

Supreme Court of the State of New York
Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department

**A GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR
FORMATTING COMPUTER-GENERATED BRIEFS, WITH EXAMPLES**

The rules concerning the formatting of briefs are contained in CPLR 5529 and in § 1250.8 of the Practice Rules of the Appellate Division. Those rules cover technical matters and therefore use certain technical terms which may be unfamiliar to attorneys and litigants. The following glossary is offered as an aid to the understanding of the rules.

Typeface: A typeface is a complete set of characters of a particular and consistent design for the composition of text, and is also called a font. Typefaces often come in sets which usually include a **bold** and an *italic* version in addition to the basic design.

Proportionally Spaced Typeface: Proportionally spaced type is designed so that the amount of horizontal space each letter occupies on a line of text is proportional to the design of each letter, the letter i, for example, being narrower than the letter w. More text of the same type size fits on a horizontal line of proportionally spaced type than a horizontal line of the same length of monospaced type. This sentence is set in Times New Roman, which is a proportionally spaced typeface.

Monospaced Typeface: In a monospaced typeface, each letter occupies the same amount of space on a horizontal line of text. This sentence is set in Courier, which is a monospaced typeface.

Point Size: A point is a unit of measurement used by printers equal to approximately 1/72 of an inch. The vertical height of type is measured in points. The measurement is somewhat complicated and requires a special ruler. The process of measurement is well explained in *The Chicago Manual of Style* (14th ed.) § 19.43. Suffice it to say that an attorney or litigant may rely on the type size setting of the word processing program used to create the brief. A brief utilizing a proportionally spaced typeface must use 14-point type for the body of the text, but 12-point type may be used for footnotes. A brief utilizing a monospaced typeface must use 12-point type for the body of the text, but 10-point type may be used for footnotes.

Double Spacing: Double spaced text has a blank line between successive lines of type. The space between lines is called leading and is measured in points from the bottom of one line of text to the bottom of the next. Double spaced text should have leading of at least the height of the type. Thus double spaced 14-point type must have at least 14 points of leading, for a total line spacing of 28 points. An attorney or litigant may rely on the line spacing setting of the word processing program used to create the brief.

Serif: A serif is not an angel (a seraph), but rather is a fine cross-stroke at the end of the principal stroke of a letter. Serifs enable the eye to move easily from letter to letter of a line of text and hence improve the readability of a document set in a serified typeface. Sans serif typefaces lack serifs. Times Roman is a serified typeface and Arial is a sans serif typeface. In the following examples, the serifs are the fine lines at the ends of the s, r, i, and f in the word serif, which is set in Times New Roman, and which are missing from the same letters in the words sans serif, which are set in Arial:

Serif

Sans Serif

The rules require the use of a serified typeface to enhance the readability of the brief (22 NYCRR 1250.8[f][2]). The use of sans serif fonts is prohibited.