Table of Contents

How to Use the Book Forms

Overview

Chapter 1

Introduction to the Wisconsin Appellate System

I. Scope [§ 1.1]

II. Origin of Two-Tiered Appellate System [§ 1.2]

III. Primacy of the Supreme Court in the Two-Tiered Appellate System [§ 1.3]

IV. Structure of Wisconsin Court of Appeals [§ 1.4]

A. Districts [§ 1.5]

B. Venue [§ 1.6]

C. Judges [§ 1.7]

V. Structure of Wisconsin Supreme Court [§ 1.8]

VI. Recusal of Appellate Court Judges [§ 1.9]

Chapter 2

Jurisdiction of the Wisconsin Appellate Courts

I. Scope [§ 2.1]

II. Wisconsin Court of Appeals [§ 2.2]

A. Appellate Jurisdiction [§ 2.3]

B. Supervisory and Original Jurisdiction [§ 2.4]

III. Wisconsin Supreme Court [§ 2.5]

A. Appellate Jurisdiction [§ 2.6]

B. Supervisory and Original Jurisdiction [§ 2.7]

IV. Other Types of Jurisdiction [§ 2.8]

V. Circuit Court Jurisdiction Pending Appeal [§ 2.9]

Chapter 3

Standards of Review and the Decision to Appeal

I. Scope [§ 3.1]

II. Primacy of Circuit Court in Appellate System [§ 3.2]

III. Circuit Court Record—Avoiding Waiver or Forfeiture [§ 3.3]

A. Raising Issues in the Circuit Court [§ 3.4]

B. Specific Objections and Postverdict Motions [§ 3.5]

C. Other Types of Waiver [§ 3.6]

D. Exceptions to Waiver Rule [§ 3.7]

1. Constitutional Issues and Plain Error [§ 3.8]

2. Jurisdictional Issues [§ 3.9]

3. Other Exceptions [§ 3.10]

IV. Standards of Review: Institutional Considerations in Decision to Appeal [§ 3.11]

V. Review of Findings of Fact [§ 3.12]

A. In General [§ 3.13]

B. Trial Court Findings [§ 3.14]

C. Jury Findings [§ 3.15]

VI. Review of Questions of Law [§ 3.16]

A. In General [§ 3.17]

B. Types of Questions of Law [§ 3.18]

C. Mixed Questions of Fact and Law [§ 3.19]

VII. Review of Discretionary Acts [§ 3.20]

VIII. Negative Standards of Review [§ 3.21]

IX. Harmless Error [§ 3.22]

X. Individual Considerations in Decision to Appeal [§ 3.23]

XI. Discretionary Reversal [§ 3.24]

Chapter 4

Appeal as of Right to the Court of Appeals

I. Scope [§ 4.1]

II. Judgments or Orders [§ 4.2]

III. Finality [§ 4.3]

A. Introduction [§ 4.4]

B. Definition: Final Order or Judgment [§ 4.5]

1. In General [§ 4.6]

2. Disposition of Entire Matter in Litigation [§ 4.7]

3. As to One or More Parties [§ 4.8]

C. Nonfinal Denials of Motions [§ 4.9]

D. Special Proceedings [§ 4.10]

E. Orders Granting Motions [§ 4.11]

F. Denials of Postjudgment Motions [§ 4.12]

G. Other Considerations for Determining Finality [§ 4.13]

1. Contemporaneous Comments of Circuit Court [§ 4.14]

2. Identification of Last Document Disposing of Matter [§ 4.15]

IV. Entry [§ 4.16]

A. In General [§ 4.17]

B. Writing and Signature Requirements [§ 4.18]

C. Exceptions [§ 4.19]

D. Filing Date [§ 4.20]

V. Matters Reviewable Incident to Appeal [§ 4.21]9

Chapter 5

Filing a Civil Appeal as of Right

I. Scope [§ 5.1]

II. Time for Appeal [§ 5.2]

