



September 5, 2024

Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner
Los Angeles Superior Court
600 S Commonwealth Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Dear Judge Jessner,

The California Court Reporters Association (CCRA) is deeply troubled by the Los Angeles Superior Court's Presiding Judge's unlawful action today, authorizing electronic recording in a whole range of case types. This order, disseminated by the Court Executive Officer, is in violation of California law and will create chaos for litigants and continue to feed into a broken system inside the courts of disparity of justice between the haves and the have-nots.

Through this action, the Presiding Judge and the Court Executive Officer will create an expressway to unreliable electronic recording transcripts without proper steps to bring in a live, licensed court reporter.

The California Court Reporters Association requests that the Court immediately rescind this unlawful order and instead meet with the recognized labor union representing court reporters and we here at CCRA to discuss strategies to increase the placement and hiring of official court reporters.

L.A. Superior Court leaders have been warned repeatedly by their court reporter employees, unions, and by we here at CCRA that their hiring process and previous layoffs of hundreds of court reporters would eventually lead to their inability to provide litigants with a licensed court reporter and a verbatim transcript.

We wholeheartedly believe that this was the Court's goal all along—to create a situation where they insist they must use recording machines because they can't find any court reporters. The LA Superior Court has repeatedly and systematically rejected qualified, licensed, long-time reporter applicants in an effort to feed into their narrative of a "shortage." Make no mistake: The "shortage" is manufactured, and LA Superior Court has been the most prominent player in that long game of attempting to phase out court reporters in favor of substandard electronic recording.

We here at the California Court Reporters Association are willing and ready to meet with LA Superior Court leadership at any time to help resolve this issue.

Sincerely,

Brooke Ryan,
CCRA President