

March 2007



FREEDOM CALLS



**Soldier Dad sees child for the first time
thanks to Video Connection**

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CCRA Online Copy Deadlines

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CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

"Being the best you can be" as a court or deposition reporter, simply put, is not an easy task. Our profession is unique, in that we are not only required to prepare an accurate transcript, but we are in the position of having to market ourselves and our value-added services; troubleshoot our technology; interact with counsel, the court and staff in a professional manner; dress in a professional manner; run an office, so to say, by billing for our services, collecting for those services, maintaining records for tax purposes...and the list can go on and on. Bottom line, we are essentially an entrepreneur.

As a court and/or deposition reporter, we all understand that our ultimate responsibility is preparing an accurate transcript - being the "Guardian of the Record." The real question is, "What makes an all-around excellent reporter?" I am sure each one of us would answer this question differently. I posit to each of you, "Be the best you can be!"

I would like to share with each of you just five points and famous quotes that may clarify what I mean by "being the best you can be." You may have additional topics that make you the best you can be, and I would like to hear from you about those. After all, we are in this profession together, moving forward together to be successful. Please share your thoughts with me at realtimccsr@calweb.com.

ATTITUDE: A positive attitude keeps you focused on the positive and moving in a forward direction by building your business, client retention, working with your courtroom staff. Keep your attitude positive by networking via seminars with your colleagues. Stay focused. Meet your deadlines.

CONFIDENCE: Counsel and court are only confident in your abilities if you are confident in them. Confidence can only be gained by staying informed. Stay informed by taking the time to stay educated on the issues of your profession, the services available to us to provide to our clients. Mary O'Hare Dumas states, "Confidence is the hinge on the door to success." Samuel Johnson quotes, "Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings."

KNOWLEDGE:

Without knowledge (wisdom) we have little confidence to succeed. Stay involved in your profession by attending educational seminars, read the information sent to you from your professional association. Jeremy Taylor quotes, "Knowledge comes by eyes always open and working hard, and there is no knowledge that is not power."

CHARACTER/INTEGRITY: I abide by the philosophy that what goes around comes around. As a result, honesty in all aspects of my life, including my business, is of utmost importance. What I do in my business not only reflects on me personally but on the whole profession. John Wooden quotes, "Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

SERVICE: How does that saying go? "Service. Service. Service." The bottom line is we are all in a service business. Service means everything. Not good or satisfactory service, but excellent service. I think service envelopes the entirety of our jobs. You would not be able to provide excellent service without incorporating the above topics into your reporting job.

So CCRA challenges each of you to be the best you can be. Follow through with the information I have provided. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain! 

A positive attitude keeps you focused on the positive and moving in a forward direction by building your business, client retention, working with your courtroom staff.



*Sandy Bunch
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FYI

Cypress College is offering advanced realtime classes, along with advanced training on Eclipse and CaseCAT.

For more information contact Ms. Freer at 714 808 4574.



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20 Important Life Lessons

Compiled from the Internet

1. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
3. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
4. Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.
5. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
6. Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
7. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
8. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.
9. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
10. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
11. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
12. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
13. What other people think of you is none of your business.
14. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
15. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
16. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
17. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
18. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
19. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.



Cal-E-Licious

By Gerie A. Bunch, CSR, RPR, Public Relations/SOS Committee Chair

Sweet Hot Sausage Meatballs

- 1 8oz. cans water chestnuts, drained
- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- 1 lb. hot pork sausage
- 1/4 c. cornstarch
- 1 c. maple syrup
- 2/3 c. red wine vinegar
- 1/4 c. soy sauce

In food processor, process water chestnuts until minced. Transfer to a bowl and add sausage; mix well and form into 1" meatballs (makes about 100). Place meatballs on ungreased jellyroll pan. Bake uncovered at 350 for 20 -25 minutes, until no longer pink.

Meanwhile, combine the remaining ingredients in a sauce pan. Stir until smooth, then add heat and bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 min. until thick and bubbly. Drain meatballs on paper towels. Add to sauce and heat through. Makes 12 to 14 servings. This was the hit at our Christmas appetizer party.

CCRA's FREELANCE & OFFICIAL COMPENDIUMS

AVAILABLE SOON!