A. In General [§ 5.3]

B. 45/90 Rule and Exceptions [§ 5.4]

C. Notice of Entry [§ 5.5]

D. Computing Time for Appeal [§ 5.6]

E. Reconsideration and Time for Appeal [§ 5.7]

III. Contents of Notice of Appeal [§ 5.8]

A. In General [§ 5.9]

B. Judgment or Order Appealed From [§ 5.10]

C. Signature [§ 5.11]

D. Identification of Cases for One-Judge Appeals and Cases with Statutory Preference [§ 5.12]

IV. Filing and Serving Notice of Appeal [§ 5.13]

A. E-Filing: Most Cases [§ 5.14]

B. Paper and Fax Filing: Limited Cases [§ 5.15]

C. Service [§ 5.16]

D. Documents and Fees Forwarded to Court of Appeals Along with the Notice of Appeal [§ 5.17]

1. In General [§ 5.18]

2. Docketing Statement [§ 5.19]

3. Filing Fee [§ 5.20]

4. Docketing of Appeal [§ 5.21]

V. Voluntary Dismissal [§ 5.22]

Chapter 6

Parties to the Appeal

I. Scope [§ 6.1]

II. Who May Appeal? [§ 6.2]

III. Parties Defined [§ 6.3]

A. In General [§ 6.4]

B. Appellant [§ 6.5]

C. Co-Appellant [§ 6.6]

D. Respondent [§ 6.7]

E. Cross-Appellant [§ 6.8]

F. Cross-Respondent [§ 6.9]

IV. Intervenors and Amicus Curiae [§ 6.10]

A. In General [§ 6.11]

B. Intervenors [§ 6.12]

C. Amicus Curiae [§ 6.13]

V. Death of Party While Appeal Is Pending [§ 6.14]

Chapter 7

Transcripts and the Record on Appeal

I. Scope [§ 7.1]

II. Requesting and Filing Transcript [§ 7.2]

III. Composing and Compiling Record [§ 7.3]

IV. Motions to Supplement or Correct Record [§ 7.4]

V. Supplementing Record by Judicial Notice [§ 7.5]

Chapter 8

Multiple Appeals

I. Scope [§ 8.1]

II. Joint Appeals and Co-Appeals [§ 8.2]

III. Cross-Appeals [§ 8.3]

IV. Consolidated Appeals [§ 8.4]

Chapter 9

Appeals by Permission from Nonfinal Orders or Judgments

I. Scope [§ 9.1]

II. Criteria for Permissive Appeals [§ 9.2]

A. Factors Under Wis. Stat. § 808.03(2) [§ 9.3]

B. Substantial Likelihood of Success on Merits [§ 9.4]

C. Policy Against Permissive Appeals [§ 9.5]

D. Specific Cases Favoring Permissive Appeal [§ 9.6]

III. Form and Filing of Petition for Leave to Appeal [§ 9.7]

A. In General [§ 9.8]

B. Contents of Petition; Supporting Memorandum [§ 9.9]

C. Response to Petition [§ 9.10]

D. Consideration by Court; Procedures After Grant of Petition [§ 9.11]

IV. Relief Pending Petition for Leave to Appeal [§ 9.12]

Chapter 10

Supervisory Relief in the Court of Appeals

I. Scope [§ 10.1]

II. Supervisory Writs: Mandamus and Prohibition [§ 10.2]

III. Procedure for Review by Supervisory Writ [§ 10.3]

IV. Temporary Relief Pending Petition for Supervisory Writ [§ 10.4]

Chapter 11

Briefing

I. Scope [§ 11.1]

II. General Format Requirements—Wis. Stat. § 809.19(8)(b) [§ 11.2]

III. Appellant’s Brief and Appendix—Wis. Stat. § 809.19 [§ 11.3]

A. Time [§ 11.4]

B. Length [§ 11.5]

C. Number [§ 11.6]

D. Cover [§ 11.7]

E. Contents [§ 11.8]

1. In General [§ 11.9]

2. Tables [§ 11.10]

3. Issues [§ 11.11]

