

Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure

Paper & Printing	Size. 8 ½" x 11"
	<p>Copies. Briefs may be reproduced by any process that yields a clear black image on light paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper must be opaque and unglazed. • No double-sided printing. • Text clarity must equal or exceed the output of a laser printer. • Photographs, illustrations, and tables can be glossy if the original is.
Bindings	<p>Must be bound in a manner that is secure, does not obscure the text, and permits the brief to lie reasonably flat when open.</p>
Typeface & Spacing	<p>Typeface. Proportionally spaced or monospaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportionally spaced fonts must be 14-point or larger and include serifs. Sans-serif fonts OK in headings and captions. • Monospaced fonts must contain no more than 10 ½ characters per inch.
	<p>Type Styles. Plain, roman style; italics or bold face may be used for emphasis. Case names must be italicized or underlined.</p>
	<p>Spacing & Margins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text must be double-spaced, but quotations more than two lines long may be indented and single-spaced. • Headings and footnotes may be single-spaced. • Margins must be at least 1" on all four sides. • Page numbers may be placed in the margins, but no text may appear there.



Footnotes	May be single-spaced. Counted toward total length limit.	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward any length limit, but the following 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.	
	Principal Brief. 30 pages OR 13,000 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 1,300 lines.	Reply Brief. 15 pages OR 6,500 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 650 lines.
Covers	Colors. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appellant/Petitioner: Blue• Appellee/Respondent: Red• Intervenor or Amicus Curiae: Green• Reply brief (regardless of party): Gray• Supplemental brief (regardless of party): Tan	
	Required Contents. The cover of a brief must contain: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the number of the case centered at the top;• the name of the court;• the title of the case;• the nature of the proceeding (e.g., Appeal, Petition for Review) and the name of the court, agency, or board below;• the title of the brief, identifying the party or parties for whom the brief is filed; and• the name, office address, and telephone number of counsel representing the party for whom the brief is filed. Rule 32(a)(2).	
Miscellaneous	-	
Links	Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure	



D.C

Paper & Printing	-	
Bindings	Permitted: Spiral (coil), comb, and wire binding. Prohibited: Velo (strip binding), metal fasteners or posts, three-ring binders, and staples	
Typeface & Spacing	Typeface. Encouraged: Easy-to-read typefaces, like Times New Roman and Century. Discouraged: Difficult-to-read fonts, like Garamond.	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: The certificate required by Circuit Rule 28(a)(1), glossary, and any addendum containing evidence in support of the claim of standing required by Circuit Rule 28(a)(7).	
	Intervenor Principal Brief. 19 pages OR 9,100 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 813 lines.	Intervenor Reply Brief. 9 pages OR 4,550 words OR 407 lines.
Covers	Additional Requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none">The date of oral argument or reference to submission without oral argument, whichever is applicable, located in capital letters at the top.In cases designated “Complex,” the cover of the briefs and the first page of motions and other pleadings should indicate the designation “Complex.”	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	D.C. Circuit Brief Checklist	D.C. Circuit Rules



Federal

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	Bindings must be placed on the left margin of the printed copies and be “secure” so that the “bound copies will not loosen or fall apart.”	
Typeface & Spacing	Spacing & Margins. Page numbers must appear centered in the bottom margin of all documents exceeding two pages in length.	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Certificate of interest; statement of related cases; any addendum; any requirements under Federal Circuit Rule 25.1(e); statement of counsel for a petition for hearing or rehearing en banc under Federal Circuit Rule 35(b).	
	Principal Brief. 30 pages OR 14,000 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 1,300 lines.	Reply Brief. 15 pages OR 7,000 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 650 lines.
Covers	Additional Requirements. Covers generally must contain the official caption provided by the clerk. Non-confidential” or “public” may not appear on the cover or first page of any filing unless there is a corresponding confidential version. Parties are encouraged to include the name of the judge or individual who issued the decision appealed from. In appeals or petitions involving a patent, the language of the patent claim at issue must appear on the inside of the front cover of each principal brief (or immediately following the front cover if the language requires more space).	
Miscellaneous	Extraneous Markings. No highlighting or extraneous markings on briefs beyond confidentiality notations required by rules.	
Circuit Links	Federal Circuit Brief Checklist	Federal Circuit Rules

First

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	Preferred : Spiral Prohibited : Three-ring binders	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	Type size must be same as main text.	
Word & Page Limits	-	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	Consecutive pagination required.	
Circuit Links	First Circuit Brief Checklist	First Circuit Rules