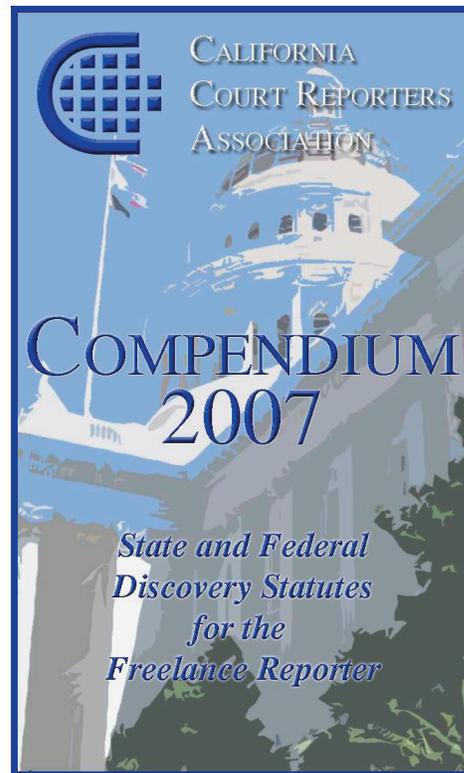
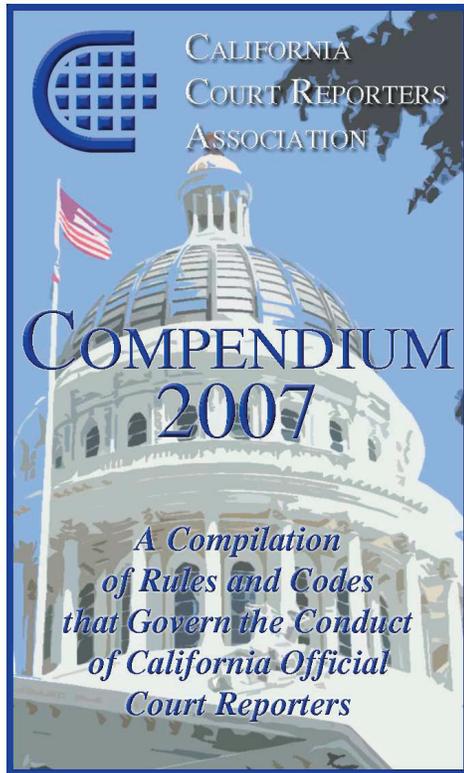
OFFICIALS – DID YOU KNOW??

Officials, are you aware that Rule 4 and Rule 9 of the California Rules of Court no longer exist?

As many of you know, and for those who don't, the California Court Reporters Association publishes a Freelance and an Official Compendium, which we update each year. This compendium contains all of the codes, rules and regulations governing court reporters in the State of California.

I'll bet that most of you are unaware that the Judicial Council renumbered all of the California Rules of Court and that that became effective January 1, 2007. It is very difficult for reporters to keep apprised of the changes and that is why it is important for you to obtain a compendium each year to ensure that you are in compliance with the new laws.

This year in the Official Compendium we have added a couple of additional appendices that we hope you will be able to make use of. For ease in transcript production, we included a list of frequently cited motions and cases, such as, Boykin-Tahl and Serna. Also included is a page with research web sites. These two additions to the compendium are a work in progress, so we would welcome and encourage you to send us your favorite cites for research to share in next year's edition. If you report death penalty cases, the death penalty time line and guideline are a must. If you use this document as a check-off list, you will not go wrong. The guideline also gives you a list of problems frequently encountered by the Supreme Court that results in them returning your transcripts for corrections. This guideline should be used just before you file your death penalty transcripts. Go down the list of problems and make sure that you're in compliance. It will save you a lot of grief in the long run.



Go to www.cal.ccra.org to order your compendium now!

FREEDOM CALLS

By Pat Hahn, Hahn & Bowersock Court Reporters

I was recently contacted by a member of the CCRA's Board about a videoconference our agency hosted last month that brought four families face to face with their loved ones serving in Iraq. She asked if I would share that experience, and it is a great pleasure to do so. It is my hope this does justice to a wonderful organization, Freedom Calls, whose efforts make it possible for our brave soldiers in Iraq to videoconference with their families here at home.

Several months ago I saw a newscast about a program called "Freedom Calls," which unites military families with their loved ones serving overseas. The foundation is headed by a Wall Street Lawyer, John Harlow II, who works full-time to bring families together separated by war via videoconferencing. Freedom Calls, through donations from large corporations and donated videoconferencing facilities across the United States, makes it possible for service men and women stationed in Iraq to remotely attend their child's graduation, see their newborn for the first time or visit an ailing parent. Most often, it simply means sharing a moment with a spouse and the children who desperately miss them.

After locating the Freedom Calls website (www.freedomcalls.org), I emailed Mr. Harlow, explaining that we would be honored to donate our conferencing facilities at any time for any families in Southern California. Mr. Harlow responded that while he appreciated the offer, the military's VOIP/IP-based (voice/data transmitted over the Internet) technology might have compatibility issues with our then ISDN-based (voice/data transmitted via phone lines) technology. That is, while it was possible to bridge the calls, the two technologies made bridging difficult and unreliable. I informed him that we would soon be upgrading to IP technology for our videoconference facility and that I would contact him upon completion. At this time, he mentioned to me that one of the difficult parts of the process was getting the word out to the soldiers' families in our area that this face-to-face technology was available to them at no charge.

