

# Supreme Court Practice

Eighth Edition, Bureau of National Affairs

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**This is a great book.** It is a monument of legal publishing. It has no rivals in its field of U.S. Supreme Court practice. It sets the standard for all appellate practice books. Indeed, the fine practice volumes that have been published for the Fifth, Eighth, and Ninth Circuits readily demonstrate its strong and elevating influence. BNA has been publishing this hallmark treatise since 1950. The Eighth Edition has now arrived, and that is good news for all appellate lawyers.

No one should consider even attempting to pursue an appeal (or to object to certiorari) in our nation's highest court without this book. At 1,290 pages, it may be the biggest single volume in our law library and, at \$395.00 plus, it is certainly the most expensive. It is worth every dime of its price. It has everything a lawyer needs to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States. Its treatment of all aspects of practice is remarkably broad and exceptionally deep. It is no surprise that the Court has often cited earlier editions of this book. E.g., *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, 505 U.S. 377, 381 n.3 (1992).

The authors describe how the Supreme Court does it work, how to be admitted to the Bar of the Court, and where to obtain copies of briefs which have been filed before it. Very valuable are their discussion of the evaluation of a case as a candidate for certiorari, suggestions as to how to prepare a petition, guidance on motions to dismiss, and thoughtful treatment of drafting a brief on the merits and preparing for oral argument. It is fair to say that they address every possible action in this Court which a lawyer may undertake.

The useful features of this book abound. These include checklists; a table of page limitations and of the colors of covers; every form that one should likely ever need to date Rules of the court; and all pertinent statutes.

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Another very valuable feature is a "Guide for Counsel" written by Bill Suter, the Clerk of the Court.

As attractive as these features are, the value of this volume is chiefly in its text. There, the authors discuss all instructive cases which could possible effect you in every aspect of each proceeding. Every pertinent decision is cited, often quoted, and sometimes explained. These discussions reflect fine scholarship and insight in the work of the Court. The treatment of the cases benefits from the authors' vast experience and erudition. One must begin with this text; in fact, the text is frequently all one needs to resolve a procedural or analytical problem.

This is the best appellate practice book ever written. Buy it.

—*Dennis Owens*