

Ex-Hughes Aide Appears In a Court in Los Angeles After Warrant Is Issued

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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28—A bench warrant was issued in Superior Court here today for one of Howard R. Hughes's personal aides, who then quickly appeared in court and was released on his promise to appear for questioning under oath Nov. 8.

The warrant was issued by Judge Neil Lake of probate court. When Mr. Holmes appeared, the judge released him on the commitment that he would appear to give a deposition at the law offices of Harold Rhoden.

Mr. Rhoden is attempting to establish the validity of a purported Hughes will that turned up in the world headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City.

Mr. Holmes lived and worked closely with the late Mr. Hughes for 20 years. He was one of a half-dozen or so personal aides who were the only people who regularly saw the reclusive Mr. Hughes.

Mr. Rhoden represents Noah Dietrich, 87 years old, a top employee of Mr. Hughes before they fell out, and who is named as executor in the purported will. Relatives of Mr. Hughes have contested the will in Los Angeles and in Las Vegas, where it has been offered for probate.

The Los Angeles will contest has been held in abeyance until a decision is made in the contests filed in Las Vegas, where the proceedings are to begin on Jan. 10.

Procedurally, the matters involving Mr. Holmes's nonappearance are tied to the Los Angeles contest, for Judge Lake has no authority to force appearance for a deposition involving litigation in Nevada.

But the questioning of Mr. Holmes and other close associates of Mr. Hughes will be directed primarily toward discovery of evidence bearing on the issues that will develop in the Las Vegas courtroom.

One basic question there will be whether Mr. Hughes had the opportunity to write the will. Those attacking its validity will do so, in part, through testimony of Mr. Holmes and others who lived closely with Mr. Hughes.

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