



2020 APPELLATE JUDICIAL SURVEY

UT LAW CLE 30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON STATE AND FEDERAL APPEALS

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BRIEFS

ISSUES, FORMATTING, GRAPHICS, CITATIONS, EXTENSIONS & APPENDIX

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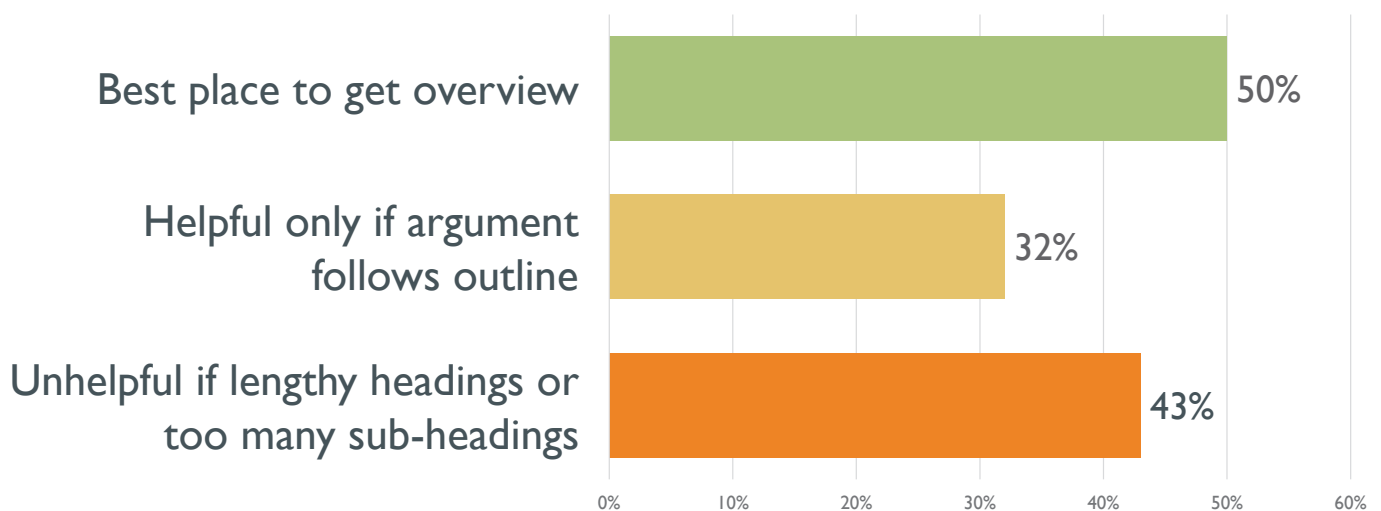
BRIEFING PET PEEVES: 43 COMMENTS

Too long/repetitious	17x
Sloppy writing, inadequate analysis	10x
Failure to properly apply standard of review	7x
Lack of organization	6x
Vitriol and emotional “jury arguments”	3x
Reply brief means reply, not repeat	3x



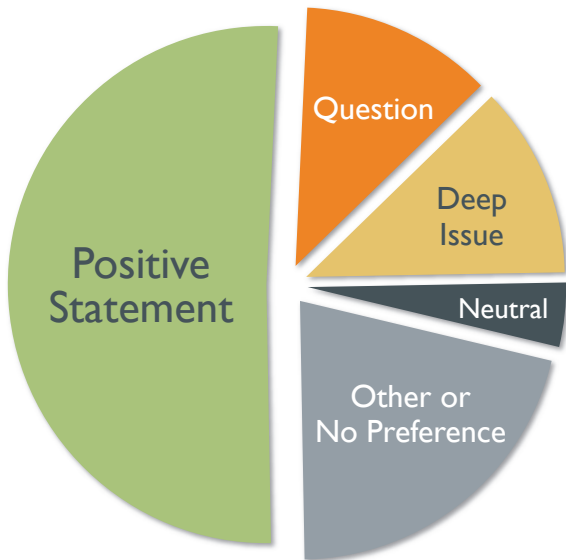
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PHRASING THE ISSUES



51%

Positive Statement: “The trial court erred by..”

12%

Question: “Did the trial court err by...?”

12%

Deep Issue: “Expert testimony is reliable if...”

4%

Neutral: “Whether the trial court erred by...”

5

GRAPHS, CHARTS, AND PICTURES

When asked about graphs, charts, and pictures, 50% of the justices responded that these items should be used more, 30% responded that they are being used the right amount, 4% responded that they should be used less, and 4% responded that they should not be used at all.

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Title search: 2020 Texas Appellate Judicial Survey

Also available as part of the eCourse

[eSupplement to the 2021 Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals](#)

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
30th Annual Conference on State and Federal Appeals session
"2020 Texas Appellate Judicial Survey"