Second

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	-	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	Principal Brief. 30 pages OR 14,000 words.	Reply Brief. 15 pages OR 7,000 words.
Covers	Additional Requirements. The title appearing on the front cover of a brief must include the name of the party or parties for whom the brief is filed. The docket number of the case must appear in type at least one inch high.	
Miscellaneous	Sequential numbering required. Pamphlet Briefs, with special formatting requirements, are permitted. See Local Rule 32.1(a)(2).	
Circuit Links	Second Circuit Brief Checklist	Second Circuit Rules

Third

Paper & Printing	-	
Bindings	<p>Generally: Must be firmly bound at the left margin; any metal fasteners or staples must be covered. All fasteners must have smooth edges.</p> <p>Encouraged: Velo or spiral Prohibited: Backbones or spines</p>	
Typeface & Spacing	<p>Spacing & Margins. Margins on both sides of each page that are no less than 1" wide, and margins on the top and bottom of each page that are no less than $\frac{3}{4}$" wide.</p>	
Footnotes	Type size must be same as main text. Excessive footnotes discouraged.	
Word & Page Limits	-	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	Personal identifiers must be excluded or redacted from all documents filed with the court.	
Circuit Links	Third Circuit Brief Checklist	Third Circuit Rules

Fourth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	Encouraged: Spiral, perfect Prohibited : Staples, clips	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	-	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Fourth Circuit Brief Checklist	Fourth Circuit Rules

Fifth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	Permitted: Spiral	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	12 point or larger for footnotes in proportional typeface; no more than 12 ½ characters per inch for footnotes in monospaced type	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Certificate of interested parties.	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Fifth Circuit Brief Checklist	Fifth Circuit Rules

Sixth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	-	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	Type size must be same as main text.	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Corporate disclosure statement; designation of relevant district court documents; designation of relevant administrative record items; statement of reasons for oral argument; copies of unpublished opinions.	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Sixth Circuit Brief Checklist	Sixth Circuit Rules



Seventh

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	Need not "lie reasonably flat when open" as long as it is secure and does not obscure the text.	
Typeface & Spacing	Typeface. Generally: Proportional type, if used, must be 12 points or larger. Encouraged: Proportionally spaced font used in books (e.g., Century Schoolbook, Book Antiqua, New Baskerville) Prohibited: Times New Roman	
	Type styles. Italics for case names encouraged	
Footnotes	11-point type or larger for proportional fonts.	
Word & Page Limits	Principal Brief. 30 pages OR 14,000 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 1,300 lines.	Reply Brief. 7,000 words OR, for briefs with monospaced typeface, 650 lines.
Covers	Any Petition for Rehearing (or Answer, by Order): White	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Seventh Circuit Brief Checklist	Seventh Circuit Rules

Eighth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	-	
Typeface & Spacing	-	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	-	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Eighth Circuit Civil Brief Checklist Eighth Circuit Criminal Brief Checklist	Eighth Circuit Rules



Ninth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	-	
Typeface & Spacing	Spacing & Margins. Bottom margin can be set at ½”.	
Footnotes	Type size must be same as main text.	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Portions of the brief required by FRAP 32(f).	
	Principal Brief. 14,000 words.	Reply Brief. No more than half the length of principal brief requirements.
	Handwritten Brief. A handwritten or typewritten opening or answering brief may not exceed 50 pages. A handwritten or typewritten reply brief may not exceed 25 pages.	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	Personal information must be redacted from briefs. Serial pagination required.	
Circuit Links	Ninth Circuit Appellate Practice Guide	Ninth Circuit Rules

Tenth

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	-	
Typeface & Spacing	Typeface. Preferred: 14-point type Acceptable: 13-point type	
Footnotes	Type size must be same as main text.	
Word & Page Limits	Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Glossary required by 10th Cir. R. 28.2(C)(4).	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	-	
Circuit Links	Tenth Circuit Brief Checklist	Tenth Circuit Rules



Eleventh

Paper & Printing		
Bindings	<p>Generally: Must have cover of durable quality (at least 90 lbs.) on both front and back sides. Must be bound on left-hand margin.</p> <p>Encouraged: Spiral or wire bound Disfavored: Comb, velostrip, and thermal bindings; tape; metal fasteners; staples. Prohibited: Exposed metal-prong paper fasteners</p>	
Typeface & Spacing	<p>Spacing & Margins. Single spacing permitted for cover page, certificate of service, direct quotes, headings, and footnotes.</p>	
Footnotes	-	
Word & Page Limits	<p>Inclusions & Exclusions. Also Excluded: Materials referred to in 11th Cir. R. 28-1(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (m) and (n) and any addendum containing statutes, rules, or regulations.</p>	
Covers	-	
Miscellaneous	<p>Consecutive numbering required, except for materials also excluded from type-volume limitations.</p>	
Circuit Links	Eleventh Circuit Brief Checklist	Eleventh Circuit Rules