



The Record

JOURNAL • OF • THE • APPELLATE • PRACTICE • SECTION

www.flabarappellate.org

Volume IX, No. 2

THE FLORIDA BAR

Fall-Winter 2000

Court Adopts Appellate Rules Changes

by Susan W. Fox

The Florida Supreme Court adopted changes to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure in an opinion issued October 12, 2000. The opinion, *In re Amendments to Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure*, 25 Fla. Law Weekly, S835 (Fla. Oct. 12, 2000), accepted most of the recommendations submitted in the four-year cycle report of the Appellate Court Rules Committee.¹ The rule changes are effective January 1, 2001.

This article will explain the revisions adopted by the court, beginning with the Committee's three proposals that were rejected or modified by the Court.

Typeface in Briefs and Petitions. The Court declined to adopt the committee's proposal to amend Rule 9.210 to allow 13-point typeface in appellate briefs and instead re-

quired that briefs be submitted in either Times New Roman 14-point font or Courier New 12-point font. Further, the court added, *sua sponte*, the requirement that counsel (or the party if unrepresented) "shall sign a certificate of compliance with the font standards required by this rule for computer-generated briefs." The certificate should immediately follow the certificate of service. The court stated it was taking this action "because the person who prepares such a brief is in the best position to know if the brief was prepared in accordance with this rule, [and] clerks of court should not be required to review each computer-generated brief for compliance other than noting the certificate of compliance." The court additionally made *sua sponte* parallel amendments to rule 9.100 regarding original appellate proceedings so that computer-

generated petitions, responses, and replies filed in such proceedings are subject to the same font and certificate requirements as briefs.

Rendition of District Court of Appeal Orders. The Court rejected the Committee's proposal for amendment of the rendition rule, Rule 9.020(h), to add a new subsection as to motions for rehearing, clarification, or certification in the district court. Rendition of such orders shall continue to be governed by *St. Paul*

See "Appellate Rules Changes" page 9

Checklist for Briefs and Petitions Due After January 1, 2000

- ✓ Standard of Review section to be included in argument as to each issue
- ✓ Typeface: 14 point Times New Roman or 12 point Courier New
- ✓ Certificate of Typeface Compliance must follow Certificate of Service
- ✓ Headings in same size type as text or larger

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