

JOIN US FOR CCRA's
115th ANNUAL CONVENTION

✧ *The GOLD Within* ✧

September 26–28, 2025

OMNI LA COSTA
RESORT AND SPA

2100 Costa Del Mar Road
Carlsbad, California, 92009

President's Message:

Dear CCRA Members, Friends & Colleagues,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 115th Annual Convention of the California Court Reporters Association. This year, we gather under the theme **"The GOLD Within"** —a powerful reminder that our greatest strength doesn't come from titles, technology, or tradition—it comes from within. It's the quiet confidence behind every word, every syllable, the unshakable integrity that guides our record, and the resilience we show in the face of challenge and change. Now more than ever, it's essential that we honor the impact of our profession and take pride in the integrity, skill, and resilience we bring to every proceeding.



Our **GOLD** is more than just a theme — it's our standard. To us, it stands for **Growth, Opportunity, Leadership, and Dedication**. These four pillars reflect the strength and spirit of our community:

- **Growth** in our professional development and personal discovery
- **Opportunity** to embrace innovation while preserving our legacy
- **Leadership** in advocating for our profession and mentoring the next generation
- **Dedication** to accuracy, ethics, and excellence every single day

Over the course of the weekend, you'll hear from inspiring speakers, engage in hands-on sessions, explore emerging technologies, and engage in critical discussions that will help you—help us—shape the future of our field. Whether you're a seasoned reporter, a student just starting out, or somewhere in between, we know you'll find inspiration, support, and a renewed purpose in the company of your colleagues.

For over a century, CCRA has stood as a pillar of strength, innovation, and advocacy for the court reporting and captioning professions. This year's convention continues that legacy, bringing together professionals from every corner of our profession to celebrate our shared commitment to excellence, to accuracy, and to integrity.

Thank you for being a part of this historic gathering. Your presence helps shape not only the direction of this convention but the future of our profession. Let's discover — and celebrate — **The GOLD Within**.

Warm regards,

Michelle Caldwell

President, California Court Reporters Association

Board of Directors

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Mission Statement

CCRA continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunity, and professional inclusion. We actively protect and unify the freelance, CART/Captioning, official, and student communities.

✦ *The GOLD Within*

CCRA'S 115TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 26-28, 2025



Convention Location and Hotel



OMNI LA COSTA RESORT & SPA

2100 Costa Del Mar Road, Carlsbad, CA 92009

Phone (760) 438-9111

Surrounded by natural beauty and tucked away in a secluded area of Carlsbad, Omni La Costa Resort & Spa offers an exclusive experience to relax your mind, body and soul. Break away from the ordinary and partake in our Southern California blend of relaxation, entertainment and comfort.

From a world-class spa experience, championship golf courses to luxury rooms overlooking stunning vistas, the hotel, just 30 miles from San Diego International Airport, provides an unforgettable retreat. Explore their vibrant pools and feel the serenity of their sprawling property and lush grounds.

The hotel offers eight distinct pools including kid-specific pool areas featuring two 100-foot waterslides, a toddler slide and Splash Landing. They also offer an adult-only pool for rest and relaxation

The Omni La Costa also has 12 tennis courts, 6 pickleball courts and an athletic club.

There are five restaurants and boutique shopping featuring Tart, Ella Moss and other designer brands.

Check-in is at 4:00pm; Checkout is at 11:00am.



Hotel Reservations

Upon convention registration completion and payment, you will receive an email confirmation with details about how to reserve a hotel room at the Omni La Costa.

The special CCRA room rate of \$229 is available through Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 5:00 PM or until the room block sells out.

Airport Transportation

Shuttle transportation may be arranged (for a fee) with the hotel concierge desk by calling (760) 929-6378. It is subject to availability.

Registration

REGISTRATION

Early Bird (through July 18, 2025)

	Member	Nonmember*	Student/Teacher Member	Student/Teacher Nonmember*
Full Registration	\$569.00	\$699.00	\$399.00	\$489.00
Saturday Registration Only	\$499.00	\$599.00	\$399.00	\$489.00
Sunday Registration Only	\$399.00	\$499.00	\$399.00	\$489.00
Guest (Non-CSR, or student/teacher, and must be accompanying an attendee.) No CEUs will be awarded.		\$399.00		

Full Registration (after July 18, 2025)

Full Registration	\$759.00	\$799.00	\$449.00	\$529.00
Saturday Registration Only	\$699.00	\$749.00	\$449.00	\$529.00
Sunday Registration Only	\$449.00	\$549.00	\$449.00	\$529.00
Guest (Non-CSR, or student/teacher, and must be accompanying an attendee.) No CEUs will be awarded.		\$499.00		
Student Sponsored Registration	\$399.00			
*Join & Register (Includes 1-year membership with CCRA & Full Registration to CCRA's 115th Annual Convention). This is for new members only.				
CRG Testing (Friday)	\$125.00			
CCG Testing (Friday)	\$125.00			
CCG Written Knowledge Testing (Friday)	\$125.00			

Full registration includes the following: All CCRA sanctioned events during the convention, including brunch on Sunday.