4. Statement on Oral Argument and Publication [§ 11.12]

5. Facts [§ 11.13]

6. Argument [§ 11.14]

7. Conclusion [§ 11.15]

8. Certification [§ 11.16]

9. Confidential References [§ 11.17]

10. Appendix [§ 11.18]

IV. Respondent’s Brief—Wis. Stat. § 809.19(3) [§ 11.19]

A. Time [§ 11.20]

B. Length, Number, Appendix, and Cover [§ 11.21]

C. Purpose of Respondent’s Brief [§ 11.22]

V. Reply Brief—Wis. Stat. § 809.19(4) [§ 11.23]

VI. Multiple-Party Briefing [§ 11.24]

VII. Cross-Appeal Briefing—Wis. Stat. § 809.19(6) [§ 11.25]

VIII. Amicus Curiae Briefing—Wis. Stat. § 809.19(7) [§ 11.26]

A. In General [§ 11.27]

B. Guardian ad Litem Briefs [§ 11.28]

IX. Briefs in Expedited Appeals [§ 11.29]

X. Briefing by Self-Represented Parties [§ 11.30]

XI. Newly Discovered Authorities [§ 11.31]

XII. Extension of Briefing Deadlines and Page Limits [§ 11.32]

XIII. Practice Tips [§ 11.33]

Chapter 12

Oral Argument

I. Scope [§ 12.1]

II. Criteria for Oral Argument—Wis. Stat. § 809.22; Location of Argument [§ 12.2]

III. Timing Issues [§ 12.3]

IV. Practice Tips [§ 12.4]

Chapter 13

Motion Practice—Wis. Stat. § 809.14

I. Scope [§ 13.1]

II. Contents of Motion and Response [§ 13.2]

III. Filing, Service, and Form of Motion [§ 13.3]

IV. Effect of Filing Motion on Other Time Periods [§ 13.4]

Chapter 14

Relief Pending Appeal— Wis. Stat. §§ 809.12 and 808.07

I. Scope [§ 14.1]

II. Authority to Grant Relief Pending Appeal [§ 14.2]

III. Contents of Motion for Relief Pending Appeal [§ 14.3]

IV. Ex Parte and Emergency Relief [§ 14.4]

Chapter 15

Expediting the Appeal

I. Scope [§ 15.1]

II. Assignment and Advancement of Cases—Wis. Stat. § 809.20 [§ 15.2]

III. Summary Disposition—Wis. Stat. § 809.21 [§ 15.3]

IV. Bypass—Wis. Stat. §§ 809.60 and 809.61 [§ 15.4]

V. Statutes Requiring Preferential Disposition [§ 15.5]

VI. Expedited Appeals (Fast-Track) Case Management [§ 15.6]

A. In General [§ 15.7]

B. Eligible Cases [§ 15.8]

C. Docketing Statement and Response [§ 15.9]

D. Presubmission Conference [§ 15.10]

E. Briefing and Decision [§ 15.11]

VII. Appellate Mediation [§ 15.12]

Chapter 16

Postdecision Procedures

I. Scope [§ 16.1]

II. Reconsideration—Wis. Stat. § 809.24 [§ 16.2]

III. Costs—Wis. Stat. § 809.25 [§ 16.3]

A. In General [§ 16.4]

B. Frivolous Appeals [§ 16.5]

IV. Remittitur—Wis. Stat. § 809.26 [§ 16.6]

V. Proceedings and Substitution on Remand [§ 16.7]

VI. Retroactive Versus Prospective Application [§ 16.8]

Chapter 17

Publication of Opinions

I. Scope [§ 17.1]

II. Criteria for Publication; Motions to Publish [§ 17.2]

III. Procedure for Deciding Whether to Publish [§ 17.3]

IV. Rule Allowing Limited Citation of Unpublished Opinions [§ 17.4]

V. Publication of Supreme Court Opinions, Orders, and Rules [§ 17.5]

Chapter 18

Miscellaneous Procedures in the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court

