



CALIFORNIA
COURT REPORTERS
— ASSOCIATION —

*Advancing our profession
for over a Century.* »

A ROYALE AFFAIRE

CCRA'S 116TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 25–27, 2026

Omni La Costa Resort and Spa, Carlsbad, CA



ATTENDEE BROCHURE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear CCRA Members, Friends, and Colleagues,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 116th Annual Convention of the California Court Reporters Association.

This year, we gather for *A Royale Affaire*, a celebration of the excellence, distinction, and enduring strength of our profession, set against the timeless elegance and effortless glamour of the French Riviera.

Like the sparkling coastline of the Côte d'Azur, our profession is built on brilliance, precision, and resilience. Court reporters and captioners bring extraordinary skill, integrity, and composure to every proceeding. We preserve the record, provide access to the spoken word, and serve as trusted guardians of history in an ever-changing world.

A Royale Affaire is more than a theme; it's an opportunity to recognize the exceptional standards we uphold and the important role each of us plays in advancing our profession. Throughout the weekend, we will celebrate our legacy while looking boldly toward the future.

You will hear from inspiring speakers, participate in engaging educational sessions, explore emerging technologies, and take part in meaningful conversations about the issues shaping court reporting and captioning today. You will also have countless opportunities to reconnect with colleagues (old and new!) and welcome new members and students into our family, and enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that make CCRA and our profession so special.

Whether you are a seasoned professional, a student beginning your journey, or somewhere in between, we hope this convention leaves you feeling informed, inspired, and renewed. Every person here contributes something valuable to our shared success, and together we are stronger, more innovative, and better prepared to meet the future.

For more than a century, CCRA has served as a leading voice for California's court reporting and captioning professionals. That legacy continues because of members like you, professionals who demonstrate excellence, advocate with purpose, mentor generously, and remain steadfast in their commitment to the profession.

Thank you for joining us for this unforgettable weekend. Your presence adds to the distinction of this gathering.

Now settle into the Riviera state of mind, raise a glass to our remarkable profession, and prepare for a fantabulous weekend.

Welcome to *A Royale Affaire*.

Cheers!

Michelle Caldwell

President, California Court Reporters Association



Michelle Caldwell
CCRA President

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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.

A ROYALE AFFAIRE

CCRA'S 116TH ANNUAL CONVENTION | SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

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 areas featuring two 100-foot waterslides, a toddler slide, and Splash Landing. For rest and relaxation, guests can retreat to an adult-only pool. Beyond the water, the Omni La Costa features tennis and pickleball courts, as well as a fully equipped athletic club. Dining and retail options abound, with five on-site restaurants and boutique shopping showcasing Tart, Ella Moss, and other designer brands.

Check-in is at 4:00 PM; Checkout is at 11:00 AM.

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 \$239 is available through Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 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

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Early Bird (through August 20, 2026)

	Member	Nonmember*	Student/Teacher Member ¹	Student/Teacher Nonmember*
Full Registration	\$579.00	\$709.00	\$409.00	\$499.00
Saturday Registration Only	\$509.00	\$609.00	\$409.00	\$499.00
Sunday Registration Only	\$409.00	\$509.00	\$409.00	\$499.00
Guest (Non-CSR, or student/teacher, and must be accompanying an attendee.) No CEUs will be awarded.		\$409.00		

Full Registration (after August 20, 2026)

Full Registration	\$769.00	\$809.00	\$459.00	\$539.00
Saturday Registration Only	\$709.00	\$759.00	\$459.00	\$539.00
Sunday Registration Only	\$459.00	\$559.00	\$459.00	\$539.00
Guest (Non-CSR, or student/teacher, and must be accompanying an attendee.) No CEUs will be awarded.		\$509.00		
Student Sponsored Registration	\$409.00			

*Join & Register (Includes 1-year membership with CCRA & Full Registration to CCRA's 116th Annual Convention). **This is for new members only.**

CRG Testing (Sunday) (Two Exams)	\$300.00
CCG Testing (Sunday) (Two Exams)	\$300.00
CCG Written Knowledge Testing (One Exam Online Only)	\$125.00

¹ The Student rate is not available to reporters licensed in any state.