Saturday registration includes the following: Continental breakfast, Saturday education, lunch, keynote speaker, exhibit hall, and the evening social event.

Sunday registration includes the following: Sunday education, exhibit hall, and Sunday brunch.

Note: Sessions are subject to change without notice. Be sure to check back often for updates.

Continuing Education: CCRA has applied for 1.7 CEUs.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations must be received in writing (fax or e-mail accepted) by 5:00 p.m., September 12, 2025, to qualify for a refund. A \$200 processing fee will apply to all refunds. No refunds for cancellations received after 5:00 p.m., September 12, 2025. Substitutions are allowed.

Click HERE to register: <https://ccra.memberclicks.net/115thconvention>

Program



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

8:00am - 5:30pm **Registration Open**

8:30am - 11:00am **Concurrent Testing**

CCG Steno Testing

The Certified CART Generalist (CCG) exam for steno machine writers consists of a written exam and a 15-minute professionally recorded dictation test. The first five minutes will be lead-in and the last ten minutes graded. This examination will be given at 180 words per minute. 96% accuracy is required to pass the test (72 errors total allowed). (USB thumb drives will be provided to submit tests.) **Please note: This session is for steno machine writers only, and there is an additional \$125 fee to take this exam.**

CCG Voice Testing

The Certified CART Generalist (CCG) exam for voice writers consists of a written exam and a 15-minute professionally recorded dictation test. The first five minutes will be lead-in and the last ten minutes graded. This examination will be given at 180 words per minute. 96% accuracy is required to pass the test (72 errors total allowed). (USB thumb drives will be provided to submit tests.) **Please note: This session is for voice writers only, and there is an additional \$125 fee to take this exam.**

CCG Written Knowledge Test (WKT)

The CCG Written Knowledge Test (WKT) will be administered immediately following the Skills Test in the Steno testing room. Prior to taking the WKT, you are required to complete the on-demand webinar available through CCRA's Learning Management System (LMS). Access instructions for the webinar will be provided upon registration. **Please note: There is an additional \$125 fee to take this exam.**

11:00am - 12:00pm **Concurrent Testing**

CRG Steno Testing

The Certified Realtime Generalist (CRG) for steno machine writers is a five-minute professionally recorded dictation test given at 200 words per minute Q&A with a maximum of 40 errors, 96% accuracy, with a two-minute lead-in. (USB thumb drives will be provided to submit tests.) **Please note: This session is for steno machine writers only, and there is an additional \$125 fee to take this exam.**

CRG Voice Testing

The Certified Realtime Generalist (CRG) for voice writers is a five-minute professionally recorded dictation test given at 200 words per minute Q&A with a maximum of 40 errors, 96% accuracy, with a two-minute lead-in. (USB thumb drives will be provided to submit tests.) **Please note: This session is for voice writers only, and there is an additional \$125 fee to take this exam.**

CCRA SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, CONTINUED

12:00pm - 3:00pm Concurrent Sessions

What's New in CATalyst 22.10 and How to Customize your CAT, CEUs .3

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Part 1: What's New in CATalyst 22.10? Come discover the latest improvements in CATalyst 22.10, focusing on key functionality updates that enhance your transcript production workflow.

Part 2: Customize your CAT: This hands-on session focuses on personalizing CATalyst's interface to create an efficient user-specific working environment.

Speakers: Heather Logan, CSR, RPR, RVR, Stenograph-Certified Independent CATalyst Training Agent; Jean Kim, CSR, RPR, CRG, Certified Independent Training Agent

Mastering StenoCAT: Tools and Techniques for Today's Court Reporter, CEUs .3

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Whether you're new to StenoCAT or looking to sharpen your skills, this session is designed to help court reporters of all experience levels harness the full power of the StenoCAT software. Learn how to customize your writing environment, manage dictionaries and globals efficiently, and streamline your editing process to boost productivity and accuracy.