I. Scope [§ 18.1]

II. Filing Procedures [§ 18.2]

A. Electronic Filing [§ 18.3]

B. Paper Filing [§ 18.4]

III. Service [§ 18.5]

A. Service on E-filing Parties [§ 18.6]

B. Service by Traditional Methods [§ 18.7]

IV. Form of Documents [§ 18.8]

V. Computation and Enlargement of Time—Wis. Stat. § 809.82 [§ 18.9]

VI. Penalties for Delay—Wis. Stat. § 809.83(1) [§ 18.10]

VII. Penalties for Rule Violations—Wis. Stat. § 809.83(2) [§ 18.11]

VIII. When Rules of Civil Procedure Apply [§ 18.12]

IX. Duties of Appellate Counsel [§ 18.13]

Chapter 19

Review in Criminal Cases and Postdisposition Relief

Under Wis. Stat. § 809.30

I. Scope [§ 19.1]

II. Mechanics of Postconviction or Postdisposition Relief [§ 19.2]

A. In General [§ 19.3]

B. Notice of Right to Seek Postconviction Relief—Wis. Stat. § 973.18 and Form CR-233 [§ 19.4]

C. Appeal; Postconviction or Postdisposition Motion—Wis. Stat. § 809.30 [§ 19.5]

D. Steps in Postconviction or Postdisposition Relief Process [§ 19.6]

1. In General [§ 19.7]

2. Filing and Serving Notice of Intent [§ 19.8]

3. Action by Clerk of Circuit Court [§ 19.9]

4. Indigency Determinations for Appointment of Counsel [§ 19.10]

5. Appointing Counsel and Requesting Transcripts and Case Record [§ 19.11]

6. Filing and Serving Transcript and Case Record [§ 19.12]

III. Filing Notice of Appeal or Motion for Postconviction or Postdisposition Relief [§ 19.13]

A. In General [§ 19.14]

B. Notice of Appeal [§ 19.15]

C. Postconviction or Postdisposition Motions Under Wis. Stat. § 809.30 [§ 19.16]

IV. Motion to Modify Sentence—Wis. Stat. § 973.19; Other Sentence Challenges [§ 19.17]

V. Release on Bond Pending Postconviction Relief—Wis. Stat. § 809.31 [§ 19.18]

A. When Release May Be Sought [§ 19.19]

B. Procedure for Seeking Release [§ 19.20]

C. Stays of Sentence [§ 19.21]

VI. Habeas Corpus and Postconviction Relief Under Wis. Stat. § 974.06 [§ 19.22]

A. In General [§ 19.23]

B. Habeas Corpus [§ 19.24]

C. Motions Under Wis. Stat. § 974.06 [§ 19.25]

VII. State’s Appeals—Wis. Stat. § 974.05 [§ 19.26]

VIII. No-Merit Reports and No-Merit Petitions for Review—Wis. Stat. § 809.32 [§ 19.27]

A. No-Merit Reports [§ 19.28]

B. No-Merit Petitions for Review [§ 19.29]

IX. Extending Time Limits for Appeals Under Wis. Stat. § 809.30 [§ 19.30]

Chapter 20

One-Judge Appeals

I. Scope [§ 20.1]

II. Procedure in Small Claims, Traffic-Regulation, and Municipal-Ordinance Cases [§ 20.2]

III. Procedure in Termination-of-Parental-Rights and Parental-Consent-to-Abortion Cases [§ 20.3]

IV. Motion for Three-Judge Panel or Hearing in County of Origin—Wis. Stat. § 809.41 [§ 20.4]

A. In General [§ 20.5]

B. Reasons for Choosing One Judge or Three Judges [§ 20.6]

C. Procedure for Requesting Three-Judge Panel [§ 20.7]

Chapter 21

Internal Operating Procedures: Court of Appeals

I. Scope [§ 21.1]

II. Personnel [§ 21.2]

A. Chief Judge [§ 21.3]

B. Deputy Chief Judge (SCR 70.37) [§ 21.4]

C. Administrative Assistant to the Chief Judge [§ 21.5]

D. Presiding Judge [§ 21.6]

E. Clerk [§ 21.7]

F. Chief Deputy Clerk [§ 21.8]

G. Central Legal Staff [§ 21.9]

H. Chief Staff Attorney [§ 21.10]

I. Central Staff Attorneys [§ 21.11]

