



Agenda

Utah Supreme Court Advisory Committee Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure

Paul C. Burke, Chair

Location: Webex (see calendar appointment for instructions)

Date: September 3, 2020

Time: 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Action: Welcome and approval of June 4, 2020 minutes	Tab 1	Paul C. Burke, Chair
Discussion: Annual Report	Tab 2	Paul C. Burke, Chair
Action: <i>Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Construction</i> and Rule 11	Tab 3	Larissa Lee
Action: Rule 23B and deciding issues outside of the remand request	Tab 4	Christopher Ballard, Nathalie Skibine
Action: Aligning Rule 15 with statutory language	Tab 5	Paul C. Burke
Discussion: Old/new business		Paul C. Burke

Committee Webpage: <https://www.utcourts.gov/utc/appellate-procedure/>

Meeting schedule:

October 1, 2020

November 5, 2020

December 3, 2020

Tab 1



Utah Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on the Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure

Paul Burke, Chair

Draft Minutes

Webex

Thursday, June 4, 2020

12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

PRESENT

Christopher Ballard
Troy Booher—
Emeritus Member
Paul C. Burke—Chair
Tyler Green
Michael Judd—
Recording Secretary

Larissa Lee—Staff
Alan Mouritsen
Judge Gregory Orme
Judge Jill Pohlman
Clark Sabey
Nathalie Skibine
Scarlet Smith

EXCUSED

Patrick Burt
Lisa Collins
R. Shawn Gunnarson
Rodney Parker
Mary Westby

1. Welcome and Approval of May 2020 Minutes Paul C. Burke

Paul C. Burke welcomed the committee and invited comments regarding the May 2020 minutes. Mr. Burke asked that, with respect to those minutes, the paragraph appearing in Section 2 be terminated after the words “legislative outreach,” to better reflect the substance of the committee’s discussion. There were no objections.

Judge Jill Pohlman moved to approve the minutes from the May 2020 meeting with the proposed change. Alan Mouritsen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous consent.

2. **Action:** **Clark Sabey**
Rule 8 – Stay/Injunction Pending Appeal

The proposed amendments to Rule 8 are intended as an adaptation of the analogous federal rule, and the committee has worked for several months to draft language that accomplishes that goal while ensuring consistence with other rules, with applicable case law, and with established practices.

The committee resumed work to clean up the language in several places of the proposed amendment, including significant attention to subsection (b)(2)'s success in articulating the intended standard, to the relationship between this rule and Rule 65A, and to the utility and language of subsection (a)(2)(C).

After an extended and production discussion, Mr. Sabey moved to adopt the amendments to Rule 8 as they appeared on the screen at the committee meeting. Judge Pohlman seconded the motion and it passed without objection by unanimous consent.

3. **Action:** **Larissa Lee**
Rule 3 – Appeal as of Right: How Taken

Ms. Lee noted that the text of the proposed amendment has not changed since the committee last considered the amendment, in April 2020. The committee made minor changes and adjustments to the text of the rule.

Shawn Gunnarson moved to adopt the amendments to Rule 3 as they appeared on the screen at the committee meeting. Judge Pohlman seconded the motion and it passed without objection by unanimous consent.

4. **Action:** **Larissa Lee**
Incorporating Standing Order 11
(Rules 20, 34, 43, 50, 56)

Ms. Lee noted that the proposed amendments to these five rules are intended to incorporate the procedures described in Standing Order 11 related to filing by email.

With respect to Rule 20, the committee made minor changes to the proposed language, for purposes of clarity and consistency, including referring consistently to a “petition” (rather than an “application”) and referring to a

“trial court” rather than a “district court.” The committee also made changes to make the proposed amendment more consistent with Rule 19.

The committee determined that additional input may be useful in determining how best to provide useful guidance for petitioners—including *pro se* petitioners—in subsection (b)(2).

Judge Pohlman moved to table the amendments to Rule 20 until the committee next meets in order to allow the committee to seek the input described above. Mr. Green seconded the motion and it passed without objection by unanimous consent.

Given the limited amount of time remaining in this month’s meeting, discussion of the proposed amendments to Rules 34, 43, 50, and 56 was reserved until the next committee meeting.

**5. Discussion: Christopher Ballard
Rule 23B and Issues Outside Remand Request Nathalie Skibine**

Given the limited amount of time remaining in this month’s meeting, discussion of the Rule 23B was reserved until the next committee meeting.

**6. Discussion: Paul C. Burke
Old/New Business**

Mr. Burke explained that the committee has, in the past, removed the July meeting from the calendar, at least in cases in which the amount and nature of work pending before the committee allows it. Mr. Burke advised the committee that a decision on a July meeting would be made in the next several weeks.

7. Adjourn

Judge Orme moved to adjourn the meeting and that motion was seconded. The committee is scheduled to meet again on either July 2 or August 6, 2020.

Tab 2

UTAH SUPREME COURT ADVISORY COMMITTEE



RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE

PAUL C. BURKE

CHAIR

Annual Report

September 2019–2020

Rule Amendments

In the last year, the Committee recommended and the Supreme Court approved for final publication amendments to sixteen Rules of Appellate Procedure:

Rule 3: The amendments to Rule 3: (1) incorporate the advisory committee note into paragraph (f), (2) update the reference of a clerk transmitting a certified copy in paragraph (g)(1) to the current practice of emailing the notice of appeal, and (3) clarify and cleanup the language.

Rule 5: The amendments to Rule 5 incorporate substantial changes meant to streamline and modernize the appellate process. For example, the addition of paragraph (j) in Rule 5 defines the record on appeal and permits a party to submit an appendix to be filed separately with the party's principal brief. The amendments authorize citations to the record, to an appendix, or both.

Rule 8: The Rule 8 amendments: (1) amend paragraph (a) to parallel the federal Rule 8 except that only in extraordinary circumstances will an appellate court act on certain motions where the movant failed to request a stay or opposed an injunction in the trial court; (2) add requirements for bonds in paragraph (b); and (3) add new paragraph (c), which provides that for requests for relief to which Rules 65A or 62(c) of the Utah Rules of Civil Procedure applied in the trial court, any relief available pending appeal is governed by those rules.

Rule 9: The amendments to Rules 9 incorporate Utah Supreme Court Standing Order 11 (Regarding filing documents by email) and include other changes to conform with current practices of the Appellate Clerks' Office.