We'll cover realtime tips, shortcut commands, job setup, and troubleshooting techniques to help you feel confident and in control. You'll also get an inside look at what's new in the latest StenoCAT revamp — including updated features, interface improvements, and tools designed to make your work faster and easier. From transcript formatting to output delivery, this hands-on session will walk you through practical workflows and features that can make a real difference in your day-to-day reporting. Bring your questions, challenges, and curiosity — this class will leave you ready to take your StenoCAT skills to the next level.

Speaker: David Scharbach, StenoCAT Trainer

Elevate With Eclipse: Training for Efficiency and Excellence, CEUs .3

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Unlock the full potential of Eclipse software in this dynamic training session. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned user, you'll gain practical skills to improve your workflow, boost accuracy, and deliver cleaner transcripts faster. Learn how to optimize your dictionary, apply realtime strategies, navigate macros, and master editing tools that will save you time and effort.

This session also highlights the newest features and enhancements in the latest Eclipse update, giving you the edge you need to stay current in today's fast-paced reporting environment. With expert tips, step-by-step demonstrations, and live Q&A, you'll leave equipped with the knowledge and confidence to make Eclipse work smarter for you.

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Program



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, CONTINUED

2:00pm - 5:30pm **Exhibits Open**

3:00pm - 3:15pm **Networking Break**

3:15pm - 4:15pm **Concurrent Sessions**

Live! Wisdom Exchange, CEUs .1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Join Wisdom Exchange LIVE!, CCRA's dynamic and beloved monthly mentorship program live and in person. This session will connect students, new professionals, and seasoned court reporters in a collaborative, supportive environment by fostering meaningful dialogue, skill-sharing, and mutual growth through guided discussions, real-world scenarios, and practical advice. Whether you're a student eager to learn, a new reporter navigating the early years, or a veteran ready to give back, Wisdom Exchange offers a structured space for exchanging knowledge, building confidence, and strengthening the profession—one conversation at a time. Think roundtable discussions, career strategies and development, and collaboration. All here, one room, one LIVE! chat.

Speakers: Lauren Tilbury, CSR; Brooke Ryan, CSR, RPR

From Notice to Submission: Surviving the YesLaw Appeals Maze, CEUs .1

Focus: Freelancers Level: Intermediate

This comprehensive session will equip both freelance and official court reporters with the essential skills for producing compliant transcripts using proper four-voice setup techniques according to California's Minimum Transcript Format Standards (MTFS). The session will cover practical applications of the 25-line minimum per page requirement, 56-character line standards, and proper implementation of colloquy formatting with speaker identification protocols. Produce consistently formatted transcripts that properly distinguish between examination setups, bylines, question-and-answer format, attorney colloquy, and parentheticals!

Speaker: Jean Kim, CSR, RPR, CRG

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025, CONTINUED

4:15pm - 4:30pm Networking Break

4:30pm - 6:00pm General Session

Under the Dome: Reporting the U.S. Senate, CEUs .15

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Oh, the places you'll go. Maybe all the way to the U.S. Senate! Join us for a detailed look at what reporting on the floor of the Senate is really like, covering speeches and votes on bills, nominations, unanimous consent requests. Toss in a little parliamentary procedure, and, of course, what it's like to walk around with the steno machine strapped to you while writing. Yep. You'll hear it all firsthand here.

Speakers: Vanessa Evans, CSR, RPR, Official Reporter of Debates; Cynthia Ott, CSR, RDR, CRR, Official Reporter of Debates

6:00pm - 7:30pm Welcome Reception

Join us as we kick off The GOLD Within. This evening is all about connecting, sharing ideas, and building the relationships that will drive our industry forward. As you mingle, we encourage you to introduce yourself to someone new, exchange insights, and explore opportunities for collaboration. Our goal is to create an atmosphere where meaningful connections can flourish, so please feel free to engage, ask questions, and share your experiences. Let's make the most of this wonderful opportunity to connect and grow together.



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

7:00am - 4:30pm **Registration Open**

7:00am - 5:00pm **Exhibits Open**

7:00am - 8:00am **Continental Breakfast**

8:00am - 9:30am **General Session**

The Comma, the Courtroom, and the Queen of Grammar: A Masterclass with The GOLD Herself, Margie Wakeman Wells, CEUs .15

Focus: General Interest Level: A Must For All

Back by popular demand, the legendary Margie Wakeman Wells takes the mic for a no-nonsense, up-to-date deep dive into the grammar and punctuation issues court reporters face every day. Whether it's commas in compound sentences, punctuation in readback, or the ever-elusive dash versus hyphen, Margie brings clarity, humor, and decades of expertise to the most common (and commonly misunderstood) grammar challenges in our field.