Several months ago I saw a newscast about a program called "Freedom Calls," which unites military families with their loved ones serving overseas.

I kept our conversation in the back of my mind and a few months later, Hahn & Bowersock acquired the VOIP/IP technology for our videoconferencing facility. We contacted Mr. Harlow again, and in what seemed like days, his foundation had contacted Camp Pendleton, the military base in our area. We were told that on the following Sunday four families would be coming to our office for a reunion with their loved ones. We were also informed that calls would be 45 minutes long, and since one conference call would immediately follow the next, we needed to be organized and on time.

Prior to the videoconference, we were only given a few details about our guests: one soldier would be seeing his newborn son for the first time, the second soldier would be visiting with 24 members of his extended family, another would be visiting with his wife, their 13 month-old daughter and his parents and the last conference would be a soldier visiting with his wife. We didn't know what else to expect, but we were looking forward to the videoconference as much as the families. We tried to ensure that each family felt as comfortable as possible. We provided coloring books, treats and juice boxes for the little ones; the adults, of course, were too nervous with anticipation to eat anything before their scheduled conference.

We asked the Orange County Register to cover the event in an attempt to publicize to other military personnel and families with members serving in Iraq that our videoconference facility would be available in our area at no charge. We also contacted the local CBS affiliate and asked if they would help publicize the Freedom Calls organization, and they covered the conferences in their 6:00 p.m. broadcast on Sunday evening.

It was important that we did not intrude on the privacy of the families in any way. We informed each of the families that the newspaper and CBS would be covering the conferences, but only with their permission; all four families were unanimous with their approval of the coverage. In fact, the young mother whose husband was

Continued on page 8

seeing his newborn son, Max, for the first time invited the news reporter to join her in this special moment. Once a video connection was established, the young soldier was waiting when his wife and baby entered the videoconference suite. Our videoconference operator told them that he would be waiting just outside and that if they needed anything to let him know. Within minutes they opened the door and invited everyone in to share their experience. It was a joyous occasion, and smiles and tears were plentiful.

When the family with 24 members arrived, it brought home the stark reality that this young soldier was not only someone's beloved son, but also a husband, father, grandson, brother, uncle, and cousin. Everyone had a special connection to this soldier.

While my office didn't do much more than provide the room and the equipment, we felt very fortunate to be a part of something larger than we could have imagined. The time, the effort and the behind-the-scenes planning that takes place between Freedom Calls, the local military base and the families to make this all happen is beyond comprehension. They work tirelessly every day in all 50 states to make sure that hundreds of these videoconference reunions will take place.

As a result of the news coverage, we were contacted by the sister of a soldier who asked if we would be willing to help arrange a special birthday present for her father: a videoconference with his son on his birthday.



As a result of the news coverage, we were contacted by the sister of a soldier who asked if we would be willing to help arrange a special birthday present for her father: a videoconference with his son on his birthday. We immediately put her in touch with the local military base and two days later we were told to be on call for a possible videoconference that day. If the soldier's unit passed close enough to the videoconference facility in Iraq, Freedom Calls would make it happen. We waited all day, but to everyone's disappointment, the soldier was unable to make it to the videoconference facility. Knowing the determination of the Freedom Calls personnel, a videoconference between the soldier, his sister and father won't be far away. We were also contacted by a marine whose battalion will be deployed to Iraq this summer. We look forward to the opportunity to assist Freedom Calls in providing videoconferences for the battalion and their families.

It is our hope that these four videoconferences will be the first of many for our office. We were both honored to have assisted in some way and humbled by the strength and fortitude of the military families and soldiers who are separated for such long periods of time. Whether or not you agree with the reasons behind Operation Iraqi Freedom, we can all agree that supporting the troops in any way possible is the right thing to do. I encourage anyone reading this story to get involved if you can, in any way you can. **The Freedom Calls Foundation can be contacted at www.freedomcalls.org.**



By Sheri Turner, VP Freelance, Depo Advisory Chair

MINIMUM TRANSCRIPT FORMAT STANDARDS

Isn't the big wide world of depositions fun? I guess that's one thing that attracted me to depo work instead of court work at the beginning: the variety – different people, different places, different cases, different witnesses, you name it. And because of the myriad situations in which we find ourselves, there are always questions that arise concerning the performance of our duties. Here are a couple of recent questions regarding the minimum transcript format standards.

Earlier this month at the quarterly meeting of the Northern California Court Reporters Association (NCCRA), they had a panel discussion concerning updates on legislation, codes, the CR Board, and general questions from reporters. A couple of the questions regarding transcript formatting were answered by David Brown of the Court Reporters Board, and I would like to pass this information on to you.