Rule 10: The amendments to Rule 10 incorporate substantial changes meant to streamline and modernize the appellate process. These amendments allow specific classes of appeals to be designated for expedited review. The amendments also narrow the grounds for parties to seek summary disposition by limiting such motions to jurisdictional objections. The Court retains its right to summarily dismiss, affirm, or reverse a case on its own initiative.

Rule 19: The amendments to Rule 19 incorporate Utah Supreme Court Standing Order 11 (Regarding filing documents by email) and include other changes to conform with current practices of the Appellate Clerks' Office.

Rule 21: Rule 21 amendments allow parties to file and serve papers by email, with different requirements for briefs and documents other than briefs. Paragraph (f) directs the parties on electronic signatures. The amendments in paragraph (b) incorporate the Standing Order's timing for paying fees. Finally, the amendments incorporate Utah Supreme Court Standing Order 11 (Regarding filing documents by email).

Rule 26: The amendments to Rule 26 address email service and number of paper copies required in the appellate courts. The amendments also incorporate Utah Supreme Court Standing Order 11 (Regarding filing documents by email).

Rule 28A: The amendments to Rule 28A incorporate the advisory committee note into the language of the rule and repeal the note.

Rule 29: The amendments to Rule 29 explain that the appellate courts may hold oral argument by alternative means, including phone and videoconference.

Rule 33: Rule 33 formerly required the court to hold a hearing on sanctions, if a party so requests. The amendments allow the court to impose sanctions without a hearing or at the court's discretion, so long as the party is provided with notice and an opportunity to respond.

Rule 35: The amendments to Rule 35: (1) provide a mechanism for filing a letter for nonsubstantive/clerical errors, (2) incorporate Standing Order 11 (regarding filing documents by email), and (3) include general cleanup for clarity and consistency.

Rule 36: The amendments to Rule 36 incorporate Standing Order 11 (regarding filing documents by email) and include general cleanup for clarity and consistency.

Rule 37: Updated statutory reference.

Rule 44: The amendments to Rule 44 incorporate the advisory committee note into the language of the rule and repeal the note.

Rule 48: First, the amendments to Rule 48(c) clarify that the new paragraph (b) of Rule 35 does not affect the time for filing a petition for a writ of certiorari, unless the Court of Appeals treats the request as a petition for rehearing under Rule 35(a). Second, the amendments to Rule 48(e) are meant to conform to current Supreme Court practices in reviewing requests for time extensions. Third, the amendments remove paragraph (f) to conform with Standing Order 11. Fourth, the amendments include general cleanup for clarity and consistency.

Advisory Committee Notes Project

Under the Supreme Court's direction, and with the dedicated assistance of our advisory notes subcommittee members (Judge Orme, Alan Mouritsen, and Rod Parker), the Appellate Rules Committee reviewed the advisory committee notes for all Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure. After considering and finessing the notes over a period of several months, the Committee recommended updating or repealing twenty-one advisory committee notes. These changes became effective in April 2020.

Subcommittees

The Appellate Rules Committee created four subcommittees this year:

1. **Judicial Efficiency Subcommittee:** to propose changes to rules that help streamline and improve the appellate process.

Members:

Christopher Ballard

Mary Westby

Judge Jill Pohlman

Troy Booher

Nathalie Skibine

2. **Bar Outreach Subcommittee:** to liaise with Bar members who want to interact with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court wants to ensure Bar members have the ability to interact/provide feedback with the justices and others involved with appeals.

Members:

Judge Greg Orme

Tyler Green

Scarlet Smith

3. **Legislative Outreach Subcommittee:** to track and monitor rule proposed legislation impacting appellate rules and liaise with legislators, legislative counsel, and others involved in the legislature.

Members:

Paul Burke

Judge Jill Pohlman

Christopher Ballard

4. **Advisory Committee Notes Subcommittee:** under the Supreme Court's direction, review all advisory committee notes and recommend modification, repeal, or no changes.

Members:

Judge Greg Orme

Alan Mouritsen

Rod Parker

Tab 3



Larissa Lee
Appellate Court Administrator

Nicole J. Gray
Clerk of Court

Supreme Court of Utah
450 South State Street
P.O. Box 140210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-0210

Appellate Clerks' Office
Telephone 801-578-3900
Email: supremecourt@utcourts.gov

Matthew B. Durrant
Chief Justice
Thomas R. Lee
Associate Chief Justice
Deno G. Himonas
Justice
John A. Pearce
Justice
Paige Petersen
Justice

To: Appellate Rules Committee
From: Larissa Lee
Date: August 28, 2020
Subject: Direction to consider amending URAP 11

Dear Appellate Rules Committee:

In the Supreme Court's recent decision, *Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Construction, LLC*, 2020 UT 59, the court directed our committee to consider certain ambiguities in Rule 11. Please review Section II of the opinion and come prepared to discuss whether amendments are needed.

If you'll recall, we approved amendments to Rule 11 earlier this year and put it on hold pending the outcome of this case. The attached redline contains the committee's approved amendments.

Thanks,
Larissa

2020 UT 59

IN THE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF UTAH

NOE ARREGUIN-LEON,
Petitioner,

v.

HADCO CONSTRUCTION, LLC,
Respondent.

No. 20190121
Heard February 10, 2020
Filed August 17, 2020

On Certiorari to the Utah Court of Appeals

Fourth District, Provo
The Honorable Fred D. Howard
No. 130400816

Attorneys:

Troy L. Booher, Beth E. Kennedy, Salt Lake City, Leonard McGee,
Peter Mifflin, Sandy, for petitioner

Robert L. Janicki, Michael L. Ford, Sandy, Harry Lee,
Shannen W. Coffin, Mark C. Savignac, Washington D.C.,
for respondent

JUSTICE PETERSEN authored the opinion of the Court, in which
CHIEF JUSTICE DURRANT, ASSOCIATE CHIEF JUSTICE LEE,
JUSTICE HIMONAS, and JUSTICE PEARCE joined.

JUSTICE PETERSEN, opinion of the Court:

INTRODUCTION

¶1 Noe Arreguin¹ was injured while working on a highway construction site. He sued Hadco Construction, LLC, the general

¹ Although the plaintiff's last name in the case caption is Arreguin-Leon, we refer to him in this opinion as Arreguin because that is how he refers to himself in his briefing.

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contractor, for failing to take necessary safety measures to protect workers from highway traffic. Arreguin prevailed at trial. But during trial, he elicited undisclosed testimony from his expert witness. The court of appeals found this error to be harmful and reversed and remanded for a new trial. We affirm.

BACKGROUND

¶2 Noe Arreguin was injured while installing an exit sign on the shoulder of I-15. A driver fell asleep at the wheel and veered off the road and into the ladder on which Arreguin was standing.

