



# Judicial Council of California

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February 20, 2026.

## Subject Text

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**File #:** 19-160, **Version:** 1

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### **Title**

### **Rules and Forms | Appellate Procedure: Word Limits for Petitions for Rehearing in Unlimited Civil Cases (Action Required)**

### **Summary**

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the rule that governs the length of briefs in civil cases in the Court of Appeal to reduce the maximum length of petitions for rehearing and answers to those petitions from 14,000 words to 7,000 words for briefs produced on a computer, and from 50 pages to 25 pages for briefs produced on a typewriter. This change, which is based on suggestions from appellate practitioners to consider reducing word limits for all types of briefs filed in the Court of Appeal, is intended to establish limits on briefing that reflect the limited scope of petitions for rehearing in unlimited civil cases.

### **Recommendation**

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

1. Amend California Rules of Court, rule 8.204, to add a new paragraph providing for a word limit of 7,000 words and a page limit of 25 pages for petitions for rehearing and answers to those petitions; and
2. Amend rule 8.268, the rule that governs rehearing in the Court of Appeal, to cross-reference the maximum length provisions in rule 8.204 for the petition and answer.