Some states, such as Texas, have very thorough transcript format guidelines which are followed for both court and deposition transcripts. California is not yet quite that picky, meaning that formats can vary by county for officials and by firm or reporter for freelancers. Hopefully everyone is aware of the Minimum Transcript Format Standards which were effective January 2000. If you're not aware (yikes!), or if you need further reference, the information is available on the CCRA website: http://www.cal-ccra.org/trans_standards.htm. Please make sure your transcript format meets these minimum requirements. And please bear in mind that exceeding the minimum is okay (lines per page, characters per line, etc.), but at least the minimums are required. Double-check your margins and your tab spaces if you're unsure. And if you're still doing a block-style transcript, which was popular when I started reporting, that's a big no-no. The text must wrap all the way to the left margin, not to the indent.

Question: What if I turn in my job to a depo firm via ascii file and they reformat the job?

Answer: The individual reporter (licensee) has ultimate responsibility for making sure that the transcript that goes out with their certificate meets these formatting standards. Bottom line, you are the one responsible. If you are unsure about the format the depo firm sends your transcript out in, please discuss and verify with the firm, as you are the one personally responsible for compliance.

Question: If I am doing a depo that is venued in another state, do I follow their format or California's?

Answer: Some states' formats meet or exceed our minimum standards and some do not. Some reporting firms/reporters choose to go to the trouble of finding out another state's format and following it. Some feel that is too much of a problem, especially if they cover depositions for many cases in many states, and they give their California format regardless. (When in Rome...) But the conclusion of Mr. Brown is that if you choose to send out a transcript in a format that doesn't meet California's standards, then you'd better archive that job in a format that does meet our standards so you're covered.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please don't hesitate to contact CCRA. You can use the handy "Ask a Reporter" button on the web site. There is also a button for "Frequently Asked Questions," because chances are you are not the only one who has had that question. The CCRA board will use our knowledge and resources to answer your question or share with you our best business practices. I am amazed at the depth of wisdom and information that the leadership of CCRA has, as I am learning from them every day. And it is CCRA's goal to make sure all of our members have all the information they need. With the vast experience of both court and freelance reporters, CCRA can provide a thoroughly knowledgeable and balanced view, a benefit to the entire court reporting industry.

So until next month.... Happy reporting!



Goodbye to the Floppy Forever?

By Renee Grove

I admit, I am not a techno junkie. I still use a computer with serial port connections for my printer and writer. I archive my files by storing them to a floppy disk. My internet connection is dial up, not DSL or broadband. Everything is working just fine the way it is, so why go to the expense to change it?

Well, there are some great new devices on the market that aid in storing files and that would remove forever the necessity of having boxes and boxes of floppy disks around the home and office. One of these devices is the USB flash drive, a.k.a. thumb drive, jump drive, pen drive, key drive, token or just USB drive. This is a portable memory card that works through your computer's USB port. Its function is to store data. This drive doesn't contain as much storage space as a hard drive on your computer, but it's perfect for storing a job you're working on at the office. You can copy your job to the flash drive and later download your job to a different computer at home, resume working on the job, copy it back to the flash drive, and back and forth until the job is complete, thus eliminating having to copy to a floppy disk and having floppy disks all over the place.

The flash drive is relatively small, about the size of my thumb. You can attach it to a key chain, necklace, or other object for safekeeping. They range in price from \$19.99 to \$149.99 and beyond, depending on the storage capabilities. I've seen the storage size range from 256MB to 4GB. Several companies manufacture these devices and apparently the various flash drives have added features such as an external "space available" meter, LCD displays indicating which files are stored on the flash drive, and some come with preloaded computer software. And the list goes on.

I have not used this device myself as my computer is so old it doesn't have a USB port. But if I had two computers, one at the office and one at home, you bet I'd use one of these units and say goodbye to the floppy forever.



Stress is a Friend

By Carolyn Joy

There are so many of us out there that are busy rushing from here to there or getting our transcripts done or getting to work on time or making it to the bank before it closes that we have completely become overwhelmed by the stress of it all, and yet we don't even realize it anymore. Stress has become our friend, our companion. The one thing we can count on to be there.

Stop depending on stress!! Let's make a resolution from this moment forward to be in the moment without rushing! Leave earlier! Take time to breathe, to exercise, to get your hair done (men, too)! The job will still get done, and you might enjoy your life a little more.

Let's face it, this profession is based on stress and hurrying. Time limits become so normal that we impose them on ourselves in our personal lives. Then we impose them on our family and friends. Good gosh! We need to get over ourselves and look at what's real in life and what's not. It's important to get our work done, of course. But don't become so enveloped by it that you're not making time for your wonderful life. If you're doing too much, get help. Get a scopist, a housecleaner, a dog walker! Do it for yourself!! You deserve it!!