¶3 Arreguin worked for a company called Highway Striping & Signs. The company had been hired by Hadco to install signage for a Utah Department of Transportation roadway project in Utah County. In its role as general contractor, Hadco was responsible for implementing a “traffic control plan” composed of various safety measures to protect workers from traffic and drivers from the construction site. Hadco did not do so. At the time of the accident, there were no traffic control measures in place at the accident site, such as barrels or barriers.

¶4 As a result of the accident, Arreguin sustained significant injuries. He sued the driver and Hadco (along with others who are not relevant to this appeal).

¶5 Arreguin retained Bruce Reading as an expert witness on traffic control standards. Hadco’s counsel elected to depose Reading rather than receive an expert report.

¶6 The case proceeded to a jury trial, at which Arreguin called Reading to testify. Reading opined that Hadco or its subcontractor had violated five specific engineering practices, regulatory standards, and contractual provisions and that there was no traffic control plan in place at the accident site.

¶7 During direct examination, Arreguin’s counsel asked Reading, “If [200 yards from the construction project is] where [the driver] started to exit the roadway, what effect would a correctly installed buffer zone have had on his driving?” Hadco’s counsel objected and asked to approach the bench. The following sidebar ensued:

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: Seems to me like this testimony is going toward causation—would traffic control have prevented the accident—and it goes beyond any opinion that he’s ever disclosed in this

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case. There's a list of his items of testimony, and he doesn't touch on that at all.

[PLAINTIFF COUNSEL]: Your Honor, Mr. Reading was deposed in this case. [Defense counsel] had every opportunity to ask any question he wanted, and—and he's not limited to the initial disclosure. If he had—if [defense counsel] had elected a report, he would be limited to the contents of the report, but because a deposition has been elected, Mr. Reading is not so limited.

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: That's not correct, your Honor.

[PLAINTIFF COUNSEL]: And—and there were documents provided to Mr. Reading after (inaudible).

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: Then he needs to supplement his disclosure.

THE COURT: Your objection is noted and is, frankly, overruled.

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: Can I make a record—a record on this? I think it's very important.

THE COURT: This record is the record here now.

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: Okay. Thank you.

¶8 Reading then testified about the effect that a proper traffic control plan would have had, including that if the accident occurred where Hadco's "safety person"² suggested it did, it would have been within a 900-foot area where the driver would have hit "at least one, if not more, of th[e] plastic barrels" that would have been in place. He explained that after hitting at least one of the plastic barrels, the driver "would have had close to six seconds to wake up and take corrective action." And he concluded that if traffic control had been in place, "[t]here might have been an accident still," but it would not have taken place where it did.

² At trial, Reading referred to Hadco's "safety person." From the context, we understand this person to be the Hadco employee who completed Hadco's incident report about the accident.

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¶9 The trial continued and the jury ultimately found that Hadco was partially liable for Arreguin's injury. The jury allocated 60 percent of the fault to the driver and 40 percent to Hadco. Hadco appealed.

¶10 Approximately four months after filing its notice of appeal, Hadco filed Reading's deposition transcript and Arreguin's expert disclosures in the district court. They were included in the record that was certified to the court of appeals.

¶11 One of Hadco's arguments on appeal was that the district court erred under Utah Rule of Civil Procedure 26 when it allowed Reading to offer an undisclosed opinion on causation. Arreguin argued that Hadco could not prevail on this argument without relying on his expert disclosures and Reading's deposition transcript. But he asserted it was improper for the court of appeals to consider these documents because they were not actually part of the trial record.

¶12 The court of appeals decided to consider the disclosures and the deposition transcript. It "acknowledge[d] that [Reading's] deposition was filed after the judgment was entered in this matter, but before the record was prepared" and that "such filings normally would not put the deposition before [the court of appeals] for consideration." *Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Constr. LLC*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 6 n.2, 438 P.3d 25. But it decided that "under the unique facts of this case" it would "exercise [its] discretion and consider the deposition." *Id.*

¶13 The court of appeals concluded that the district court abused its discretion in allowing Reading to testify about causation at trial. *Id.* ¶ 20. And it determined that the error was "harmful enough to warrant reversal and a new trial." *Id.* ¶ 32.

¶14 Arreguin petitioned this court for certiorari, which we granted to address three questions: (1) "[w]hether the Court of Appeals erred in considering a deposition transcript that was not included in the record prior to the filing of the appeal"; (2) "[w]hether the Court of Appeals erred in construing [Hadco's] arguments on appeal to present a sufficient basis for its conclusion that [Arreguin's] expert testimony should have been excluded"; and (3) "[w]hether the Court of Appeals erred in its construction and application of the standard for demonstrating harmful error on appeal."

¶15 We have jurisdiction pursuant to Utah Code section 78A-3-102(3)(a).

STANDARD OF REVIEW

¶16 “On certiorari, we review the court of appeals’ decision for correctness, without according any deference to its analysis.” *Vander Veur v. Groove Entm’t Techs.*, 2019 UT 64, ¶ 7, 452 P.3d 1173 (citation omitted) (internal quotation marks omitted).

ANALYSIS

I. CONSIDERATION OF ARREGUIN’S EXPERT DISCLOSURES AND THE EXPERT’S DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPT

¶17 The first question before us is whether the court of appeals erred in considering Arreguin’s expert disclosures and Reading’s deposition transcript. Arreguin argues that the court of appeals should not have considered these documents because they were not truly part of the trial record, in that neither party submitted either document for the district court’s consideration at any point. Rather, Arreguin notes that Hadco filed the documents five months after the district court entered the final judgment in the case and four months after Hadco filed its notice of appeal.

¶18 We take Arreguin’s point. When the district court ruled on Hadco’s objection, it did not actually have these documents before it. The court of appeals decided to consider this extra-record evidence because it determined Hadco’s counsel had attempted to make a further record during the sidebar but had been prevented from doing so by the district court. *See Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Constr. LLC*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 6 n.2, 438 P.3d 25. The court of appeals analogized this situation to one in which a party is prevented from objecting, and thereafter should not be prejudiced by the lack of an objection. *See id.*; *see also* UTAH R. CIV. P. 46. Arreguin rejects this as a valid basis for considering the extra-record materials.

