UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

District of Columbia Circuit

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N O T I C E

PREFERRED TYPEFACES FOR BRIEFS

Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(5) requires courts of appeal to accept briefs in any proportional typeface so long as the typeface has serifs and is at least 14-point in size. However, the court has determined that certain typefaces, such as Century and Times New Roman, are more legible than others, particularly Garamond, which appears smaller than the other two typefaces. Today the court announces a revision to the Circuit's Handbook of Practice and Internal Procedures to encourage the use of typefaces that are easier to read and to discourage use of Garamond.

Mark J. Langer, Clerk

Issued: March 16, 2021

An extract from the Circuit Handbook reflecting the revision follows below.

IX. BRIEFS AND APPENDIX

A. BRIEFS.

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6. *Format*
    (*See* Fed. R. App. P. 32(a); D.C. Cir. Rules 28(a), 32.)

      Briefs may use either a proportionally spaced or a monospaced face and must be set in a plain, roman style, although italics and boldface may be used for emphasis. Case names must be italicized or underlined. If a brief uses a proportionally spaced face, the typeface must be at least 14-point and must include serifs, but sans-serif type may be used in headings and captions. Certain typefaces can be easier to read, such as Century and Times New Roman. The Court encourages the use of these typefaces. Briefs that use Garamond as the typeface can be more difficult to read and the use of this typeface is discouraged. If a brief uses a monospaced face, it may have no more than 10 ½ characters per inch. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5), (6). Briefs must be double-spaced and printed on one side of the page only. Evasion of the length limitations may result in the Court's rejection of the brief.

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