

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

Leonard Loh v. Lanston Loh, et al.

Loh · No. 2:25-cv-02441-CDS-MDC · Decided January 20, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nevada denied without prejudice the plaintiff’s motion to serve defendant Peggy Chia Loh by publication. The court held that service by publication is a last resort and that the plaintiff had not shown sufficient diligence in attempting to locate and serve the defendant.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the District of Nevada                                                                                                                                   |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Maximiliano D. Couvillier III                                                                                                                                                             |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the District of Nevada                                                                                                                                   |
| DECIDED               | January 20, 2026                                                                                                                                                                          |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-02441-CDS-MDC                                                                                                                                                                     |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Plaintiff moved for permission to serve defendant Peggy Chia Loh by publication after several unsuccessful attempts to serve her at her last known Nevada address.                        |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court evaluated whether plaintiff demonstrated sufficient diligence and whether service by publication was appropriate under due-process principles and the applicable service rules. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished                                                                                                                                                                               |

TOPICS

- service of process
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- service of process

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether plaintiff demonstrated sufficient diligence to permit service of process by publication.

2. Whether service by publication was appropriate at this stage as a means reasonably calculated to provide notice to the defendant.

## HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff did not demonstrate sufficient diligence because the record showed only a few service attempts at a single location and no investigation of other likely sources of information.
2. Service by publication was not appropriate at this stage of the litigation, and the motion was denied without prejudice.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

“service by publication must be allowed ‘only as a last resort.’” (at 1)

“Due process requires notice that is reasonably calculated to apprise the defendant of the lawsuit.” (at 2)

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff attempted several times to serve Peggy Chia Loh at her last known Nevada address, but no one answered the door. A process server and a private investigator submitted declarations, with the investigator stating that voter and vehicle records supported the address used. The court found that plaintiff had attempted service only a few times at one location and had not investigated other likely sources of information before requesting publication service.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the action and then moved to serve defendant Peggy Chia Loh by publication. The court denied the motion without prejudice, finding that plaintiff had not shown sufficient diligence and had not adequately investigated other likely sources of information before seeking publication service.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Price v. Dunn, 106 Nev. 100, 102-104, 787 P.2d 785, 786-787 (Nev. 1990)
- Hernandez v. Russell, No. 320CV00114MMDCSD, 2022 WL 347552, at \*2 (D. Nev. Feb. 4, 2022)
- Price v. Thomas, No. 21-cv-06370-DMR, 2021 WL 5564795, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 29, 2021)