JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: September 24, 2019

Title
Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected
Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO

Recommended by
Appellate Advisory Committee
Hon. Louis R. Mauro, Chair

Agenda Item Type
Action Required

Effective Date
January 1, 2020

Date of Report
August 2, 2019

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Executive Summary

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the rules regarding oral argument in limited civil and misdemeanor appeals to provide that oral argument will not be set in cases presenting no arguable issues, to state a procedure for waiving oral argument, and to establish a date of submission for appeals that are not set for oral argument. The committee also recommends the adoption of two optional forms, one for limited civil cases and one for misdemeanor cases, to assist litigants in waiving oral argument if they choose to do so. This proposal, which originated from suggestions submitted by a presiding judge of an appellate division and a member of the committee, is intended to increase efficiency for courts and provide guidance for litigants.

Recommendation

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2020:

1. Amend California Rules of Court, rule 8.885 to provide that oral argument will not be set in appeals that raise no arguable issues and describe the procedure for waiving oral argument in advance;
2. Amend rule 8.886 to provide a date of submission for appeals that are not set for oral argument;
3. Approve new optional form APP-108 for litigants in limited civil appeals to use in waiving oral argument;
4. Approve new optional form CR-138 for litigants in misdemeanor appeals to use in waiving oral argument;
5. Revise form APP-101-INFO to reflect the amendments to rule 8.885 for litigants in limited civil appeals; and
6. Revise form CR-131-INFO to reflect the amendments to rule 8.885 for litigants in misdemeanor appeals and to correct errors.

The text of the amended rules and the new and revised forms are attached at pages 8–36.

Relevant Previous Council Action

The rules governing the appellate division of the superior courts, California Rules of Court, rules 8.800 through 8.936, were repealed and replaced in full effective January 1, 2009. Rule 8.885 was amended in 2010, but the amendments are not relevant to this proposal. Forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO have been revised from time to time, but no previous revisions have bearing on this proposal.

Analysis/Rationale

Rule amendments

Appeals that raise no arguable issues

Oral argument in limited civil and misdemeanor appeals is governed by rule 8.885. Subdivision (a) of this rule requires that oral argument be set in every appeal, "[u]nless otherwise ordered." Thus, the rule currently requires setting oral argument in misdemeanor appeals under *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436 (*Wende* appeals) even though the appeals raise no arguable issues.

In a *Wende* appeal, the defendant's appellate counsel finds no arguable issues after reviewing the record, and files a brief under *People v. Wende* requesting that the court conduct an independent review. Although the defendant has an opportunity to file a brief, it is rarely done. The People may file a respondent's brief, but there is no need to do so because there is nothing in the opening brief to oppose.

Some, but not all, appellate divisions set oral argument in these cases. However, when a *Wende* appeal is placed on calendar and the case is called, if any party or attorney appears, it is only to submit the matter.

This proposal would add new paragraph (2) to rule 8.885(a) providing that "[o]ral argument will not be set in appeals under *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436 where no arguable issue is

raised." The current content of the subdivision would be numbered as paragraph (1), and would be modified to identify paragraph (2) as providing an exception to the rule that oral argument be set in all cases.

The committee recommends the amendment to subdivision (a) to address an inefficiency in oral argument procedure. Setting *Wende* appeals for oral argument is unnecessary because they present no issues to be argued. However, the proposed rule amendment does not affect the court's authority to order oral argument in any particular case. In addition, in the rare instance where an arguable issue is found by the defendant or the court in conducting its review of the record, new paragraph (2) would not apply and the case would be set for oral argument.

Procedure for waiving oral argument

Subdivision (d) of rule 8.885 provides that "[p]arties may waive oral argument." The rule establishes this option for litigants but leaves it to the appellate divisions and litigants to decide how this may be accomplished. The committee is advised that, in the absence of any procedure to waive argument in advance, many litigants appear at argument only to submit the matter. Some defense counsel in misdemeanor cases inform the district attorney's office that they will not pursue oral argument, and they do not appear. The attorney for the People appears and informs the court that the appellant wishes to waive oral argument, and the People do not oppose the request. In both situations, the judges have spent time preparing for the oral argument.

The proposed amendments to rule 8.885(d) regarding waiver of argument are intended to save time and money for litigants and the courts. The current rule allows parties to waive oral argument, but provides no guidance on how or when to do so. The amendments provide a procedure that allows parties to waive argument by filing a notice of waiver within seven days after the notice of oral argument is sent by the court. If all parties waive oral argument, the court may, but is not required to, vacate the oral argument. If the court vacates the argument, it must take the affirmative step of notifying the parties. In addition, if not all parties waive oral argument, or if the court rejects a waiver request, the matter will remain on the oral argument calendar, and any party, including one who previously filed a notice of waiver, may participate in the oral argument.

Establishing a procedure that allows parties to waive and courts to vacate oral argument in advance will save parties the time and expense of appearing in court simply to waive oral argument and submit the matter. It will also spare judges the time and effort of preparing for an oral argument that is taken off calendar when the case is called.

Date of submission

One result of placing all cases on the oral argument calendar is that, unless the court permits supplemental briefing, all cases are submitted on the date of the argument or the date its waiver is approved. If cases are not set for argument, the date of submission must be determined.

Rule 8.886 governs submission in limited civil and misdemeanor cases. It provides that "[a] cause is submitted when the court has heard oral argument or approved its waiver and the time

has expired to file all briefs and papers, including any supplemental brief permitted by the court." (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.886(a).)

For non-*Wende* cases in which oral argument is waived in advance and taken off calendar, the current rule provides the date of submission: the date the court approves the waiver.

However, for *Wende* appeals, oral argument would no longer be set and the current rule, which presupposes that oral argument is set and either heard or its waiver approved, does not provide a time of submission. Therefore, the committee recommends amending rule 8.886(a) to provide that, for *Wende* appeals that raise no arguable issues, the cause is submitted when the time to file all briefs and papers expires. The appellant's opening brief—in *Wende* appeals, counsel's brief identifying the appeal as raising no arguable issues—must be served and filed within 30 days after the record is filed in the appellate division, and any respondent's brief must be served and filed within 30 days after the appellant's opening brief is filed. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.882(a)(1), (2).) In the vast majority of *Wende* appeals, no respondent's brief is filed, and the date of submission would be 30 days after the filing date of the appellant's opening brief.

New forms

The committee also recommends new forms for litigants to use in waiving oral argument. The forms will simplify the waiver process for litigants by taking any guesswork out of how and when to file a notice of waiver. Following the convention for appellate division forms, there is one waiver form for limited civil cases, *Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-108); and one for misdemeanor cases, *Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-138); and both forms are in plain-language format. Both forms include instructions and refer the party to other forms that provide information on appeal procedures.

The forms include a box with text labeled "Notice" to present and highlight information on the waiver process. This information is based on the proposed amendments to rule 8.885(d). In addition, in item 2 above the signature line, both forms include language advising that, by signing the form, the party or the party's attorney is requesting to waive or give up the opportunity to appear in court and argue the case. Item 2 also advises that if the court accepts the waiver, the court will decide the matter on the briefs and the record. The forms are for optional use; a party may draft its own waiver.

Amended forms

The committee recommends amending *Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-101-INFO) and *Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors* (form CR-131-INFO) to conform to the changes to rule 8.885. Both forms describe oral argument and the option to waive it. The revisions describe the new procedure for waiving oral argument and include references to the new notice of waiver forms. The revisions also clarify that if not all parties waive and the court holds oral argument, any party may choose to participate, including any who filed a notice of waiver. In addition, the revisions clarify that the time for the appellate division to decide the appeal runs from either the date of oral argument or the date the court

approved its waiver. Finally, form CR-131-INFO includes an advisement that oral argument will not be set in cases that present no arguable issues.

The committee also recommends, in response to a comment (discussed below), that certain provisions in form CR-131-INFO that contain erroneous information regarding a misdemeanor defendant's right to self-representation be corrected.

Policy implications

The committee has identified no significant policy implications associated with this proposal.

Comments

This proposal was circulated for public comment from April 11 to June 10, 2019, as part of the regular spring comment cycle. The committee received five comments. Two commenters (the Superior Court of Los Angeles County and the Orange County Bar Association) agreed with the proposal. Three commenters (the Criminal Appellate Section of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office, the Superior Court of San Diego County, and the Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee agreed with the proposal if modified. A chart with the full text of the comments received and the committee's responses is attached at pages 37–47.

The Criminal Appellate Section of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office suggested that the proposal be modified by including a provision allowing each appellate division to opt out of the waiver provisions in proposed rule 8.885(d). The commenter explained that, because of the variation in rules and procedures for oral argument in appellate divisions across the state, the proposed waiver procedure might not achieve the desired efficiency for a particular court. As an example, the commenter pointed out that the Los Angeles Superior Court Appellate Division issues tentative rulings on the afternoon before oral argument.

The committee disagrees with modifying the proposed rule amendments to include an opt-out provision or otherwise provide that the rule is optional. The proposal establishes a procedure to enable parties to waive oral argument far enough in advance that the matter may be taken off calendar before the panel has prepared for the argument. The intent is not to preclude or make less efficient a practice such as issuing tentative rulings, or to preclude appellate divisions from establishing their own procedures that are not inconsistent with the rules of court.

The comment from JRS pertains to court operations. The committee has addressed it in the Fiscal and Operational Impacts section of this report.

In addition to providing comments on the proposal, the Superior Court of San Diego County requested revisions to the misdemeanor forms (CR-131-INFO and CR-138) to reflect accurately that there is no right to self-representation in misdemeanor appeals. (See e.g., *Martinez v. California* (2000) 528 U.S. 152; *In re Walker* (1976) 56 Cal.App.3d 225, 227; *People v. Scott* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 550.) Although the suggestions are outside the invitation to comment, the committee has made limited revisions to clarify that self-representation in misdemeanor appeals

is allowed only if the appellate division permits it. These are minor substantive revisions that are unlikely to create controversy and are necessary to correct erroneous information on the forms. (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.22(d).) The committee will reserve the more extensive revisions suggested by the commenter for future consideration.

Alternatives considered

The committee considered not proposing any rule amendments or forms, but concluded that the savings in time and resources to be gained from taking *Wende* cases off the oral argument calendar and providing a procedure for waiving oral argument in advance justified these changes.

The committee also considered a different waiver procedure that would have allowed a party to file a notice of waiver within 10 days after the notice of oral argument is sent, and would have required the other party or parties to object within 10 days of the notice of waiver if they wished to keep the case on calendar. The committee rejected this option because it would be too cumbersome and time-consuming, and would allow one party unilaterally to take the case off calendar in the absence of a response from the other party.

Finally, the committee considered not proposing any forms for waiving oral argument, but concluded that the forms would be helpful, particularly for self-represented litigants.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The committee does not expect any significant fiscal impacts from this proposal.

The Los Angeles court stated that implementation would include the development of docket codes in the case management system and a procedure to accept and process waivers. It expected that staff training on the process would be no more than two hours.