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

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

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

CCG Written Knowledge Test and Webinar

The CCG Written Knowledge Test (WKT) will be administered through RealTime Coach. Prior to taking the WKT, candidates 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. The exam link and instructions will be provided upon completion of the webinar. Please note: A separate registration fee of \$125 applies for taking the WKT and attending the webinar.

This WKT test will not be offered at the convention. It will only be available online.

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

Continuing Education: CCRA has applied for 1.6 CEUs through NCRA and 16 CEUs through NVRA.

CANCELATION POLICY: Cancellations must be received in writing (fax or e-mail accepted) by 5:00 PM on Friday, September 11, 2026, to qualify for a refund. A \$200 processing fee will apply to all refunds. No refunds for cancellations received after 5:00 PM on September 11, 2026. Substitutions are allowed.

Click HERE to register: <https://ccra.memberclicks.net/2026-annual-convention>

PROGRAM



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM **Registration is Open**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM **Registration for Software Attendees Only**

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast (Exhibitors and Software Attendees Only)**

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Concurrent Software Classes**

Eclipse 12: The Evolution of Efficiency, NVRA CEUs 3

Focus: Software Level: Appropriate for All

This training will provide a comprehensive look at the latest updates in Eclipse 12, covering improvements in audio management, translation, realtime collaboration, output options, and user interface enhancements. Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the new features and refinements designed to enhance productivity and streamline workflows.

Speaker: Ashli Van Dyke, Advantage Software

StenoCAT Interactive Class – All About Remote Scoping/Editing, NCRA CEUs .3

Focus: Software Level: Appropriate for All

From the performance and simplicity you've come to expect from StenoCAT to the security and integrity of your remote sessions, we'll show you how StenoCAT keeps you competitive with daily turnarounds.

Join us for a live demo of our latest update to learn the best practices of running remote sessions, globaling in realtime, and finishing up your dailies all while knowing your data is kept safe and secure!

In our discussion of Remote Scoping, share your experience and let us know what is personally important to you, your unique remote editing workflow, its restrictions, and how you work with your multiple Scopists to have a successful remote session! You must have an active StenoCAT license to attend this training. No exceptions.

Speaker: David Scharbach, StenoCAT

CaseCAT - I'll Do It Later: Flag Now, Fix Later, Miss Nothing, NCRA CEUs .3 and NVRA CEUs 3

Focus: Software Level: Appropriate for All

You're deep in your edit and hit something that needs a second look. Do you stop and fix it now or risk forgetting it later? This editing-focused class for reporters explores three Case CATalyst tools like the Hotspots pane, Scan Stops, and Hidden Text that let you flag trouble spots and keep moving so nothing falls through the cracks when you circle back to scope and finalize your transcript.

Speaker: Jean Kim, CSR, RPR, CRG

Recording of sessions is strictly prohibited.

CCRA SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

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PROGRAM



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

The Future of ProCAT Winner: Smarter Tools, Stronger Reporter Control, NCRA CEUs .3 and NVRA CEUs 3

Focus: Software **Level:** Appropriate for All

Discover upcoming ProCAT Winner enhancements designed to help court reporters work more efficiently while maintaining complete oversight over the transcript production process. This session will preview intelligent workflow tools that can assist with editing, research, review, and transcript preparation, allowing reporters to save time, increase productivity, and focus their expertise where it matters most. These features are designed to elevate the professional court reporter.

Speaker: Bob Bakva

Lunch on Your Own

11:30 AM - 5:00 PM **Conference Registration is Open**

11:30 AM - 6:00 PM **Exhibits Open**

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

The Value & Importance of Excellent Realtime – Steno Machine Writers, NCRA CEUs .1

Focus: Machine Writers **Level:** Appropriate for All

This seminar content focuses on the importance of excellent realtime, not merely functional realtime in today's court reporting environment.

Participants will learn why clean, reliable realtime is critical for judges, attorneys, and reporters alike, and how realtime quality directly impacts editing time, confidence, and career longevity. This seminar content will introduce strategies for improving realtime accuracy and efficiency through better writing habits, intentional refinements, and overall awareness of editing and dictionary entries.

