

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

NEW LOCAL RULE 29

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Court intends to adopt new Local Rule 29 to provide that paper copies of amicus briefs filed at the petition for rehearing stage are not required unless ordered by the Court. The new local rule is proposed in light of amendments to Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 29 providing for the filing of amicus briefs in connection with a request for panel or en banc rehearing.

The amendment to Rule 29 is one of several significant amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure that take effect December 1, 2016, including: (1) a new certificate of compliance requirement and new word limits for motions, responses, replies, petitions, and answers; (2) a reduction in the word limits for briefs; and (3) elimination of the 3-day service period for documents served electronically. [Click here to review the December 1, 2016, Amendments to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.](#)

Proposed new Local Rule 29 follows:

Local Rule 29. Copies of Amicus Briefs.

- (a) **During Consideration of Case on the Merits.** *If filed during consideration of the case on the merits, one paper copy and one electronic copy of the amicus brief must be filed. The Court will order the filing of additional paper copies for oral argument or if otherwise needed. Service of paper copies of the amicus brief is not required if the brief was served electronically on counsel and on any party not represented by counsel.*
- (b) **During Consideration of Petition for Rehearing or Rehearing en Banc.** *If filed during consideration of whether to grant rehearing or rehearing en banc, one electronic copy of the amicus brief must be filed. No paper copies are required unless ordered by the Court. Service of paper copies of the amicus brief is not required if the brief was served electronically on counsel and on any party not represented by counsel.*

The new local rule is scheduled to take effect December 1, 2016, subject to revision in light of comments received. Interested parties may submit comments on or before November 15, 2016, to:

Patricia S. Connor, Clerk
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
1100 E. Main Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219
or via email to:
rulecomments@ca4.uscourts.gov

The Fourth Circuit Rulebook is available [here](#)

October 4, 2016
Date

s/Patricia S. Connor
Clerk