The San Diego court also indicated that staff training would be needed, but that it would be minimal for staff already familiar with procedures for appellate division appeals. The court would need to revise procedures, but not having to calendar and prepare for waived cases would save time and money.

The Joint Rules Subcommittee of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee (JRS) expressed concern that the proposed date for implementation "is not feasible or is problematic" and added that given the potential for a number of new rules being implemented on the same timeline, "it would be advisable to give trial courts more time to implement a rule change that affects due process rights in both limited civil and misdemeanor appeals." In following up with JRS, the committee was advised that the comment regarding the proposed implementation date is not specific to this proposal. Rather, it is based on the broader issue of the number of rules that need to be implemented and the short time frame for implementation. The committee acknowledges the challenges courts, and particularly smaller courts, face in implementing a number of new and amended rules at the same time.

Notwithstanding these potential impacts, the committee has concluded that the proposal will save time and effort for the courts, and time and expense for litigants.

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886, at pages 8–9
2. Forms APP-101-INFO, APP-108, CR-131-INFO, and CR-138, at pages 10–36
3. Chart of comments, at pages 37–47

Rules 8.885 and 8.886 of the California Rules of Court are amended, effective January 1, 2020, to read:

Rule 8.885. Oral argument

(a) Calendaring and sessions

(1) Unless otherwise ordered, and except as provided in (2), all appeals in which the last reply brief was filed or the time for filing this brief expired 45 or more days before the date of a regular appellate division session must be placed on the calendar for that session by the appellate division clerk. By order of the presiding judge or the division, any appeal may be placed on the calendar for oral argument at any session.

(2) Oral argument will not be set in appeals under *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436 where no arguable issue is raised.

(b) * * *

(c) Notice of argument

(1) Except for appeals covered by (a)(2), as soon as all parties' briefs are filed or the time for filing these briefs has expired, the appellate division clerk must send a notice of the time and place of oral argument to all parties. The notice must be sent at least 20 days before the date for oral argument. The presiding judge may shorten the notice period for good cause; in that event, the clerk must immediately notify the parties by telephone or other expeditious method.

(2) * * *

(d) Waiver of argument

(1) Parties may waive oral argument in advance by filing a notice of waiver of oral argument within 7 days after the notice of oral argument is sent.

(2) The court may vacate oral argument if all parties waive oral argument.

(3) If the court vacates oral argument, the court must notify the parties that no oral argument will be held.

(4) If all parties do not waive oral argument, or if the court rejects a waiver request, the matter will remain on the oral argument calendar. Any party who previously filed a notice of waiver may participate in the oral argument.

(e) * * *

Rule 8.886. Submission of the cause

(a) When the cause is submitted

(1) Except as provided in (2), a cause is submitted when the court has heard oral argument or approved its waiver and the time has expired to file all briefs and papers, including any supplemental brief permitted by the court. The appellate division may order the cause submitted at an earlier time if the parties so stipulate.

(2) For appeals that raise no arguable issues under *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436, the cause is submitted when the time has expired to file all briefs and papers, including any supplemental brief permitted by the court.

(b) * * *

APP-101-INFO Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases

GENERAL INFORMATION

1 What does this information sheet cover?

This information sheet tells you about appeals in limited civil cases. These are civil cases in which the amount of money claimed is $25,000 or less.

If you are the party who is appealing (asking for the trial court's decision to be reviewed), you are called the APPELLANT, and you should read Information for the Appellant, starting on page 2. If you received notice that another party in your case is appealing, you are called the RESPONDENT and you should read Information for the Respondent, starting on page 11.

This information sheet does not cover everything you may need to know about appeals in limited civil cases. It is meant only to give you a general idea of the appeal process. To learn more, you should read rules 8.800–8.843 and 8.880–8.891 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the procedures for limited civil appeals. You can get these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.*

2 What is an appeal?

An appeal is a request to a higher court to review a decision made by a judge or jury in a lower court. **In a limited civil case, the court hearing the appeal is the appellate division of the superior court and the lower court—called the "trial court" in this information sheet—is the superior court.**

It is important to understand that **an appeal is NOT a new trial**. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses or new exhibits. The appellate division's job is to review a record of what happened in the trial court and the trial court's decision to see if certain kinds of legal errors were made:

For information about appeal procedures in other kinds of cases, see:

- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Unlimited Civil Cases* (form APP-001)
- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Infractions* (form CR-141-INFO)
- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors* (form CR-131-INFO)

You can get these forms at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.*

- ***Prejudicial error:*** The appellant (the party who is appealing) may ask the appellate division to determine if an error was made about either the law or court procedures in the case that caused substantial harm to the appellant (this is called "prejudicial error").

  Prejudicial error can include things like errors made by the judge about the law, errors or misconduct by the lawyers, incorrect instructions given to the jury, and misconduct by the jury that harmed the appellant. When it conducts its review, the appellate division presumes that the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed is correct. It is the responsibility of the appellant to show the appellate division that an error was made and that the error was harmful.
- ***No substantial evidence:*** The appellant may also ask the appellate division to determine if there was substantial evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed. When it conducts its review, the appellate division only looks to see if there was evidence that reasonably supports the decision. The appellate division generally will not reconsider the jury's or trial court's conclusion about which side had more or stronger evidence or whether witnesses were telling the truth or lying.

The appellate division generally will not overturn the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed unless the record clearly shows that one of these legal errors was made.

3 Do I need a lawyer to represent me in an appeal?

You do not *have* to have a lawyer; if you are an individual (rather than a corporation, for example), you are allowed to represent yourself in an appeal in a limited civil case. But appeals can be complicated and you will have to follow the same rules that lawyers have to follow. If you have any questions about the appeal procedures, you should talk to a lawyer.

If you decide not to use a lawyer, you must put your address, telephone number, fax number (if available), and email address (if available) on the first page of every document you file with the court and let the court know if this contact information changes so that the court can contact you if needed.

4 Where can I find a lawyer to help me with my appeal?

You have to hire your own attorney if you want one. You can get information about finding an attorney on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm* in the Getting Started section.

INFORMATION FOR THE APPELLANT

This part of the information sheet is written for the appellant—the party who is appealing the trial court's decision. It explains some of the rules and procedures relating to appealing a decision in a limited civil case. The information may also be helpful to the respondent. Additional information for respondents can be found starting on page 11 of this information sheet.

5 Who can appeal?

Only a party in the trial court case can appeal a decision in that case. You may not appeal on behalf of a friend, a spouse, a child, or another relative unless you are a legally appointed representative of that person (such as the person's guardian or conservator).

6 Can I appeal *any* decision the trial court made?

No. Generally, you can only appeal the final judgment—the decision at the end that decides the whole case. Other rulings made by the trial court before the final judgment generally cannot be separately appealed but can be reviewed only later as part of an appeal of the final judgment. There are a few exceptions to this general rule. Code of Civil Procedure section 904.2 lists a few types of orders in a limited civil case that can be appealed right away. These include orders that:

- Change or refuse to change the place of trial (venue);
- Grant a motion to quash service of summons or grant a motion to stay or dismiss the action on the ground of inconvenient forum;
- Grant a new trial or deny a motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict;
- Discharge or refuse to discharge an attachment or grant a right to attach;
- Grant or dissolve an injunction or refuse to grant or dissolve an injunction;
- Appoint a receiver; and
- Are made after final judgment in the case.

(You can get a copy of Code of Civil Procedure section 904.2 at *http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml*.)

7 How do I start my appeal?

First, you must serve and file a notice of appeal. The notice of appeal tells the other party or parties in the case and the trial court that you are appealing the trial court's decision. You may use *Notice of Appeal/Cross-Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-102) to prepare a notice of appeal in a limited civil case. You can get form APP-102 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*.

8 How do I "serve and file" the notice of appeal?

"Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the notice of appeal to

the other party or parties in the way required by law. If the notice of appeal is mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.

- Make a record that the notice of appeal has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the notice of appeal, who was served with the notice of appeal, how the notice of appeal was served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the notice of appeal was served.
- Bring or mail the original notice of appeal and the proof of service to the trial court that issued the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing. You should make a copy of the notice of appeal you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the notice of appeal to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm*.

9 Is there a deadline to file my notice of appeal?

Yes. In a limited civil case, except in the very limited circumstances listed in rule 8.823, you must file your notice of appeal within **30 days** after the trial court clerk or a party serves either a document called a "Notice of Entry" of the trial court judgment or a file-stamped copy of the judgment or within 90 days after entry of the judgment, whichever is earlier.

This deadline for filing the notice of appeal cannot be extended. If your notice of appeal is late, the appellate division will not be able to consider your appeal.

10 Do I have to pay to file an appeal?

Yes. Unless the court waives this fee, you must pay a fee for filing your notice of appeal. You can ask the clerk of the court where you are filing the notice of appeal what the fee is or look up the fee for an appeal in a limited civil case in the current Statewide Civil Fee Schedule linked at *www.courts.ca.gov/7646.htm* (note that the "Appeal and Writ Related Fees" section is near the end of this schedule and that there are different fees for limited civil cases depending on the amount demanded in the case). If you cannot afford to pay the fee, you can ask the court to waive it. To do this, you must fill out and file a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.* You can file this application either before you file your notice of appeal or with your notice of appeal. The court will review this application to determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver.

11 If I file a notice of appeal, do I still have to do what the trial court ordered me to do?

Filing a notice of appeal does NOT automatically postpone most judgments or orders, such as those requiring you to pay another party money or to deliver property to another party (see Code of Civil Procedure sections 917.1–917.9 and 1176; you can get a copy of these laws at *www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml*). These kinds of judgments or orders will be postponed, or "stayed," only if you request a stay and the court grants your request. In most cases, other than unlawful detainer cases in which the trial court's judgment gives a party possession of the property, if the trial court denies your request for a stay, you can apply to the appellate division for a stay. If you do not get a stay and you do not do what the trial court ordered you to do, court proceedings to collect the money or otherwise enforce the judgment or order may be started against you.

12 What do I need to do after I file my notice of appeal?

You must ask the clerk of the trial court to prepare and send the official record of what happened in the trial court in your case to the appellate division.

Since the appellate division judges were not there to see what happened in the trial court, an official record of what happened must be prepared and sent to the appellate division for its review. You can use *Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103) to ask the trial court to prepare this record. You can get form APP-103 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*.

You must serve and file this notice designating the record on appeal within 10 days after you file your notice of appeal. "Serving and filing" this notice means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the notice to the other party or parties in the way required by law. If the notice is mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.
- Make a record that the notice has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the notice, who was served with the notice, how the notice was served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the notice was served.
- Bring or mail the original notice and the proof of service to the trial court that issued the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing. You should make a copy of the notice you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the notice to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov /selfhelp-serving.htm.*

13 What is the official record of the trial court proceedings?

There are three parts of the official record:

- A record of what was said in the trial court (this is called the "oral proceedings").
- A record of the documents filed in the trial court (other than exhibits).
- Exhibits that were admitted in evidence, refused, or lodged (temporarily placed with the court) in the trial court.