This session isn't just a refresher — it's your opportunity to learn directly from the expert who wrote the book (literally) on punctuating the spoken word. Come ready to unlearn the myths, sharpen your transcript skills, and get your toughest grammar questions answered. You'll walk away empowered, informed, and just a little obsessed with getting it right.

Speaker: Margie Wakeman Wells, Teacher, Author, Mentor, Proofer, Margie Holds Court

9:30am - 9:45am **Networking Break**

9:45am - 10:45am **Concurrent Sessions**

Success Stories from CART/Captioning Consumers, CEUs .1

Focus: CART/Broadcast Captioning Level: Appropriate for All

This session will provide attendees the opportunity to learn about the positive impact captioning has played in the lives of individuals who use CART/Captioning. Meet the CART Captioners and consumers of CART/Captioning and listen to them share their stories about how captioning has made a difference in their lives and the importance of accessibility.

Speaker: Norma Rease, CART Captioner

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

9:45am - 10:45am **Concurrent Sessions, Continued**

Case CATalyst VP Job Dictionaries: Streamline, Simplify, Succeed, CEUs .1 (Voice)

Focus: Students **Level:** Appropriate for All

Curious about why job dictionaries are a game changer in CATalyst VP? You're not alone! Sure, it might seem like everything transfers perfectly from Dragon, but job dictionaries offer so much more than just the basics, like a VP EZ Speakers with Fields job dictionary. If this has piqued your curiosity, you're in the right place. This session will demystify job dictionaries and show you how they can streamline your workflow. And that's just the start! Together, we'll craft a homophone conflict medical job dictionary and explore the effortless art of integrating future E-defines straight into a job dictionary with ease. By the end of this class, you'll be ready to unleash the full potential of CATalyst's tools, saving your valuable efforts and ensuring nothing goes to waste. Let's transform the way you work!

Speakers: Melissa Lee, A.A.S., CCR (AL), CRI (NCRA); Tim Moody, BA, FPR, CVR, EV360

Let's Get Physical! Ergonomics for Students and Working Reporters, CEUs .1

Focus: General Interest **Level:** Appropriate for All

Court Reporting demands long hours of focused, repetitive work that can take a toll on the body—especially when proper posture and movement habits are overlooked. In this interactive session, participants will explore the critical role of postural awareness in promoting physical well-being and career longevity. Learn how to identify and correct common ergonomic pitfalls, develop sustainable healthy habits, and implement injury prevention strategies tailored to the unique demands of our profession. Whether you're managing discomfort or looking to prevent it, this session provides practical tools to improve your daily routine and maintain peak performance—on and off the record.

Speaker: Shelby Glasser, PT, DPT

Making Waves: Elevate Your Laptop and Sound Game , CEUs .1

Focus: General Interest **Level:** Appropriate for All

In this single-hour session, we'll explore the latest techniques and devices for capturing clear, consistent backup audio media in a variety of reporting environments (Courtrooms, including sidebars; depositions, etc.). From selecting the most effective equipment to fine-tuning input levels and discovering that sweet spot, this course will guide you through best practices for optimizing sound in 2025 and beyond. We'll also demonstrate multiple examples of active audio systems while keeping the conversation software — and input-agnostic so every reporter can benefit. Come prepared to learn about specific gear options, practical setup tips, and proven workflows that will elevate the quality and reliability of your recordings.

Speaker: Greym Blaszkiewicz, Director of Systems Operations, eVerbatim

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

10:45am - 11:00am Networking Break

11:00am - 12:30pm Concurrent Sessions

Captioning Essentials: Mastering the Equipment for Captioners (Machine & Voice), CEUs .15

Focus: *CART/Broadcast Captioning* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Join us for an engaging and informative session where experts will guide you through the equipment utilized by captioners on-site and remotely. In today's digital world, it is important to have all the equipment and software needed to work and be ready for whatever situation we are faced with in the captioning world. This workshop is designed to provide comprehensive training on the essential equipment needed for captioning jobs, both on-site and remotely. Participants will have the opportunity to see the equipment and will be provided with information on how to use it. You'll gain hands-on experience with various equipment and learn about the necessary equipment or software to optimize your captioning workflow. It's important to always be ready and equipped with the correct tools to stay efficient and current with the latest technology.

