

PREFACE TO THE 2026 EDITION

As with previous editions, my objective was to prepare a concise yet complete reference book on the subject of appellate practice. I hope that the material presented here will enable lawyers, judges, and staff attorneys to find answers to questions on appellate practice, that it will serve as a good starting point for the analysis of new issues, and that it will be useful in legal education as well.

The book is divided into three parts: the first includes five chapters on subjects relating to appellate jurisdiction; the second contains seventeen chapters on the appellate process; and the third contains eight chapters each addressing a specific type of appellate proceeding. The material within each part of the book has been organized in a way that is intended to simplify and expedite legal research. The first paragraph of each section provides a summary of the most important points about that section. As the information is developed within the section, it becomes progressively more detailed. All of the footnotes have bold faced subject matter headings so that they can be identified rapidly. I have followed this approach consistently, in the hope that it will enable those who use the book to obtain the correct answer as quickly as possible. A lawyer who has a general idea where to look may be able to find a case on point merely by scanning the footnote headings.

This edition covers all of the significant rule revisions since the publication of the previous edition, including the following:

- The revision of the rule governing the computation of time in all judicial proceedings. Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.514. See § 6:9.
- The revision of the rule governing the service of documents in the Florida courts. Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.516. See § 6:8.
- The retitled and rewritten rule defining documents submitted to the Florida courts. Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.520. See § 6:7.
- The major revision of the rule governing electronic filing of documents in the Florida courts. Fla. R. Gen. Prac. & Jud. Admin. 2.525. See § 6:7.
- The new rule authorizing an appeal from a nonfinal order denying a motion that asserts a claim of immunity under the Stand Your Ground Law. Fla. R. App. P. 9.130(a)(3)(F)(iv). See § 24:17

- The new rule authorizing appeals from a nonfinal order denying a motion in an anti-SLAPP suit. Fla.R.App.P. 9.130(a)(3)(J). See § 24:21.

The Supreme Court made language changes in many other rules and these changes are shown here, as well.

This edition also includes the customary coverage of new court decisions on the subject of appellate practice. More than 200 new cases have been addressed in the text or in the notes.

I wish to thank Ellen Gwynn, as I do every year, for her invaluable assistance with the research and writing. She offered many helpful suggestions and her contributions have greatly improved the quality of the book.

A reference work such as this is never really finished. As always, I welcome suggestions for the material to be included in the next edition.

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