¶19 We conclude that we do not need to resolve this dispute. We can affirm the court of appeals’ ruling on the disputed expert testimony without resort to the expert disclosures or deposition transcript. Arreguin’s premise is that the content of these documents is essential to Hadco’s argument—in other words, that Hadco cannot successfully argue that the district court erred in permitting Reading to testify about causation without relying on the content of (1) the expert disclosures to prove that Arreguin did not in fact disclose a causation opinion and (2) the deposition transcript to prove that Hadco had “locked in” Reading to only those opinions he offered during his deposition. But as we will discuss, Arreguin never put the content of these documents at

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issue in the district court. Arreguin essentially contends that Hadco must refute arguments he never made.

¶20 The court of appeals did rely upon the documents in its reasoning, *Arreguin-Leon*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 23. But we disagree with the premise that they are necessary to Hadco’s argument or the court of appeals’ holding. As Hadco has argued, we can resolve the rule 26 issue based solely on the transcript of the sidebar between counsel and the district court at trial.

¶21 Looking only at the sidebar, we agree with the court of appeals that the district court committed legal error in overruling Hadco’s objection. During the sidebar, Hadco argued that Arreguin’s question to Reading elicited a causation opinion, which went “beyond any opinion that [Arreguin had] ever disclosed in this case.” It is important to note Arreguin’s response. He did not dispute Hadco’s assertion that his question would elicit causation testimony. He did not assert that he had in fact disclosed that Reading would offer a causation opinion or that Reading had discussed causation in his deposition. And he did not argue that Hadco had failed to “lock in” Reading to only the opinions he had given at the deposition and therefore Reading was free to offer additional opinions.

¶22 Instead, Arreguin asserted broadly that the expert was not limited at all because Hadco had opted for a deposition rather than an expert report. Arreguin’s counsel stated,

Your Honor, Mr. Reading was deposed in this case. [Defense counsel] had every opportunity to ask any question he wanted, and—and he’s not limited to the initial disclosure. If he had—if [defense counsel] had elected a report, he would be limited to the contents of the report, *but because a deposition has been elected, Mr. Reading is not so limited.*

Hadco’s counsel responded, “That’s not correct, your Honor.” With these arguments before it, the court overruled Hadco’s objection and permitted the expert to offer the disputed testimony.³

³ After this back-and-forth but before the court ruled, Arreguin interjected that Hadco had provided documents to Reading after the deposition. And Hadco countered, “[t]hen he needs to
(continued . . .)

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¶23 As the court of appeals correctly concluded, the district court’s ruling was legally incorrect. *Id.* ¶ 26. Just because a party opponent selects a deposition rather than an expert report does not mean an expert’s subsequent trial testimony can be a “free-for-all.” *Id.* ¶ 21.

¶24 In general, rule 26 provides that “discovery may be obtained from an expert witness either by deposition or by written report.” UTAH R. CIV. P. 26(a)(4)(B). With respect to a written report, the rule makes clear that an expert is limited to opinions disclosed in the report. *Id.* (“A report shall . . . contain a complete statement of all opinions the expert will offer at trial and the basis and reasons for them. Such an expert may not testify in a party’s case-in-chief concerning any matter not fairly disclosed in the report.”). The rule itself does not make a similar statement with regard to an expert’s deposition. We generally agree with the relevant advisory committee note, which explains that “[i]f a party elects a deposition, rather than a report, it is up to the party to ask the necessary questions to ‘lock in’ the expert’s testimony.” *Id.* advisory committee note. In a case where an opposing party fails to “lock in” an expert witness during the deposition, the opposing party runs the risk of surprise testimony at trial.

¶25 However, this does not equate to the blanket assertion advanced at trial by Arreguin that if Hadco “had elected a report,

supplement his disclosure.” Hadco’s response was legally correct. *See* UTAH R. CIV. P. 26(d)(3)-(4); *see also* *Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Constr. LLC*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 23, 438 P.3d 25. And we do not think that this additional exchange requires a review of the content of the disclosures. Here too, Arreguin did not respond that he had supplemented his disclosures or otherwise provided a causation opinion at some point before trial. So he did not put the content of his disclosures at issue.

Arreguin asserts in his briefing to us that Hadco forfeited its argument that Arreguin failed to supplement his disclosures. Arreguin argues that although Hadco preserved this argument during the sidebar, it did not raise the same argument in its briefing to the court of appeals, so the argument has been waived. However, Hadco has consistently asserted that Arreguin never disclosed or produced, in any form or at any time before trial, a causation opinion from Reading. Accordingly, we reject Arreguin’s preservation argument.

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[Reading] would be limited to the contents of the report, but because a deposition has been elected, Mr. Reading is not so limited.” Arreguin’s counsel did not put the contents of the disclosures or deposition at issue by asserting that a causation opinion had in fact been disclosed at some point or that Hadco had not properly “locked in” Reading at his deposition and therefore he was free to offer new opinions at trial. Rather, Arreguin made a very broad assertion to the district court that if a party opponent elects to depose an expert witness, then the expert witness is not limited during trial testimony. This is an incorrect interpretation of rule 26(a)(4)(B), which the district court should have rejected.

¶26 Accordingly, we agree with the court of appeals that the district court should not have permitted Reading to offer the disputed testimony based on the arguments before it. *See id.* 26(d)(4) (“If a party fails to disclose or to supplement timely a disclosure or response to discovery, that party may not use the undisclosed witness, document or material at any hearing or trial unless the failure is harmless or the party shows good cause for the failure.”). And we conclude that although the court of appeals reviewed the disclosures and deposition and determined that Arreguin had not disclosed a causation opinion and that Hadco did in fact “lock in” Reading to the opinions he provided at the deposition, this was not necessary to reach the correct legal result because Arreguin had never argued otherwise.⁴

II. UTAH RULE OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 11

¶27 Although we do not need to reach the issue of whether the court of appeals erred in considering the deposition transcript, the parties’ briefing and oral argument did elucidate certain ambiguities in Utah Rule of Appellate Procedure 11 that we flag for our appellate rules advisory committee. The relevant portions of rule 11 state,

(a) **Composition of the record on appeal.** The original papers and exhibits filed in the trial court,

⁴ Arreguin also argues in his briefing to us that “because Hadco did not make the documents part of the record, Hadco could not show prejudice on appeal.” We are unsure how to interpret this argument, and we are unable to resolve it because Arreguin does not explain the argument further.

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... the transcript of proceedings, if any, the index prepared by the clerk of the trial court, and the docket sheet, shall constitute the record on appeal in all cases. ... Only those papers prescribed under paragraph (d) of this rule shall be transmitted to the appellate court.

...

(d)(2) Civil cases. Unless otherwise directed by the appellate court upon sua sponte motion or motion of a party, the clerk of the trial court shall include all of the papers in a civil case as part of the record on appeal.