Speaker: Tracy Thompson, RPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, RDR, CRI, LearnToRealtime

Money Matters: A Reporter's Guide to Financial Confidence, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

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

Irregular income, taxes, investing, and retirement planning can feel overwhelming, but they don't have to! This practical session breaks financial wellness into clear, manageable steps designed specifically for reporters.

Learn how to budget when income changes from month to month, prepare for slower periods, and make smarter saving and spending decisions. We'll also simplify the basics of investing and retirement planning and introduce common tax considerations and business structures that may affect your business.

Whether you're new to the profession or ready to strengthen your financial future, you'll leave with practical ideas and greater confidence about managing your money.

Speaker: Brandon Sussman, CFP, Traction Wealth Management

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PROGRAM



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

12:30 PM - 1:20 PM Concurrent Sessions

Practice Makes Progress: Building Stronger Reporters Together, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Court reporting practice doesn't have to be a solo activity. This engaging session shows machine and voice students and working professionals how collaborative practice groups can build speed, accuracy, confidence, accountability, and motivation.

Explore a variety of group formats, including readback drills, theory review, speed building, written knowledge study sessions, and accountability check-ins. Attendees will learn how to organize an effective group, select a meeting format and schedule, create clear announcements and flyers, and promote sessions within the court reporting community.

The session will also cover practical tools such as shared calendars, reminders, and simple planning systems that help groups stay consistent. Participants will leave with fresh ideas and an easy-to-use framework for creating a supportive practice community that lasts.

Speaker: Amy Galkin

1:20 PM - 1:50 PM 30-Minute Break With Exhibitors

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM Concurrent Sessions

Basic Realtime Boundaries™, NCRA CEUs .1

Focus: Machine Writers Level: Appropriate for All

Clean realtime translation begins with recognizing where one word ends and the next begins.

This presentation introduces attendees to the concept of realtime boundaries and demonstrates how improved boundary recognition can reduce translation conflicts, improve writing confidence, and decrease editing time.

Participants will explore common boundary challenges involving prefixes, suffixes, one-word versus two-word distinctions, minimal pairs, and frequently occurring phrase families. Through instructor demonstrations and interactive examples, attendees will learn simple, practical techniques that can be incorporated into their daily writing immediately.

Whether writing realtime every day or working toward cleaner translation, participants will leave with new ways to identify and prevent common writing conflicts before they become translation errors.

Speaker: Tracy Thompson, RPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, RDR, CRI, LearnToRealtime

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PROGRAM



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

1:50 PM - 2:40 PM

Concurrent Sessions

CSR Prep Class: Written Knowledge Exam Edition, NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Students Level: Beginner

Not sure where to begin studying for the California CSR English and Professional Practice exams? You're definitely not alone. In this session, CSR Natalie Ruben will share what the prep process really looked like, from sorting through endless study materials to figuring out what actually worked. Natalie will talk about the resources that made the biggest impact, what to skip if starting over, and how motivation stayed strong when it got tough. You'll also learn how Natalie found, or built, supportive study groups that provided accountability and encouragement. Whether you're early in school or counting down to exam day, you'll leave with practical tips and a clear plan to prepare with confidence.

Speakers: Natalie Ruben, CSR, RPR; Jessica Villanueva, CVR, CSR

2:40 PM - 3:10 PM

30-Minute Break With Exhibitors

3:10 PM - 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

CSR Prep Class: Skills Exam Edition

Focus: Students Level: Beginner

Preparing to take the CSR Skills Exam and not sure what the process looks like? This class will provide students with guidance on the rules, procedures, and technical requirements of the California CSR online skills examination. The course provides a detailed overview of the testing process, including setup, equipment requirements, and familiarity with exam protocols. The class also covers best practices for test-day preparation, troubleshooting technical issues, and developing backup plans for technical issues.

Speaker: Natalie Ruben, CSR, RPR

LIVE! Coffee With Captioners, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: CART/Captioning Level: Appropriate for All

Grab your favorite mug, and join the Coffee with Captioners Crew LIVE! Meet, mingle, and connect with fellow captioners while enjoying an open, lively conversation about all things CART and broadcast captioning.