Read below for more information about these parts of the record.

a. Record of what was said in the trial court (the "oral proceedings")

The first part of the official record of the trial court proceedings is a record of what was said in the trial court (this is called a record of the "oral proceedings"). You do not *have* to send the appellate division a record of the oral proceedings. But if you want to raise any issue in your appeal that would require the appellate division to consider what was said in the trial court, the appellate division will need a record of those oral proceedings. For example, if you are claiming that there was not evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing, the appellate division will need a record of the oral proceedings.

You are responsible for deciding how the record of the oral proceedings will be provided and, depending on what option you select and your circumstances, you may also be responsible for paying for preparing this record or for preparing an initial draft of the record. If you do not take care of these responsibilities, a record of the oral proceedings in the trial court will not be prepared and sent to the appellate division. **If the appellate division does not receive this record, it will not be able to review any issues that are based on what was said in the trial court and it may dismiss your appeal.**

In a limited civil case, you can use *Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103) to tell the court whether you want a record of the oral proceedings and, if so, the form of the record that you want to use. You can get form APP-103 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.*

There are four ways in which a record of the oral proceedings can be prepared for the appellate division:

- If you or the other party arranged to have a court reporter there during the trial court proceedings, the reporter can prepare a record, called a "reporter's transcript."
- If the proceedings were officially electronically recorded, the trial court can have a transcript prepared from that recording or, if the court has a local rule permitting this and you and the other party agree ("stipulate") to this, you can use the *official electronic recording* itself instead of a transcript.
- You can use an agreed statement.
- You can use a statement on appeal.

Read below for more information about these options.

(1) Reporter's transcript

Description: A reporter's transcript is a written record (sometimes called a "verbatim" record) of the oral proceedings in the trial court prepared by a court reporter. Rule 8.834 of the California Rules of Court establishes the requirements relating to reporter's transcripts.

When available: If a court reporter was there in the trial court and made a record of the oral proceedings, you can choose ("elect") to have the court reporter prepare a reporter's transcript for the appellate division. In most limited civil cases, however, a court reporter will not have been there unless you or another party in your case made specific arrangements to have a court reporter there. Check with the court to see if a court reporter made a record of the oral proceedings in your case before choosing this option.

Contents: If you elect to use a reporter's transcript, you must identify by date (this is called "designating") what proceedings you want included in the reporter's transcript. You can use the same form you used to tell the court you wanted to use a reporter's transcript—*Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103)—to do this.
If you elect to use a reporter's transcript, the respondent also has the right to designate additional proceedings to be included in the reporter's transcript. If you elect to proceed without a reporter's transcript, however, the respondent may not designate a reporter's transcript without first getting an order from the appellate division.

Cost: The appellant is responsible for paying for preparing a reporter's transcript. The trial court clerk or the court reporter will notify you of the cost of preparing an original and one copy of the reporter's transcript. You must deposit payment for this cost (and a fee for the trial court) or one of the substitutes allowed by rule 8.834 with the trial court clerk within 10 days after this notice is sent. (See rule 8.834 for more information about this deposit and the permissible substitutes, such as a waiver of this deposit signed by the court reporter.)

Unlike the fee for filing the notice of appeal and the costs for preparing a clerk's transcript, the court cannot waive the fee for preparing a reporter's transcript. A special fund, called the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, may be able to help pay for the transcript. You can get information about this fund at *www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/consumers/index.shtml#rtf.* If you are unable to pay the cost of a reporter's transcript, a record of the oral proceedings can be prepared in other ways, by using an agreed statement or a statement on appeal, which are described below.

Completion and delivery: After the cost of preparing the reporter's transcript or a permissible substitute has been deposited, the court reporter will prepare the transcript and submit it to the trial court clerk. When the record is complete, the trial court clerk will submit the original transcript to the appellate division and send you a copy of the transcript. If the respondent has purchased it, a copy of the reporter's transcript will also be mailed to the respondent.

(2) Official electronic recording or transcript

When available: In some limited civil cases, the trial court proceedings were officially recorded on approved electronic recording equipment. If your case was officially recorded, you can choose ("elect") to have a transcript prepared from the recording. Check with the trial court to see if the

oral proceedings in your case were officially electronically recorded before you choose this option. If the court has a local rule permitting this and all the parties agree ("stipulate"), a copy of an official electronic recording itself can be used as the record, instead of preparing a transcript. If you choose this option, you must attach a copy of this agreement ("stipulation") to your notice designating the record on appeal.

Contents: If you elect to use a transcript of an official electronic recording, you must identify by date (this is called "designating") what proceedings you want included in the transcript. You can use the same form you used to tell the court you wanted to use a transcript of an official electronic recording—*Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103)—to do this.

Cost: The appellant is responsible for paying the court for the cost of either (a) preparing a transcript *or* (b) making a copy of the official electronic recording.

(a) If you elect to use a transcript of an official electronic recording, you will need to deposit the estimated cost of preparing the transcript with the trial court clerk and pay the trial court a $50 fee. There are two ways to determine the estimated cost of the transcript:

- You can use the amounts listed in rule 8.130(b)(1)(B) for each full or half day of court proceedings to estimate the cost of making a transcript of the proceeding you have designated in your notice designating the record on appeal. Deposit this estimated amount and the $50 fee with the trial court clerk when you file your notice designating the record on appeal.
- You can ask the trial court clerk for an estimate of the cost of preparing a transcript of the proceedings you have designated in you notice designating the record on appeal. You must deposit this amount and the $50 fee with the trial court within 10 days of receiving the estimate from the clerk.

(b) If the court has a local rule permitting the use of a copy of the electronic recording itself, rather than a transcript, and you have attached your agreement with the other parties to do this ("stipulation") to the notice designating the record on appeal that you filed with the court, the trial court clerk will provide you with an estimate of the costs for this copy of the recording. You must pay this amount to the trial court.

If you cannot afford to pay the cost of preparing the transcript, the $50 fee, or the fee for the copy of the official electronic recording, you can ask the court to waive these costs. To do this, you must fill out and file a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*. The court will review this application to determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver.

Completion and delivery: After the estimated cost of the transcript or official electronic recording has been paid or waived, the clerk will have the transcript or copy of the recording prepared. When the transcript is completed or the copy of the official electronic recording is prepared and the rest of the record is complete, the clerk will send it to the appellate division.

(3) Agreed statement

Description: An agreed statement is a written summary of the trial court proceedings agreed to by all the parties.

When available: If the trial court proceedings were not recorded either by a court reporter or by official electronic recording equipment or if you do not want to use one of these options, you can choose ("elect") to use an agreed statement as the record of the oral proceedings (please note that it may take more of your time to prepare an agreed statement than to use either a reporter's transcript or official electronic recording, if they are available).

Contents: An agreed statement must explain what the trial court case was about, describe why the appellate division is the right court to consider an appeal in this case (why the appellate division has "jurisdiction"), and describe the rulings of the trial court relating to the points to be raised on appeal.

The statement should include only those facts that you and the other parties think are needed to decide the appeal.

Preparation: If you elect to use this option, you must file the agreed statement with your notice designating the record on appeal or, if you and the other parties need more time to work on the statement, you can file a written agreement with the other parties (called a "stipulation") stating that you are trying to agree on a statement. If you file this stipulation, within the next 30 days you must either file the agreed statement or tell the court that you and the other parties were unable to agree on a statement and file a new notice designating the record.

(4) Statement on appeal

Description: A statement on appeal is a summary of the trial court proceedings that is approved by the trial court judge who conducted those proceedings (the term "judge" includes commissioners and temporary judges).

When available: If the trial court proceedings were not recorded either by a court reporter or by official electronic recording equipment or if you do not want to use one of these options, you can choose ("elect") to use a statement on appeal as the record of the oral proceedings (please note that it may take more of your time to prepare a statement on appeal than to use either a reporter's transcript or official electronic recording, if they are available).

Contents: A statement on appeal must include:

- A statement of the points you (the appellant) are raising on appeal;
- A summary of the trial court's rulings and judgment; and
- A summary of the testimony of each witness and other evidence that is relevant to the issues you are raising on appeal.

(See rule 8.837 of the California Rules of Court for more information about what must be included in a statement on appeal and the procedures for preparing a statement. You can get a copy of this rule at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules*.)

Preparing a proposed statement: If you elect to use a statement on appeal, you must prepare a proposed statement. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you must use *Proposed Statement on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-104) to prepare your proposed statement. You can get form APP-104 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.*

Serving and filing a proposed statement: You must serve and file the proposed statement with the trial court within 20 days after you file your notice designating the record. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the proposed statement to the respondent in the way required by law. If the proposed statement is mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.
- Make a record that the proposed statement has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the proposed statement, who was served with the proposed statement, how the proposed statement was served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the proposed statement was served.
- File the original proposed statement and the proof of service with the trial court. You should make a copy of the proposed statement you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the proposed statement to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.*

Review and modifications: The respondent has 10 days from the date you serve your proposed

statement to serve and file proposed changes (called "amendments") to this statement. The trial court judge then reviews both your proposed statement and any proposed amendments filed by the respondent. The trial judge will either make or order you (the appellant) to make any corrections or modifications to the statement that are needed to make sure that the statement provides an accurate summary of the testimony and other evidence relevant to the issues you indicated you are raising on appeal.

Completion and certification: If the judge makes any corrections or modifications to the proposed statement, the corrected or modified statement will be sent to you and the respondent for your review. If the judge orders you to make any corrections or modifications to the proposed statement, you must serve and file the corrected or modified statement within the time ordered by the judge. If you or the respondent disagree with anything in the modified or corrected statement, you have 10 days from the date the modified or corrected statement is sent to you to serve and file objections to the statement. The judge then reviews any objections, makes or orders you to make any additional corrections to the statement, and certifies the statement as an accurate summary of the testimony and other evidence relevant to the issues you indicated you are raising on appeal.

Sending statement to the appellate division: Once the trial court judge certifies the statement on appeal, the trial court clerk will send the statement to the appellate division along with any record of the documents filed in the trial court.

b. Record of the documents filed in the trial court

The second part of the official record of the trial court proceedings is a record of the documents that were filed in the trial court. There are three ways in which a record of the documents filed in the trial court can be prepared for the appellate division:

- A *clerk's transcript;*
- The original *trial court file;* or
- An *agreed statement.*

Read below for more information about these options.

(1) Clerk's transcript

Description: A clerk's transcript is a record of the documents filed in the trial court prepared by the clerk of the trial court.

Contents: Certain documents, such as the notice of appeal and the trial court judgment or order being appealed, must be included in the clerk's transcript. These documents are listed in rule 8.832(a) of the California Rules of Court and in *Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103).

If you want any documents other than those listed in rule 8.832(a) to be included in the clerk's transcript, you must tell the trial court in your notice designating the record on appeal. You can use form APP-103 to do this. You will need to identify each document you want included in the clerk's transcript by its title and filing date or, if you do not know the filing date, the date the document was signed.

