



TO THE BAG

MORE WEBSTER'S THIRD AUTHORITY

To the *Bag*:

In his letter captioned “The Authoritative Webster’s Third” (19 GREEN BAG 2D 127), Jeffrey Harper notes that “whatever the Supremes’ opinions,” the *GPO Style Manual* has adopted the much-maligned *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary* as the default guide for words that do not appear in the *Manual* itself. As revealed in the *Supreme Court’s Style Guide*, the Court shares this view, and goes further:

Webster’s Third New International Dictionary is the general authority when questions arise as to the spelling, compounding, or syllabication of English-language words.

S. Ct. Style G. § 4.1 (2016); *see also id.* § 5.14 (regarding capitalization). One may consult *Black’s* or *Ballentine’s Law Dictionary*, but only for “the spelling of legal terms not found in Webster’s.”

The *Supreme Court’s Style Guide* contains the manual used by the Court’s Reporter of Decisions in preparing the Court’s opinions for public release and publication in the *United States Reports*. It is available for free on SSRN and for money (that will go to me, not to the Court) on Amazon.

Sincerely,
Jack Metzler
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