Speakers: Lidia Perez, CCG, CVR, Precision Captions; Susie Galvan, CCG, SG Captions

Retirement Planning for Freelancers, CEUs .15

Focus: *Freelancers* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Freelancers! This retirement planning seminar is for you! You will learn the different types of retirement account options, and how to manage your money independently in order to set yourself up for a great retirement. You'll also understand the importance of retirement planning discipline so that you can retire as early as possible. Through this course, you'll learn the benefits of having an S-corp and paying yourself as an employee, and essential tips about how to keep more money in your pocket. A real-life freelancer scenario will be provided to help visualize the entire concept of setting yourself up for retirement. Lastly, you will learn the best way to draw from pension after retirement and what to expect well into the future.

Speaker: Jennifer Crisologo, LPL Financial Advisor, PPC, CPFA, CA Insurance Lic. 0E74195, Rockwell Wealth Advisors

Speed Steno: Fast Chats, Faster Connections, CEUs .15

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Wait. Steno Speed Dating? You read that right! Join Shaunice Day for this interactive roundtable session. In this dynamic Steno Speed Dating experience, you'll engage in fast-paced, insightful conversations with top professionals in the court reporting and captioning communities. This is your chance to exchange ideas, gain valuable insights, and build lasting connections with your peers. Don't miss out on this unique networking opportunity!

Speaker: Shaunice Day, Founder, Steno in the City

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

11:00am - 12:30pm

Case CATalyst VP E-Define Essentials: Simplify, Edit, Excel, CEUs .15 (Voice)

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Are you wondering what to E-define or how to go about defining it? Concerned that your meticulously crafted E-defines might vanish into the abyss of a Global Graveyard once your job file has been produced? Worry no more! This session is all about simplifying the E-define creation process, enabling you to smoothly transfer your definitions straight into your Personal VoiceCommands dictionary or other job dictionary at the same time. But that's not all! We'll dig into the secrets of reviving E-defines from past job files and seamlessly applying them to future ones. By the end of our session, you'll feel empowered to put these CATalyst functions into action, ensuring that all your hard work will never go to waste.

Speakers: Melissa Lee, A.A.S., CCR (AL), CRI (NCRA); Tim Moody, BA, FPR, CVR, EV360

12:30pm - 1:45pm

Lunch and Business Meeting

Please join us for our annual business meeting luncheon. You will learn how the board conducts its meetings, including becoming familiar with parliamentary procedures. You will participate in the election of the Board of Directors for our new board season, see how the board develops goals for CCRA, the strategies they employ to accomplish them, and vote on proposed bylaws changes.

1:45pm - 2:45pm

General Session

Keynote Speaker, Kathy Buckley, CEUs .1

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

"Kathy is a powerful voice for transformation, challenging audiences to confront the labels that society—and we ourselves—assign to our identities. These labels often shape how we see ourselves and how we show up in the world, limiting our self-awareness and stunting our growth. Through heartfelt storytelling and an authentic connection with her audience, Kathy encourages individuals to strip away these imposed identities and embrace their true selves. Her message is one of empowerment, urging people to reclaim their confidence, rediscover their self-worth, and unlock the limitless potential of The GOLD Within. She doesn't just speak about change—she embodies it, offering a compelling invitation to anyone ready to break free and rise.

At the heart of Kathy's message is the idea that choice is the most powerful tool we have. In her moving presentation, *The Gift of Choice*, she recounts the pivotal moment at age 20 when she was run over by a lifeguard Jeep, declared dead by paramedics, and yet chose to fight for her life. That near-death experience became a defining moment—not a tragedy, but a catalyst for purpose. Kathy teaches that negativity is often the result of negative choices, and by choosing differently, we can radically transform our lives. She also speaks about the power of forgiveness in her deeply emotional presentation, *Forgive Yourself to Free Yourself*. Despite a life filled with adversity—including hearing loss, childhood trauma, and serious illness—Kathy chooses to forgive, demonstrating that true strength is found in unconditional love. Her journey inspires others to release pain, embrace healing, and live with intention and authenticity."

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

2:45pm - 3:00pm Networking Break

3:00pm - 4:00pm Concurrent Sessions

Business Structure & Taxes, CEUs .1

Focus: Freelancers Level: Appropriate for All

Taxes. Nobody wants to discuss it, but everyone needs to know it. In this session, we'll cover business structure topics like the difference between sole proprietors, LLCs, and S-Corps. There's more! Tax topics will also include bookkeeping, retirement contributions, how to pay yourself, how to pay contractors, tax payments and many tax saving opportunities you've never thought of. Join us for this essential educational opportunity and learn to protect what you're earning.