Bring your questions, share your experiences, and learn from captioners who understand the opportunities, challenges, and day-to-day realities of the profession. Whether you're curious about getting started, building your skills, finding work, or taking your captioning career to the next level, this is your chance to get the inside scoop—live and in person.

Come for the coffee, stay for the conversation, and leave with new connections, helpful insights, and plenty of captioning inspiration!

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PROGRAM



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

3:10 PM - 4:00 PM

Concurrent Sessions

The Seven Deadly Sins of Voice Writing: Breaking the Habits That Keep You from Writing Realtime - Part 1, NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Voice Writers **Level:** Appropriate for All

Why do some voice writers consistently deliver clean realtime while others spend hours chasing errors?

This highly interactive session challenges many of the assumptions voice writers make about Dragon, dictionaries, and realtime accuracy. Through live demonstrations, audience participation, transcript analysis, dictation playback, and real-world troubleshooting, attendees will learn how to identify the true causes of recognition errors instead of simply treating the symptoms.

Participants will work through the “Seven Deadly Sins of Voice Writing,” the common habits that prevent reporters from reaching reliable realtime and leave with practical strategies to improve accuracy, reduce editing time, and build a repeatable system for success. Whether you’re just beginning your realtime journey or already writing realtime every day, you’ll leave with a new way of diagnosing problems and a clear plan to continue improving long after the session ends.

Don’t just bring your workstation. Bring a mystery. We’ll solve it together.

Feel free to bring your work computer (already charged, as there will be very limited electrical plugs available) and one of your most frustrating recognition conflicts or, before the workshop, submit one of your toughest recognition conflicts (audio and transcript excerpt, preferably with redactions if necessary). I’ll select several real submissions to diagnose live during the session. All examples can be anonymized. This is a hands-on workshop, and we’ll use real examples throughout the session.

If submitted before the session, please include:

- A 15–30 second audio clip of your dictation
- Dragon’s output (or your CAT output)
- What you expected to see
- Any troubleshooting you’ve already tried

Send to: imperialreportingllc@gmail.com

Speaker: Patrick Stephens, CSR, CVR, RVR-M, NVRA Past President

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

30-Minute Break With Exhibitors

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

LIVE! Wisdom Exchange: One Room. Every Career Stage. Endless Possibilities, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

CCRA's beloved monthly mentorship program is once again coming together LIVE! and in person. Join students, new professionals, and seasoned court reporters for an energizing session filled with honest conversations, real-world advice, career strategies, and shared wisdom.

Through roundtable discussions and practical scenarios, participants will exchange ideas, tackle common challenges, build confidence, and learn from reporters at every stage of the profession. Students can ask the questions they've been holding onto, newer reporters can gain guidance for navigating their careers, and veterans can share the lessons that only experience has taught them.

Come ready to talk, listen, collaborate, and connect. It's mentorship, professional development, and community—all in one room and one unforgettable LIVE! conversation!



Elite rates for elite court reporters.

You invoice us, and you're paid in 3 to 5 business days.

Scan the QR code below to learn more or call
213-729-1231 to speak to our team.



Depositions
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

The Seven Deadly Sins of Voice Writing: Breaking the Habits That Keep You from Writing Realtime – Part 2, NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Voice Writers **Level:** Appropriate for All

Why do some voice writers consistently deliver clean realtime while others spend hours chasing errors?

This highly interactive session challenges many of the assumptions voice writers make about Dragon, dictionaries, and realtime accuracy. Through live demonstrations, audience participation, transcript analysis, dictation playback, and real-world troubleshooting, attendees will learn how to identify the true causes of recognition errors instead of simply treating the symptoms.

Participants will work through the “Seven Deadly Sins of Voice Writing,” the common habits that prevent reporters from reaching reliable realtime and leave with practical strategies to improve accuracy, reduce editing time, and build a repeatable system for success. Whether you’re just beginning your realtime journey or already writing realtime every day, you’ll leave with a new way of diagnosing problems and a clear plan to continue improving long after the session ends.