If you—the appellant—request a clerk's transcript, the respondent also has the right to ask the clerk to include additional documents in the clerk's transcript. If this happens, you will be served with a notice saying what other documents the respondent wants included in the clerk's transcript.

Cost: The appellant is responsible for paying for preparing a clerk's transcript. The trial court clerk will send you a bill for the cost of preparing an original and one copy of the clerk's transcript. You must do one of the following things within 10 days after the clerk sends this bill or the appellate division may dismiss your appeal:

- Pay the bill.
- Ask the court to waive the cost because you cannot afford to pay. To do this, you must

fill out and file a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov /forms.* The court will review this application to determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver.

- Give the court a copy of a court order showing that your fees in this case have already been waived by the court.

Completion and delivery: After the cost of preparing the clerk's transcript has been paid or waived, the trial court clerk will compile the requested documents into a transcript format and, when the record on appeal is complete, will forward the original clerk's transcript to the appellate division for filing. The trial court clerk will send you a copy of the transcript. If the respondent bought a copy, the clerk will also send a copy of the transcript to the respondent.

(2) Trial court file

When available: If the court has a local rule allowing this, the clerk can send the appellate division the original trial court file instead of a clerk's transcript (see rule 8.833 of the California Rules of Court).

Cost: As with a clerk's transcript, the appellant is responsible for paying for preparing the trial court file. The trial court clerk will send you a bill for this preparation cost. You must do one of the following things within 10 days after the clerk sends this bill or the appellate division may dismiss your appeal:

- Pay the bill.
- Ask the court to waive the cost because you cannot afford to pay. To do this, you must fill out and file a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov /forms*. The court will review this application to determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver.
- Give the court a copy of a court order showing that your fees in this case have already been waived by the court.

Completion and delivery: After the cost of preparing the trial court file has been paid or waived and the record on appeal is complete, the trial court clerk will send the file and a list of the documents in the file to the appellate division. The trial court clerk will also send a copy of the list of documents to the appellant and respondent so that you can put your own files of documents from the trial court in the correct order.

(3) Agreed statement

When available: If you and the respondent have already agreed to use an agreed statement as the record of the oral proceedings (see a(3) above) and agree to this, you can use an agreed statement instead of a clerk's transcript. To do this, you must attach to your agreed statement all of the documents that are required to be included in a clerk's transcript.

c. Exhibits

The third part of the official record of the trial court proceeding is the exhibits, such as photographs, documents, or other items that were admitted in evidence, refused, or lodged (temporarily placed with the court) in the trial court. Exhibits are considered part of the record on appeal, but the clerk will not include any exhibits in the clerk's transcript unless you ask that they be included in your notice designating the record on appeal. *Appellant's Notice Designating Record on Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-103), includes a space for you to make this request. You also can ask the trial court to send original exhibits to the appellate division at the time briefs are filed (see rule 8.843 for more information about this procedure and see below for information about briefs).

Sometimes, the trial court returns an exhibit to a party at the end of the trial. If the trial court returned an exhibit to you or another party and you or the other party ask for that exhibit to be included in the clerk's transcript or sent to the

appellate division, the party who has the exhibit must deliver that exhibit to the trial court clerk as soon as possible.

14 What happens after the official record has been prepared?

As soon as the record on appeal is complete, the clerk of the trial court will send it to the appellate division. When the appellate division receives the record, it will send you a notice telling you when you must file your brief in the appellate division.

15 What is a brief?

Description: A "brief" is a party's written description of the facts in the case, the law that applies, and the party's argument about the issues being appealed. If you are represented by a lawyer in your appeal, your lawyer will prepare your brief. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you will have to prepare your brief yourself. You should read rules 8.882–8.884 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the requirements for preparing, serving, and filing briefs in limited civil appeals, including requirements for the format and length of these briefs. You can get copies of these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.*

Contents: If you are the appellant, your brief, called an "appellant's opening brief," must clearly explain what you believe are the legal errors made in the trial court. Your brief must refer to the exact places in the clerk's transcript and the reporter's transcript (or the other forms of the record you are using) that support your argument. Remember that an appeal is not a new trial. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses or new exhibits, so do not include any new evidence in your brief.

Serving and filing: You must serve and file your brief in the appellate division by the deadline the court set in the notice it sent you, which is usually 30 days after the record is filed in the appellate division. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the brief to the other parties in the way required by law. If the brief is mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.
- Make a record that the brief has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the brief, who was served with the brief, how the brief was served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the brief was served.
- File the original brief and the proof of service with the appellate division. You should make a copy of the brief you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the brief to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.*

You and the other parties can agree (stipulate) to extend the time for filing this brief by up to 30 days (see rule 8.882(b) for requirements for these agreements). You can also ask the court to extend the time for filing this brief if you can show good cause for an extension (see rule 8.811(b) for a list of the factors the court will consider in deciding whether there is good cause for an extension). You can use *Application for Extension of Time to File Brief (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-106) to ask the court for an extension.

If you do not file your brief by the deadline set by the appellate division, the court may dismiss your appeal.

16 What happens after I file my brief?

Within 30 days after you serve and file your brief, the respondent may, but is not required to, respond by serving and filing a respondent's brief. If the respondent does not file a brief, the appellant does not automatically win the appeal. The court will decide the appeal on the record, the appellant's brief, and any oral argument by the appellant.

If the respondent files a brief, within 20 days after the respondent's brief was filed, you may, but are not required to, file another brief replying to the respondent's brief. This is called a "reply brief."

17 What happens after all the briefs have been filed?

Once all the briefs have been filed or the time to file them has passed, the appellate division will notify you of the date for oral argument in your case.

18 What is "oral argument"?

"Oral argument" is the parties' chance to explain their arguments to the appellate division judges in person. You do not have to participate in oral argument if you do not want to; you can notify the appellate division that you want to "waive" (give up) oral argument by serving and filing a notice within 7 days after the notice of oral argument was sent by the court. You can use *Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-108) to waive oral argument.

If all parties waive oral argument, and the appellate division approves the waiver and takes the oral argument off calendar, the judges will decide the appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted. But if one party waives oral argument and another party or parties do not, the appellate division will hold oral argument with any party or parties who choose to participate, including any party who asked to waive oral argument.

If you do choose to participate in oral argument, you will have up to 10 minutes for your argument unless the appellate division orders otherwise. Remember that the judges will have already read the briefs, so you do not need to read your brief to the judges. It is more helpful to tell the judges what you think is most important in the appeal or ask the judges if they have any questions you could answer.

19 What happens after oral argument?

After oral argument is held (or all parties waive oral argument and the court approves the waiver), the judges of the appellate division will make a decision about the appeal. The appellate division has 90 days after oral argument (or the date its waiver was approved) to decide the appeal. The clerk of the court will mail you a notice of the appellate division's decision.

20 What should I do if I want to give up my appeal?

If you decide you do not want to continue with your appeal, you must file a written document with the appellate division notifying it that you are giving up (this is called "abandoning") your appeal. You can use *Abandonment of Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-107) to file this notice in a limited civil case. You can get form APP-107 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*.

INFORMATION FOR THE RESPONDENT

This section of this information sheet is written for the respondent—the party responding to an appeal filed by another party. It explains some of the rules and procedures relating to responding to an appeal in a limited civil case. The information may also be helpful to the appellant.

21 I have received a notice of appeal from another party. Do I need to do anything?

You do not *have* to do anything. The notice of appeal simply tells you that another party is appealing the trial court's decision. However, this would be a good time to get advice from a lawyer, if you want it. You do not *have* to have a lawyer; if you are an individual (not a corporation, for example), you are allowed to represent yourself in an appeal in a limited civil case. But appeals can be complicated and you will have to follow the same rules that lawyers have to follow. If you have any questions about the appeal procedures, you should talk to a lawyer. You must hire your own lawyer if you want one. You can get information about finding a lawyer on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-lowcosthelp.htm*.

22 If the other party appealed, can I appeal too?

Yes. Even if another party has already appealed, you may still appeal the same judgment or order. This is

called a "cross-appeal." To cross-appeal, you must serve and file a notice of appeal. You can use *Notice of Appeal/Cross-Appeal (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-102) to file this notice in a limited civil case. Please read the information for appellants about filing a notice of appeal, starting on page 2 of this information sheet, if you are considering filing a cross-appeal.

(23) Is there a deadline to file a cross-appeal?

Yes. You must serve and file your notice of appeal within either the regular time for filing a notice of appeal (generally 30 days after mailing or service of Notice of Entry of the judgment or a file-stamped copy of the judgment) or within 10 days after the clerk of the trial court mails notice of the first appeal, whichever is later.

(24) I have received a notice designating the record on appeal from another party. Do I need to do anything?

You do not *have* to do anything. A notice designating the record on appeal lets you know what kind of official record the appellant has asked to be sent to the appellate division. Depending on the kind of record chosen by the appellant, however, you may have the option to:

- Add to what is included in the record;
- Participate in preparing the record; *or*
- Ask for a copy of the record.

Look at the appellant's notice designating the record on appeal to see what kind of record the appellant has chosen and read about that form of the record in the response to question (13) above. Then read below for what your options are when the appellant has chosen that form of the record.

a. Reporter's transcript

If the appellant is using a reporter's transcript, you have the option of asking for additional proceedings to be included in the reporter's transcript. To do this, within 10 days after the appellant files its notice designating the record on appeal, you must serve and file a notice designating additional proceedings to be included in the reporter's transcript.

Whether or not you ask for additional proceedings to be included in the reporter's transcript, you must generally pay a fee if you want a copy of the reporter's transcript. The trial court clerk or reporter will send you a notice indicating the cost of preparing a copy of the reporter's transcript. If you want a copy of the reporter's transcript, you must deposit this amount (and a fee for the trial court) or one of the substitutes allowed by rule 8.834 with the trial court clerk within 10 days after this notice is sent. (See rule 8.834 for more information about this deposit and the permissible substitutes, such as a waiver of this deposit signed by the court reporter.)

Unlike the fee for preparing a clerk's transcript, the court cannot waive the fee for preparing a reporter's transcript. A special fund, called the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, may be able to help pay for the transcript. You can get information about this fund from the Court Reporters Board of California at w*ww.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/consumers /index.shtml#trf.* The reporter will not prepare a copy of the reporter's transcript for you unless you deposit the cost of the transcript, or one of the permissible substitutes, or your application for payment by the Transcript Reimbursement Fund is approved.