Speaker: Parry Shields, Certified Public Accountant, Owner, Upside CPA

Your New Résumé: Leveraging Social Media for Success, CEUs .1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

In this session, Natalie will share how she turned TikTok into a powerful, professional tool to showcase her journey through stenography school and becoming a newly licensed professional. With over 20,000 followers, Natalie has built an online court reporting community of students, reporters, agency representatives, and firm owners by posting educational, relatable, and inspiring content.

This class explores how court reporters can use platforms like TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram to promote the profession, elevate their personal brand, document their skills, and connect with industry leaders. Whether you're still in school or years into your career, you'll learn practical strategies for growing your presence, maintaining professionalism online, and using social media platforms to open doors in the field of court reporting.

Speaker: Natalie Ruben, Registered Skilled Reporter | WA Certified Court Reporter | Idaho Certified Shorthand Reporter

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

3:00pm - 4:00pm Concurrent Sessions, *Continued*

Leading into Success, CEUs .1

Focus: Officials **Level:** Intermediate

Achieving success in bargaining, negotiations, and labor-management within the bureaucracy of our government and court system is no small task. Budget cuts and red tape and antagonistic court negotiators can overwhelm employees and their representatives. As a leader, your colleagues will look to you for guidance, direction, and motivation. So how do you become that leader? What if you aren't a confident public speaker? Where do you start, or how do you change direction if what you've been doing hasn't been working? In the last six years, San Diego Superior Court has become a powerhouse with all that it's achieved, and its Union leaders have paved the way to that success using the resources and skills learned after many years advocating for our profession. Together in this session we will work together to raise the bar across the state, create a strong network within our industry, and protect our friends and coworkers.

Speaker: Jennifer Esquivel, SEIU 221 Executive Board Member and San Diego Superior Court Official Court Reporter

4:00pm - 4:15pm Networking Break



CCRA SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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Program



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025, CONTINUED

4:15pm - 5:30pm

Concurrent Sessions

The Good, The Bad & Everything In Between, CEUs .125

Focus: General Interest Level: Beginner

Are you within your first two years as a licensee, a student who wants to get ahead of the flock, or a veteran curious about how the fledglings are managing? Then join Andrew T. Ha as he shares his experience as a second-year licensee. There'll be laughs. There'll be tears. There will be (cover your eyes for this part) taxes. Uncover a wide range of topics including beginning to work, interacting with agencies, handling expenses, self-incorporation, work-life balance, and more. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, because after this, Andrew will be in his third year.

Speakers: Andrew Ha, Owner, Haha Court Reporting, Inc.; Natalie Ruben, RSR, WA-CCR

Unlocking Your Potential: Strategies for Achieving Success Beyond Barriers, CEUs .125

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Through the eyes of court reporters and captioners who have experienced obstacles along their professional journey—from beginning as a steno/voice student to certified professionals, this session will delve into actionable insights and methods to help individuals identify their goals, overcome obstacles, and consistently achieve success in their personal and professional lives. This session will feature advice on self-management, strategic planning, building resilience, and effective leadership techniques and was designed to empower attendees with practical tools to navigate challenges during school and reach new heights in their careers.

Speakers: Jessica Coco Borynack, CSR, RPR, CCG, CVR-S; Lidia Perez, CCG, CVR, Precision Captions

Sunsets, Adventures, and Financial Freedom? Yes, Please., CEUs .125

Focus: Officials Level: Appropriate for All

"Whether you're picturing your future toes in the sand, setting off on bucket-list adventures, or simply enjoying the peace of financial independence, it all starts with informed action today. In this course, designed specifically for officials and aspiring officials, you'll gain the tools and knowledge to make your goals more than just daydreams. Learn about investment options, explore various financial accounts tailored to your needs, and uncover practical steps you can start taking now to secure your future.

From setting up retirement funds to understanding compound growth, this session will break down the essentials in a way that's accessible, empowering, and tailored to the court reporting journey. Your financial future is waiting — and it's golden."

Speaker: Jennifer Crisologo, LPL Financial Advisor, PPC, CPFA, CA Insurance Lic. 0E74195, Rockwell Wealth Advisors

7:30pm

Social Event - More information coming soon.

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

7:00am - 8:00am **Elemental Activation — Mindful Fitness**

Focus: Well-being Level: Appropriate for all.