J. District Staff Attorneys [§ 21.12]

K. Law Clerks [§ 21.13]

III. Decisional Process [§ 21.14]

A. Screening [§ 21.15]

B. Assignment of Cases to Submission Calendars [§ 21.16]

C. Motions and Petitions for Leave to Appeal [§ 21.17]

D. Submission [§ 21.18]

E. Opinions [§ 21.19]

F. Reconsideration [§ 21.20]

G. Publication [§ 21.21]

H. Remittitur [§ 21.22]

I. Remand from Supreme Court [§ 21.23]

J. Petitions for Supervisory Writs and Original Jurisdiction Prerogative Writs [§ 21.24]

K. No Merit Reports [§ 21.25]

L. One-Judge Appeals [§ 21.26]

M. Indigency [§ 21.27]

IV. Expedited Appeals [§ 21.28]

A. Eligible Cases [§ 21.29]

B. Docketing Statement [§ 21.30]

C. Time Limits for Records and Briefs [§ 21.31]

D. Presubmission Conference [§ 21.32]

Chapter 22

Introduction to Supreme Court Review

I. Scope [§ 22.1]

II. Supreme Court Function [§ 22.2]

III. General Supreme Court Procedure [§ 22.3]

IV. E-filing [§ 22.4]

V. Reconsideration [§ 22.5]

Chapter 23

Petition for Supreme Court Review—Wis. Stat. § 809.62

I. Scope [§ 23.1]

II. Matters That May Be Reviewed [§ 23.2]

III. Filing and Service [§ 23.3]

IV. Form and Contents [§ 23.4]

A. In General [§ 23.5]

B. Cover [§ 23.6]

C. Table of Contents [§ 23.7]

D. Statement of Issues [§ 23.8]

E. Statement of Criteria for Review [§ 23.9]

F. Statement of Case [§ 23.10]

G. Argument [§ 23.11]

H. Appendix [§ 23.12]

V. Response and Cross-Review [§ 23.13]

VI. Decision on Petition [§ 23.14]

Chapter 24

Bypass to the Supreme Court

I. Scope [§ 24.1]

II. Criteria for Bypass [§ 24.2]

III. Petition for Bypass [§ 24.3]

Chapter 25

Original Actions in the Supreme Court

I. Scope [§ 25.1]

II. Extent of Original Jurisdiction [§ 25.2]

III. Procedure [§ 25.3]

Chapter 26

Supervisory Relief in the Supreme Court

I. Scope [§ 26.1]

II. General Prerequisites and Procedures [§ 26.2]

Chapter 27

Wisconsin Supreme Court Internal Operating Procedures

I. Introduction [§ 27.1]

II. Chief Justice [§ 27.2]

III. Staff [§ 27.3]

A. Administrative [§ 27.4]

1. Director of State Courts [§ 27.5]

2. Clerk [§ 27.6]

3. Chief Deputy Clerk [§ 27.7]

4. Marshal [§ 27.8]

5. Deputy Marshal [§ 27.9]

B. Legal [§ 27.10]

1. Supreme Court Commissioners [§ 27.11]

2. Law Clerks [§ 27.12]

IV. Decisional Process—Appellate and Original Jurisdiction [§ 27.13]

A. Court Schedule [§ 27.14]

B. Staff Analysis and Reporting [§ 27.15]

1. Petition for Review [§ 27.16]

2. Wis. Stat. § (Rule) 809.105(11) Petition [§ 27.17]

3. Petition to Bypass, Certification and Direct Review [§ 27.18]

4. Original Action [§ 27.19]

5. Petition for Supervisory Writ; Petition for Writ of Mandamus, Prohibition, Quo Warranto, Habeas Corpus [§ 27.20]

6. Mail-in Conference Procedures [§ 27.21]

7. Regulatory Jurisdiction [§ 27.22]

8. Motions [§ 27.23]

C. Submission Calendar [§ 27.24]

D. Oral Argument [§ 27.25]

E. Post-argument Decision Conference [§ 27.26]

F. Assignment of Cases [§ 27.27]

G. Opinion [§ 27.28]

1. First Circulation Dates for Majority Opinions [§ 27.29]

2. Majority Opinion Declarations [§ 27.30]

a. Initial Declarations [§ 27.31]

b. Second Circulation of Majority Opinion [§ 27.32]