If the appellant elects not to use a reporter's transcript, you may not designate a reporter's transcript without first getting an order from the appellate division.

b. Agreed statement

If you and the appellant agree to prepare an agreed statement (a summary of the trial court proceedings that is agreed to by the parties), you and the appellant will need to reach an agreement on that statement within 30 days after the appellant files its notice designating the record.

c. Statement on appeal

If the appellant elects to use a statement on appeal (a summary of the trial court proceedings that is approved by the trial court), the appellant will send you a proposed statement to review. You will have 10 days from the date the

appellant sent you this proposed statement to serve and file suggested changes (called "amendments") that you think are needed to make sure that the statement provides an accurate summary of the testimony and other evidence relevant to the issues the appellant indicated he or she is raising on appeal. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the proposed amendments to the appellant in the way required by law. If the proposed amendments are mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.
- Make a record that the proposed amendments have been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the proposed amendments, who was served with the proposed amendments, how the proposed amendments were served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the proposed amendments were served.
- File the original proposed amendments and the proof of service with the trial court. You should make a copy of the proposed amendments you are planning to file for your own records before you file them with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the proposed amendments to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov /selfhelp-serving.htm*.

d. Clerk's transcript

If the appellant is using a clerk's transcript, you have the option of asking the clerk to include additional documents in the clerk's transcript.

To do this, within 10 days after the appellant serves its notice designating the record on appeal, you must serve and file a notice designating additional documents to be included in the clerk's transcript.

Whether or not you ask for additional documents to be included in the clerk's transcript, you must pay a fee if you want a copy of the clerk's transcript. The trial court clerk will send you a notice indicating the cost for a copy of the clerk's transcript. If you want a copy, you must deposit this amount with the court within 10 days after the clerk's notice was sent. If you cannot afford to pay this cost, you can ask the court to waive it. To do this, you must fill out and file a *Request to Waive Court Fees* (form FW-001). You can get form FW-001 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*. The court will review this application and determine if you are eligible for a fee waiver. The clerk will not prepare a copy of the clerk's transcript for you unless you deposit payment for the cost or obtain a fee waiver.

25 What happens after the official record has been prepared?

As soon as the record on appeal is complete, the clerk of the trial court will send it to the appellate division. When the appellate division receives this record, it will send you a notice telling you when you must file your brief in the appellate division.

A brief is a party's written description of the facts in the case, the law that applies, and the party's argument about the issues being appealed. If you are represented by a lawyer, your lawyer will prepare your brief. If you are not represented by a lawyer in your appeal, you will have to prepare your brief yourself. You should read rules 8.882–8.884 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the requirements for preparing, serving, and filing briefs in limited civil appeals, including requirements for the format and length of these briefs.

You can get these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm.*

The appellant serves and files the first brief, called an "appellant's opening brief." You may, but are not required to, respond by serving and filing a respondent's brief within 30 days after the appellant's opening brief is filed. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old mail, deliver, or electronically send ("serve") the brief to the other parties in the way required by law. If the brief is mailed or personally delivered, it must be by someone who is not a party to the case—so not you.
- Make a record that the brief has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) or *Proof of Electronic Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109E) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the brief, who was served with the brief, how the brief was served (by mail, in person, or electronically), and the date the brief was served.
- File the original brief and the proof of service with the appellate division. You should make a copy of the brief you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the brief to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed. You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.*

You and the other parties can agree (stipulate) to extend the time for filing this brief by up to 30 days (see rule 8.882(b) for requirements for these agreements). You can also ask the court to extend the time for filing this brief if you can show good cause for an extension (see rule 8.811(b) for a list of the factors the court will consider in deciding whether there is good cause for an extension). You can use *Application for Extension of Time to File Brief (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-106) to ask the court for an extension.

If you do not file a respondent's brief, the appellant does not automatically win the appeal. The court will decide the appeal on the record, the appellant's brief, and any oral argument by the appellant. Remember that an appeal is not a new trial. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses or new exhibits, so do not include any new evidence in your brief.

If you file a respondent's brief, the appellant then has an opportunity to serve and file another brief within 20 days replying to your brief.

26 What happens after all the briefs have been filed?

Once all the briefs have been filed or the time to file them has passed, the court will notify you of the date for oral argument in your case.

"Oral argument" is the parties' chance to explain their arguments to the appellate division judges in person. You do not have to participate in oral argument if you do not want to; you can notify the appellate division that you want to "waive" (give up) oral argument by serving and filing a notice within 7 days after the notice of oral argument was sent by the court. You can use *Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Limited Civil Case)* (form APP-108) to waive oral argument.

If all parties waive oral argument, and the appellate division approves the waiver and takes the oral argument off calendar, the judges will decide the appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted. But if one party waives oral argument and another party or parties do not, the appellate division will hold oral argument with any party or parties who choose to participate, including any party who asked to waive oral argument.

If you do choose to participate in oral argument, you will have up to 10 minutes for your argument unless the appellate division orders otherwise. Remember that the judges will have already read the briefs, so you do not need to read your brief to the judges. It is more helpful to tell the judges what you think is most important in the appeal or ask the judges if they have any questions you could answer.

After oral argument is held (or all parties waive oral argument and the court approves the waiver), the judges of the appellate division will make a decision about the appeal. The appellate division has 90 days after oral argument (or the date its waiver was approved) to decide the appeal. The clerk of the court will mail you a notice of the appellate division's decision.

APP-108 Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Limited Civil Case)

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

DRAFT

08/02/19

Not approved by the Judicial Council

Instructions

- This form is only for requesting to waive (give up) oral argument in an appeal in **a limited civil case.**
- Before you fill out this form, read *Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-101-INFO) to know your rights and responsibilities. You can get form APP-101-INFO at any courthouse, or county law library, or online at *www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms*.
- Fill out this form and make a copy of the completed form for your records and for each of the other parties.
- Serve a copy of the completed form on each of the other parties and keep proof of this service. You can get information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/lowcost/getready.htm#serving.*
- Take or mail the completed form and proof of service on the other parties to the appellate division clerk's office. It is a good idea to take or mail an extra copy to the clerk and ask the clerk to stamp it to show that the original has been filed.

You fill in the name and street address of the court that issued the judgment or order that is being appealed:

Superior Court of California, County of

You fill in the number and name of the trial court case in which the judgment or order is being appealed::

Trial Court Case Number:

Trial Court Case Name:

You fill in the appellate division case number:

Appellate Division Case Number:

1 Your Information

a. Name of party requesting to waive oral argument: _____

b. Party's contact information *(skip this if the party has a lawyer for this appeal):*

Street address: _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Mailing address *(if different):* _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

c. Party's lawyer *(skip this if the party does not have a lawyer for this appeal):*

Name: _____ State Bar number: _____

Street address: _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Mailing address *(if different):* _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fax: _____

NOTICE

For all appeals in limited civil cases, the court schedules oral argument. Parties may waive oral argument by filing a notice of waiver of oral argument within 7 days after the notice of oral argument is sent.

If all parties in the case waive oral argument, the court may vacate the oral argument and take it off the calendar. If the court vacates oral argument, you will receive notification from the court.

If not all parties waive oral argument, or if the court does not accept the waiver request, the court will not vacate oral argument and it will remain on the court's calendar. All parties will be able to participate in the oral argument, including any parties who previously requested a waiver.

(2) I have read this form and I am/my client is requesting to waive oral argument. **I understand that by signing this form, I am/my client is waiving (giving up) the opportunity to appear in court and argue the case.** I also understand that if all parties waive oral argument and the court accepts the waiver and takes the oral argument off calendar, the court will decide the appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted.

Date: _____

_____ ▶ _____

Type or print your name *Signature of party or attorney*

CR-131-INFO Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors

1 What does this information sheet cover?

This information sheet tells you about appeals in misdemeanor cases. It is only meant to give you a general idea of the appeal process, so it does not cover everything you may need to know about appeals in misdemeanor cases. To learn more, you should read rules 8.800–8.816 and 8.850–8.890 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the procedures for misdemeanor appeals. You can get these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.*

For information about appeal procedures in other cases, see:

- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Infractions* (form CR-141-INFO)
- *Information on Appeal Procedures for Limited Civil Cases* (form APP-101-INFO)

You can get these forms at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.*

2 What is a misdemeanor?

A misdemeanor is a crime that can be punished by jail time of up to one year, but not by time in state prison. (See Penal Code sections 17 and 19.2. You can get a copy of these laws at at *http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov /faces/codes.xhtml*.) If you were also charged with or convicted of a felony, then your case is a felony case, not a misdemeanor case.

3 What is an appeal?

An appeal is a request to a higher court to review a decision made by a lower court. **In a misdemeanor case, the court hearing the appeal is the appellate division of the superior court and the lower court—called the "trial court" in this information sheet—is the superior court.**

It is important to understand that **an appeal is NOT a new trial**. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses or new exhibits. The appellate division's job is to review a record of what happened in the trial court and the trial court's decision to see if certain kinds of legal errors were made in the case:

- ***Prejudicial error:*** The party that appeals (called the "appellant") may ask the appellate division to determine if an error was made about either the law or court procedures in the case that caused substantial harm to the appellant (this is called "prejudicial error"). Prejudicial error can include things like errors made by the judge about the law, errors or misconduct by the lawyers, incorrect instructions given to the jury, and misconduct by the jury that harmed the appellant. When it conducts its review, the appellate division presumes that the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed is correct. It is the responsibility of the appellant to show the appellate division that an error was made and that the error was harmful.
- ***No substantial evidence:*** The appellant may also ask the appellate division to determine if there was substantial evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed. When it conducts its review, the appellate division only looks to see if there was evidence that reasonably supports the decision. The appellate division generally will not reconsider the jury's or trial court's conclusion about which side had more or stronger evidence or whether witnesses were telling the truth or lying.

The appellate division generally will not overturn the judgment, order, or other decision being appealed unless the record clearly shows that one of these legal errors was made.

4 Do I need a lawyer to appeal?

You will probably need a lawyer. You are allowed to represent yourself in an appeal in a misdemeanor case only if the appellate division permits you to do so. But appeals can be complicated, and you would have to follow the same rules that lawyers have to follow. If you have any questions about the appeal procedures, you should talk to a lawyer.

If the appellate division permits you to represent yourself, you must put your address, telephone number,

fax number, and e-mail address (if available) on the cover of every document you file with the court and let the court know if this contact information changes so that the court can contact you if needed.

5 How do I get a lawyer to represent me?

The court is required to appoint a lawyer to represent you if you are indigent (you cannot afford to pay for a lawyer) and:

- Your punishment includes going to jail or paying a fine of more than $500 (including penalty and other assessments); or
- You are likely to suffer other significant harm as a result of being convicted.

The court may, but is not required to, appoint a lawyer to represent you on appeal in other circumstances if you are indigent. You are automatically considered indigent if you were represented by the public defender or other court-appointed lawyer in the trial court. You will also be considered indigent if you can show that your income and assets are too low to pay for a lawyer.

If you think you are indigent, you can ask the court to appoint a lawyer to represent you for your appeal. You may use *Request for Court-Appointed Lawyer in Misdemeanor Appeal* (form CR-133) to ask the court to appoint a lawyer to represent you on appeal in a misdemeanor case. You can get form CR-133 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*.

If you want a lawyer and you are not indigent or if the court turns down your request to appoint a lawyer, you must hire a lawyer at your own expense. You can get information about finding a lawyer on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov /selfhelp.htm* at the "Getting Started" tab.

6 Who can appeal?

Only a party in the trial court case can appeal a decision in that case. You may not appeal on behalf of a friend, a spouse, a child, or another relative.

