

eDCA Update re Hyperlinking for Citations

November 10, 2016

The Court now welcomes the filing of briefs, petitions, motions, and other documents with “hyperlinks” to cited legal authorities such as cases, statutes, rules, and secondary sources.

Hyperlinks can be embedded in a pdf document filed via the Court’s eDCA system, using WestLaw OnePass or LexisAdvance legal research software.¹ The hyperlinks generally cause the cited legal authority to appear in blue on a page of black type. A mouse click on the hyperlink—sometimes also requiring a simultaneous push of the “Ctrl” button on the keyboard—causes the cited authority to open on a separate tab in the legal research application.

In addition to the convenience of opening the case or other authority with a single click, the case can then be followed (as to subsequent history), or analyzed via internal citations within the case, or by headnotes, key numbers, etc., before the reader returns to the brief itself.

The Court encourages eDCA users who have the ability to create hyperlinks within pdf documents to use the feature for cited legal authorities. A user can create a brief with hyperlinked citations, file and serve it, and then check the docketed version to be certain the links are active and properly open the cited authority. Difficulties, questions, or suggestions regarding this update may be directed to the Court’s computer support staff, in writing via email at 3dca.it@flcourts.org.

Although this update does not address the use of hyperlinks for references to the record or appendix in e-filed briefs and other documents, this Court and other appellate courts in Florida are studying the technical requirements and best practices for adding this feature when practicable.

¹ There may be software other than WestLaw or LexisAdvance that can also create hyperlinks to cited authorities. Counsel wishing to use other software should contact the Court’s computer staff as suggested in this Update to arrange a test to be certain the hyperlinks created using such software operate properly within an as-filed brief or other document. The availability of that software can then be included in a further technical note on the Court’s website.