, an Affidavit of Attorney's Fees and itemized statement of costs incurred in connection with her Petition for Formal Appointment of Special Administrator. Respondent shall have 30 days from service thereof to submit any response; it is further

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that this Order is subject to such further Orders of this Court as may become necessary.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**



**DAVID MICHEL**  
Associate Judge of Probate  
Charleston County

This 27 day of September, 2023  
Charleston, South Carolina.