The party that is appealing is called the APPELLANT; in a misdemeanor case, this is usually the party convicted of committing the misdemeanor. The other party is called the RESPONDENT; in a misdemeanor case, this is usually the government agency that filed the criminal charges (on court papers, this party is called the People of the State of California).

7 Can I appeal *any* decision that the trial court made?

No. Generally, you may appeal only the final judgment —the decision at the end that decides the whole case. The final judgment includes the punishment that the court imposed. With the exception listed below, rulings made by the trial court before final judgment generally cannot be separately appealed, but can be reviewed only later as part of an appeal of the final judgment. In a misdemeanor case, the party convicted of committing a misdemeanor usually appeals that conviction or the sentence (punishment) ordered by the trial court. In a misdemeanor case, a party can also appeal:

- Before the trial court issues a final judgment in the case, from an order granting or denying a motion to suppress evidence (Penal Code section 1538.5(j))
- From an order made by the trial court after judgment that affects a substantial right of the appellant (Penal Code section 1466(2)(B))

You can get a copy of these laws at *http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml*.

8 How do I start my appeal?

First, you must file a notice of appeal. The notice of appeal tells the other party in the case and the trial court that you are appealing the trial court's decision. You may use *Notice of Appeal (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-132) to prepare and file a notice of appeal in a misdemeanor case. You can get form CR-132 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*.

9 Is there a deadline for filing my notice of appeal?

Yes. Except in the very limited circumstances listed in rule 8.853(b), in a misdemeanor case, you must file your notice of appeal within **30 days** after the trial court makes ("renders") its final judgment in your case or issues the order you are appealing. (You can get a copy of rule 8.853 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules*). The date the trial court makes its judgment is normally the date the trial court issues its order saying what your punishment is (sentences you). **This deadline for filing the notice of appeal cannot be extended. If your notice of appeal is late, the appellate division will not be able to consider your appeal.**

10 How do I file my notice of appeal?

To file the notice of appeal in a misdemeanor case, you must bring or mail the original notice of appeal to the clerk of the trial court that made the judgment or issued the order you are appealing. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy to the clerk and ask the clerk to stamp it to show that the original has been filed.

There is no fee for filing the notice of appeal in a misdemeanor case. You can ask the clerk of that court if there are any other requirements for filing your notice of appeal.

After you file your notice of appeal, the clerk will send a copy of your notice of appeal to the office of the prosecuting attorney (for example, the district attorney, county counsel, city attorney, or state Attorney General).

11 If I file a notice of appeal, do I still have to go to jail or complete other parts of my punishment?

Filing the notice of appeal does NOT automatically postpone your punishment, such as serving time in jail, paying fines, or probation conditions.

If you have been sentenced to jail in a misdemeanor case, you have a right to be released either with or without bail while your appeal is waiting to be decided, but you must ask the court to set bail or release you. If the trial court has not set bail or released you after your notice of appeal has been filed, you must ask the trial court to set bail or release you. If the trial court denies your release or sets the bail amount higher than you think it should be, you can apply to the appellate division for release or for lower bail.

Other parts of your punishment, such as fines or probation conditions, will be postponed ("stayed") only if you request a stay and the court grants your request. If you want a stay, you must first ask the trial court for a stay. You can also apply to the appellate division for a stay, but you must show in your application to the appellate division that you first asked the trial court for a stay and that the trial court unjustifiably denied your request. If you do not get a stay and you do not pay your fine or complete another part of your punishment by the date ordered by the court, a warrant may be issued for your arrest or a civil collections process may be started against you, which could result in a civil penalty being added to your fine.

12 What do I need to do after I file my appeal?

You must tell the trial court (1) whether you have agreed with the respondent ("stipulated") that you do not need parts of the normal record on appeal, and (2) whether you want a record of what was said in the trial court (this is called a record of the "oral proceedings") sent to the appellate division and, if so, what form of that record you want to use. You may use *Notice Regarding Record on Appeal (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-134) for this notice. (You can get form CR-134 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms*). You must file this notice either:

- Within 20 days after you file your notice of appeal; or, if it is later,
- Within 10 days after the court decides whether to appoint a lawyer to represent you (if you ask the court to appoint a lawyer within 20 days after you file your notice of appeal).

13 In what cases does the appellate division need a record of what was said in the trial court?

You do not *have* to send the appellate division a record of what was said in the trial court. But if you want to raise any issue in your appeal that would require the appellate division to consider what was said in the trial court, the appellate division will need a record of these oral proceedings. For example, if you are claiming that there was not substantial evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing, the appellate division will need a record of the oral proceedings. Since the appellate division judges were not there for the proceedings in the trial court, an official record of these oral proceedings must be prepared and sent to the appellate division for its review.

Depending on what form of the record you choose to use, you will be responsible for paying to have the official record of the oral proceedings prepared (unless you are indigent) or for preparing an initial draft of this record yourself. If you do not take care of these responsibilities, a record of the oral proceedings in the trial court will not be prepared and sent to the appellate division. If the appellate division does not receive this record, it will not be able to consider what was said in the trial court in deciding whether a legal error was made and it may dismiss your appeal.

14 What are the different forms of the record?

There are three ways a record of the oral proceedings in the trial court can be prepared and provided to the appellate division in a misdemeanor case:

a. If a court reporter was there during the trial court proceedings, the reporter can prepare a record called a *"reporter's transcript."*

b. If the proceedings were officially electronically recorded, the trial court can have a transcript prepared from that recording; or if the court has a local rule permitting this and you and the respondent (the prosecuting agency) agree ("stipulate") to this, you can use the *official electronic recording* itself as the record, instead of a transcript.

c. You can use a *statement on appeal.*

Read below for more information about these options.

a. Reporter's transcript

When available: In some misdemeanor cases, a court reporter is there in the trial court and makes a record of the oral proceedings. If a court reporter made a record of your case, you can ask to have the court reporter prepare a transcript of those oral proceedings, called a "reporter's transcript." You should check with the trial court to see if a court reporter made a record of your case before you choose this option. Some courts also have local rules that establish procedures for deciding whether a statement on appeal or a transcript of only some of the oral proceedings will be a good enough record to consider the issues you are raising on appeal. You should check whether the court has such a local rule.

Cost*:* Ordinarily, the appellant must pay for preparing a reporter's transcript. The court reporter will provide the clerk of the trial court with an estimate of the cost of preparing the transcript and the clerk will notify you of this estimate. If you want the reporter to prepare a transcript, you must deposit this estimated amount or one of the substitutes allowed under rule 8.866 with the clerk within 10 days after the clerk sends you the estimate. However, under rule 8.866 you can decide to use a different form of the record or take other action instead of proceeding with a reporter's transcript.

If, however, you are indigent (you cannot afford to pay the cost of a reporter's transcript), you may be able to get a free transcript. If you were represented by the public defender or another court-appointed lawyer in the trial court, you are automatically considered indigent. If you were not represented by a court-appointed lawyer in the trial court, you can complete and file *Defendant's Financial Statement on Eligibility for Appointment of Counsel and Reimbursement and Record on Appeal at Public Expense* (form CR-105), to show that you are indigent. You can get form CR-105 at any courthouse or county law library or online at

www.courts.ca.gov/forms. The court will review this form to decide whether you are indigent.

If the court finds that you are indigent, a court reporter made a record of your case, and you show that you need a transcript, the court must provide you with a free transcript. Whether you need a transcript depends on the issues you are raising on appeal. If the issues you are raising on appeal include that there was not substantial evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing or that there was misconduct in your case that harmed you, that is generally enough to show that you need a transcript. If you ask for a reporter's transcript, the court may ask you what issues you are raising on appeal and may decide that a statement on appeal or a transcript of only some of the oral proceedings will be a good enough record to consider the issues you are raising.

If the court finds that you are not indigent, it will send you a notice and you will have a chance to pick another form of the record or take other actions listed in rule 8.866.

Completion and delivery: Once you deposit the estimated cost of the transcript or one of the substitutes allowed under rule 8.866 or show the court you are indigent and need a transcript, the clerk will notify the reporter to prepare the transcript. When the reporter completes the transcript, the clerk will send the reporter's transcript to the appellate division along with the clerk's transcript.

b. Official electronic recording or transcript from an official recording

When available: In some misdemeanor cases, the trial court proceedings are officially recorded on approved electronic recording equipment. If your case was officially recorded, you can ask to have a transcript prepared from that official electronic recording. You should check with the trial court to see if your case was officially electronically recorded before you choose this option. As with reporter's transcripts, some courts also have local rules that establish procedures for deciding whether a statement on appeal or a transcript of only some of the oral proceedings will be a good enough record to consider the issues you are raising on appeal. You should check whether the court has such a local rule.

If the court has a local rule for the appellate division permitting this and all the parties agree ("stipulate"), a copy of the official electronic recording itself can be used as the record of the oral proceedings instead of preparing a transcript. You should check with the trial court to see if your case was officially electronically recorded and check to make sure there is a local rule permitting the use of the recording itself before choosing this option. If you choose this option, you must attach a copy of your agreement with the other parties (called a "stipulation") to your notice regarding the oral proceedings.

Cost: Ordinarily, the appellant must pay for preparing a transcript or making a copy of the official electronic recording. The court will send you an estimate of the cost for this transcript or the copy of the electronic recording. If you still want this transcript or recording, you must deposit this amount with the court. However, you can also choose to use a statement on appeal instead, or take one of the other actions listed in rule 8.868.

If, however, you are indigent (you cannot afford to pay the cost of the transcript or recording), you may be able to get a free transcript or recording. If you were represented by the public defender or another court-appointed attorney in the trial court, you are automatically considered indigent. If you were not represented by a court-appointed lawyer in the trial court, you can complete and file *Defendant's Financial Statement on Eligibility for Appointment of Counsel and Reimbursement and Record on Appeal at Public Expense* (form CR-105) to show that you are indigent. You can get form CR-105 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.* The court will review this form to decide whether you are indigent.

If you are indigent, an official electronic recording of your case was made, and you show that you need a transcript, the court must provide you with a free transcript. As with reporter's transcripts, whether you need a transcript depends on the issues you are raising on appeal. If the issues you are raising on appeal include that there was not substantial evidence supporting the judgment, order, or other decision you are appealing or that there was misconduct in your case that harmed you, that is generally enough to show that you need a transcript. If you ask for a transcript, the court may ask you what issues you are raising on appeal and may decide that a statement on appeal or a transcript of only some of the oral proceedings will be a good enough record to consider the issues you are raising.

If the court finds that you are not indigent, it will send you a notice and you will have a chance to use a statement on appeal instead or take one of the other actions listed in rule 8.868.

Completion and delivery: Once you deposit the estimated cost of the transcript or the official electronic recording with the clerk or show the court you are indigent and need a transcript, the clerk will have the transcript or copy of the recording prepared. When the transcript is completed or the copy of the official electronic recording is prepared, the clerk will send the transcript or recording to the appellate division along with the clerk's transcript.

c. Statement on appeal

Description: A statement on appeal is a summary of the trial court proceedings approved by the trial court judge who conducted those proceedings (the term "judge" includes commissioners and temporary judges).