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Speaker: Patrick Stephens, CSR, CVR, RVR-M, NVRA Past President

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, CONTINUED

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM **Côte d'Azur After Dark** **An Evening on the French Riviera**

As the sun sets on *A Royale Affaire*, the party begins! Join us for Côte d'Azur After Dark, an unforgettable evening inspired by the glamour, elegance, and carefree spirit of the French Riviera.



Slip into your finest upscale resort attire. Think chic linen, breezy dresses, kaftans, tailored resort wear, statement sunglasses, and a touch of Riviera sophistication. Whether you're channeling the luxury of Monaco, the charm of Saint-Tropez, or the sparkle of Cannes, this is your chance to dress for a night of Riviera elegance.

Join us for an evening of music, laughter, and celebration with old and new friends.

Dress Code: Upscale Resort Attire

Vibe: French Riviera Chic • Yacht Club Glamour • Dancing Under the Stars

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

7:30 AM - 4:30 PM **Registration is Open**

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM **Exhibits**

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Continental Breakfast**

8:00 AM - 9:30 AM **Behind the Kennedy Assassination: A Conversation with Judge John R. Tunheim, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1**

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

Join us for a rare and compelling opportunity to hear from Judge John R. Tunheim, former Chair of the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board, the independent federal agency charged with reviewing and declassifying millions of pages of records related to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Judge Tunheim will discuss his firsthand experience leading this historic task, as well as his ongoing role in the declassification efforts surrounding the tragic events of November 22, 1963. Judge Tunheim will share his unique insight into the records, the process of uncovering long-sealed information, and his experience surrounding one of the most examined events in American history.

This is a fascinating session you won't want to miss.

Speaker: Judge John R. Tunheim, United States District Court

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM 30-Minute Break With Exhibitors

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Concurrent Sessions

The First Six Months: What Nobody Told You Before You Got Busy, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: New Reporter Level: Beginner

Your license is in hand, and you can't wait to start working! The first one to two years of working life are a window most new reporters either use brilliantly or lose entirely. New reporters who thrive early are not necessarily the most talented ones in the room; they are the ones who built the right systems and habits during that critical lead-in period before the volume of work makes it harder to stop and to learn. This session is a practical, honest roadmap for using your early working months deliberately so that your software, your files, and your professional routines are working for you from the start rather than catching up to you later.

Speaker: Jean Kim, CSR, RPR, CRG

She's Baaaaaack! The Compendium Is Back: Your 2026 Reporting Rulebook, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

After years of silence, CCRA's newly updated 2026 Compendium is back—and it's packed with the codes, rules, and essential information every California court reporter needs at their fingertips.

This practical session will introduce attendees to the updated Compendium and show you how to use it as a fast, reliable resource in court, depositions, and everyday reporting situations. Learn how the book is organized, where to find answers to frequently encountered questions, and how to quickly locate the statutes and regulations that govern our professional responsibilities.

Whether you are a student, a new licensee, or a seasoned reporter, this session will help you turn the Compendium into one of the most valuable tools in your reporting toolkit. Stop searching, start finding, and know the rules that protect your license and the record.

10:50 AM - 11:10 AM 20-Minute Break With Exhibitors

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

11:10 AM - 12:00 PM Concurrent Sessions

Meet the Central District of California Federal Court, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Officials Level: Intermediate

Join us for an inside look at the vital role of court reporters in the largest federal district court in the United States. Hear from a current reporter and the first voice writer for the Central District of California as they share what a typical day in the life of a court reporter looks like. We'll discuss the tools and support systems that help us succeed in this demanding profession. You will also hear from the Honorable André Birotte, Jr., a federal judge with the Central District of California who will explain what judges expect from court reporters, and why the court continues to prefer professional reporters over any other method of capturing the official record.

Speakers: The Honorable André Birotte, Jr., United States District Court, Central District of California; Valerie Savla, CSR, United States District Court, Central District of California; Miranda Algorri, CSR, RPR, CRR, United States District Court, Central District of California

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch and General Session - Can Artificial Intelligence Lead to Algorithmic Injustice? You Be the Judge, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

When it comes to the services we provide, whether judicial reporting or CART captioning, the words we write matter. Let's sit down and have an interactive and informative chat about the AI boom, its advantages, its pitfalls, and its role in the court reporting community.

