

#### JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: November 17, 2017

Title

Appellate Procedure: Format for Reporter's Transcripts Delivered in Electronic Form

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected Amend Cal. Rules of Court, rules 8.130 and 8.144

Recommended by Appellate Advisory Committee Louis R. Mauro, Chair Agenda Item Type
Action Required

Effective Date
January 1, 2018

Date of Report October 12, 2017

Contact

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#### **Executive Summary**

To implement recent legislation, the Appellate Advisory Committee recommends amending the rule that governs the format of reporter's transcripts to incorporate requirements for transcripts that are delivered in electronic form and to reorganize the provisions so that the formatting requirements applicable to all transcripts and those in paper form are easier to find. The committee also recommends amending the rule governing other aspects of reporter's transcripts to delete a subdivision that is inconsistent with the new legislation.

#### Recommendation

The Appellate Advisory Committee recommends that the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2018:

- 1. Amend California Rules of Court, rule 8.144 to:
- (a) Add a new subdivision addressing requirements for reporters' transcripts in delivered in electronic form, including that the transcript:

- Be in a full-text searchable PDF or other searchable format approved by the court;
- Include an electronic bookmark to each heading, subheading, and specified components of the transcript; and
- Permit users to copy and paste, keeping the original formatting.
- (b) Consolidate the current subdivisions which establish general formatting requirements for reporters' and clerks' transcripts into new subdivision (a);
- (c) Consolidate the current provisions that specifically relate to transcripts that are in paper form in a new subdivision (b); and
- (d) Make other nonsubstantive changes.
  - 2. Amend California Rules of Court, rule 8.130 to delete subdivision (f)(4) which is inconsistent with newly-amended Code of Civil Procedure section 271.

The amended rules are attached at pages 7-12.

#### **Previous Council Action**

The Judicial Council adopted the predecessor to rule 8.144, rule 9, as part of the Rules on Appeal effective July 1, 1943. This rule has been amended and renumbered many times since its adoption. Most recently, as part of a proposal to modernize the appellate rules and forms, the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 2017 amended rule 8.144 to add a provision requiring that computer-readable copies of a reporter's transcript be in a text-searchable format approved by the reviewing court.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation**

#### Amended Rule 8.144

Current Code of Civil Procedure section 271 (section 271) authorizes courts and parties to receive, on request, copies of reporters' transcripts in "computer-readable form." Subdivision (b) of this statute establishes default standards for the format of such transcripts, but provides that these defaults apply "[e]xcept as modified by standards adopted by the Judicial Council." Subdivision (a) of the statute requires that "an original transcript shall be on paper."

Recent legislation, AB 1450, repealing and replacing section 271, was signed into law on October 6, 2017, and takes effect January 1, 2018. New section 271 eliminates the default formatting provisions and instead requires compliance with formatting requirements established by the California Rules of Court. The new section also requires that the original reporter's transcript be delivered in electronic form unless any of the specified exceptions apply. One of these exceptions is if, prior to January 1, 2023, the court reporter lacks the technical ability to deliver an electronic transcript that meets the rule requirements.

Rule 8.144 generally addresses the format of the record on appeal, including the format of reporters' transcripts. Currently, this rule contains only the following provision regarding the format of computer-readable reporters' transcripts:

A computer-readable copy of a reporter's transcript must be in a text-searchable format approved by the reviewing court while maintaining original document formatting.

(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 8.144(a)(4).)

To implement the amendments to section 271, the committee recommends amending rule 8.144 to provide additional guidance regarding the format for reporters' transcripts that are delivered in electronic form. To make the overall rule clearer, the committee is also proposing reorganizing some of the existing provisions. The main amendments include:

- Adding a new subdivision (a) that references section 271.
- Consolidating current subdivisions (a), (b), and (c), which establish general formatting requirements for reporters' and clerks' transcripts, into a single subdivision (b), titled *Format*. This should make it easier for rule users to find all of the general formatting requirements. To make this longer subdivision easier to follow, each paragraph would be given a heading. In addition, a new requirement that each index begin on a separate page would be placed here, as having each index begin on a separate page would be helpful in all transcripts, whether in paper or electronic form.
- Gathering together the current provisions in rule 8.144 that specifically relate to transcripts that are in paper form into a new subdivision (c). This reorganization should make finding these specific formatting requirements easier.
- Adding a new subdivision (d) to address the specific requirements for reporters' transcripts in electronic form, including that the transcript be in a full-text searchable PDF or other searchable format approved by the court; include an electronic bookmark to each heading, subheading, and other specified components of the transcript; and permit users to copy and paste, keeping the original formatting. This new subdivision would include separate paragraphs for both general requirements and special requirements for multireporter or multivolume transcripts that are in electronic format. As with proposed subdivisions (b) and (c), this structure should make it easier for rule users to find all of the requirements relating to reporters' transcripts delivered in electronic form in one place.

The committee is also recommending other nonsubstantive changes to the rule.

#### **Amended Rule 8.130**

Current rule 8.130(f)(4) provides that on request, and unless a court orders otherwise, the reporter must provide a copy of the reporter's transcript in computer-readable format, and that

the copy must comply with the requirements of rule 8.144(a)(4). However, subdivision (f)(4) is inconsistent with newly amended Code of Civil Procedure section 271 and unnecessary in light of the proposed amendments to rule 8.144.

#### **Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications**

#### **External comments**

This proposal was circulated for public comment from February 27 to April 28, 2017 as part of the regular spring comment cycle. Thirteen individuals or organizations submitted comments on this proposal. Four commentators agreed with the proposed changes, four agreed with the proposed changes if modified, two did not indicate a position on the proposed changes but provided comments, and three did not agree with the proposed changes. A chart with the full text of the comments received and the committee's responses is attached at pages 13–32.

#### Court reporters' ability to comply with new requirements

Court reporters raised a number of concerns about their ability to comply with the new format requirements or the cost of compliance. However, newly-amended section 271 provides a five-year grace period, until January 1, 2023, for court reporters to comply with the electronic transcript formatting requirements. Moreover, section 271 explicitly states that no particular vendor or product is required. The committee understands that computer-aided transcription (CAT) software vendors are aware that enhanced functionality will be required, and plan to upgrade their products accordingly. The committee will seek feedback from court reporters and their representatives over the next several years regarding upgrades in CAT software and other developments that impact the court reporters' ability to meet the rule's requirements.

