

**EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW!**

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**TALKS WITH U.S.
SUPREME COURT CLERK**

**William
K. Suter**



The U.S. Supreme Court Clerk offers advice to attorneys filing briefs:

As Clerk of the highest Court in the land, it's part of William K. Suter's job to act as a liaison between the justices and petitioners — and provide answers to help make the brief filing process a little easier.

And that goes for each of the approximately 8,000 people who file a Petition For Writ Of Certiorari each year.

"None of our petitioners want to make a mistake here. They want to do it right the first time," Suter says. To serve as an example in "getting it right," he has made efficiency and organization a top priority since assuming his post 10 years ago.

Suter is a former Army Judge Advocate General, who ultimately served as Major General. His experience included managing, in essence, a large law firm, and being involved with budget and decisionmaking matters. "Coming here, I'm managing the docket of this Court, with people and budgets," he says, "so it was quite a natural transition."

Suter is responsible for a staff of 30 at the Supreme Court. A typical day, he says, includes "trying to look over the horizon and find better ways to do things and better ways to have briefs prepared." The three attorneys in the office can often be found on the phone, answering questions from people filing briefs.

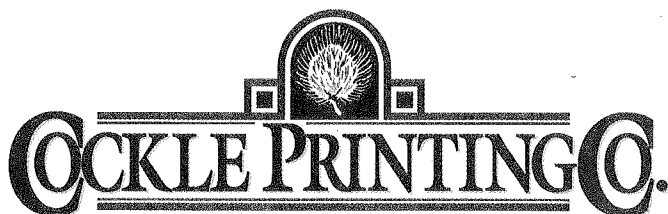
In recent years, Suter has helped launch the Court's official Web site, www.supremecourtus.gov, which has revolutionized the way the public can acquire information about the Court. "We get millions of hits," he confirms. During the Florida election cases in December 2000, the Court posted every related brief; he estimates the site received more than three million hits in a week.

Suter also has written *Guide for Counsel*, a comprehensive document designed to help attorneys understand the process at the federal court level. The guide, as well as other helpful, copyright-free publications, is available for downloading on the Court's Web site.

His best advice for prospective petitioners? "Go to a good, established printer who's been here before. It just doesn't pay to try to do it yourself and save a few dollars, or go to a company that's cheap and doesn't know what they're doing."

Suter also emphasizes that his office is always there to help. "People shouldn't feel constrained in any way to call us. They'll be routed to the right person and one who's glad to help them get it right. There's no such thing as a dumb question."

Make your Supreme Court brief preparation process a smooth one — get answers to your questions from the Cockle Printing Co. team at 1-800-225-6964. And make sure to visit the Supreme Court's official Web site at www.supremecourtus.gov.



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