...

(h) **Correction or modification of the record.** If any difference arises as to whether the record truly discloses what occurred in the trial court, the difference shall be submitted to and settled by that court and the record made to conform to the truth. If anything material to either party is misstated or is omitted from the record by error, by accident, or because the appellant did not order a transcript of proceedings that the appellee needs to respond to issues raised in the Brief of Appellant, the parties by stipulation, the trial court, or the appellate court, either before or after the record is transmitted, may direct that the omission or misstatement be corrected and, if necessary, that a supplemental record be certified and transmitted.

UTAH R. APP. P. 11.

¶28 First, rule 11 references “the record” throughout, but it does not define it. Rule 11(a) states that the “original papers and exhibits filed in the trial court, ... the transcript of proceedings, if any, the index prepared by the clerk of the trial court, and the docket sheet, shall constitute *the record* on appeal in all cases.” *Id.* 11(a) (emphasis added). It goes on to say that “only those papers prescribed under paragraph (d) ... shall be transmitted to the appellate court.” *Id.* Rule 11(d)(2), which relates specifically to civil cases, is quite broad. It states that the clerk “shall include all of the papers in a civil case as part of the record.” *Id.* 11(d)(2). But as illuminated here, there is ambiguity as to what “all of the papers in a civil case” includes. Arreguin asserts that the record

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should include only those items that were actually presented in court in some manner. However, the rule does not make explicit that this is the case.

¶29 Next, rule 11(h) provides a mechanism for parties to correct or modify the record. It states that, “[i]f any difference arises as to whether the record truly discloses what occurred in the trial court, the difference shall be submitted to and settled by that court and the record made to conform to the truth.” *Id.* 11(h). This has a clear meaning in some contexts—for example, if a transcript inaccurately documents a witness’s testimony and can be corrected by comparing the transcript to the audio recording of the testimony, that would seem to make the record conform to the truth. But in other contexts, the scope of what is meant by making the record “conform to the truth” may not be entirely clear.

¶30 Finally, rule (11)(h) also permits modification of the record “[i]f anything material to either party is misstated or is omitted from the record by error” or “by accident.” But the rule does not define either of these terms, and the scope of what might be encompassed within them is not entirely clear.⁵

III. HARMLESS ERROR

¶31 Next, we must determine whether the court of appeals erred in its construction and application of the standard for demonstrating harmful error on appeal. We conclude it did not.

⁵ We also flag for our civil rules advisory committee a concern raised by Arreguin’s counsel at oral argument regarding the court of appeals’ treatment of Utah Rule of Civil Procedure 50(b). By way of background, Arreguin argued in the court of appeals that Hadco’s claims on appeal were unpreserved because Hadco had not renewed its motion for directed verdict after trial, and therefore had failed to meet the procedural requirements of rule 50(b). The court of appeals ultimately did not need to resolve this argument but briefly addressed it in a footnote. *See Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Constr. LLC*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 29 n.9, 438 P.3d 25. At oral argument before this court, counsel for Arreguin raised a concern with this footnote. Because this issue is not before us, we do not address it or opine one way or the other on the court of appeals’ take on the rule. But we refer counsel’s concern to our civil rules advisory committee for consideration.

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¶32 Arreguin argues that the court of appeals misapplied the harmless standard, citing to the court of appeals' statement that it could not conclude "that the jury would have inevitably reached the same result without Expert's testimony." *Arreguin-Leon v. Hadco Constr. LLC*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 28, 438 P.3d 25. He contends that this is the incorrect standard.

¶33 Arreguin is correct that the cited sentence is not the correct harmless standard. Rather, "[h]armless error is an error that is sufficiently inconsequential that there is no reasonable likelihood that it affected the outcome of the proceedings." *H.U.F. v. W.P.W.*, 2009 UT 10, ¶ 44, 203 P.3d 943 (citation omitted). However, although the court of appeals used the language Arreguin identifies, it does not appear to us that it mistakenly thought this was the applicable legal standard. In the preceding paragraph, the court of appeals correctly stated that "[a]n error is harmful 'only if the likelihood of a different outcome is sufficiently high as to undermine our confidence in the verdict.'" *Arreguin-Leon*, 2018 UT App 225, ¶ 27 (citation omitted). This is substantively similar to the legal standard we identify above. When the court used the disputed language, we agree with Hadco that it was merely a shorthand reference to the legal standard it had already identified. We see no legal error in the court of appeals' application of the law.

¶34 Arreguin also argues that the court of appeals erred when it found the district court's error to be harmful. He argues that "expert testimony is not required to establish [the] obvious proposition" that "if Hadco had set out the barrels to block traffic, the driver would have hit at least one of them, woken up, and taken corrective action" and "the barrels with sand in the bottom likely would have prevented the driver from crashing into [Arreguin]." Accordingly, he asserts that any error was harmless because Reading's testimony was "unnecessary and cumulative of common sense" and "stated the obvious."

¶35 We are not convinced. After the district court overruled Hadco's objection, Reading went beyond his testimony about the components of a proper traffic safety plan and gave his opinion of how such a safety plan would have changed the events that led to Arreguin's injury. Reading testified that if the driver drifted off the road 200 yards back, he would have hit a barrel and "would have been aware immediately upon impact" of the barrel. He estimated that based on a two-and-a-half second reaction time, the driver would have had "six seconds to wake up and take

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corrective action.” He then would have “jerk[ed] hard left.” Ultimately, Reading opined that “[t]here might have been an accident still. There’s no question about that. I don’t think the accident would have taken place where this happened.”

¶36 We think this testimony goes beyond common sense. A lay juror could be expected to understand the gist of Reading’s causation opinion—that the sleeping driver might hit a barrel, wake up, and attempt a correction. But a layperson would not necessarily understand with such precision the effect of a traffic safety plan upon the events in question. And even if a layperson might have assumed that “the accident would [not] have taken place where this happened,” this opinion carried extra weight because it came from an expert. We agree with the court of appeals’ observation that Reading’s testimony “carried the imprimatur of coming from an ‘expert,’” and it “provided a logical roadmap that the jury could—and likely did—follow in deciding the issues of liability and in apportioning fault.” *Id.* ¶ 28.

¶37 Arreguin also argues that the error was harmless because Reading’s testimony was cumulative of testimony given by other witnesses. But we do not view the testimony from the other witnesses to be equivalent to Reading’s causation testimony.