Several court reporters and their representatives expressed specific concerns about meeting some of the new requirements for electronic transcripts, including bookmarking, merging, and paginating. Based on these comments, the committee made several changes to simplify and clarify the requirements for electronic transcripts, such as specifying the components of the transcript that require bookmarks, deleting hyperlinks as a requirement, and deleting the requirements that multiple transcripts be merged into a single document and that primary reporters create a master index for a merged transcript. The committee concluded that the remaining functionality required by the rule is necessary for courts and attorneys to obtain the full benefit of the electronic format.

Several commenters also expressed concern about the new requirements creating more work for court reporters without additional compensation. Once CAT software capabilities are upgraded and court reporters gain experience with producing transcripts in electronic form with the functionality required by the rule, the committee anticipates that any increase in workload will abate. In addition, deleting the requirement that the original transcript must be in paper form will save time, effort, and money.

Exception for electronic transcript or court reporter unavailability

The committee received two comments regarding the requirement for an electronic transcript that it be generated electronically and must not be created from a scanned document. The commenters suggested adding an exception to allow for creating a transcript in electronic form from a scanned document when the electronic transcript is no longer available. The committee agreed with adding the exception, based on its understanding that the unavailability of a court reporter is an issue for courts and that the electronic functionality required by the rule can be incorporated into scanned transcripts.

#### Electronic or digital signatures

In the invitation to comment, the committee sought feedback on whether to require electronic signatures or digital signatures, or both. Six individuals or organizations submitted responses, with four supporting electronic signatures only, one supporting digital signatures only, and one recommending electronic signatures for individual reporters and digital signatures for primary reporters submitting merged transcripts containing volumes generated by multiple reporters. 

The committee determined that electronic signatures would best meet the needs of courts, litigants, and court reporters.

#### Rule 8.130

When the committee was reviewing the proposal after the public comment period, one of the comments raised the issue of ensuring that the proposed amendments to rule 8.144 were not inconsistent with other rules governing reporter's transcripts, including rule 8.130. The committee realized that rule 8.130(f)(4) is inconsistent with new Code of Civil Procedure section 271 and that it was not necessary in light of the proposed amendments to rule 8.144. Because the need for this amendment came to light after the public comment period, it did not circulate for public comment with the rest of the proposal. However, amending the rule to delete the outdated subdivision constitutes a technical amendment and need not be circulated. See California Rules of Court, rule 10.22(d)(2).

#### **Alternatives**

In addition to the alternatives considered in connection with the comments received, which are discussed above, the committee considered not proposing amendments to rule 8.144. The committee concluded, however, that providing more guidance on the format of reporters' transcripts in electronic form would be helpful. The committee therefore concluded that it was appropriate to recommend these amendments for adoption.

#### Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts

The committee expects that implementation of this proposal will require training for court reporters and court staff, but this could be done in conjunction with communication and/or training regarding new Code of Civil Procedure section 271. Because Code of Civil Procedure

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> As noted above, the committee has deleted from the proposed amendments a requirement that primary reporters submit merged transcripts.

section 271 provides both courts and court reporters with a five-year grace period to fully comply with the rule amendments, no other appreciable implementation requirements, costs, or operational impacts are anticipated.

#### Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives

These proposed rule revisions support Judicial Council Operational Plan Objective 5 to develop and implement effective trial and appellate case management practices.

#### **Attachments and Links**

- 1. Amended rule 8.130, at page 7
- 2. Amended rule 8.144, at pages 8-12
- 3. Chart of comments, at pages 13-32

1	Title 8. Appellate Rules
2	
3	Division 1. Rules Relating to the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal
5	Chapter 2. Civil Appeals
6	Chapter 2. Civil rippears
7	Article 2. Record on Appeal
8	
9	Rule 8.130. Reporter's transcript
10	
11	(a)-(e) * * *
12	
13 14	(f) Filing the transcript; copies; payment
15	(1)-(3) * * *
16	
17	(4) On request, and unless the superior court orders otherwise, the reporter must
18	provide the Court of Appeal or any party with a copy of the reporter's
19	transcript in computer readable format. Each computer readable copy must
20	comply with the requirements of rule 8.144(a)(4).
21	
22	(Subd (f) amended effective January 1, 2017; previously amended effective January 1,
23	2007, July 1, 2008, January 1, 2014, and January 1, 2016.)
24 25	(g)-(h) * * *
26	
27	<b>Advisory Committee Comment</b>
28	
29	Subdivision (a)-(e) * * *
30	
31	Subdivision (f). Subdivision (f)(1) requires the reporter to prepare and file additional copies of
32	the record "if multiple appellants equally share the cost of preparing the record " The reason
33 34	for the requirement is explained in the comment to rule 8.147(a)(2).
35	Subdivision (f)(4) is intended to implement Code of Civil Procedure section 271, which allows
36	any court, party, or other person entitled to a reporter's transcript to request that it be delivered in
37	computer readable format (except that an original transcript must be on paper) and requires the
38	reporter to provide the transcript in that format upon request if the proceedings were produced
39	utilizing computer aided transcription equipment. This subdivision establishes procedures
40	relating to such requests and procedures for court reporters to apply to the superior court for relie
41	from this requirement if the proceedings were not produced utilizing computer aided transcription
12	equipment. Government Code section 69954 establishes the fees for reporter's transcripts in
<del>1</del> 3	<del>computer-readable format.</del>

