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Clerk of Court

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**United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit**  
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**Information for Pro Se Appellants/Petitioners**  
Option of Proceeding on an Informal Brief

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Our records indicate that you do not have an attorney to help you with this case. Accordingly, we have enclosed an information package and an informal brief form for pro se appellants and petitioners. Please read them carefully.

You have the option of filing an informal brief on the attached form instead of filing a standard brief that meets the requirements of FRAP 28 and Circuit Rules 28-1, 28-2, 28-3 and 28-4. The informal brief may make it easier for you to make your arguments to the Court without worrying about the rules on what a brief is supposed to look like and what it must contain. The Court will give the same consideration to an informal brief as it will give to a standard brief that satisfies all the rules. You should submit whatever brief is easier for you to prepare.

If you decide to file an informal brief, please answer all of the questions as clearly and accurately as possible. You may cite statutes, legal authority, and cases to support your argument, but this is not required. If you need more space to answer the questions, write your answers on separate sheets of paper and attach them to the informal brief. You should be certain that whatever you file answers all of the questions in the informal brief.

If you decide to file a standard brief, that brief must meet all of the requirements of FRAP 28 and Circuit Rules 28-1, 28-2, 28-3, and 28-4. This means that your standard brief could be rejected unless it meets all of these requirements.

**Important:**

After you decide which type of brief to file - informal or standard - you **must** file that brief by the date noted on the enclosed **Time Schedule Order** or your appeal

may be dismissed for failure to prosecute pursuant to Circuit Rule 42-1. *See also* FRAP 31(c).

**Important:**

Even if you file an informal brief, you **must** comply with all other rules for processing your appeal including, but not limited to: ordering the reporter's transcript, see Circuit Rule 10-3.1; serving a copy of your brief on the opposing party, see FRAP 31(a); filing the appropriate number of copies of your brief with the Court of Appeals, see Circuit Rule 31-1; and filing an excerpt of record at the same time that you file your opening brief, see Circuit Rule 30-1.1.1

**Please type or print your responses on the informal brief.**