

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Supreme Judicial Court

At the Supreme Judicial Court holden at Boston within and
for said Commonwealth on the seventh day of May, in the year two
thousand and twenty-four:

present,

<u>KIMBERLY S. BUDD</u>)	
)	Chief Justice
)	
<u>FRANK M. GAZIANO</u>)	
)	Justices
)	
<u>SCOTT L. KAFKER</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>DALILA ARGAEZ WENDLANDT</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>SERGE GEORGES, JR.</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>ELIZABETH N. DEWAR</u>)	

ORDERED: That the Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure,
as amended by order effective March 1, 2019, are
hereby amended as follows:

Rule 13 By inserting after the words "the printed and signed
name," and before the words "Board of Bar Overseers
(BBO)" in Mass. R. A. P. 13 (d) (2) (c) the following:

personal pronouns (if the attorney or self-represented
litigant elects),

- Rule 13 By inserting after the words "the printed and signed name," and before the words "Board of Bar Overseers (BBO)" in Mass. R. A. P. 13 (e) (2) (E) the following:
- personal pronouns (if the attorney or self-represented litigant elects),
- Rule 16 By inserting after the words "electronically signed name(s)," and before the words "Board of Bar Overseers (BBO)" in Mass. R. A. P. 16 (a) (12) (A) the following:
- personal pronouns (if the attorney or self-represented litigant elects),
- Rule 17 By inserting after the words "length limit of Rule" and before the words "20(a)(3)(E)" in Mass. R. A. P. 17 (c) (9) the following:
- 20(a)(2)(C) or
- Rule 20 By inserting after the words "the name(s)," and before the words "Board of Bar Overseers (BBO)" in Mass. R. A. P. 20 (a) (6) (B) (v) the following:
- personal pronouns (if the attorney or self-represented litigant elects),
- Rule 20 By inserting after the words "the printed and signed name(s)," and before the words "Board of Bar Overseers (BBO)" in Mass. R. A. P. 20 (b) (2) (B) (i) the following:
- personal pronouns (if the attorney or self-represented litigant elects),

The amendments accomplished by this order shall be effective immediately.

ORDERED:

<u>KIMBERLY S. BUDD</u>)	
)	Chief Justice
)	
<u>FRANK M. GAZIANO</u>)	
)	Justices
)	
<u>SCOTT L. KAFKER</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>DALILA ARGAEZ WENDLANDT</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>SERGE GEORGES, JR.</u>)	
)	
)	
<u>ELIZABETH N. DEWAR</u>)	

REPORTER'S NOTES
MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rule 13. Filing and Service

Reporter's Notes—2024

The Supreme Judicial Court amended S.J.C. Rule 1:08 (1) (H) effective October 1, 2022, to permit filers to include their personal pronouns with the filer's name or signature. In 2024, the Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure were amended to incorporate the option into Mass. R.A.P. 13(d)(2)(C) and 13(e)(2)(E). The amendment expressly allows people to include preferred personal pronouns on court filings. The information informs judges, opposing counsel, and court personnel of a person's pronouns in advance of a hearing or communication, and can help prevent inadvertent misidentification during legal proceedings. See J. Stanton & Y. Taylor, *Utilizing and Normalizing Personal Pronouns in Legal Filings, Proceedings, and Communications*, 67 B.B.J. #2 (Spring 2023).

REPORTER'S NOTES
MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rule 16. Briefs

Reporter's Notes—2024

The Supreme Judicial Court amended S.J.C. Rule 1:08 (1) (H) effective October 1, 2022, to permit filers to include their personal pronouns with the filer's name or signature. In 2024, the Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure were amended to incorporate the option into Mass. R.A.P. 16(a)(12)(A). The amendment expressly allows people to include preferred personal pronouns on court filings. The information informs judges, opposing counsel, and court personnel of a person's pronouns in advance of a hearing or communication, and can help prevent inadvertent misidentification during legal proceedings. See J. Stanton & Y. Taylor, *Utilizing and Normalizing Personal Pronouns in Legal Filings, Proceedings, and Communications*, 67 B.B.J. #2 (Spring 2023).

REPORTER'S NOTES
MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rule 17. Briefs of an Amicus Curiae

Reporter's Notes—2024

In 2024, Rule 17(c)(9) was amended to include a reference to Rule 20(a)(2)(C), which pertains to the length limit of an amicus brief filed in a case that does not involve a cross-appeal. The prior language of Rule 17(c)(9) referenced only Rule 20(a)(3)(E), which applies only to cases involving a cross appeal. This amendment corrects the omission of regular appeals from Rule 17(c)(9).

REPORTER'S NOTES

MASSACHUSETTS RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

Rule 20. Form and Length of Briefs, Appendices, and Other Documents

Reporter's Notes—2024

The Supreme Judicial Court amended S.J.C. Rule 1:08 (1) (H) effective October 1, 2022, to permit filers to include their personal pronouns with the filer's name or signature. In 2024, the Massachusetts Rules of Appellate Procedure were amended to incorporate the option into Mass. R.A.P. 20(a)(6)(B)(v) and 20(b)(2)(B)(i). The amendment expressly allows people to include preferred personal pronouns on court filings. The information informs judges, opposing counsel, and court personnel of a person's pronouns in advance of a hearing or communication, and can help prevent inadvertent misidentification during legal proceedings. See J. Stanton & Y. Taylor, *Utilizing and Normalizing Personal Pronouns in Legal Filings, Proceedings, and Communications*, 67 B.B.J. #2 (Spring 2023).