1 2	Rule	8.144. Form of the record									
3			The provisions of this rule shall be smalled in a grown and interest in C. 1.								
4	(a)		The provisions of this rule shall be applied in a manner consistent with Code of Civil Procedure section 271.								
5 6		<u>01 C</u> 1	VII Pro	ocedure section 271.							
7	( <mark>a)</mark> ( <u>b</u>	<mark>)Pape</mark>	e <del>r and</del>	<u>F</u> ormat							
8		(1)	<i>C</i>	1							
9 10		<u>(1)</u>	Gene.								
11			III tile	e clerk's and reporter's transcripts:							
12			(A)	All documents filed must have a page size of 8½ by 11 inches. If filed							
13			(A)	in paper form, the paper must be white or unbleached and of at least 20-							
14				pound weight;							
15				pound weight,							
16			(B)	The text must be reproduced as legibly as printed matter;							
17			(D)	The text must be reproduced as legiony as printed matter,							
18			(C)	The contents must be arranged chronologically;							
19			(0)	The contents must be urranged emonologically,							
20			(D)	The pages must be consecutively numbered, except as provided in							
21			(- )	(e)(f), beginning with the first page or cover page as page 1 and using							
22				only Arabic numerals (e.g., 1, 2, 3) throughout the document, including							
23				indexes and certificates; and							
24				<u></u>							
25			(E)	The margin must be at least 1¼ inches from the left edge.							
26			` /								
27		<del>(2)</del>	If file	ed in paper form, in the clerk's transcript only one side of the paper may							
28				ed; in the reporter's transcript both sides may be used, but the margins							
29				then be 1¼ inches on each edge.							
30				_							
31		<del>(3)</del> (2	<u>Line</u>	numbering							
32			In the	e reporter's transcript the lines on each page must be consecutively							
33			numb	pered and must be double-spaced or one-and-a-half-spaced; double-							
34			space	ed means three lines to a vertical inch.							
35											
36		(4)	A cor	mputer-readable copy of a reporter's transcript must be in a text-							
37			searcl	hable format approved by the reviewing court while maintaining							
38			origir	nal document formatting.							
39											
40		<del>(5)</del> (3		d and confidential records							
41				clerk's and reporter's transcripts must comply with rules 8.45–8.47							
42			relati	ng to sealed and confidential records.							
43											

1	(b)(4)Indexes
2	Except as provided in rule 8.45, at the beginning of the first volume of each:
3	
4	(1)(A) The clerk's transcript must contain alphabetical and chronological
5	indexes listing each document and the volume, where applicable, and
6	page where it first appears;
7	
8	(2)(B) The reporter's transcript must contain alphabetical and chronological
9	indexes listing the volume, where applicable, and page where each
10	witness's direct, cross, and any other examination, begins; and
11	
12	(3)(C) The reporter's transcript must contain an index listing the volume,
13	where applicable, and page where any exhibit is marked for
14	identification and where it is admitted or refused. The index must
15	identify each exhibit by number or letter and a brief description of the
16	exhibit.
17	
18	(D) Each index required by (A), (B), and (C) prepared under this paragraph
19	must begin on a separate page.
20	
21	(5) Volumes
22	Clerks' and reporters' transcripts must be produced in volumes of no more
23	than 300 sheets.
24	
25	<del>(c<mark>)(5)(6)</mark></del> Binding and <u>C</u> over
26	
27	(1) If filed in paper form, clerk's and reporter's transcripts must be bound on the
28	left margin in volumes of no more than 300 sheets.
29	
30	(2)(A) Each volume's cover must state the title and trial court number of the
31	case, the names of the trial court and each participating trial judge, the
32	names and addresses of appellate counsel for each party, the volume
33	number, <mark>the total number of volumes for the transcript, <del>and</del> the</mark>
34	inclusive page numbers of that volume, and the total number of pages
35	for the transcript.
36	
37	(3)(B) In addition to the information required by $(2)(A)$ , the cover of each
38	volume of the reporter's transcript must state the dates of the
39	proceedings reported in that volume.
40	
41	(b)(c)Additional requirements for record in paper form
42	
43	In addition to complying with (b), if the record is filed in paper form:

1			
2	(1)	The	paper must be white or unbleached and of at least 20-pound weight;
3			
4	<u>(2)</u>	In th	e clerk's transcript only one side of the paper may be used; in the
5		repo	rter's transcript both sides may be used, but the margins must then be 11/4
6		_	es on each edge.
7			<del></del>
8	(3)	Cler	ks' and reporters' transcripts must be bound on the left margin in
9		<mark>volu</mark>	mes of no more than 300 sheets.
10			
11	(c)(d)Add	itiona	l requirements for reporter's transcript delivered in electronic form
12			
13	<u>(1)</u>	Gene	<u>eral</u>
14			
15		In ac	ddition to complying with (b), a reporter's transcript delivered in
16		elect	ronic format must:
17			
18		<u>(A)</u>	Be generated electronically; it must not be created from a scanned
19			document unless ordered by the court.
20			
21		<u>(B)</u>	Be in full text-searchable PDF (portable document format) or other
22			searchable format approved by the court.
23		( <b>~</b> )	
24		<u>(C)</u>	Be paginated beginning with the first page or cover page as page 1 and
25			consecutively numbered using only Arabic numerals (e.g., 1, 2, 3)
26			throughout the document, including indices and certificates. Ensure that
27			Tthe electronic page counter in the a PDF file viewer must matches the
28			transcript page numbering.
29		(D)	To shade an absence to be about the course by a discourse and such that discourse the course of the
30		<u>(D)</u>	Include an electronic bookmark to each heading and, subheading, and
31			component of the transcript, including all sessions or hearings (date
32			lines), all witness examinations where each witness's direct, cross, and
33			any other examination begins, all the indexes, and all exhibits where
34			any exhibit is marked for identification and where it is admitted or
35			refused. All bookmarks and hyperlinks, when clicked, must retain the
36 37			user's currently selected zoom settings.
38		(E)	Be digitally and electronically signed by the court reporter.
39		<u>(E)</u>	be digitally and electronically signed by the court reporter.
40		(E)	Permit users to convend pasta keeping the original formatting but
40		<u>(F)</u>	Permit users to copy and paste, keeping the original formatting, but with headers, footers, line numbers, and page numbers excluded.
41			with headers, rooters, the numbers, and page numbers excluded.
42		<u>(G)</u>	Permit courts to electronically add filed/received stamps.
+೨		(U)	i chini courts to electronicarry and fried/received stamps.