Activate your morning with a not-so-average fitness class that incorporates your mind, body, and soul into one transformative movement practice. Inspired by the elements around us — Earth, Fire, Water, Air — this practice blends cardio, breathwork, mindfulness, and meditation into one and will leave you energized for the day ahead. Court reporters and students are no strangers to stress and fatigue, and this class will help you release those tensions and shake up that stuck energy so you can move forward into your best self, on or off the record. No matter your fitness level, this practice is for you!

Instructor: Rachel N. Barkume, CSR, RMR, CRR

8:30am - 9:30am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30am - 1:30pm **Exhibits Open**

8:30am - 10:00am **Registration Open**

9:00am - 10:00am **General Session**

More Than Just Good Ideas — Best Practices That Work, CEUs .1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

The Court Reporters Board's Best Practices aren't just theoretical suggestions — they're practical, actionable steps designed to help you navigate the real challenges of the job with confidence and clarity. These guidelines were developed by experienced professionals who understand the demands of the field — and now, they're here to share their insights directly with you.

In this course, you'll learn how to implement Best Practices in real-world scenarios, with concrete strategies, case examples, and answers to the questions court reporters ask most. Even better — the session will be led by the very individuals who were in the room helping to shape these Best Practices, giving you behind-the-scenes context and the "why" behind the "how."

We'll also host an interactive Q&A, where you can bring your toughest moments — the ones that don't show up in manuals — and work through them with guidance and support. Whether you're a new reporter or a seasoned pro, this is your chance to sharpen your skills, reduce risk, and reinforce your role as a trusted professional. Let's move beyond theory — and into practice.

Speakers: Brooke Ryan, CSR, RPR; Mary Pierce, CSR; Yvonne Fenner, CSR, CA Court Reporters Board, 2005 CCRA President

10:00am - 10:15am **Networking Break**

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Program



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, CONTINUED

10:15am - 11:15am

Concurrent Sessions

Officials Talk it Out, CEUs .1

Focus: Officials Level: Appropriate for All

This is your yearly legislative update for the world of officials. The speakers will give an update on the issues facing California's Official Court Reporters, including this year's legislation regarding electronic recording, remote reporting, court recruitment and retention issues, and more! We'll also give you an overview of CCRA's Action Team, a powerful community of California's Official Court Reporters from all counties! You'll find out how to stay abreast of statewide issues and keep CCRA informed of what's happening in your county.

Speaker: CCRA Board of Directors

LIVE! The Freelance Connection, CEUs .1

Focus: Freelancers Level: Appropriate for All

Join us for an in-person version of this popular monthly Saturday chat series session, The Freelance Connection! Our panel of experts will cover the latest issues impacting freelance court reporters in California. We'll discuss how to navigate day-to-day challenges, effective ways to work with agencies, and changes in the overall court reporting landscape. Bring your questions, and bounce ideas off of your colleagues. This class will also feature a Q&A session to help you tap into trends, tips & tricks statewide.

Speakers: The Freelance Connection Committee

LIVE! Coffee with Captioners Crew, CEUs .1

Focus: CART/Broadcast Captioning Level: Appropriate for All

Join our Coffee with Captioners Crew LIVE and meet and mingle with fellow Coffee with Captioners participants. Ask questions related to all things captioning and learn all you have ever wanted to know about CART/Broadcast Captioning LIVE and in person. Bring your favorite mug, and get ready to have a great conversation and Coffee with Captioners!

Speaker: CCRA CART/Broadcast Committee

Mastering the Art of Readback: Clarity, Confidence, and Control

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for all

Whether it's a heated exchange between counsel in a deposition, a courthouse jury request, or any other moment where precision matters most, readback can be one of the most high-pressure aspects of the profession. In this practical and interactive session, we'll cover what effective readback should sound like, how to maintain composure in real-world deposition and courtroom scenarios, and the best practices for handling tricky attorney interactions and unexpected jury requests. Learn what should—and shouldn't—be read back, how to assert your role professionally, and how to stay in control when the pressure's on. Walk away with the tools and the confidence to elevate your readback skills to the next level.

Speaker: Shanna Gray, CSR, President, Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association

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Program



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, CONTINUED

11:15am - 11:30am Networking Break

11:30am - 12:30pm Concurrent Sessions

Demystifying Judges, CEUs .1

Focus: Freelancers Level: Appropriate for All

Join this panel of San Bernardino County judges for an insightful discussion on what the bench needs from court reporters. This session will demystify judicial expectations, foster confidence, and offer practical tips to help reporters thrive in the courtroom. Learn what judges value most in a record, how to navigate high-pressure moments, and why your role is vital to the justice system. Gain direct insight from the bench to help you walk into court with clarity, professionalism, and confidence.