Freebies on the Internet are Free for a Reason

Someone's Making Money!

By Lesia J. Mervin, CSR, RMR, CRR, Technology Chair

With the cost of downloading music from places like iTunes and such, people are downloading free music when available. Be careful when downloading free music; it is often infected with spyware. If you elect to download the free music, you can be bypassing all security in place on your computer because you told the Internet browser to download the music. It is much safer to purchase the music from legitimate music sites.

According to www.informationweek.com, security professionals are warning consumers to stay away from free music download sites, pointing out that free sites often are the source of more malware than music.

Free things on the Internet are free for a reason: someone is making money off of it! It is usually tied to spam. Once you download something free, you have

given your PC's Internet address to them and now will be placed on a spam list. Don't we just LOVE that spam? You also have unknowingly allowed software to be installed on your PC to talk to the distributor of the free items. They now can capture key strokes you type on the keyboard or track where you go on the Internet. Just because you did not give your email address does not mean they cannot send you spam. They can and do!

It is recommended by IT professionals that you keep an up-to-date spyware program installed on your computer and run it regularly. 

Attention all CSRs!

**The Court Reporters Board
now has an email subscriber list!**

**Check out their new link at [http://
www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov)
and sign up to be notified of
current Board information.**



ATTENTION!

**A Hearing Reporter examination
will be given on May 19 with a filing
cut-off date of March 16, 2007.**

**If you know of anyone who
is interested in applying, have
them contact 800-564-0771,
the Dept of Industrial Relations.**

Salary Range:

\$4,614 to \$5,607 per month.

The Legislation Column

By Carlos Martinez, Leg Rep CCRA

The 2007/2008 Legislative session is now in full swing. Any new bills for consideration needed to be introduced as of February 23, 2007, in order to be heard during this legislative session. There are other ways to get language into a Bill after this date, and that process, among others in the legislative arena, will be described throughout the upcoming year in this column.

What I will start with is a glossary of the terms that you will hear around the Capital having to do with the legislative process.

This month's list is comprised of the "A" section of the legislative glossary.

Across The Desk – The official act of introducing a bill or resolution. The measure is given to the Chief Clerk or his or her representative at the Assembly Desk in the Assembly Chambers or to the Secretary of State or his or her representative in the Senate Chambers. It then receives a number and becomes a public document.

Adjournment – Motion to end session for that day, with the hour and day of the next meeting being set prior to the adjournment or by rule.

Adjournment Sine Die – "Adjournment without day." The final termination of a regular or special legislative session.

Administration Procedure Act (APA) – A statute containing required procedures for the rule making and administrative hearings. (Chapter 3, 5, 4, and 5 (commencing with section 11340) of part 1 of division 3 of title 2 of the Government Code).

APA Rulemaking Procedures – Procedures set forth in the administrative process that generally requires state agencies, when adopting regulations, to give public notice, receive and consider public comments, submit their regulations and supporting RULEMAKING files to the Office of Administration Law for review, and have the regulations published in the CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, the recognized source of the California administrative law.

Adoption – The approval or acceptance of motions, amendments, or resolutions.

Amendment – Any alteration made or proposed to be made in a bill, motion, resolution, or clause by adding, changing, substituting, or omitting language.

Author's Amendments – Amendments submitted by the author of a bill and signed by the chair of the committee to which the bill has been referred. It permits the adoption of amendments by the House without the benefit of a committee hearing and recommendation.

House Amendment – An amendment that is proposed by a member or committee that is not supported by the bill's author.

Analysis of the Budget Bill – The Legislative Analyst's comprehension of the Governor's budget available to legislators and the public about six weeks after the budget is submitted to the Legislature.

Appeal – A parliamentary procedure for challenging the decision of a presiding officer.

Appropriation – The amount of money set aside for a specific purpose and designed from a specific source, such as, the General Fund, Environmental License Plate Fund, etc.

Appropriations Limit – Established by Prop. 4 (article XIII B, California Constitution). Passed by voters in 1979, this is the maximum amount of tax proceeds that state and local government may appropriate in a fiscal year. The limit is adjusted annually but based on 1986-87 appropriation limits.

Approved by the Governor – The signature of the governor on a bill passed by Legislature.

Archives – Refers to both the location and contents of public records kept by the Secretary of State, including copies of all measures considered at each session, journals, committee reports, and documents of historic value.

Assembly – The house of the California Legislature consisting of 80 members, elected from districts determined on the basis of population. Two Assembly districts are situated within each Senate district.

Assistant Chief Clerk – Performs the duties of the Chief Clerk of the Assembly in his or her absence.

Author – Member of the Legislature who introduces a legislative measure.



Legislative Update

For information concerning this report or the information contained herein, you may contact California Court Reporters Association, Attn. Carlos Martinez, CSR #10620, at 2400 22nd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, California 95815 (916) 443-5090 or by e-mail at cnmcsrs@pacbell.net.