1		
2	<u>(2)</u>	<u>Multivolume or multireporter transcripts</u>
3		In addition to the requirements in (1), multivolume or multireporter
5		transcripts delivered in electronic format, must comply with the following
6		requirements:
7		requirements.
8		(A)—Eeach individual reporter must include the cover page required by
9		(a)(3)(b)(6), the indexes required by (a)(4), and a digitally and an
10		electronically signed certificate in its his or her respective portion of the
11		transcript.
12		
13		(B) The transcript must be merged into a single electronic document, which
14		may consist of multiple volumes.
15		
16		(C) The primary reporter must prepare a master index for the merged
17		transcript that includes all of the information from the indexes required
18		under (A). This master index must be the first bookmark in the
19		transcript, regardless of where the master index is located within the
20		<del>transcript.</del>
21		
22	<u>(3)</u>	Additional functionality or enhancements
23		
24		Nothing in this rule prohibits courts from accepting additional functionality
25		or enhancements in reporters' transcripts delivered in electronic form.
26	, <b>.</b>	
27	( <del>d)(e)</del> * * ;	*
28	( ) ( (A) D	
29	<del>(e<u>)(1)</u> Pagı</del>	nation in multiple reporter cases
30	(1)	In a multiple reporter case, each reporter must estimate the number of pages
31 32	(1)	In a multiple reporter case, each reporter must estimate the number of pages in each segment reported and inform the designated primary reporter of the
33		estimate. The primary reporter must then assign beginning and ending page
34		numbers for each segment.
35		numbers for each segment.
36	(2)	If a segment exceeds the assigned number of pages, the reporter must number
37	(2)	the additional pages with the ending page number, a hyphen, and a new
38		number, starting with 1 and continuing consecutively.
39		
40	(3)	If a segment has fewer than the assigned number of pages, on the last page of
41	` '	the segment, before the certificate page, the reporter must add a hyphen to the
12		last page number used, followed by the segment's assigned ending page
13		number, and state in parentheses "(next volume and page number is )."

state in parentheses "(next volume and page number is )," and on the 1 2 certificate page, the reporter must add a hyphen to the last page number used, 3 followed by the segment's assigned ending page number. 4 5 (f)(g) \* \* \* 6 7 **Advisory Committee Comment** 8 9 Subdivision (a)(b). Subdivision (a)(4) is adopted under Code of Civil Procedure 10 section 271(b), which allows the Judicial Council to adopt format requirements for computer-11 readable copies of a reporter's transcript. Subdivisions (a)(5) Paragraphs (3) and (b)(4) of 12 subdivision (a)(b) refer to special requirements concerning sealed and confidential records 13 established by rules 8.45–8.47. Rule 8.45(c)(2) and (3) establishes special requirements regarding 14 references to sealed and confidential records in the alphabetical and chronological indexes to 15 clerks' and reporters' transcripts. 16

	Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
1.	Dana Belloli Official Court Reporter Turlock Ca	N	Having been a working reporter for the past 30 years, both freelance and official, I believe this proposal is bad law. It will require additional costs to working reporters to be paid to software company(s), with no benefit to the public. Court reporters can already provide the services presently required, and the only benefit will be to these people/company(s) who court reporters will be required to pay a monthly fee to. It will especially adversely effect those reporters who work part-time yet still must pay the month fee as required by these software company(s). Thank you.	The committee appreciates the commenter's concerns. The requirements for reporter's transcripts delivered in electronic form in subdivision (c) are intended to ensure that courts and attorneys can fully utilize the benefits of electronic transcripts. The rule does not require court reporters to use a particular vendor, and newly-amended Code of Civil Procedure section 271 provides a period of five years for compliance. In addition, the subdivision (d)(2)(B) and (C) requirements, for multivolume or multireporter transcripts, that the transcript be merged into a single electronic document and that the primary reporter prepare a master index for the merged transcript, have been deleted.
2.	California Appellate Court Clerks Association (CACCA) by Daniel P. Potter, President San Jose, CA	A	The Clerks Association agrees with amending of rule 8.144 as proposed with one addition. That the rule requires that transcripts submitted by court reporters not be password protected.  To the advisory committee's questions:  Is it necessary for the rule to require the court reporter to both digitally and electronically sign a transcript that is delivered in electronic form? If only one requirement were included, which would be preferable?  It doesn't seem necessary to require both.  Digital signatures obviously offer more protection for the court reporters, but depending on the digital certificates being used for the digital signature and the encryption level, it might make things more difficult for the court in terms of electronically filing, flattening and	The committee thanks the commenter, and notes the CACCA's support for the proposal.  The committee declines to add a prohibition on password protecting transcripts at this time, but would consider it in the future if it appears to be needed.  The committee appreciates the commenter's input on this question. The committee agrees that electronic signatures are the best option for transcripts delivered in electronic form and has therefore modified the proposal to delete the requirement for digital signatures.

	Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
			encrypting (in the case of sealed electronic documents) than if those documents had just been electronically signed. It seems like requiring electronic signatures might be the least cumbersome option for the courts.  Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?  Yes.	No response required.
3.	California Court Reporters Association (CCRA) By Brooke Ryan and Erin Spence	AM	On behalf of California's court reporters, the California Court Reporters Association ("CCRA") wishes to thank the Judicial Council and the Appellate Advisory Committee for proposing these important amendments to California Rules of Court, rule 8.144. CCRA endorses the use of electronic transcripts and agrees with the forward-looking concept of proposed Rule 8.144. We believe that the proposed rule will be improved with some minor changes.	The committee thanks the CCRA for its comments and notes its support for the proposal if modified.
			We believe the requirements of subdivisions (a)(1)(D) and (c)(1)(C), concerning page numbering, should be harmonized. The former provides only that transcripts should contain pages which are consecutively numbered. However, the latter provides more detail, but fails to state the pages must be numbered consecutively. CCRA proposes that the requirements of these two subdivisions be merged into a single paragraph, which would be contained in subdivision (a) and thus be	The committee agrees with the commenter that the more detailed pagination requirements should be placed in subdivision (a) and has made that change to the proposal.

Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
Commentator	Position	applicable to electronic transcripts through the introductory sentence of subdivision (c)(1) ["In addition to complying with (a)"].  CCRA suggests that an additional section, (3)(A), possibly entitled Page Numbering, be added with respect to transcript page numbering for both paper and electronic transcriptions.  CCRA proposes that transcripts of confidential proceedings (e.g., Marsden hearings) be consecutively numbered within the context of the entire transcript (as opposed to being set out in a separately numbered transcript). CCRA believes this amendment will provide needed guidance to court reporters and uniformity of practice throughout the state. To that end,	The suggested additional language would be a substantive addition to the proposal. Under California Rules of Court, rule 10.22, substantive changes to the rules need to circulate for public comment before being recommended for adoption by the Judicial Council. The committee will retain the suggestion for consideration in conjunction with its project to develop rules for the handling of sealed or confidential materials that are submitted electronically.
			This suggestion would also constitute a substantive change to the proposal, which would have to be circulated for public comment. The committee will retain it for future consideration.

Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
		Under current law [(a)(3)], confidential and	Please see the response above to the suggestion
		sealed transcripts are delivered in a secure	regarding pagination of sealed and confidential
		envelope. CCRA proposes that the amended	transcripts.
		rule provide electronic transcripts be delivered	
		securely by encrypted transmission. Encryption	
		technology is readily available and widely used	
		in numerous industries and applications. This	
		technology would allow the courts to control	
		who has access to the confidential transcripts by	
		furnishing a password to those authorized persons. Sealed and confidential electronically	
		filed transcripts should be required to follow the	
		guidelines currently set for paper transcripts.	
		guidennes currently set for paper transcripts.	
		CCRA believes that (5)(1) relating to 300 sheets	The provision specifying volumes of no more than
		needs to remain because the ability to bind more	300 sheets has been moved from subdivision
		than 300 pages is unwieldy. We also believe	(b)(3) to subdivision (b)(5), clarifying that this
		that that section should be specifically excluded	requirement applies to both electronic and paper
		if filing electronically. Suggest it is added to	forms of the transcripts.
		(c)(2)(B).	-
		CCRA suggests that the reference to "the cover	The committee thanks the commenter for pointing
		page required by (a)(3)" in proposed	out this typographical error. It has been corrected.
		subdivision (c)(2)(A) should refer to subdivision	
		(a)(5).	
		An additional correction for consideration is	The committee has modified the tayt of managed
		Page 3, line 29 – (D) is inconsistent with page 2,	The committee has modified the text of proposed (b)(4)(D) to clarify that it does not create a new
		line 5 "(4) Indexes." In (4), reporters filing	requirement for separate indexes for witness
		paper transcripts must have an index for	testimony and exhibits. The other requirements
		witnesses and exhibits. In (D) reporters must	regarding indexes in (b)(4) are unchanged from
		have a separate index for sessions, witnesses	the current rule.
		and exhibits. CCRA suggests that indexing,	
		whether on paper or electronic, should be	

Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
		identical, especially since reporters are having to print transcripts that are currently being filed electronically on appeal to the appellate lawyers.	
		Also, CCRA recommends that the last phrase of proposed subdivision (c)(2)(A) be modified to read, (A) Each individual reporter must include the cover page required by (a)(5), the indexes required by (a)(4), and an electronically signed certificate in their respective portion of the transcript." This change is necessary because in those instances in which several reporters contribute to a transcript, each will sign a certificate as to his or her portion. The proposed rule establishes the practice as to each reporter's portion of the entire transcript. We	The committee agrees that proposed subdivision (d)(2) should require only an electronically signed certificate, and has modified the proposal to remove the reference to a digitally signed certificate.
		also suggest adding a section (D) "The primary reporter must digitally sign the single electronic document." CCRA believes that the above changes are necessary for clarity to the reporters preparing the electronic transcripts. The need to have digital and electronic signatures separate is the fact that once a transcript is digitally signed it cannot have any changes made to it, such as merging volumes together to make one electronic document, making a master index from all volumes. Each reporter still needs to electronically sign their respective certificate page in their transcript.	The committee declines to make this change because proposed subdivision (d)(2)(B) and (C) have been deleted from the proposed rule.
		In reference to (c)(1)(A) regarding scanned documents, CCRA would suggest an additional sentence such as "except as ordered by the	The committee agrees and has made this change.

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			court." There are certain instances (death of a reporter, computer crashes) where a scanned copy of a previously prepared transcript is the only way to add it to an appeal.  Thank you for the opportunity to offer these suggestions. CCRA remains available to lend its technical experience as the proposed rule takes final form.	
4.	Court Reporter's Office, Superior Court of Orange County By Sean E. Lillywhite	A	The Court Reporters Office in Orange County recommends the committee consider requiring only one signature type, not both; and recommends the rule require an electronic signature.  This court is not currently e-filing court reporter transcripts. However, this court recently launched a pilot project for e-filing of court reporter transcripts on civil and probate appeals with the DCA. Adding an e-signature component and formatting requirements would not appreciably increase cost or implementation.  Since our court is not currently e-filing court reporter transcripts, we will have sufficient time to work the new requirements into our implementation.	The committee thanks the commenter for its feedback on the questions asked in the invitation to comment. Based on this and other comments, the committee has modified the proposal to require only an electronic signature.
5.	Albert De La Isla Principal Administrative Analyst IMPACT Team – Criminal Operations Superior Court of Orange County	NI	The amendment has to do with addressing specific requirements when a court reporter's transcript is delivered in electronic form. The proposed amendment to the rule would make the formatting requirements easier to follow.	The committee thanks the commenter for responding to the specific questions raised in the invitation to comment and for the input on how implementing the rule amendments would impact the court.

	Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
	Commentator	Position	This would have more impact to CRIS than Operations. I believe CRIS is at the moment still preparing hard copy transcripts for Criminal Appeals but there have been recent talks about changing this as they have already implemented electronic transcripts with Civil.  If electronic transcripts are implemented in felony appeals, then the Felony Appellate procedures would have to be modified and an interface developed to be able to receive electronically and file stamp electronically.  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?  Response: Minimal if we are just receiving the document electronically by an electronic means. However, if we choose to build an interface so that they are loaded in the CMS and electronically filed stamped, the requirements are unknown.	DRAFT Committee Response
			Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? Response: Operationally, yes if we do not build an interface.	
6.	Jennifer Hicks	NI	In response to the suggested proposal, a	The committee thanks the commenter for

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		majority of court reporters, at the present moment, are capable of providing full text-searchable PDF (portable document format) at no additional cost to the court or to the court reporter. What hinders the court reporters from going forward in providing such productivity is the following:	providing input on this proposal.
		1. Bookmarking and hyperlinks EXPLANATION: Bookmarking and hyperlinks – The proposed code section obligates the reporter to interpret or assume what the court or end user wants by bookmarking and attaching hyperlinks. The Court Reporter's position is to preserve the integrity of the record. By a Court Reporter taking on the role and deciding what should be hyperlinked or bookmarked for the end user assumes or could be perceived as being biased. Though it may seem minute of a task to do, it is disingenuous in asking the reporter to produce said product to prevent the Court Reporter from being in violation with the Court Reporters Board's Tenet of Ethics and/or Professional Conduct.	To avoid any confusion about whether the proposed language of subdivision (c)(1)(D) requires the court reporter to interpret or make assumptions about what bookmarks should be included, the committee has modified the text of the proposed rule to eliminate any implication that the list of items to be bookmarked is non-exclusive and subject to interpretation. In addition, the language of this subdivision has been modified to mirror that of subdivision (a)(4), the index requirements for witness examinations and exhibits. These requirements already exist in the rule, and court reporters are already required to include these items in an index.
		In regards to exhibits being hyperlinked, this would be a very tedious task. There are some cases where counsel and the court make a clean record of marking and receiving exhibits. But there are more times, than not, that exhibits are marked and never used; they are marked in one section and then used several days later; they are misidentified, relabeled, portions redacted,	The committee has deleted the requirement for hyperlinks.

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		and so on, to have to go through and hyperlink all these areas is difficult. This, again, requires the reporter to interpret what the court and counsel's intentions are or were during the proceedings which violates the neutrality of the Court Reporter's position.	
		Preparing any type of transcript, whether it's lengthy or short, is time consuming and oftentimes is filed on the due date, depending on a reporter's workload. Requiring a reporter to now bookmark and hyperlink a transcript, especially with the above-mentioned scenario, is quite cumbersome that reporters will not be able to meet their deadlines and file for extensions which would prolong the appeal process. This is not only a detriment to the reporter, because it's frowned upon, but also to the court.  The Court Reporters are capable of processing and accommodating the following procedure as proposed but request clarification.  1. Conflicting codes. 2. To volume or not to volume 3. Block numbering/larger pagination 4. Cost a. Digital signature/electronic signature b. program	It is the committee's understanding that currently-available software facilitates the process. As these new requirements are adopted, the committee anticipates that any court-reporting software that does not currently include this functionality will likely be updated to make bookmarking easier.
		EXPLANATION: When the reporter is mandated or ordered to prepare a transcript he/she would follow several codes which work together to come up with the	
		end result of a transcript. By changing only one	

C	ommentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
			of the codes, the reporter falls in detriment of not following codes properly because the reporter will have mixed information in the process of preparing a transcript which would result in a transcript that's useless to the end user.  1. Conflicting Code(s) - An official	•
			reporter meets those obligations without ever having to interpret what the court needs are.  There is a clear understanding of what is expected of an official reporter. By implementing the suggested code section would counter existing rules and codes that reporters	The committee appreciates the commenter's raising this issue and citing specific rules and statutes that pertain to court reporters and reporter's transcripts. Rule 8.130(f)(4) will be amended.
			follow in preparing transcripts that indicate the term "Paper" or "Printed Copy." Further inquiry with the Court Reporters Board and legislation need to be made to ensure all existing rules be changed so there is a consistency and that there is no confusion amongst the reporters as to which rule they must follow and will the rules coincide with one	CCP section 271 has just been revised to provide that the default format for reporter's transcripts is electronic form, with specified exceptions. The proposed rule amendments are intended to implement this legislation. Subdivision (d) of section 271 expressly states that nothing in the section is intended to change any requirement set forth in sections 69950 or 69954 of the
			another as intended. i.e. 69950(a), 271(a) and (b), CCP 2025, 8.130(f)4) and Government Code 69954(b). If Section 8.144 is allowed to be changed as proposed, a Court Reporter could be in violation of the above code sections and putting their license in jeopardy.	Government Code, regardless of whether a transcript is delivered in electronic or paper form. Code of Civil Procedure sections 2025.510-2025.570 regarding transcripts or recordings of oral depositions, are not inconsistent with rule 8.144. Subdivision (f)(4) of rule 8.130(f)(4), which is inconsistent with newly amended CCP
			2. To Volume or not to volume – The language on this particular procedure needs to be clarified or redefined. Due to one's own	section 271, will be deleted.  The provision specifying volumes of no more than 300 sheets has been moved from subdivision (b)(3) to subdivision (b)(5), clarifying that this

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		interpretation this may not be seen as intended and there could be some confusion.  Under the new subsection (a)(5) Cover, (A) "Each volume's cover," originally under this section "Binding" it defined what a volume consisted of, 300 pages. (We are assuming this remains the same.) But the suggested proposal's language has been stricken and there is no definition of what a volume consist of for electronic format. A volume is defined as 300 pages only if the transcript remains in paper form. We cannot assume that is what is wanted for electronic format.  The rule needs to specify that volumes will continue to consist of 300 pages and will be merged together as a whole (1 file) upon submission.	requirement applies to both electronic and paper forms of the transcripts.
		3. Block numbering/larger pagination – Is or could this section be optional? Some court reporters stride to paginate their pages (transcripts) consecutively so it's one smooth flowing transcript. Easy for the end user. If it's wished that the reporters use block numbering, this would create large page numbering and more volumes than if the pages of the transcript were done consecutively. For the end user it may feel choppy rather than flowing like a book.  This procedure is more of a detriment to the primary reporters because they are focusing their attention on coordinating and setting block	The rule contains pre-existing requirements for block numbering in multiple reporter cases. The only change to the existing requirements is moving the hyphenated page number (hyphen added to the last number used, followed by the segment's assigned ending page number) to the certificate page to accommodate computer aided transcription software. Any modification to make block numbering optional would be a substantive change that would need to circulate for public comment. The committee will retain this suggestion for future consideration.