When available: If the trial court proceedings were not recorded either by a court reporter or by official electronic recording equipment, or if you do not want to use either of these forms of the record, you can choose ("elect") to use a statement on appeal as the record of the oral proceedings in the trial court (please note that it may take more of your time to prepare a statement on appeal than to use either a reporter's transcript or electronic recording, if they are available).

Contents: A statement on appeal must include:

- A statement of the points you (the appellant) are raising on appeal;
- A summary of the trial court's rulings and judgment; and
- A summary of the testimony of each witness and other evidence that is relevant to the issues you are raising on appeal.

(See rule 8.869 of the California Rules of Court for more information about what must be included in a statement on appeal and the procedures for preparing a statement. You can get this rule at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm.*)

Preparing a proposed statement: If you choose to use a statement on appeal, you must prepare a proposed statement. If you are not represented by a lawyer, you must use *Proposed Statement on Appeal (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-135) to prepare your proposed statement. You can get form CR-135 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.*

Serving and filing a proposed statement: You must serve and file your proposed statement in the trial court within 20 days after you file your notice regarding the record of the oral proceedings. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver ("serve") a copy of the proposed statement to the prosecuting attorney and any other party in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the proposed statement has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who

served the proposed statement, who was served with the proposed statement, how the proposed statement was served (by mail or in person), and the date the proposed statement was served.

- File the original proposed statement and the proof of service with the trial court. You should make a copy of the proposed statement you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the proposed statement to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and on the California Courts Online Self-Help Center at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.*

Review and modifications: The prosecuting attorney and any other party have 10 days from the date you serve your proposed statement to serve and file proposed changes (called "amendments") to this statement. The trial court judge then reviews both your proposed statement and any proposed amendments filed by the prosecuting attorney and any other party. The judge will then make or order you to make any corrections or modifications to the statement needed to make sure that the statement provides a complete and accurate summary of the relevant testimony and other evidence.

Completion and certification: If the judge makes or orders you to make any corrections or modifications to the proposed statement, the corrected or modified statement will be sent to you, the prosecuting attorney, and any other party for your review. If you disagree with anything in the judge's statement, you will have 10 days from the date the statement is sent you to serve and file objections to the statement. The judge then reviews any objections, makes any additional corrections to the statement, and certifies the statement as a complete and accurate summary of the relevant testimony and other evidence.

Sending the statement to appellate division: Once the trial court judge certifies the statement on appeal, the trial court clerk will send the statement to the appellate division along with the clerk's transcript.

15 Is there any other part of the record that needs to be sent to the appellate division?

Yes. There are two other parts of the official record that need to be sent to the appellate division:

- ***Documents filed in the trial court:*** The trial court clerk is responsible for preparing a record of the written documents filed in your case, called a "clerk's transcript," and sending this to the appellate division. (The documents the clerk must include in this transcript are listed in rule 8.861 of the California Rules of Court. You can get a copy of this rule at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm.*)

- ***Exhibits submitted during trial:*** Exhibits, such as photographs, that were admitted in evidence, refused, or lodged (temporarily placed with the court) in the trial court are considered part of the record on appeal. If you want the appellate division to consider such an exhibit, however, you must ask the trial court clerk to send the original exhibit to the appellate division within 10 days after the last respondent's brief is filed in the appellate division. (See rule 8.870 of the California Rules of Court for more information about this procedure. You can get a copy of this rule at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.*) Sometimes, the trial court returns an exhibit to a party at the end of the trial. If the trial court returned an exhibit to you or another party and you or the other party ask for the exhibit to be sent to the appellate division, the party who has the exhibit must deliver that exhibit to the appellate division as soon as possible.

16 What happens after the record is prepared?

As soon as the record of the oral proceeding is ready, the clerk of the trial court will send it to the appellate division along with the clerk's transcript. When the appellate division receives this record, it will send you a notice telling you when you must file your brief in the appellate division.

17 What is a brief?

A brief is a party's written description of the facts in the case, the law that applies, and the party's argument about the issues being appealed. If you are represented by a lawyer in your appeal, your lawyer will prepare your brief. If the appellate division has permitted you to represent yourself, you will have to prepare your brief yourself. You should read rules 8.880–8.891 of the California Rules of Court, which set out the requirements for preparing, serving, and filing briefs in misdemeanor appeals, including requirements for the format and length of those briefs. You can get copies of these rules at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/rules.htm.*

Contents: If you are the appellant (the party who is appealing), your brief, called the "appellant's opening brief," must clearly explain what you believe are the legal errors made in the trial court. Your brief must refer to the exact places in the clerk's transcript and the reporter's transcript (or other record of the oral proceedings) that support your argument. Remember that an appeal is not a new trial. The appellate division will not consider new evidence, such as the testimony of new witnesses or new exhibits, so do not include any new evidence in your brief.

Serving and filing: You must serve and file your brief in the appellate division by the deadline the court set in the notice it sent you, which is usually 30 days after the record is filed in the appellate division. "Serve and file" means that you must:

- Have somebody over 18 years old who is not a party to the case—so not you—mail or deliver ("serve") the brief to the respondent (the prosecuting agency) and any other party in the way required by law.
- Make a record that the brief has been served. This record is called a "proof of service." *Proof of Service (Appellate Division)* (form APP-109) can be used to make this record. The proof of service must show who served the brief, who was served with the brief, how the brief was served (by mail or in person), and the date the brief was served.
- File the original brief and the proof of service with the appellate division. You should make a copy of the brief you are planning to file for your own records before you file it with the court. It is a good idea to bring or mail an extra copy of the brief to the clerk when you file your original and ask the clerk to stamp this copy to show that the original has been filed.

You can get more information about how to serve court papers and proof of service from *What Is Proof of Service?* (form APP-109-INFO) and at *www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-serving.htm.*

If you do not file your brief by the deadline set by the appellate division, the court may dismiss your appeal.

18 What happens after I file my brief?

Within 30 days after you serve and file your brief, the respondent (the prosecuting agency) may, but is not required to, respond by serving and filing a respondent's brief. If the respondent does not file a brief, the appellant does not automatically win the appeal. The court will decide the appeal on the record, the appellant's brief, and any oral argument by the appellant.

If the respondent serves and files a brief, within 20 days after the respondent's brief was served, you may, but are not required to, serve and file another brief replying to the respondent's brief. This is called a "reply brief."

19 What happens after all the briefs have been filed?

Once all the briefs have been served and filed or the time to serve and file them has passed, the court will notify you of the date for oral argument in your case unless your case presents no arguable issues for the court to

consider. If your case presents no arguable issues, the court will not hold oral argument.

20 What is oral argument?

"Oral argument" is the parties' chance to explain their arguments to the appellate division judges in person. You do not have to participate in oral argument if you do not want to; you can notify the appellate division that you want to "waive" (give up) oral argument by serving and filing a notice within 7 days after the notice of oral argument was sent by the court. You can use *Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-138) to waive oral argument.

If all parties waive oral argument, and the appellate division approves the waiver and takes the oral argument off calendar, the judges will decide your appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted. But if one party waives oral argument and another party or parties do not, the appellate division will hold oral argument with any party or parties who choose to participate, including any party who asked to waive oral argument.

If you choose to participate in oral argument, each party will have up to 10 minutes for argument, unless the court orders otherwise. If the appellate division has permitted you to represent yourself, remember that the judges will already have read the briefs, so you do not need to read your brief to the judges. It is more helpful to tell the judges what you think is most important in your appeal or ask the judges if they have any questions you could answer.

21 What happens after oral argument?

After the oral argument is held (or all parties waive oral argument and the court approves the waiver), the judges of the appellate division will make a decision about your appeal. The appellate division has 90 days after oral argument (or the date its waiver was approved) to decide the appeal. The clerk of the court will mail you a notice of that decision.

22 What should I do if I want to give up my appeal?

If you decide you do not want to continue with your appeal, you must file a written document with the appellate division notifying it that you are giving up (this is called "abandoning") your appeal. You can use *Abandonment of Appeal (Misdemeanor)* (form CR-137) to file this notice in a misdemeanor case. You can get form CR-137 at any courthouse or county law library or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm.*

If you decide not to continue your appeal and it is dismissed, you will (with only very rare exceptions) permanently give up the chance to raise any objections to your conviction, sentence, or other matter that you could have raised on the appeal. If you were released from custody with or without bail or your sentence or any probation conditions were stayed during the appeal, you may be required to start serving your sentence or complying with your probation conditions immediately after your appeal is dismissed.

CR-138 Notice of Waiver of Oral Argument (Misdemeanor)

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

DRAFT

08-02-19

Not approved by the Judicial Council

Instructions

- This form is only for requesting to waive (give up) oral argument in a **misdemeanor** case.
- Before you fill out this form, read *Information on Appeal Procedures for Misdemeanors* (form CR-131-INFO) to know your rights and responsibilities. You can get form CR-131-INFO at any courthouse, or county law library, or online at *www.courts.ca.gov/forms.htm*.
- Fill out this form and make a copy of the completed form for your records.
- Take or mail the completed form to the appellate division clerk's office. It is a good idea to take or mail an extra copy to the clerk and ask the clerk to stamp it to show that the original has been filed.

You fill in the name and street address of the court that issued the judgment or order you are appealing:

Superior Court of California, County of

You fill in the number and name of the trial court case in which you are appealing the judgment or order:

Trial Court Case Number:

Trial Court Case Name:
The People of the State of California v.

You fill in the appellate division case number (if you know it):

Appellate Division Case Number:

1 Your Information

a. Name of party requesting to waive oral argument: _____

Street address: _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Mailing address *(if different):* _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

b. Party's lawyer *(skip this if the court has permitted you to represent yourself in this appeal):*

Name: _____ State Bar number: _____

Street address: _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Mailing address *(if different):* _____ (*Street*) _____ (*City*) _____ (*State*) _____ (*Zip*)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Fax: _____

NOTICE

Except in cases that raise no arguable issues under *People v. Wende* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 436, in all misdemeanor appeals, the court schedules oral argument. Parties may waive oral argument by filing a notice of waiver of oral argument within 7 days after the notice of oral argument is sent.

If all parties in the case waive oral argument, the court may vacate the oral argument and take it off the calendar. If the court vacates oral argument, you will receive notification from the court.

If not all parties waive oral argument, or if the court does not accept the waiver request, the court will not vacate oral argument and it will remain on the court's calendar. All parties will be able to participate in the oral argument, including any parties who previously requested a waiver.

2 Request to Waive Oral Argument *(check (a) or (b))*:

a. ☐ I am the appellant's attorney. I have read this form and I am requesting to waive oral argument. I understand that by signing this form, I am waiving the opportunity to appear in court and argue the case on behalf of my client. I have informed my client that I am waiving oral argument. I also understand that if all parties waive oral argument and the court accepts the waiver and takes the oral argument off the calendar, the court will decide the appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted.

b. ☐ The appellate division has permitted me to represent myself in this appeal. I have read this form and I am requesting to waive oral argument. **I understand that by signing this form, I am waiving (giving up) the opportunity to appear in court and argue the case.** I also understand that if all parties waive oral argument and the court accepts the waiver and takes the oral argument off the calendar, the court will decide the appeal based on the briefs and the record that were submitted.