¶38 Arreguin argues that Reading’s testimony that the sleeping driver would have hit a barrel was duplicative of testimony from Hadco’s expert. But this is not so clear. Reading testified that given the parameters suggested by Hadco’s “safety person,” the driver “would have [hit]⁶ at least one, if not more, of these plastic barrels.” In comparison, Hadco’s expert testified about calculating tapers and spacing of traffic control devices, but he did not say that the sleeping driver would have hit a barrel. The closest Hadco’s expert came to saying this was noting that a traffic control device is an “indicator” and that barrels are “not going to stop a vehicle from departing the roadway,” while agreeing that they would “notify.” Reading’s testimony was more specific and certain, and it was not cumulative of the testimony from Hadco’s expert.

⁶ The transcript says this word was inaudible. From the context of the sentence, it appears that the word was “hit” or another synonymous word.

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¶39 Arreguin also argues that Reading’s testimony that hitting the barrel would have awakened the driver was cumulative of testimony from Hadco’s expert, Hadco’s project manager, and the driver. Reading opined that hitting a barrel would lead to a “hellacious sound” that is “going to wake him up.” In contrast, when asked “if striking a barrel can be a jolting, noisy experience,” Hadco’s expert responded, “Well, yes.” He then commented, “I can’t say, if someone is already asleep, though, if that would be something that would necessarily wake them up.” When asked, “Would you agree that it is possible that there was a barrel on the side of the road and [the driver] hit it as he was going off the road, that it may have alerted him,” Hadco’s expert responded, “It could have. I mean, I—I would be speculating, but yeah. I couldn’t say specifically that it would, but it may have.” Hadco’s project manager agreed that barrels need to be “crashworthy.” And the driver testified that he woke up when he heard “the grids in the road.” Arreguin argues that based on this testimony, the jury could infer that if a rumble strip awakened the driver, hitting a barrel also would have awakened him. While that might be a fair inference, we disagree with Arreguin’s assertion that Reading’s testimony is merely duplicative of the other witnesses’ testimony. Again, Reading’s testimony was specific and certain, while the testimony of the other witnesses was equivocal or required an inferential leap.

¶40 Arreguin next argues that Reading’s testimony that the driver would have taken corrective action also came from Hadco’s expert and the driver. Again, Hadco’s expert testified about calculating tapers and spacing of traffic control devices. He did not clearly state that the driver would have taken corrective action. Similarly, the driver testified that upon waking up and seeing a flatbed truck in front of him he “swerved off to the side to avoid it.” Neither is equivalent to Reading’s testimony that the driver “would have had close to six seconds to wake up and take corrective action,” that “the normal experience is you jerk hard left to get back on,” and finally that “[t]here might have been an accident still,” but he did not “think the accident would have taken place where this happened.”

¶41 Reading’s disputed testimony related to the important questions of whether and to what extent Hadco’s failure to implement a proper traffic control plan on the day of the accident caused Arreguin’s injuries. While other witnesses made statements from which the jury could possibly have inferred the disputed facts and opinions Reading provided, none of them gave

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testimony that was equivalent to Reading's. None of the other witnesses' testimony on the disputed points was as clear, specific, and emphatic as Reading's. We agree with the court of appeals that the district court's error was not harmless. The erroneously admitted testimony was not "sufficiently inconsequential that there is no reasonable likelihood that it affected the outcome of the proceedings." *See H.U.F.*, 2009 UT 10, ¶ 44 (citation omitted).

CONCLUSION

¶42 We agree with the court of appeals that the district court abused its discretion in allowing Reading to offer causation testimony. This error was harmful. We affirm the court of appeals' decision, and we remand to the district court for a new trial.

1 **Rule 11. The record on appeal.**

2 (a) **Composition of the record on appeal.** The record on appeal consists of the original ~~papers~~
 3 documents and exhibits filed in the trial court, including the presentence report in criminal
 4 matters, the transcript of proceedings, if any, and the index prepared by ~~the clerk of~~ the trial court
 5 clerk, ~~and the docket sheet, shall constitutes the record on appeal in all cases.~~ A copy of the
 6 record certified by ~~the clerk of~~ the trial court clerk to conform to the original may be substituted
 7 for the original as the record on appeal. ~~Only those papers prescribed under paragraph (d) of this~~
 8 ~~rule shall may be transmitted to the appellate court.~~ Unless otherwise directed by the appellate
 9 court on its own motion or motion of a party, the trial court clerk must include all documents in
 10 the underlying case as part of the record on appeal.

11 (b) **Preparing, paginationg, and indexing ofthe record.**

12 (b)(1) Preparing the record. ~~Immediately upon filing of the notice of appeal~~ On the
 13 appellate court's request, ~~the clerk of~~ the trial court clerk shall will ~~securely fasten the~~
 14 ~~record in a trial court case file, with collation~~ prepare the record in the following order:

15 (b)(1)(A) the index prepared by the clerk;

16 ~~(b)(1)(B) the docket sheet;~~

17 (b)(1)(~~B~~) all original ~~papers~~ documents in chronological order;

18 (b)(1)(~~D~~C) all published depositions in chronological order;

19 (b)(1)(~~E~~D) all transcripts prepared for appeal in chronological order;

20 (b)(1)(~~F~~E) a list of all exhibits offered in the proceeding; and

21 (b)(1)(~~G~~F) in criminal cases, the presentence investigation report.

22 (b)(2) Pagination.

23 (b)(2)(A) Using bates numbering, ~~T~~ the clerk shall will paginate the entire
 24 record ~~mark the bottom right corner of every page of the collated index, docket~~
 25 ~~sheet, and all original papers~~ except that the clerk need only need only will mark
 26 as well as the cover pages only of all published depositions and ~~and the cover~~
 27 page only of each volume of transcripts constituting the record ~~with a sequential~~
 28 ~~number using one series of numerals for the entire record.~~

29 (b)(2)(B) If the appellate court requests a supplemental record ~~is forwarded to the~~
30 ~~appellate court~~, the clerk ~~shall will collate~~ follow the same procedures as in
31 (b)(2)(A), beginning continuing bates numbering from the last page number of the
32 original record, ~~the papers, depositions, and transcripts of the supplemental record~~
33 ~~in the same order as the original record and mark the bottom right corner of each~~
34 ~~page of the collated original papers as well as the cover page only of all published~~
35 ~~depositions and the cover page only of each volume of transcripts constituting the~~
36 ~~supplemental record with a sequential number beginning with the number next~~
37 ~~following the number of the last page of the original record.~~