California Legislative Update as of 2/26/2007

AB 32 (Fuller [R]) Career technical education: work certification training.

Status: 12/05/2006-From printer. May be heard in committee January 4.

Current Location: 12/04/2006-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law requires school districts to adopt a course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, that includes, among other things, career technical education. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to provide, within the public school system, work certification training options to pupils who are between the ages of 16 and 18 years, have passed the high school exit examination, and have the consent of their parents or guardians, with particular emphasis on job specific skilled labor and technical training. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 159(Jones [D]) Courts: judgeships.

Status: 01/19/2007-From printer. May be heard in committee February 18.

Current Location: 01/18/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law specifies the number of judges for the superior court of each county and for each division of each district of the court of appeal. This bill would authorize 50 additional judges, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the 2007-08 fiscal year, to be allocated to the various county superior courts, pursuant to uniform criteria approved by the Judicial Council. The bill would authorize an unspecified number of additional appellate judges, upon appropriation by the Legislature in the 2007-08 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 163(Mendoza [D]) Trial courts: limited-term employees.

Status: 02/09/2007-Referred to Com. on P.E.,R. & S.S.
*Current Location:*02/09/2007-A P.E.,R. & S.S.

Summary: Existing law defines the term "trial court employee" for purposes of the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act. In defining this term, the act provides that any temporary employee shall not be employed in the trial court for a period exceeding 180 calendar days, except for court reporters under certain conditions. This bill would additionally provide, in Los Angeles County, that any limited-term law clerk shall not be employed in the trial court for a period exceeding 180 calendar days. The bill would further provide that any such limited-term law clerk employed for more than 180 calendar days is a regular employee.

AB 227(Beall [D]) Trial court funding.

Status: 02/13/2007-Referred to Com. on JUD.

Current Location: 02/13/2007-A JUD.

Summary: Existing law specifies the amounts that the counties are required to remit to the state for the purposes of trial court funding. Under existing law, the state and the counties have negotiated transfers of county civil assessment revenue and the counties' portion of certain fees. Existing law provides, commencing July 1, 2005, that the counties' obligation to remit specified amounts to the Trial Court Trust Fund is reduced each fiscal year through the 2008-09 fiscal year, in accordance with specified procedures. This bill would revise the amounts that the counties are obligated to remit to the Trial Court Trust Fund commencing in the 2006-07 fiscal year. The bill would provide that these new amounts do not apply for purposes of a calculation related to fee, fine, and forfeiture revenue. The bill would specifically provide the amount that the County of Santa Clara was required to remit in the 2005-06 fiscal year and would provide that this amount is to be reduced by a specified calculation. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that this provision operate retroactively. The bill would provide a specified amount that the County of Santa Clara is required to remit in the 2006-07 fiscal year and in subsequent fiscal years, and would provide that it is to be reduced by a specified calculation. The bill would also make conforming changes.

AB 276(Solorio [D]) Trial courts: limited-term employees.

Status: 02/16/2007-Referred to Com. on P.E.,R. & S.S.

Current Location: 02/16/2007-A P.E.,R. & S.S.

Summary: Existing law defines the term "trial court employee" for purposes of the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act. In defining this term, the act provides that any temporary employee shall not be employed in the trial court for a period exceeding 180 calendar days, except for court reporters under certain conditions. This bill would provide that a limited-term employee is a regular trial court employee if the limited-term employee has completed 180 days of service, and if the assignment, position, or project of the limited-term employee is an integral part of the long-term, regular work of the trial court. The bill would state legislative

Continued on page 14

Legislative Update, continued

intent to prohibit the trial courts from classifying long-term employees that are performing the regular work of the trial courts as limited-term employees.

AB 299 (Tran [R]) Maintenance of the codes.

Status: 02/20/2007-Referred to Com. on JUD.

Current Location: 02/20/2007-A JUD.

Summary: Existing law directs the Legislative Counsel to advise the Legislature from time to time as to legislation necessary to maintain the codes. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes in various provisions of law to effectuate the recommendations made by the Legislative Counsel to the Legislature.

AB 309 (Tran [R]) State boards and commissions: salaries: suspension.

Status: 02/13/2007-From printer. May be heard in committee March 15.

Current Location: 02/09/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law provides for the payment of specified salaries to the members of various boards and commissions. A member of a board or commission may receive a per diem salary at a specified rate, except for a member whose salary is set pursuant to certain provisions of law. This bill would specify that members appointed to specified state boards and commissions shall receive no salary for the 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 fiscal years, except that they may receive a per diem payment set pursuant to these provisions during that time.

AB 310 (Silva [R]) Maintenance of the codes.

Status: 02/20/2007-Referred to Com. on JUD.

