

JANUARY 2020 — ADI NEWS ALERT

This alert¹ covers:

- [New rules for formatting e-filed briefs.](#)
- [Upcoming MCLE offerings for early 2020.](#)
- [Serve briefs on Attorney General in Los Angeles if that office is handling the case on behalf of the People.](#)
- [Oral arguments before Fourth District now streamed, and recordings are posted online.](#)

New rules for formatting e-filed briefs

Effective January 1, 2020, the California Rules of Court, [rule 8.74](#), has been amended to provide new formatting specifications for appellate documents electronically filed. ADI's style guru, Art Martin (author of the series on *Going in Style*), has summarized these changes in a brief [practice note](#).²

The most significant adjustment, possibly, will be the requirement that line spacing be 1.5 instead of double spacing. (Rule 8.74(b)(2).) Another change for some attorneys (those who customarily use fully justified text) will be that rule 8.74(b)(4) now specifies it must be left-justified only. Attorneys who use a sans serif font for the text will have to change, as well; rule 8.74(b)(1) now requires the use of a proportionally spaced serif font for the body of a text. Art Martin's practice note points out these and other changes.

¹As always, panel attorneys are responsible for familiarizing themselves with all ADI news alerts and other resources on the ADI website.

²www.adi-sandiego.com/pdf/forms/changes_in_formatting_rules_for_appellate_briefs_2020.pdf

Upcoming MCLE offerings for early 2020

There are several important opportunities for learning, and earning MCLE credits, in the coming months. For example, in chronological order:

Community Defenders: “Who makes the call? You or your client?” Saturday, January 25, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., University of San Diego. 4.5 hours legal ethics credit. <https://www.sandiego.edu/events/law/detail.php?focus=73158>

Dependency Case Law Update. Presenter will be staff attorney Laura Furness of ADI. Tuesday, March 3, at ADI and via webinar. 1.0 hour MCLE.

The Moratorium and Clemency. Presenters will be Natasha Minsker, former Associate Director of the ACLU of Northern California, and Eliza Hersh, Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary for Governor Gavin Newsom. Friday, March 20, at ADI and via webinar. 1.25 hours MCLE.

CADC annual conference. April 3-4 at the Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront. Judge Jeremy Fogel of the Berkeley Judicial Institute will be the keynote speaker. Up to 9.5 hours of MCLE credit available. More information and registration at <https://cadc.net/registration/>.

Serve briefs on Attorney General in Los Angeles if that office is handling the case on behalf of the People

In Orange County cases handled by the Los Angeles office of the Attorney General, service must be at the designated Los Angeles email service address:

DocketingLAAWT@doj.ca.gov. If the AG has not yet designated an office (most opening briefs are in that category), the default for Orange County appeals is the San Diego office. SDAG.Docketing@doj.ca.gov

With apologies, we neglected to change the [Cheat Sheet](#) when the AG announced the LA office would handle some Orange County appeals. That is now remedied.

The use of Los Angeles deputies for Orange County appeals has ceased for cases newly entering the system. But cases already in the pipeline will need to follow the protocol of serving the office in charge of the particular case.

Oral arguments before Fourth District now streamed, and recordings are posted online

Attorneys and the rest of the public can now more closely track Fourth District cases via the court website. Those who wish to tune in to a live oral argument or hear and see a recording of one that has taken place (going back to approximately the middle of 2019, depending on the division) can go to the Fourth District home page on the court website at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/4dca.htm>. At the right hand side of the page is a section entitled “Webcasts.” Choose the applicable division and date to locate the case. Scheduled webcasts can be found, as well, at that location. Links for live webcasts appear approximately 15-30 minutes before the start of argument. The Fourth District resources are at the cutting edge, and the court deserves kudos for leading the way.

California Supreme Court live and past recorded oral arguments are also available online. Go to the court’s home page at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/supremecourt.htm> and on the left hand menu click “Oral Argument Webcasts.” Choose the applicable date. Under “Case Information” are details of the cases argued, as well as biographies of the justices. Clicking on “Video” plays the recorded oral argument. Links for live webcasts appear approximately 30 minutes before the start of argument.

According to the court website, the Fifth District provides live webcasts. All districts offer audio recordings of oral arguments for a fee (look under “Fees,” on the left hand menu for each court). But we could not find evidence that other districts presently provide the recordings online. Because such situations tend to change rapidly, we advise attorneys to check the court website and contact the court or project when the need arises.

Division One juvenile cases are not covered by these practices, for reasons of confidentiality.

These resources offer a great training tool for attorneys seeking to hone their skills, a way of preparing for an upcoming argument by observing justices in action, a means of following an important case, etc.