38 (b)(3) Index. The clerk ~~shall will~~ prepare a chronological index of the record. For each
39 document, deposition, or transcript, ~~T~~the index ~~shall must~~ contain ~~a reference to~~ the date
40 of filing and starting page of the record ~~on which the paper, deposition or transcript was~~
41 ~~filed in the trial court and the starting page of the record on which the paper, deposition~~
42 ~~or transcript will be found.~~

43 (b)(4) Examining the record. ~~Clerks of the trial and a~~ Appellate courts clerks shall will
44 establish rules and procedures for parties to checking out the record after pagination, ~~for~~
45 ~~use by the parties in preparing briefs for an appeal or in preparing or briefing a petition~~
46 ~~for writ of certiorari.~~

47 (c) **Duty of appellant**. ~~After filing the notice of appeal, t~~The appellant, or in the event that more
48 than one appeal is taken, each appellant, ~~shall must~~ comply with ~~the provisions of paragraphs (d)~~
49 ~~and (ed) of this rule~~ and ~~shall must~~ take any other action necessary to enable ~~the clerk of~~ the trial
50 court clerk to assemble and transmit the record. ~~A single record shall be transmitted.~~

51 ~~(d) Papers on appeal.~~

52 ~~(d)(1) Criminal cases. All of the papers in a criminal case shall be included by the clerk~~
53 ~~of the trial court as part of the record on appeal.~~

54 ~~(d)(2) Civil cases. Unless otherwise directed by the appellate court upon sua sponte~~
55 ~~motion or motion of a party, the clerk of the trial court shall include all of the papers in a~~
56 ~~civil case as part of the record on appeal.~~

57 ~~(d)(3) Agency cases. Unless otherwise directed by the appellate court upon sua sponte~~
58 ~~motion or motion of a party, the agency shall include all papers in the agency file as part~~
59 ~~of the record.~~

60 **(e)d) The transcript of proceedings; duty of appellant to order; notice to appellee if partial**
61 **transcript is ordered.**

62 (e)d)(1) Request for transcript; time for filing. Within 10 days after filing the notice of
63 appeal, the appellant ~~shall~~ must order the transcript(s) online at www.utcourts.gov,
64 specifying the entire proceeding or parts of the proceeding to be transcribed that are not
65 already on file. The appellant ~~shall~~ must serve on the appellee a designation of those parts
66 of the proceeding to be transcribed. ~~If the appellant desires a transcript in a compressed~~
67 ~~format, appellant shall include the request for a compressed format within the request for~~
68 ~~transcript.~~ If no such parts of the proceedings are to be requested, within the same period
69 the appellant ~~shall~~ must file a certificate to that effect with the ~~clerk of the~~ appellate court
70 clerk and serve a copy ~~of that certificate~~ on the appellee.

71 (e)d)(2) Transcript required of all evidence regarding challenged finding or conclusion. If
72 the appellant intends to ~~urge~~ argue on appeal that a finding or conclusion is unsupported
73 by or is contrary to the evidence, the appellant ~~shall~~ must include in the record a
74 transcript of all evidence relevant to such finding or conclusion. Neither the court nor the
75 appellee is obligated to correct appellant's deficiencies in providing the relevant portions
76 of the transcript.

77 (e)d)(3) Statement of issues; ~~C~~ cross-designation by appellee. If the appellant does not
78 order the entire transcript, the appellee may, within 10 days after the appellant service
79 ~~of the designation or certificate described in paragraph (e)(1)-of this rule, order the~~
80 transcript(s) in accordance with (e)(1), and file and serve on the appellant a designation
81 of additional parts to be included.

82 **(fe) Agreed statement as the record on appeal.** In lieu of the record on appeal as defined in
83 paragraph (a) of this rule, the parties may prepare and sign a statement of the case, showing how
84 the issues presented by the appeal arose and were decided in the trial court and setting forth only
85 so many of the facts averred and proved or sought to be proved as are essential to a decision of
86 the issues presented. If the statement conforms to the truth, it, — together with such additions as

87 the trial court may consider necessary fully to present the issues raised by the appeal, ~~— shall will~~
88 be approved by the trial court. The ~~clerk of the~~ trial court clerk shall will transmit the statement
89 to the ~~clerk of the~~ appellate court clerk within the time prescribed by Rule 12(b)(2). The ~~clerk of~~
90 ~~the~~ trial court clerk shall will transmit the record index ~~of the record~~ to the ~~clerk of the~~ appellate
91 court clerk upon the trial court's approval of the statement ~~by the trial court~~.

92 **(g) Statement of evidence or proceedings when no report was made or when transcript is**
93 **unavailable.** If no report of the evidence or proceedings at a hearing or trial was made, or if a
94 transcript is unavailable, or if the appellant is impecunious and unable to afford a transcript in a
95 civil case, the appellant may prepare a statement of the evidence or proceedings from the best
96 available means, including recollection. The statement ~~shall~~ must be served on the
97 appellee, who may serve objections or propose amendments within 10 days after service. The
98 statement and any objections or proposed amendments ~~shall~~ must be submitted to the trial court
99 for settlement and approval and, as settled and approved, ~~shall~~ will be included by the ~~clerk of~~
100 ~~the~~ trial court clerk in the record on appeal.

101 **(h) Correction ng or modification ing of the record.** If any difference arises as to whether the
102 record truly discloses what occurred in the trial court, the difference ~~shall~~ must be submitted to
103 and settled by that court and the record made to conform to the truth. If anything material to
104 either party is misstated or is omitted from the record by error, by accident, or because the
105 appellant did not order a transcript of proceedings that the appellee needs to respond to issues
106 raised in appellant's brief ~~the Brief of Appellant~~, the parties by stipulation, the trial court, or the
107 appellate court, either before or after the record is transmitted, may direct that the omission or
108 misstatement be corrected and, if necessary, that a supplemental record be certified and
109 transmitted. The moving party, or the court if it is acting on its own initiative, ~~shall~~ must serve on
110 the parties a statement of the proposed changes. Within 10 days after service, any party may
111 serve objections to the proposed changes. All other questions as to the form and content of the
112 record ~~shall~~ must be presented to the appellate court.

Tab 4

1 **Rule 23B. Motion to remand for findings necessary to determination of ineffective**
2 **assistance of counsel claim.**

3 (a) **Grounds for motion; time.** A party to an appeal in a criminal case may move the court to
4 remand the case to the trial court for entry of findings of fact, necessary for the appellate court's
5 determination of a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. The motion will be available only
6 upon a nonspeculative allegation of facts, not fully appearing in the record on appeal, which, if
7 true, could support a determination that counsel was ineffective.