3. Separate Writings [§ 27.33]

4. Revisions to Majority Opinions/Separate Writings; Procedure for Mandating Opinions [§ 27.34]

5. Separate Writings to Follow [§ 27.35]

6. Holds; Tying Together Release of Two Pending Cases [§ 27.36]

7. Court Conferences on Circulated Opinions [§ 27.37]

8. Next Business Day Deadline Extension [§ 27.38]

H. Per Curiam Opinion [§ 27.39]

I. Mandate [§ 27.40]

J. Reconsideration [§ 27.41]

K. Remittitur [§ 27.42]

L. Miscellaneous [§ 27.43]

1. Recusal or Disqualification of Justices [§ 27.44]

2. Indigency [§ 27.45]

3. Statistics [§ 27.46]

4. Voluntary Dismissal [§ 27.47]

V. Rule-Making Process [§ 27.48]

A. Public Hearing [§ 27.49]

B. Closed Conference [§ 27.50]

VI. Appointment Process [§ 27.51]

A. Appointment Selection Committee [§ 27.52]

B. Meetings [§ 27.53]

C. Nomination Procedure [§ 27.54]

1. Notice of Vacancy [§ 27.55]

2. Information to and Solicitation of Interested Persons [§ 27.56]

3. Resumes; Interviews [§ 27.57]

4. Nomination [§ 27.58]

5. Reappointment [§ 27.59]

6. Criteria [§ 27.60]

D. Reimbursement [§ 27.61]

VII. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Term Limit [§ 27.62]

Chapter 28

Administrative Appeals

I. Scope [§ 28.1]

II. General Concepts of Administrative Review [§ 28.2]

A. Exclusivity of Statutory Remedies [§ 28.3]

B. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies [§ 28.4]

C. Primary Jurisdiction [§ 28.5]

D. Strict Compliance with Procedural Statutes [§ 28.6]

III. Decisions Reviewable Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.7]

IV. Standing to Obtain Judicial Review Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.8]

V. Commencing Judicial Review Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.9]

A. In General [§ 28.10]

B. Venue [§ 28.11]

C. Service [§ 28.12]

D. Contents of Petition [§ 28.13]

E. Response: Notice of Appearance; Petition to Intervene; Motion to Dismiss [§ 28.14]

VI. Judicial Review Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.15]

A. Record on Review [§ 28.16]

B. Scope of Review [§ 28.17]

1. In General [§ 28.18]

2. Procedural Errors: Wis. Stat. § 227.57(4) [§ 28.19]

3. Errors of Law: Wis. Stat. § 227.57(5) [§ 28.20]

4. Factual Findings: Wis. Stat. § 227.57(6) [§ 28.21]

5. Discretionary Determinations: Wis. Stat. § 227.57(8) [§ 28.22]

6. Disposition [§ 28.23]

VII. Temporary Relief Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.24]

VIII. Appeal to the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court Under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 [§ 28.25]

IX. Judicial Review of Worker’s Compensation and Unemployment Insurance Cases [§ 28.26]

X. Certiorari [§ 28.27]

Appendices

Appendix A Addresses and Phone Numbers Pertinent to Appellate Practice

Appendix B Clerks of Circuit Court

Appendix C Standards of Appellate Review

Appendix D Materials for Expedited Appeals

Appendix E Forms for Use in Appeals

Appendix F Wisconsin Rules of Appellate Procedure

Appendix G [*Reserved*]

Index