

# Nevada Jury to Rule on Hughes Will

## Las Vegas

The authenticity of the so-called "Mormon Will" of the late Howard Hughes will be decided by a Nevada jury, a judge ruled yesterday.

State District Court Judge Keith Hayes set January 10 for start of the jury trial over the probate of the biggest fortune ever left unsettled in U.S. history.

Hayes ruled that the question of the legitimacy of that will should be decided by a jury before the court goes into the question of the last domicile of the eccentric billionaire.

The three-page, handwritten, stained document found in the headquarters of the Mormon

church in February named former Hughes' aide Noah Dietrich as executor of the \$2.5 billion estate.

It cut out many of Hughes' relatives and included instead such beneficiaries as Melvin Dummar, the operator of a three-pump station in Willard, Utah, who said that in 1968 he gave a ride to a scraggly hitchhiker who identified himself as Hughes.

Hayes' decision was a victory for Dietrich and his attorney, Harold Rhoden, and a setback for Summa Corp., the umbrella company that controls Hughes' financial empire. Summa along with 20 relatives of Hughes, had pleaded for the court to decide the question of domicile first.

Texas officials have argued

that Hughes' true legal residence was in that state and whether the "Mormon" will is found valid or not, proceedings should be held there. Texas would stand to gain \$335 million in inheritance taxes if the case were adjudicated there.

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