

## Introduction to Bundling Series and Sedley's Laws of Documents

*XBundling Guidelines Post 1*

Producing bundles can be time consuming and complicated and can lead to inefficiencies. The rules concerning bundling are increasingly prescriptive, and it can be difficult to establish what is expected in each Court division. For this reason, XBundling have compiled "Hearings Bundles: A Compendium", a guide to navigating the complications of bundle production.

The Compendium compares the guidance from the Civil Practice Rules, 5 divisions of the High Court and the Court of Appeal; and establishes a minimum required standard drawn from this guidance and XBundling's considerable bundling experience.

To demonstrate the importance of getting bundling right, we include a copy of Sir Stephen Sedley's Laws of Documents. This tongue-in-cheek guide to how **not** to produce bundles was written by the (now retired) Court of Appeal judge after growing increasingly frustrated with the bundles presented to him.

**First Law:** Documents may be assembled in any order, provided it is not chronological, numerical or alphabetical.

**Second Law:** Documents shall in no circumstances be paginated continuously.

**Third Law:** No two copies of any bundle shall have the same pagination.

**Fourth Law:** Every document shall carry at least three numbers in different places.

**Fifth Law:** Any important documents shall be omitted.

**Sixth Law:** At least 10 percent of the documents shall appear more than once in the bundle.

**Seventh Law:** As many photocopies as practicable shall be illegible, truncated or cropped.

**Eighth Law:** Significant passages shall be marked with a highlighter which goes black when photocopied.

**Ninth Law:**

1. At least 80 percent of the documents shall be irrelevant.
2. Counsel shall refer in Court to no more than 10 percent of the documents, but these may include as many irrelevant ones as counsel or solicitor deems appropriate.

**Tenth Law:** Only one side of any double sided document shall be reproduced.

**Eleventh Law:** Transcriptions of manuscript documents shall bear as little relation as reasonably practicable to the original.

**Twelfth Law:** Documents shall be held together, in the absolute discretion of the solicitor assembling them, by:

1. a steel pin sharp enough to injure the reader,
2. a staple too short to penetrate the full thickness of the bundle,
3. tape binding so stitched that the bundle cannot be fully opened, or,
4. a ring or lever arch binder, so damaged that the two arcs do not meet.