Date: _____

_____ ▶ _____

Type or print your name *Signature of party or attorney*

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
1.	Criminal Appellate Section, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office by Kent J. Bullard Supervising Deputy City Attorney Los Angeles	AM	In light of variation in procedures and rules governing oral argument in appellate divisions throughout the state – for example, the Los Angeles Superior Court Appellate Division provides tentative rulings the afternoon before an oral argument calendar (see Super Ct. L.A. County, Local Rules, rule 9.7(e)), whereas some other appellate divisions apparently do not provide tentative rulings – each appellate division should be permitted to determine whether new provisions governing oral argument waivers will achieve the intended goal of efficiency, and thus any new statewide rule should include a provision allowing each appellate division to opt out of provisions such as the waiver provisions in proposed Rule 8.885(d).	The committee notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal if it is modified. The committee recognizes that appellate division procedures vary, but disagrees with making the waiver procedure optional. The proposed new provisions create a procedure for waiving oral argument in advance so that judges do not needlessly prepare for argument when the parties know ahead of time that they do not wish to argue. This does not preclude appellate divisions from issuing tentative rulings or developing other procedures that are not inconsistent with the rules of court.
2.	Joint Rules Subcommittee (JRS) of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee	AM	The JRS notes the following impact to court operations: • Proposed date for implementation is not feasible or is problematic. Given the potential for a number of new Rules of Court being implemented on the same timeline; it would be advisable to give trial courts more time to implement a rule change that affects due process rights in both limited civil and misdemeanor appeals.	The committee notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal if modified. Based on the response to a request for clarification, the committee understands that the comment regarding the proposed implementation date is not specific to this proposal. Rather, it is based on the broader issue of the number of rules that need to be implemented and the short time frames for implementation. The committee

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			This proposal would be workable for courts of all sizes.	acknowledges the challenges courts, and particularly smaller courts, face in implementing a number of new and amended rules at the same time.
3.	Orange County Bar Association By Deirdre Kelly President	A	No specific comment.	The committee notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal. No further response is required.
4.	Superior Court of Los Angeles County	A	**Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose?** Yes, the proposal appropriately addresses the stated purpose. **Are the proposed waiver forms helpful and should any other content be included?** Yes, the proposed forms are helpful. No additional information is required. **What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems?** Implementation requirements would include the development of docket codes in the Case Management System and a procedure to accept and process waivers. Staff training on the process would be no more than 2 hours.	The committee notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal, and appreciates the commenter's answers to specific questions presented in the invitation to comment. No further response is required. The committee appreciates this feedback. The committee thanks the commenter for this information on implementation requirements.

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? Yes, three months is sufficient.	
5.	Superior Court of San Diego County by Mike Roddy Executive Officer	AM	• Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose? Yes. • Are the proposed waiver forms helpful and should any other content be included? Yes, the form is helpful. Correct/revise the misdemeanor forms to accurately reflect that there is no right to self-representation in misdemeanor appeals. (See e.g., *Martinez v. California* (2000) 528 U.S. 152*; In re Walker* (1976) 56 Cal.App.3d 225, 227; *People v. Scott* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 550.) That being said, individual appellate divisions may, in their discretion, grant a misdemeanor appellant's request for self-representation (but as there is no right to self-representation, a misdemeanor appellant may not merely "elect" to be self-represented). Specifically, correct/revise CR-131-INFO as follows:	The committee notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal if modified and appreciates the responses to questions presented in the invitation to comment. The committee thanks the commenter and has made limited revisions to the forms to clarify that self-representation in misdemeanor appeals is allowed only if the appellate division permits it. These are minor substantive changes that are unlikely to create controversy. (Rule 10.22(d).) The committee will reserve the more extensive revisions suggested by the commenter for future consideration.

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			- Section 4 (Do I need a lawyer to appeal?): Replace first paragraph with: "You will likely need a lawyer to appeal. Appeals can be complicated, and there is no right to self-representation in misdemeanor appeals. The appellate division may appoint a lawyer to represent you on appeal or you may have to hire your own lawyer. If you would like to represent yourself on appeal, you must file a written request, which may not be granted. If you have any questions, about the appeal process, you should talk to a lawyer." Replace the first sentence of the second paragraph with: "If the appellate division grants your request to represent yourself, you must put your address, telephone number, e-mail address, and fax number (if available) on the cover of every document…." - Section 5 (How do I get a lawyer to represent me?): last paragraph, revise first sentence to read: "If you are not indigent or if the appellate division does not appoint a lawyer, you must hire a lawyer at your own expense unless the appellate division grants your request to	The committee has made a limited revision to this item. See response above. The committee has made this change. The committee declines to make this change because the current language of the form is not incorrect. The committee will reserve this suggestion for future consideration.

Positions: A = Agree; AM = Agree if modified; N = Do not agree; NI = Not indicated

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			represent yourself." Delete "If you want a lawyer and". - Section 17 (What is a brief?): Replace "If you are not represented by a lawyer in your appeal" with "If the appellate division has granted your request to represent yourself." - Section 20 (What is oral argument?): Revise second paragraph to read: "If a party chooses to participate in oral argument, only his or her lawyer may participate in oral argument unless the appellate division has granted your request to represent yourself on appeal. Each party will have up to 10 minutes to argue, unless the court orders otherwise. Remember that the judges will already have read the briefs, so it is more important for a party to argue the most important issues or ask the judges if they have any questions." Correct/revise CR-138 as follows: - Top section – add that CR-138 must be served and accompanied by a proof of service and a copy must be served by someone who is not a party (see language in "Service and filing" in section 17 of CRC-131-INFO; APP-	The committee has made this change. The committee has made limited revisions to this item. See response above. The committee declines to make this change because the form would be inconsistent with other misdemeanor appellate forms. The committee will retain this suggestion for

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			109, and APP-109-INFO (What is Proof of Service?). - Section 1.b. – Replace parenthetical to read: "skip this if the party's request to represent themselves on appeal has been granted") - Section 2 – correct/revise to read: Please check ONE and initial: ☐ I am appellant's attorney. I have read this form and am requesting to waive oral argument. I understand that by signing this form, I am waiving the opportunity to appeal in court and argue the case on behalf of my client. I have informed my client that I am waiving oral argument. I also understand that if all parties waive oral argument and the … [same language as last sentence]" ☐ The appellate division has granted my request to represent myself. "I have read this form… [same language as current paragraph in section 2]" ___ (Initials) In addition to the aforementioned case law unequivocally holding that there is no right to self-representation in criminal appeals (*Martinez v. California* (2000) 528 U.S. 152*; In re Walker* (1976) 56 Cal.App.3d	future consideration of whether service information should be included on the forms. The committee has made a limited revision to this item. The committee has revised this item. The committee appreciates this additional supporting research. No further response required.

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			225, 227; *People v. Scott* (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 550): - "Unlike the constitutional right of indigents to be represented by court appointed counsel in the trial court, representation on appeal is regarded as discretionary with all reviewing courts, except in rare cases in which appointment of counsel is required by statute." (*People v. Vigil* (1961) 189 Cal.App.2d 478, 480.) - "Counsel on Appeal" section of 6 Witkin, Cal. Crim. Law 4th Crim Appeal § 51 (2012): On application of the defendant, the appellate division must appoint counsel on appeal for any defendant convicted of a misdemeanor who is subject to incarceration or a fine of more than $500 (including penalty and other assessments), or who is likely to suffer significant adverse collateral consequences as a result of the conviction, if the defendant was represented by appointed counsel in the trial court. (C.R.C., Rule 8.851(a); see Judicial Council Form No. CR-133 [Request for Court-Appointed Lawyer in Misdemeanor Appeal].) Th[e] rule [that on application, the App. Div. must appoint counsel in a misdemeanor appeal…] clearly involves misdemeanor	

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			convictions that have certain adverse consequences, and the theory of *Douglas v. California* (1963) 372 U.S. 353, 83 S.Ct. 814, 9 L.Ed.2d 811, supra, § 35, although involving a felony appeal, is also applicable to convictions of *serious* misdemeanors. *In re Henderson* (1964) 61 C.2d 541, 39 C.R. 373, 393 P.2d 685, a conviction for lewd conduct in public (P.C. 647(a)) makes this extension for California: although *Douglas* involved a felony, a conviction under P.C. 647(a) also has serious consequences. "In addition to the sentence imposed a person convicted of violating that subdivision is disqualified from teaching in public schools and is required to register with a law enforcement agency. … [U]pon the reinstatement of his appeal the principle enunciated in *Douglas* is applicable, and he is entitled to have an attorney assigned to represent him in the further proceedings." (61 C.2d 543.) In making the determination as to the seriousness of misdemeanor convictions, the courts have held that punishment for a misdemeanor battery is of serious consequence, entitling the defendant to appointed counsel on	

	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response

			appeal.
			(People v. Wilson (1977) 72 C.A.3d Sup p. 59, 62, 140 C.R. 274 [fine not exceeding $1,000, punishment in county jail not exceeding 6 months, or both].) However, counsel is not required on appeal of a misdemeanor traffic offense where the punishment consists only of a fine, even a substantial one, and no collateral consequences are involved. (*People v. Wong* (1979) 93 C.A.3d 151, 154, 155 C.R. 453 [$65 fine]; *People v. Batiste* (1980) 109 C.A.3d 328, 332, 167 C.R. 171 [$150 fine].)
			- Witkin, Cal. Crim. Law 4th Crim Appeal § 38 provides further explanation as to why there is "no right to self-representation" in criminal appeals.
			- The Appellate Division Best Practices Manual states the following relative to misdemeanor appeals:
			  - Appellate Division is in a position to require counsel on appeal; no *Faretta* right to self-representation in misdemeanor appeal, *Faretta v. California* (1975) 422 U.S. 806
			  - CRC, Rule 8.851: Sixth Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel on appeal	

SPR19-04

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Answers to additional questions: • Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. Yes. Amount unknown. It would save time & money to not have to calendar/prepare for these matters. • What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems? Implementation requirements for court would be: Training for staff at the COC I, II, III & Lead positions. The expected number of hours are unknown; however, it should be minimal training for staff that are already familiar with working with appellate division appeals. Procedures would need to be revised to indicate the change. • Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?	The committee thanks the commenter for the responses to these questions. The committee appreciates this feedback. The committee thanks the commenter for this information on implementation requirements.

SPR19-04

Appellate Procedure: Oral Argument in Appellate Division Appeals (Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.885 and 8.886; approve forms APP-108 and CR-138; revise forms APP-101-INFO and CR-131-INFO)

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	Commenter	Position	Comment	Committee Response
			Yes. • How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes? It would work very well.	