Speaker: Stacey Raikes, RMR, CRR

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM

15-Minute Break With Exhibitors

1:15 PM - 2:05 PM

Concurrent Sessions

TBA

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

2:05 PM - 2:20 PM **15-Minute Break With Exhibitors**

2:20 PM - 3:10 PM **Concurrent Sessions**

CART Reimagined - Career Path 2, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: CART/Captioning Level: Appropriate for All

What happens when an accomplished court reporter decides it's time for a new chapter? NCRA President Cathy Penniston shares her personal journey from full-time court reporting to building a rewarding second career in broadcast captioning.

In this candid and inspiring session, Cathy will discuss why she made the transition, the skills that carried over, the challenges she encountered, and what she learned along the way. Attendees will gain insight into CART captioning, the training and preparation involved, and the opportunities available to reporters ready to expand or completely reimagine their careers.

Whether you're looking for greater flexibility, exploring life beyond the deposition room or courtroom, or simply curious about captioning, this session proves that your reporting skills can open more doors than you may realize. Your first career built the foundation. Now discover where Career Path 2 could take you!

Speaker: Cathy Penniston, M.A., RPR, CRI, NCRA President

2:20 PM - 3:10 PM **Laptop Smarts: Choosing the Right Computer for Court Reporting, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1**

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Shopping for a reporting laptop can feel like decoding a foreign language—but it doesn't have to. Which features are essential for reliable performance, and which expensive upgrades can you skip? How much memory, storage, processing power, and battery life do you really need? And how can you tell whether you're getting a great deal or simply paying for flashy extras?

This practical session will break down the essential laptop components in easy-to-understand terms and help you create a focused shopping checklist based on the demands of court reporting. You'll learn which specifications deserve your attention, which features are optional, and how to compare models and prices with confidence.

We'll wrap up by reviewing real-world laptop listings and shopping scenarios, giving you the skills to spot the best value. Leave ready to shop smarter—and choose a laptop that can keep up with you and the record.

Speaker: Tim Falk, CLVS, Remotely LLC

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

2:20 PM - 3:10 PM

Lights, Camera, Action: Tools and Strategies to Work Smarter from Student to New Reporter, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: New Reporter/Voice Writers Level: Intermediate

This interactive fireside chat explores tools, strategies, and practical tips for court reporting students and newly certified reporters to work smarter and more efficiently. Vance Malone, a newly certified California voice court reporter with a background in filmmaking, will demonstrate the tools, apps, and workflow strategies he uses to train Dragon software, improve efficiency, and streamline reporting. Lizza Morales, a motivated student transitioning into court reporting, will share her experience navigating training, mock trials, internships, and professional development opportunities. The session includes a touch-and-see component, allowing participants to explore the tools firsthand and leave with a QR code linking to the resources discussed. Participants will gain actionable strategies to improve productivity, leverage technology, and accelerate learning in court reporting.

Speakers: Lizza Morales; Vance Malone, CVR, CSR, RVR, San Francisco Superior Court Official

3:10 PM - 3:40 PM

30-Minute Break With Exhibitors

3:40 PM - 4:30 PM

Concurrent Sessions

Comma Sense—Part 1, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Hundreds of comma rules? Ugh! This session cuts through the clutter and turns an overwhelming list of rules into a practical, easy-to-use guideline for everyday transcript punctuation.

We'll break down the comma decisions reporters face most often, explore a few of the quirky rules that tend to cause confusion, and share strategies for punctuating with greater speed and confidence. Come ready to simplify the rules, sharpen your skills, and finally make sense of the mighty little comma.

Speaker: Margie Wakeman Wells, Margie Holds Court

Captioning A-Z: From Start to Finish, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: CART/Captioning Level: Appropriate for All

This session provides a complete, start-to-finish introduction to captioning. Participants will learn why captioning matters, who it serves, and how it improves accessibility and communication. The course walks through how to produce different types of captioning outputs, including practical guidance on tools and workflows. Attendees will also learn what software to download, how to configure it, and how to connect it to the appropriate platforms and connectors.