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		numbers rather than directing their attention to preparing the transcript at hand or other obligations they may have.  Where on the other hand, if paginated consecutively, the primary reporter will be notified as each reporter finishes their portion and provide a page number to the next court reporter in the segment and collaborates indexes instead of multiple pages of witness lists and exhibit pages.	
		When block numbering is utilized there will be occasions when blurbs are used because all designated pages were not filled with text.  When the transcript is uploaded into a program, any program, the pagination will not correspond respectively because it cannot read that "Pages 485-600 were intentionally left blank." This will violate the proposed language under (c)(1)(C) indicating, "The electronic page counter in a PDF file viewer must match the transcript page numbering."  The end result is that the transcript is assembled in a book-style format so the end user is able to navigate throughout the pages with ease.	The committee recognizes this issue, and has added language to the rule, following the rule number and title, to make explicit that the provisions of the rule will be applied in a manner consistent with section 271. This includes the five-year grace period for non-compliance due to technical limitations.
		4. Cost a. Digital signature/electronic signature – It is preferred to have a digital signature. There is an ongoing cost to the Court Reporter, during the reporter's career as well as in their retirement to continue to meet their obligations.	As described above, the committee has decided to require only electronic signatures
		b. Program – As indicated, the	These rule amendments are intended to implement

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		introduction of these rules were suggested by a	the recent statutory amendments to CCP section
		reporter's association who endorses a program	271. The statute provides for a grace period for
		that will provide all the suggested changes in	court reporters in light of potential costs. The
		8.144. Regardless if that specific plan is used or	committee is mindful that there may be costs to
		not, there is a cost to the reporter to use a	upgrade equipment or software, but this is
		program to meet the need of bookmarking and	necessary to maximize the capabilities of the
		hyperlinking should that language remain in.	electronic format. The legislation specifically
		JCC is informed it's at no cost to them or the	provides that reporters shall not be required to use
		courts because the burden is on the court	a specific vendor, technology, or software to
		reporters.	comply with the statute.
		If this rule is implemented, it will force	
		reporters to use a program to meet the	
		guidelines, not only during their career, but also	
		for ten years after they retire. Without going	
		into details, this is a detriment to the reporters	
		financially during their career as well as into	
		retirement.	
		Court Reporters can produce and accommodate	
		the transcripts right now at no cost to the	
		court and no additional cost to the court reporter	
		by uploading the transcripts in PDF format.	
		With the elimination of bookmarking and	
		hyperlinking requirements and with making all	
		court reporter codes consistent with computer-	
		readable format language, this will eliminate the	
		court reporter interpreting what the end user	
		wants and protect the court reporter from violating codes and Tenets of Ethics and focus	
		on preserving the integrity of the record.	
		on preserving the integrity of the record.	
		Specific comments:	
		Implementation requirements for the court:	The committee appreciates this input on

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			Training and preparation will be needed to ensure staff understands the protocol thoroughly, i.e., uploading, processing, digitally file stamping, notifying parties. This applies to both the clerks and the reporters.  From the reporter's standpoint, not all reporters are tech savvy, and so this might be challenging for some. This will be another task that the court reporter supervisor/manager will have to monitor to ensure no delays in the process.	implementation requirements for the court and agrees that training and preparation will be required.
			It's foreseen that the transcripts will have more typographical errors and/or format errors on them because those are usually caught when the court reporter prints out the final copies to submit. Some even rely on their supervisor to catch the errors during processing of the transcript. That process will be eliminated.	If transcripts contain more errors, proofreading training should be pursued.
7.	Jeannette Jessup Official Reporter Monterey, CA	N	We are a very small county and do not use lead reporters. Some of our software also does not have the ability to bookmark.  So the change for bookmarking by a lead reporter and merging all volumes in one document will be difficult if not impossible.	The committee appreciates the commenter's input. The proposed requirements at subdivision (d)(2)(B) and (C) have been deleted.  Upgrading equipment and software to comply with the rule's requirements may include costs, but CCP section 271 includes a grace period until January 1, 2023.
8.	Orange County Bar Association By Michael L. Baroni	A	No specific comment	The committee appreciates the comment and notes the support for the proposal.
9.	Service Employees International Union by Kimberly Rosenberger California Labor Federation	N	We the undersigned organizations representing trial court employees write in opposition to the proposed amendment to the California Rules of Court, rule 8.144.	The committee thanks the commenters and notes their opposition to the proposal.

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by Caitlin Vega			-
by Caitlin Vega  IFPTE 21 by Shane Gusman  Laborers International Union of North America, by Liberty Sanchez  America, Locals 777 & 792  Orange County Employees Association by Patrick Moran  American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees by Joshua Golka		We strongly urge the Appellate Advisory Committee to abandon proposals to change the rule of court, as they are too restrictive, inhibit technological advancements, and impose an unfair and expensive burden on court reporters. The majority of Computer-Aided Transcription (CAT) software is unable to comply with the requirements proposed, specifically the proposals found in sections (c)(1)(C), (c)(1)(D), (2)(B) and (2)(C).  The transition to modern technology has been costly and often unsuccessful in the public sector and especially in the judicial branch. However, the most successful use of technology in the judicial branch has been that of the court reporters. Advancements have allowed for real time captioning, electronic transcripts, and so much more. This is directly due to the reporters being the owners, as well as the operators of the technology they use. The proposed amendments to the rule of court take away that autonomy and	The proposed rule amendments are intended to implement the recent amendments to CCP section 271. The statute provides a grace period for court reporters until January 1, 2023. The committee is mindful that there may be costs to upgrade equipment or software, but this is necessary to maximize the capabilities of the electronic format for courts and attorneys. The committee expects that, during the grace period, there will be advances in the software and equipment used to produce electronic transcripts in order to meet the rule requirements. Moreover, the legislation specifically provides that reporters shall not be required to use a specific vendor, technology, or software to comply with the statute.
		monopolize the CAT software field. The proposed rules impose requirements that only one vendor at this time provides.	
		Court reporters are in a unique position where they not only are the target demographic for use of the technology, but they are also the customer. This has given the reporters purchasing power that has allowed them to directly influence the field. Court reporters have continued to evolve in the technology they use,	

