

***Electronic Formatting Requirements and Guidelines  
of the Second District***

*Pursuant to California Rules of Court  
rules 8.72(a) and 8.74(b)*

*effective October 30, 2017*

**Formatting Requirements**

**1. Text-searchable format**

All documents must be text-searchable, in PDF (portable document format) while maintaining the original document formatting.

**2. Pagination**

The page numbering of a document filed electronically must begin with the first page or cover as page 1 and use only Arabic numerals (e.g., 1, 2, 3).

**3. Electronic Bookmarks**

All briefs, original proceedings, motions and applications with attachments must include electronic bookmarks to each heading, subheading and component of the document, such as the table of contents, table of authorities, petition, verification, points and authorities, declaration, certificate of word count, certificate of interested entities or persons, and proof of service. Each bookmark to a tab, exhibit or attachment must include the letter or number of the tab, exhibit or attachment and a description of the tab, exhibit

or attachment. *If the exhibits or attachments are submitted separate, each file must contain a cover page with bookmarks of the contents of each file.*

4. **Size**

No single PDF file may exceed a size of 25 megabytes. If a filing exceeds this file size limitation the TrueFiling user must either (a) submit the filing in multiple parts or (b) provide the court with the filing in electronic format on a CD (compact disc), DVD or flash drive. Please note any audio files must be submitted in .wav or mp3 format and any video files must be submitted in .avi or mp4 format.

5. **Privacy Protection**

Electronic filers must comply with California Rules of Court, rule 1.201 regarding exclusion or redaction of personal identifiers from all documents filed with the court. Neither TrueFiling nor the Clerk of the Court has any responsibility to review documents for compliance with these requirements.

## **Formatting Guidelines**

Filers are encouraged, but not required, to follow these guidelines which are designed to improve the functionality and readability of documents filed with the court. (See [\*The Leap from E-Filing to E-Briefing, Recommendations and Options for Appellate Courts to Improve the Functionality and Readability of E-Briefs\*](#) (2017).)

6. **Font Style**

**A proportionally spaced serif face**, such as Century School Book, Century, Bookman Old Style, Book Antiqua, etc. Do not use Times New Roman. Headings can (and should be) legible sans serif fonts such as Helvetica, Candara, or Arial.

7. **Font size**

**13 pt. text** (including footnotes) 14 pt. headings.

8. **Spacing**

**1.2 (currently 1.5)**. In terms of readability, ideal line spacing is closer to single spacing than double spacing. In Microsoft Word and WordPerfect, setting line spacing at 1.2x closely approximates the standard that is used in professionally published books and scholarly journals, as well as generally required for U.S. Supreme Court briefs, which is 2 points of leading between each line of text. *See* Sup. Ct. R. 33(1)(b). By contrast, so-called “double spacing” in Microsoft Word is equivalent to 2.23 spacing, and in WordPerfect is similar, which is almost twice the professional standard. (See Matthew Butterick, *Typography for Lawyers*, at 137-38 (2d ed. 2015).)

**[footnotes and quotations may be singled spaced]**

9. **Margins**

**1.5” on all sides**. An 8½” by 11” page is very large for a publication intended to be read, as distinguished from a reference book or the like that is typically not read for an extended period. Only the economy and convenience of using standard letter-size paper justifies such an oversized

page. Letter-size paper avoids the complexities of booklet format, such as laying out signatures, trimming pages, saddle stitching the booklet, etc. *See* U.S. Government Printing Office Style Manual (30th ed. 2008).

#### 10. **Alignment**

**Left Aligned.** Left aligned text is easier to read than justified text. Like double spacing, justification is a relic of typesetting days, but many legal writers continue to use it out of habit, without thinking about the fact that it is less readable.

#### 11. **Miscellaneous**

Use “curly” or “smart” quotation marks and apostrophes (rather than "straight") Boldface and Italics to be used instead of underlining. Do not use ALL CAPS. Emphasis is an effective tool when used well. In terms of readability, most experts prefer **boldface** and *italics*, and strongly disfavor underlining.

#### 12. **File Formatting**

Whenever possible **do not scan** documents. Convert to PDF format in a word processing program. Compile documents, e.g. appendices, using E-Copies rather than scanned copies with OCR.

#### 13. **Hyperlink**

**Hyperlinked Briefs.** Filers are encouraged to hyperlink their briefs and writs to legal citations and appendices or exhibits.