Speakers: Lidia Perez, CCG, RPR, CVR-CM, CSR, CCR; Susie Galvan, CSR, CVR, CCG, CCR

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

3:40 PM - 4:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

Capitol Challenge: Pitch Your Bill! NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Step up, grab the mic, and bring your best ideas for protecting and advancing the court reporting profession. This fast-paced, interactive session combines open discussion, audience participation, and live game-show energy as attendees pitch their own ideas for new legislation.

What problems are reporters facing? What laws need to change? What protections are missing? Participants will brainstorm possible solutions, test their ideas against real-world challenges, and explore what it takes to turn a great concept into a viable legislative proposal.

Expect lively debate, rapid-fire questions, creative thinking, and plenty of audience shout-outs. Whether your idea is polished, half-baked, bold, or completely outside the box, bring it to the floor. Your idea just might become the profession's next big legislative priority!

Speakers: Stacy Gaskill, CSR, RPR, CCRR; Nick Brokaw and Graciela Castillo-Krings, CCRA's Legislative Team, Sacramento Advocates, Inc.

4:30 PM - 4:40 PM 10-Minute Break With Exhibitors

4:40 PM - 5:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

Semicolon Savvy—Part 2, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

Ready to tackle the comma's more sophisticated cousin? This session takes the mystery out of semicolons and shows reporters exactly when (and when not) to use them.

We'll break down the most common semicolon situations, including joining closely related independent clauses, organizing complicated lists, and punctuating sentences that already contain multiple commas. Along the way, we'll clear up common misconceptions and explore practical transcript examples that make the rules easier to remember.

Come ready to strengthen your punctuation skills, add clarity to the record, and give the semicolon the confidence it deserves!

Speaker: Margie Wakeman Wells, Margie Holds Court

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

4:40 PM - 5:30 PM Concurrent Sessions

No Pain, All Gain – The Reporter’s Guide to Safe Sitting. All. Day. Long. NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

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

Court reporting may be a seated profession, but it can take a serious toll on your neck, shoulders, wrists, hands, and back. This interactive session will help you understand what really causes repetitive stress and, more importantly, what you can do about it.

Learn practical, low-risk techniques for working, keyboarding, sitting, and lifting that can be used immediately in the courtroom, deposition room, home office, or wherever the job takes you. You'll also practice targeted stretches designed specifically to ease tension in the neck, wrists, and shoulders.

Come ready to move, stretch, and discover simple changes that can help you reduce discomfort, prevent injury, and feel better both on and off the job.

Speaker: Dennis Downing, Future Industrial Technologies/FIT

From Idea to Impact: Legislation, Lobbying & The State of the Profession, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

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

You've pitched the idea. Now learn how it can become law. This fast-paced session begins with an update on the legislative issues, challenges, and opportunities currently shaping the court reporting profession.

Then we'll take you behind the scenes of the legislative process, following a bill from its first draft through committee hearings, floor votes, and the Governor's desk. You'll also get a practical crash course in advocacy: how to communicate with lawmakers, tell the profession's story, write an effective support or opposition letter, and make your voice count.

Whether you're a seasoned advocate or have never contacted a legislator, you'll leave with a clearer understanding of the process—and the confidence to help influence the future of court reporting.

Speakers: Nick Brokaw, Sacramento Advocates; Graciela Castillo-Krings, Sacramento Advocates

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026, CONTINUED

8:00 PM - 11:00 PM **Casino Royale: A Monte Carlo Soirée**

Bring Your Own Booogie (BYOB) - Step into the glamour and sophistication of the French Riviera for an unforgettable evening of high stakes and haute style. Inspired by the legendary casinos of



Monte Carlo, Casino Royale invites guests to experience the elegance, excitement, and allure of the Côte d'Azur after dark.

Attendees will enjoy an evening where fortunes are won, friendships are celebrated, and every guest feels like a winner. This Monte Carlo-inspired soirée captures the timeless charm of Europe's most glamorous playground.

Attire: Riviera Chic, Cocktail, or Resort Elegance. Think flowing linens, sophisticated evening wear, tailored jackets, sun-kissed glamour.

