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Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
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IN THE PROBATE COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JOSEPH G. RANSOM,
deceased.

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CASE NO. PR-2024-001899

ORDER

This matter came before the Court on July 21, 2025 for hearing on the Motion To Withdraw As Personal Representative, To Admit Will To Probate, And For Reimbursement of Expenses filed on June 11, 2025 by Elizabeth H. Mason, Esq., as Personal Representative of the estate. Notice was given as required by law, it is noted that all of the heirs/next of kin filed or caused to be filed Renunciations To Serve As Administrator Or Personal Representative and were sent notice of these proceedings by first class mail. Present in open court for the hearing were: Leonard Darden along with Robert J. Leavell, Esq. After considering the pleadings and evidence, the Court hereby FINDS as follows:

1. A Petition for Letters of Administration was filed with the Court on December 16, 2024 and Letters of Administration issued to Elizabeth H. Mason on December 30, 2024.
2. Ms. Mason, acting as personal representative filed a Motion to Produce Original Will after learning the decedent died leaving a last will and testament which had previously been unknown to her. A document purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of the decedent was filed with the Court on May 29, 2025.
3. The Court being satisfied from the documents and evidence presented that the instrument filed on May 29, 2025 which purports to be the Last Will and Testament of the said decedent is the legal Will of the said decedent.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED as follows:

1. The Letters of Administration issued to Elizabeth H. Mason are due to be and hereby are **REVOKED** and she is removed as administrator. Elizabeth H. Mason shall file a Final Settlement and Accounting of her actions as Administrator on or before 4:30 PM on August 29, 2025.
2. The request for attorneys fees and reimbursement of costs and expenses related to the administration set out in the Motion filed on June 11, 2025 by Ms. Mason, shall be addressed at the hearing on Final Settlement of her actions as personal representative, unless resolved by agreement prior thereto.

3. The instrument which purports to be the Will of the said decedent was duly and legally executed by **JOSEPH G. RANSOM**, that the said instrument is the legal Will of the said decedent, that the Will is hereby admitted to probate and recorded in this Court and that pursuant to *Ala. Code, §43-2-21(1975)*. Said Will not waving the requirement of the posting of a bond, Letters Testamentary will be granted to **LEONARD DARDEN**, as Personal Representative of said estate upon posting of good and sufficient surety in the amount of Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$85,000.00).
4. Court costs are taxed to the estate of Joseph Ransom, for which let execution issue.

DONE AND ORDERED this the 25th day of July, 2025.



ALLISON S. BOYD
PROBATE JUDGE

cc: Elizabeth H. Mason, Esq.
H. Emmanuel Scozzaro, Esq.
Robert J. Leavell, Esq.
Cynthia Jackson
Gwendolyn Lawton
Joseph Lawton
Reginald Flanders
Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.