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		investing in CAT software that improves the access and availability to transcripts for the courts and the public. This technology comes directly out of the pocket of the reporters, despite their rates having stagnated for over a quarter of a century.	
		Additionally, section 2(B) requires multiple volumes to be merged into a single electronic document. Currently this is performed by court clerks in the Internal Appeals Division and accounts for a large bulk of their work. The division is responsible for collecting transcripts, tracking deadlines, and merging the total document as one unit for the Court of Appeals. To shift this work entirely on to court reporters is problematic for a number of reasons. The additional workload proposed not only creates an untenable amount of work for the reporter, but it would also result in a merging of job classifications without meeting or notifying the unions that represent these workers. Furthermore, it greatly increases the workload of reporters without any compensation. This proposal will likely result in increased backlog and delayed access to justice, as the deadlines will remain the same despite requiring new technology and new duties.	The requirement that multi-volume or multi-reporter transcripts must be merged into a single electronic document has been deleted.
		The proposed rules place a costly onus on court reporters and also create a monopoly in the industry that discourages innovation and competition. Court reporters are supportive of efforts to shift to electronic transcripts, despite	

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			the cost and additional work placed on them. However, the proposed changes approach evolving technology in the wrong way. We oppose the proposed Rule of Courts changes, and instead urge the committee to consider language that allows for the advancement of technology rather than burdensome limitations.	
10.	Superior Court of Los Angeles County	AM	Suggested modification: Rule 8.144 (c) (1) (E) - It would not be necessary to have both an electronic and digital signature on electronically transmitted transcripts. Once the mechanism is in place, digital signatures are fairly easy to handle or maintain. The court's concern would be validity and authentication. If the transcripts are submitted via an electronic portal or by email, there is a high certainty that it actually came from the court reporter. Electronic signature would be easier and cheaper.	The committee thanks the commenter and notes its support for the proposal if modified. The committee agrees that only one type of signature is necessary, and that electronic signatures are the best option. This change has been made to subdivision (d)(1)(E).
			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?	
			<ul> <li>Staff training and communication</li> <li>Transcript Auditors (6) 4-6 hours</li> <li>Court Reporters (450+) 4 hours</li> <li>Update Court Reporter Manual 16 hours</li> <li>Update Court website information re transcript formatting, including examples 16</li> </ul>	The committee appreciates these responses to the questions presented in the invitation to comment.

Appellate Procedure: Format for Reporter's Transcripts Delivered in Electronic Form) All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (\*).

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			hours  Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation?  Yes, three months is sufficient for implementation.	No response required.
11.	Superior Court of Riverside County By Susan D. Ryan	AM	Only copies can be in electronic format. At this time, the original must be a hard copy. Recommend the following additions: Page 6 line 10. (c) Add the words "copies of the" after the word for. (c) Additional requirements for copies of the reporter's transcript delivered in electronic form Page 7 line 3 under the heading (2) Multivolume or multi-reporter transcripts In addition to the requirements in (1), copies of multivolume or multi-reporter transcripts delivered in electronic format must comply with the following requirements:	The committee thanks the commenter for this input and notes the agreement with the proposal if modified. In light of the newly-enacted amendments to CCP section 271, the committee declines to make the suggested changes. These amendments include removing the requirement that the original reporter's transcript be on paper and providing instead that, except as specified, an electronic transcript is deemed to be an original transcript.
12.	Superior Court of San Diego County By Mike Roddy	A	In addition to comments on the proposal as a whole, the advisory committee is interested in comments on the whether it is necessary for the rule to require the court reporter to both digitally and electronically sign a transcript that is delivered in electronic form? If only one requirement were included, which would be preferable?  No comment.	The committee appreciates the responses to its questions and notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal.

What would the implementation requirements be

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			for courts? No impact on appeals clerks.  Would three months from Judicial Council approval of this proposal until its effective date provide sufficient time for implementation? Yes, as far as appeals clerks are concerned.	
13.	Superior Court of Ventura County by Nan L Richardson	AM	<ul> <li>Digital vs. Electronic signature:         <ul> <li>Electronic – indicates a person's intent to sign a record and is legally binding</li> <li>Digital – encrypts a data associated with a document. Does not legally bind a signature to a document</li> </ul> </li> <li>Preference: All reporter transcripts be electronically signed</li> <li>Implementation:         <ul> <li>Training official court reporters – 3 to 4 hours per official reporter; 2 hours per contract reporter</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	The committee thanks the commenter for the responses to questions asked in the invitation to comment, and notes the commenter's agreement with the proposal if modified.  The committee agrees that electronic signatures are the best option for signing a transcript in electronic format and has modified the proposal to remove the requirement for digital signatures.  The committee appreciates this feedback.
			Three months for implementation sufficient?  • Six months preferred  Title 8. Appellate Rules: Rule 8.144. Form of the Record	The amendments to CPP section 271 take effect on January 1, 2018. Thus, the amendments to rule 8.144, which implement these changes, must also be effective as of January 1, 2018.
			<ul> <li>(c)(1)(A) "Be generated electronically; it must not be created from a scanned document."</li> <li>Court reporters may need to scan a transcript if the paper transcript is available and has been previously prepared, but the</li> </ul>	The committee declines to make this change at this time. See response to California Court Reporters Association (CCRA), above.

Commentator	Position	Comment	DRAFT Committee Response
		electronic transcript is no longer available	
		due to reporter unavailability or	
		technological issues that prevent access to	
		the electronic transcript	
		o Suggested change: "Be generated	
		electronically; it may be scanned if	
		electronic generation unavailable."	
		• (2)(A) "Each individual reporter must	The committee thanks the commenter for pointing
		include the cover page required by (a)(3)"	out this typographical error. It has been corrected.
		should read (a)(5)	