Current Location: 02/20/2007-A JUD.

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Law Revision Commission. Existing law authorizes the commission to recommend changes in the law as it deems necessary to modify or eliminate antiquated and inequitable rules of law and bring the law into harmony with modern conditions. Existing law requires the commission to file a report at each regular session of the Legislature containing a calendar of topics selected by the commission for study, which is subject to approval by concurrent resolution of the Legislature. Existing law authorizes the commission to recommend revisions to correct technical or minor defects in the statutes without the prior concurrent resolution of the Legislature referring the matter to it for study. This bill would make technical and minor changes in various provisions of the law to effectuate the recommendations of the commission.

AB 434 (Silva [R]) Notaries public.

Status: 02/20/2007-From printer. May be heard in committee March 22.

Current Location: 02/16/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law requires a notary public to keep an active journal of all official acts performed as a notary public, and to include in this journal, among other things, information as to every instrument acknowledged or proved before the notary. Existing law requires a notary, upon written request of any member of the public as specified, to supply a photostatic copy of any line item contained in this journal requested. This bill would require a notary public to either provide a photostatic copy, as specified, to the requesting member of the public, or acknowledge that the line item does not exist within 15 days of the mailing of the request.

AB 467 (Feuer [D]) Courts: access to justice.

Status: 02/21/2007-From printer. May be heard in committee March 23.

Current Location: 02/20/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court, among other things, for litigants proceeding in forma pauperis and for regulating the selection of appointed counsel to handle criminal appeals by indigent defendants, as specified. This bill would state findings and declarations of the Legislature relating to access to the courts for those persons unable to pay court fees.

AB 863 (Davis [D]) Los Angeles County Superior Court employees.

Status: 02/22/2007-Read first time. To print.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law provides that each trial court may establish a salary range for each of its employee classifications, and considerations shall include, but are not limited to, local market conditions and other local compensation-related issues such as difficulty of recruitment or retention. This bill would require the Los Angeles County Superior Court to pay each employee in a bargaining unit represented by any specified employee organization an amount equivalent to the additional amount the employee would have received if the reclassification raise the employee received on October 1, 2005, had been retroactive to August 1, 2005.

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AB 886 (Runner, Sharon [R]) Notaries.

Status: 02/22/2007-Read first time. To print.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law requires a certain procedure for a surety of a notary to be released from financial responsibility for future acts. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to this provision.

AB 999 (Hancock [D]) Career technical education: partnership academies: green technology and goods movement.

Status: 02/22/2007-Read first time. To print.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law provides for the establishment of partnership academies by participating school districts and establishes criteria qualifying pupils in grades 10, 11, and 12 for enrollment in the academies. Existing law establishes the parameters for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a maximum of 155 grants per year to school districts maintaining high schools that meet the partnership academy eligibility requirements. This bill would establish 2 new categories of partnership academies, the Green Technology Partnership Academies and the Goods Movement Partnership Academies. Commencing with the 2008-09 school year, the State Department of Education, in coordination with the Superintendent, with funds appropriated in the annual Budget Act, would be required to issue grants for the establishment of 10 partnership academies dedicated to training young people in the emerging environmentally sound technologies related to the design and construction industries, and 4 partnership academies dedicated to training young people in goods movement occupational areas, such as port and terminal operations, shipping, logistics, trucking, rail, air, and security. The selection of school districts to establish the new partnership academies and the planning and development of the new partnership academies would be required to be conducted pursuant to the procedures and requirements established for traditional partnership academies. However, the planning grants would be made available in addition to the total number of grants permitted for traditional partnership academies. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 1211 (Price [D]) Depositions: costs.

Status: 02/23/2007-Introduced. To print.

Current Location: 02/23/2007-A PRINT

Summary: Existing law provides a comprehensive procedure for the noticing, conduct, and transcription or recording of oral depositions inside the state. Existing law requires the party noticing the deposition to bear the cost of the transcription, unless the court, on motion

and for good cause, orders that the cost be borne or shared by another party. This bill would provide that the costs of all services or products provided by the deposition officer or entity providing the deposition services ordered or requested by a party's attorney, a deponent's attorney, or a party representing himself or herself, shall be the responsibility of that attorney or party, except if otherwise provided by law or pursuant to an agreement, as specified.

SB 145 (Corbett [D]) Court facilities.

Status: 02/01/2007-To Com. on JUD.

Current Location: 02/01/2007-S JUD.

Summary: Existing law creates the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, which is financed by certain state court construction penalty assessments, parking surcharges, and filing fee surcharges on civil actions, as specified. Existing law provides that the money in this fund may only be for specified purposes, which include the acquisition, rehabilitation, construction, and financing of court facilities, as defined. Bill would correct an erroneous cross-reference in these provisions.

