

The Court of Chancery Amends Rule 171(f)

Court of Chancery Rule 171(f) currently sets forth word limits for briefs. **Effective August 1, 2017**, Rule 171(f) will be amended to establish three categories of word limits for (1) merits-related motions, (2) other motions, and (3) letters to the court.

- The first category (merits-related motions) includes motions filed under Rules 12, 23, 23.1, 56, and 65, as well as pre-trial and post-trial briefs. Opening and answering briefs for this category shall not exceed 14,000 words, and reply briefs shall not exceed 8,000 words. These are the limits set forth in the current Rule 171(f) for briefs.
- The second category (other motions) covers all other applications. The motion and the opposition shall not exceed 3,000 words, and a reply shall not exceed 2,000 words. The 3,000-word limit roughly corresponds to the 15-page limit for speaking motions in the Court of Chancery Guidelines. The Guidelines will be amended to include the same word limits instead of page limits.
- Letters to the court shall not exceed 1,000 words.

Parties may ask the Court to permit longer word counts when appropriate. The amended Rule 171(f) also simplifies the procedure for certifying compliance with the word counts. More specifically, parties filing documents listed in Rule 171(f)(1) will be required to add a phrase to the signature block to certify that the document is in compliance with the type-volume limitation and the Rule 171(4) typeface requirement. This certification will replace the Form 6 certificate of compliance.

[Rule 171\(f\) redline version](#)

[Rule 171\(f\) clean version](#)