

FOREWORD

The Appellate Defenders, Inc., Appellate Practice Manual is designed to assist appointed attorneys representing criminal, juvenile delinquency and dependency, and other indigent parties on appeal in California. It addresses common matters often encountered in appellate practice and gives attorneys a guide through each phase of the entire process.

The manual discusses a great variety of topics in law and procedure, practice, ethics, and policy. Some of the material is basic, but much is advanced, based on extensive research. The manual is divided into eight chapters:¹

Chapter 1 – basic information for appointed counsel

Chapter 2 – what can be appealed and how to get an appeal started

Chapter 3 – record completion, extensions, release on appeal

Chapter 4 – issue spotting and selection

Chapter 5 – briefing

Chapter 6 – oral argument

Chapter 7 – decisions by reviewing courts and processes after decision

Chapter 8 – California writs

The manual is the product of many years of effort. Using various sources – articles from the 1993 ADI manual, drafts written for the manual, briefs, and much original research – Executive Director Elaine Alexander and Senior Staff Attorney Howard Cohen did the primary writing (and multiple rewrites) and editing. Each

¹ Chapter 9 was discontinued in 2023.

chapter was reviewed by one or more ADI staff attorneys in detail. Other staff attorneys reviewed the entire manual for correctness of substance and consistency. Law clerks and attorneys checked all citations repeatedly. At least once or more each year, Ms. Alexander and Mr. Cohen have made updates.

In 2016 the Second Edition was published. An expansion of scope, the second edition newly covered dependency, as well as criminal and delinquency appeals.

In 2023, an extensive review was undertaken, by successor Executive Director Lynelle Hee, Mr. Cohen, and a team chaired by him: Mr. Arthur Martin, Ms. Siri Shetty, Ms. Pauline Villanueva, Ms. Elena Min, and Ms. Savannah Montanez. This Third Edition was published for Chapters 1 through 8 (Chapter 9 has been discontinued).

The manual is on the public [ADI website](#) and the confidential site.¹ *The most up to date version will always be the one online.*

We believe the ADI Appellate Practice Manual is a product of great quality and usability. We hope it will be consulted regularly and routinely by new and experienced appellate practitioners alike, and that it will be a truly valuable resource to them.

¹ <http://www.adi-sandiego.com/panel/manual.asp>