

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF APPELLATE LAWYERS

Application for Membership

Please submit the application, briefs, and opinions by uploading them through our website, or via e-mail to the Academy President at the address found at www.calappellate.org. Briefs and opinions should be identified by shortened case title and name of brief or opinion. Files should be in Word or PDF format.

1. Personal Data: Name, date of birth, firm name (if any), business address and telephone number.

2. Education: Name of each college or university, law school, and any other post-graduate institution attended, with years of attendance and/or graduation and degree, if any, received from each.

3. Admission to Law Practice: Name of each state and federal jurisdiction and date of admission to practice in each. To be considered for Academy membership, you must have been a member of the bar for not less than 10 years.

4. Employment: In chronological order, list all places and dates of self-employment in the practice of law, and the names and addresses of each employer and dates of employment in the practice of law or law-related work (e.g., law teacher, law clerk or research attorney with a court).

5. Predominantly appellate practice: To be considered for Academy membership, you must certify that you have a predominantly appellate practice. The Academy will consider numerical and other types of evidence of a predominantly appellate practice.

(a) Appellate cases handled as lead counsel: One way to demonstrate that you have a predominantly appellate practice is to certify that you have been lead counsel for a party in 20 or more specifically identified appeals or writ proceedings and have argued orally in 10 or more specifically identified appeals or writ proceedings. “Lead counsel” is defined in the Academy’s Constitution, Article 3, Section 1(b)(i), and means that you personally: (1) read or directed the review of the record on appeal, (2) performed or directed the principal legal research, and (3) were the principal author of all of the briefs. On a separate page, please list the case name, year of decision or settlement, and official and unofficial citations (if any) for each case. For non-California or federal cases please also identify the court name.

(b) Other appellate cases: If you were involved in other appellate cases (e.g., where you were not lead counsel or where you wrote an amicus brief), you are welcome to describe the nature and extent of that work on an attachment distinct from the 5(a) list.

(c) State and describe the percentage of your professional time devoted to actual appellate practice.

(d) State and describe the percentage of your professional time devoted to appellate law-related matters (e.g., teaching, writing, lecturing, committee work).

(e) Relate the history of your involvement in appellate work, describing the nature and extent of your past appellate practice and appellate-law related activities.

6. Publications: Please list any appellate related publications (e.g., articles, columns, blogs) that you would like the Academy to consider, with citations, if any.

7. Non-appellate law activities: If you wish, you may describe the nature and extent of your past and present law practice and law activities not related to appellate law, and provide citations to those publication.

8. Examples of your oral arguments: Many federal appellate courts, including the Ninth Circuit, have archived oral argument recordings, and some state appellate courts have these as well. Online services such as Westlaw also have transcriptions of some oral arguments. If readily available, please provide links or online citations to 1-3 oral arguments you have given.

9. Discipline Have you been professionally disciplined, either publicly or privately, by any court or by the bar of any jurisdiction, or sanctioned for the filing of a frivolous appellate matter or the frivolous opposition to any appellate matter? If so, explain.

10. Examples of your appellate briefs: In each of three different appellate cases (appeals or writs) in which you were the lead appellate counsel and in which a final decision has been rendered, please submit, following the directions on the Academy's website, copies of briefs you wrote and all other substantive documents that were filed in the appellate courts (e.g., all briefs, petitions for writs and answers, petitions for rehearing, review and certiorari and answers and additional briefs on the merits thereto submitted by all parties, and written court opinions). Exception: You need not submit amici briefs; please submit only whatever collective response brief any party filed.

The three cases should be closely contested and as recent as possible. They should include at least one case in which your client was the appellant or writ petitioner. Do not hesitate to include a case your side lost. Finally, the briefs you submit should reflect your personal work to the maximum extent possible. Where additional law firms or members of your firm appear on the caption along with your name, please explain the nature of your personal contribution to the document.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

If you do not hear a result within six months of applying, please email the Academy President.