8 The motion must be filed before or at the time of the filing of the appellant's brief. Upon a
9 showing of good cause, the court may permit a motion to be filed after the filing of the
10 appellant's brief. After the appeal is taken under advisement, a remand pursuant to this rule is
11 available only on the court's own motion and only if the claim has been raised and the motion
12 would have been available to a party.

13 (b) **Content of motion.** The content of the motion must conform to the requirements of Rule 23.
14 The motion must include or be accompanied by affidavits alleging facts not fully appearing in
15 the record on appeal that show the claimed deficient performance of the attorney. The affidavits
16 must also allege facts that show the claimed prejudice suffered by the appellant as a result of the
17 claimed deficient performance. The motion must also be accompanied by a proposed
18 order of remand that identifies the ineffectiveness claims and specifies the factual issues
19 relevant to each such claim to be addressed on remand.

20 (c) **Orders of the court; response; reply.** If a motion under this rule is filed at the same time as
21 appellant's principal brief, any response and reply must be filed within the time for the filing of
22 the parties' respective briefs on the merits, unless otherwise specified by the court. If a motion is
23 filed before appellant's brief, the court may elect to defer ruling on the motion or decide the
24 motion prior to briefing.

25 (1) If the court defers the motion, the time for filing any response or reply will be the
26 same as for a motion filed at the same time as appellant's brief, unless otherwise
27 specified by the court.

28 (2) If the court elects to decide the motion prior to briefing, it will issue a notice that any
29 response must be filed within 30 days of the notice or within such other time as the court

30 may specify. Any reply in support of the motion must be filed within 20 days after the
31 response is served or within such other time as the court may specify.

32 (3) If the requirements of parts (a) and (b) of this rule have been met, the court may order
33 that the case be temporarily remanded to the trial court to enter findings of fact relevant
34 to a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. The order of remand will identify the
35 ineffectiveness claims and specify the factual issues relevant to each such claim to be
36 addressed by the trial court. The order will also direct the trial court to complete the
37 proceedings on remand within 90 days of issuance of the order of remand, absent a
38 finding by the trial court of good cause for a delay of reasonable length.

39 (4) If it appears to the appellate court that the appellant's attorney of record on the appeal
40 faces a conflict of interest upon remand, the court will direct that counsel withdraw and
41 that new counsel for the appellant be appointed or retained.

42 (d) **Effect on appeal.** If a motion is filed at the same time as appellant's brief, the briefing
43 schedule will not be stayed unless ordered by the court. If a motion is filed before appellant's
44 brief, the briefing schedule will be automatically stayed until the court issues notice of whether it
45 will defer the motion or decide the motion before briefing.

46 (e) **Proceedings before the trial court.** Upon remand the trial court will promptly conduct
47 hearings and take evidence as necessary to enter the findings of fact necessary to determine the
48 claim of ineffective assistance of counsel. Any claims of ineffectiveness not identified in the
49 order of remand will not be considered by the trial court on remand, unless the trial court
50 determines that the interests of justice or judicial efficiency require consideration of issues not
51 specifically identified in the order of remand. Evidentiary hearings will be conducted without a
52 jury and as soon as practicable after remand. The burden of proving a fact will be upon
53 the proponent of the fact. The standard of proof will be a preponderance of the evidence.
54 The trial court will enter written findings of fact concerning the claimed deficient performance
55 by counsel and the claimed prejudice suffered by appellant as a result, in accordance with the
56 order of remand. Proceedings on remand must be completed within 90 days of entry of the order
57 of remand, unless the trial court finds good cause for a delay of reasonable length.

58 (f) **Preparation and transmittal of the record.** At the conclusion of all proceedings before the
59 trial court, the clerk of the trial court will immediately prepare the record of the supplemental

60 proceedings as required by these rules. If the record of the original proceedings before the trial
61 court has been transmitted to the appellate court, the clerk of the trial court will immediately
62 transmit the record of the supplemental proceedings upon preparation of the supplemental
63 record. If the record of the original proceedings before the trial court has not been transmitted
64 to the appellate court, the clerk of the court will transmit the record of the supplemental
65 proceedings upon the preparation of the entire record.

66 (g) **Appellate court determination.** Errors claimed to have been made during the trial court
67 proceedings conducted pursuant to this rule are reviewable under the same standards as the
68 review of errors in other appeals. The findings of fact entered pursuant to this rule are reviewable
69 under the same standards as the review of findings of fact in other appeals.

Tab 5



Larissa Lee
Appellate Court Administrator

Nicole J. Gray
Clerk of Court

Supreme Court of Utah
450 South State Street
P.O. Box 140210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-0210

Appellate Clerks' Office
Telephone 801-578-3900
Email: supremecourt@utcourts.gov

Matthew B. Durrant
Chief Justice
Thomas R. Lee
Associate Chief Justice
Deno G. Himonas
Justice
John A. Pearce
Justice
Paige Petersen
Justice

To: Appellate Rules Committee
From: Larissa Lee
Date: August 28, 2020
Subject: Amending Rule 15 to align with Utah Code section 59-1-602

Dear Appellate Rules Committee:

Rule 15 refers only to the Supreme Court, but the statute it cites refers to both the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. The attached redline reflects changes to conform the rule to the statute.

Thanks,
Larissa

Rule 15. Petitions for review in tax cases.

(a) If a petition for judicial review of a State Tax Commission decision is filed ~~pursuant to~~under Utah Code Ann. §_59-1-602 by one party in the district court and by another party in the ~~supreme Court~~appellate court through a direct appeal, the direct appeal ~~shall~~will be, absent compelling circumstances~~;~~:

(1) stayed pending the district court proceeding's resolution~~of the proceeding before the district court;~~ and

(2) dismissed when the district court issues~~upon the issuance of~~ a final appealable order ~~by the district court.~~

(b) Assuming an absence of compelling circumstances under ~~subsection~~paragraph (a), all issues appealed in the direct appeal may be raised by any party in the district court proceeding, and if not raised in the district court proceeding, the direct appeal issues will be waived and subject to dismissal with the direct appeal when the district court issues~~upon the issuance of~~ a final appealable order~~by the district court.~~

(c) A party may not appeal ~~pursuant to~~under Utah Code Ann. §_59-1-602 to both the district court and ~~to the Supreme Court~~appellate court through appeal. However, a party who has appealed to either the district court or the ~~Supreme Court~~appellate court may join an appeal filed by another party in the separate court through filing a cross-appeal at the ~~Supreme Court~~appellate court or by intervening in the district court appeal.