Place your bets, embrace the glamour, and join us for a night where the Riviera comes alive at Casino Royale.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM **Registration is Open**

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM **Exhibits Open**

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM **Business Breakfast**

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM **30-Minute Break With Exhibitors**

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM **Concurrent Sessions**

LIVE! Officials Talk it Out, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Officials Level: Appropriate for All

Pull up a chair and join official reporters from across California for a candid, lively conversation about what's happening inside courtrooms around the state.

This interactive roundtable gives attendees the opportunity to compare experiences, share solutions, ask questions, and discuss issues affecting today's officials, from courtroom procedures and staffing challenges to technology, workload, workplace trends, and everything in between.

There's no formal lecture and no scripted presentation, just real reporters having real conversations about the profession they know best. Come ready to listen, contribute, exchange ideas, and connect with colleagues who understand the unique rewards and challenges of working in court.

One room. Many courts. Plenty to talk about!

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, CONTINUED

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Concurrent Sessions

LIVE! The Freelance Connection, NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1

Focus: Freelancers Level: Appropriate for All

The Freelance Connection is stepping out of the screen and into the room! Join freelance reporters from across California for a lively, open conversation about what's happening in the field right now. This interactive talk-it-out session is your chance to compare notes, share ideas, ask questions, and brainstorm solutions to the issues freelancers face every day. From scheduling, rates, agencies, and technology to courtroom work, business practices, and changing industry trends, no topic is off the table.

There's no formal lecture and no one-size-fits-all answer, just honest conversation, practical insight, and reporters helping reporters. Come ready to listen, contribute, make connections, and leave with fresh ideas you can put to work.

One room. Freelancers statewide. Plenty to talk about!

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM 15-Minute Break With Exhibitors

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Ask Us Anything. No, But Like ANYTHING. NCRA CEUs .1 and NVRA CEUs 1**

Focus: General Interest Level: Appropriate for All

We're closing out the convention with the conversation everyone wants to have! Join a powerhouse panel featuring an official reporter, a freelance reporter, a CART captioner, and a firm owner for a candid, unscripted discussion about the court reporting profession.

No question is off the table. Ask about career paths, rates, workplace challenges, technology, business practices, captioning, court work, industry changes, or anything else you've been curious about. Our panelists will share honest perspectives, practical advice, lessons learned, and insights from four distinct corners of the profession.

Bring your questions, compare viewpoints, and hear how different roles experience the same industry. Whether you're a student, a new professional, or a seasoned reporter, you'll leave with fresh ideas, valuable takeaways, and a broader view of where court reporting is headed. Four professionals. One room. Ask Us Anything!

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026, CONTINUED

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Concurrent Testing

CCG Steno Testing (Skills)

Doors will open 30 minutes before testing begins. The Certified CART Generalist (CCG) exam for steno machine writers consists of two exams: a written exam and a seven-minute professionally recorded dictation test. The first two minutes will be lead-in and the last five minutes graded. This examination will be given at 180 words per minute. A 96% accuracy is required to pass the test (36 errors total allowed). USB thumb drives will be provided to submit the tests. **Please note:** This session is for steno writers only. A separate registration fee of \$300 is required to take this exam, which includes two dictation exams and grading.

CCG Voice Testing (Skills)

Doors will open 30 minutes before testing begins. The Certified CART Generalist (CCG) exam for voice writers consists of two exams: a written exam and a seven-minute professionally recorded dictation test. The first two minutes will be lead-in and the last five minutes graded. This examination will be given at 180 words per minute. A 96% accuracy is required to pass the test (36 errors total allowed). USB thumb drives will be provided to submit tests. **Please note:** This session is for voice writers only. A separate registration fee of \$300 is required to take this exam, which includes two dictation exams and grading.

CRG Steno Testing

Doors will open 30 minutes before testing begins. 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 the tests. **Please note:** This session is for steno machine writers only. A separate registration fee of \$300 is required to take this exam, which includes two dictation exams and grading.

CRG Voice Testing

Doors will open 30 minutes before testing begins. 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. A separate registration fee of \$300 is required to take this exam, which includes two dictation exams and grading.

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