Speakers: Hon. Joseph Ortiz, Hon. Dina Amani & Hon. Jeffrey Erickson

Terrific Tidbits; Top-Notch Tips for Transforming Your Talents! CEUs .1

Focus: Machine Writers Level: Appropriate for All

Terrific Tidbits is a delicious concoction of easy-to-learn brief couples, trios and families, along with top-notch tips to take care of YOU! Perfect Your Skills! This rejuvenating session will teach you how and inspire you to tune in to what's important and transcend in the six areas of your well-being. Anissa will introduce you to her take-charge tools that will help you remain calm in chaos, grateful during growth, and visualize your victories!

Speaker: Anissa Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI, B.S. Realtime Reporting

Voice Writing — Realtime, CEUs .1

Focus: Voice Writers Level: Appropriate for All

This session is designed for voice writers who want to perfect (or begin!) their realtime skills. Attendees will learn techniques to improve accuracy, reduce editing time, and deliver clean, readable realtime output. Learn techniques to boost speed, improve recognition, and minimize editing time. The session will focus on practical strategies for delivering high-quality realtime in both freelance and official settings. Whether you're new to realtime or looking to refine your skills, this class will help you take your realtime to the next level.

Speakers: Patrick Stephens, CVR, RVR-M, CSR, CCR, President, National Verbatim Reporters Association; Danielle Parker, CVR-CM, CCR, Vice President, National Verbatim Reporters Association

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Program



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025, CONTINUED

11:30am - 12:30pm Concurrent Sessions, *Continued*

Thriving in Online Court Reporting School: Building Success, Connection, and Confidence, CEUs .1

Focus: *Students* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

Court reporting school comes with its own unique set of challenges, and taking on this challenge through a remote modality is even harder. This class is designed to help you not just survive online learning, but thrive in it. Whether you're just starting theory or about to pass your qualifiers, we'll cover strategies for staying engaged, creating structure, finding community, and building a support system even from behind the video conference screen. You'll learn how to network with other students and educators, make meaningful friendships, gain mentorship, and collect the references and connections that will assist you beginning internships and your career. Court reporting school may be online, but your experience doesn't have to be isolated. Let's build our community.

Speakers: Nicole Caldwell, B.A., Court Reporting Student; Diane Pessagno, CSR, CCRR, RDR, CRI

12:30pm - 1:45pm General Session/Sunday Brunch

From the Courtroom to Judge Judy: Lessons from an Emmy-Winning Career, CEUs .125

Focus: *General Interest* **Level:** *Appropriate for All*

What happens when a court reporter steps into the spotlight? Meet Whitney Kumar, the certified court reporter for the Emmy Award-winning show *Judy Justice* and Judge Judy's trusted on-camera stenographer. From the halls of California courthouses to national television, Whitney has carved out a remarkable career by following her passion and saying yes to unexpected opportunities.

In this inspiring session, Whitney shares the powerful lessons she's learned along the way — about knowing your worth, staying open to possibility, and transforming challenges into GOLD. Whether you're just beginning your journey or seeking new direction, you'll leave energized and reminded of the immense value you bring to this profession.

Speaker: Whitney Kumar, CSR, CCRR, CLR

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The GOLD Within

CCRA'S 115TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 26-28, 2025



Silent Auction Pledge Form

Donated By: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

Description of Donation/Package: _____

Restrictions: _____

Expiration Date (Expiration date should be no earlier than 12/31/2025): _____

Estimated Dollar Value: \$ _____

**CCRA will have a silent auction table set up at our convention for all attendees to view items
and bid on them. We'd love for you to participate!**

In order to include your donation in CCRA's Silent Auction, please email your pledge form to
Becky Denhalter at events@cal-ccra.org by Friday, September 5, 2025.

Please either bring the item to the convention or mail the donated item to the CCRA office no later than September 19, 2025.

Our office is located at One Capitol Mall, Suite 800, Sacramento, CA 95814. Be sure to send to Becky Denhalter's attention.

CCRA will be responsible for displaying the donated items at the silent auction table.

CCRA will announce the winners of the silent auction at the convention, and winners will be able to take their item home with them.

If you have any questions, please contact Becky Denhalter at the above email.

We reserve the right to combine the above item with other donations to create a complete and memorable package experience.

<http://www.cal-ccra.org>