

April 25, 2019

Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

I have the honor to submit to the Congress the amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that have been adopted by the Supreme Court of the United States pursuant to Section 2072 of Title 28, United States Code.

Accompanying these rules are the following materials that were submitted to the Court for its consideration pursuant to Section 331 of Title 28, United States Code: a transmittal letter to the Court dated October 24, 2018; a redline version of the rules with committee notes; an excerpt from the September 2018 report of the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure to the Judicial Conference of the United States; and an excerpt from the May 2018 report of the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

Sincerely,

/s/ John G. Roberts

April 25, 2019

Honorable Michael R. Pence  
President, United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

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Sincerely,

/s/ John G. Roberts

April 25, 2019

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ORDERED:

1. The Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure are amended to include amendments to Rules 3, 5, 13, 21, 25, 26, 26.1, 28, 32, and 39.

[*See infra* pp. — — —.]

2. The foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure shall take effect on December 1, 2019, and shall govern in all proceedings in appellate cases thereafter commenced and, insofar as just and practicable, all proceedings then pending.

3. THE CHIEF JUSTICE is authorized to transmit to the Congress the foregoing amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure in accordance with the provisions of Section 2074 of Title 28, United States Code.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
FEDERAL RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE**

**Rule 3. Appeal as of Right—How Taken**

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**(d) Serving the Notice of Appeal.**

- (1) The district clerk must serve notice of the filing of a notice of appeal by sending a copy to each party's counsel of record—excluding the appellant's—or, if a party is proceeding pro se, to the party's last known address. When a defendant in a criminal case appeals, the clerk must also serve a copy of the notice of appeal on the defendant. The clerk must promptly send a copy of the notice of appeal and of the docket entries—and any later docket entries—to the clerk of the court of appeals named in the notice. The district clerk must note, on each copy, the date when the notice of appeal was filed.

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- (2) If an inmate confined in an institution files a notice of appeal in the manner provided by Rule 4(c), the district clerk must also note the date when the clerk docketed the notice.
- (3) The district clerk's failure to serve notice does not affect the validity of the appeal. The clerk must note on the docket the names of the parties to whom the clerk sends copies, with the date of sending. Service is sufficient despite the death of a party or the party's counsel.

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**Rule 5. Appeal by Permission**

**(a) Petition for Permission to Appeal.**

- (1) To request permission to appeal when an appeal is within the court of appeals' discretion, a party must file a petition with the circuit clerk and serve it on all other parties to the district-court action.

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**Rule 13. Appeals from the Tax Court**

**(a) Appeal as of Right.**

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- (2) **Notice of Appeal; How Filed.** The notice of appeal may be filed either at the Tax Court clerk's office in the District of Columbia or by sending it to the clerk. If sent by mail the notice is considered filed on the postmark date, subject to § 7502 of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and the applicable regulations.

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**Rule 21. Writs of Mandamus and Prohibition, and Other Extraordinary Writs**

**(a) Mandamus or Prohibition to a Court: Petition, Filing, Service, and Docketing.**

- (1) A party petitioning for a writ of mandamus or prohibition directed to a court must file the petition with the circuit clerk and serve it on all parties to the proceeding in the trial court. The party must also provide a copy to the trial-court judge. All parties to the proceeding in the trial court other than the petitioner are respondents for all purposes.

\* \* \* \* \*

- (c) Other Extraordinary Writs.** An application for an extraordinary writ other than one provided for in Rule 21(a) must be made by filing a petition with the circuit clerk and serving it on the respondents. Proceedings on the application must conform, so far

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as is practicable, to the procedures prescribed in  
Rule 21(a) and (b).

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**Rule 25. Filing and Service**

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**(d) Proof of Service.**

(1) A paper presented for filing must contain either of the following if it was served other than through the court's electronic-filing system:

(A) an acknowledgment of service by the person served; or

(B) proof of service consisting of a statement by the person who made service certifying:

(i) the date and manner of service;

(ii) the names of the persons served; and

(iii) their mail or electronic addresses, facsimile numbers, or the addresses of the places of delivery, as appropriate for the manner of service.

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- (2) When a brief or appendix is filed by mailing or dispatch in accordance with Rule 25(a)(2)(A)(ii), the proof of service must also state the date and manner by which the document was mailed or dispatched to the clerk.
- (3) Proof of service may appear on or be affixed to the papers filed.

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**Rule 26. Computing and Extending Time**

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**(c) Additional Time After Certain Kinds of Service.**

When a party may or must act within a specified time after being served, and the paper is not served electronically on the party or delivered to the party on the date stated in the proof of service, 3 days are added after the period would otherwise expire under Rule 26(a).

**Rule 26.1. Disclosure Statement**

**(a) Nongovernmental Corporations.** Any

nongovernmental corporation that is a party to a proceeding in a court of appeals must file a statement that identifies any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of its stock or states that there is no such corporation. The same requirement applies to a nongovernmental corporation that seeks to intervene.

**(b) Organizational Victims in Criminal Cases.** In a

criminal case, unless the government shows good cause, it must file a statement that identifies any organizational victim of the alleged criminal activity. If the organizational victim is a corporation, the statement must also disclose the information required by Rule 26.1(a) to the extent it can be obtained through due diligence.

(c) **Bankruptcy Cases.** In a bankruptcy case, the debtor, the trustee, or, if neither is a party, the appellant must file a statement that:

- (1) identifies each debtor not named in the caption;
- and
- (2) for each debtor that is a corporation, discloses the information required by Rule 26.1(a).

(d) **Time for Filing; Supplemental Filing.** The Rule 26.1 statement must:

- (1) be filed with the principal brief or upon filing a motion, response, petition, or answer in the court of appeals, whichever occurs first, unless a local rule requires earlier filing;
- (2) be included before the table of contents in the principal brief; and
- (3) be supplemented whenever the information required under Rule 26.1 changes.

- (e) **Number of Copies.** If the Rule 26.1 statement is filed before the principal brief, or if a supplemental statement is filed, an original and 3 copies must be filed unless the court requires a different number by local rule or by order in a particular case.

**Rule 28. Briefs**

**(a) Appellant's Brief.** The appellant's brief must contain, under appropriate headings and in the order indicated:

- (1) a disclosure statement if required by Rule 26.1;

\* \* \* \* \*

**Rule 32. Form of Briefs, Appendices, and Other Papers**

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**(f) Items Excluded from Length.** In computing any length limit, headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward the limit but the following items do not:

- cover page;
- disclosure statement;
- table of contents;
- table of citations;
- statement regarding oral argument;
- addendum containing statutes, rules, or regulations;
- certificate of counsel;
- signature block;
- proof of service; and
- any item specifically excluded by these rules or by local rule.

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**Rule 39. Costs**

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**(d) Bill of Costs: Objections; Insertion in Mandate.**

- (1) A party who wants costs taxed must—within 14 days after entry of judgment—file with the circuit clerk and serve an itemized and verified bill of costs.

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