

Local Rules: Should California Standardize Local Rules? *

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Abstract

California's present system of allowing each court to promulgate local rules to has created a confusing collection of rules that makes practicing in multiple jurisdiction difficult and confusing for California attorneys. The present system should be revised to create a central set of common rules, allowing local variation only for truly local situations.

California has model rules that courts may base their rules upon. However many courts have created rules that vary from the state model in both phrasing and organization. The result is that it may be difficult to ascertain what the rules of a jurisdiction are, and once a rule is found, it may be difficult to ascertain whether variations in drafting are substantive or stylistic.

* This paper is one in a series of six papers in this volume on issues relating to reducing litigation costs. The other papers are: *What are the Costs of Litigation?*, *Discovery Reform*, *Alternative Dispute Resolution*, *Using New Technologies*, and *Appeals*.