SB 216 (Cox [R]) Judgments: social security numbers.

Status: 02/22/2007-To Com. on JUD.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S JUD.

Summary: Existing law requires an abstract of a judgment or decree requiring the payment of money to contain, among other things, the social security number and driver's license number of the judgment debtor if they are known to the judgment creditor, as specified. Existing law also requires an abstract of a judgment ordering a party to pay spousal, child, or family support to contain, among other things, the social security number, birth date, and driver's license number of the party who is ordered to pay support, as specified. This bill would delete the requirement that those abstracts contain the social security number of the judgment debtor or party ordered to pay support, and instead require only the last 4 digits of that person's social security number.

SB 225 (Cedillo [D]) State employees: State Bargaining Unit 6.

Status: 02/22/2007-To Com. on RLS.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S RLS.

Summary: Existing law provides that if any provision of a memorandum of understanding reached between the state employer and a recognized employee organization representing state civil service employees requires the expenditure of funds, those provisions of the

Continued on page 16

Legislative Update, continued

memorandum of understanding shall not become effective unless approved by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act. This bill would approve provisions that require the expenditure of funds of an unspecified memorandum of understanding entered into between the state employer and the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, and would provide that the provisions of any memorandum of understanding that require the expenditure of funds shall become effective even if the provisions of the memorandum of understanding are approved by the Legislature in legislation other than the annual Budget Act. This bill contains other related provisions.

SB 511 (Alquist [D]) Interrogation: recording.

Status: 02/23/2007-From print. May be acted upon on or after March 25.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S PRINT

Summary: Existing law provides that under specified conditions the statements of witnesses, victims, or perpetrators of specified crimes may be recorded and preserved by means of videotape. This bill would provide that (1) except as specified, any custodial interrogation conducted at a place of detention of an individual suspected of committing or accused of a homicide or a violent felony, as defined, shall be electronically recorded, as specified; (2) the interrogating entity shall not destroy or alter the electronic recording of a custodial interrogation, except as specified; and (3) if a court finds that a defendant was subjected to an unlawful custodial interrogation, the court shall, at the request of the defendant, provide the jury with an instruction, developed by the Judicial Council, as specified. By imposing these new requirements on local law enforcement when they are interrogating a defendant suspected of committing or accused of a homicide or violent felony, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program upon local government. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 539 (Margett [R]) Trial Court Trust Fund.

Status: 02/23/2007-From print. May be acted upon on or after March 25.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S PRINT

Summary: Existing law establishes the Trial Court Trust Fund, the proceeds of which are apportioned for specified court purposes, including funding trial court operations. Existing law specifies certain fees, collected on or before December 31, 2005, that are to be deposited in a special account in the county treasury and transmitted monthly to the Controller for deposit in the Trial Court Trust Fund. Existing law requires the Controller to calculate a penalty on any delinquent payment, as specified. This bill would require those

fees to be transmitted monthly from the county treasury to the State Treasury, instead of to the Controller. The bill would require the Controller to assess a penalty on any delinquent payment, and would establish a penalty schedule, based on the circumstances under which the delinquent payment was discovered, and any delay in payment following the discovery of the delinquent payment. The bill would require the Controller to assess an additional penalty on the delinquent payment, as specified. The bill would provide that any penalty on a delinquent payment that a court is required to pay shall be paid from the Trial Court Operations Fund for that court.

SB 617 (Alquist [D]) Information technology: task force.

Status: 02/23/2007-From print. May be acted upon on

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S PRINT

Summary: Existing law establishes the office of the State Chief Information Officer, appointed by the Governor, with duties that include, among other things, advising the Governor on the strategic management and direction of the state's information technology resources, and minimizing overlap, redundancy, and cost in state operations by promoting the efficient and effective use of information technology. This bill would establish the California Information Technology State Procurement Practices Task Force consisting of 12 members appointed by the Governor, Senate Committee on Rules, and Speaker of the Assembly. It would provide that the duties of the task force include reviewing the state's practices, procedures, and policies relating to information technology procurement and use in state government. It would require the task force, on or before January 1, 2009, to report to the Governor and the Legislature with recommendations for any change to executive policies or legislation consistent with establishing or maintaining timely, efficient, and environmentally sustainable standards for procurement and use of information technology in state government. This bill contains other related provisions.

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Legislative Update, continued

SB 649 (Committee on Judiciary) Trial court restructuring.

Status: 02/23/2007-From print. May be acted upon on or after March 25.

Current Location: 02/22/2007-S PRINT

Summary: The California Constitution provides for the abolition of municipal courts and their unification within the superior courts, as specified. This bill would conform various statutory provisions of law to the abolition of municipal courts and their unification within

the superior courts. The bill would also make related statutory changes with respect to the classification of limited civil cases, appeals in limited civil cases and misdemeanor and infraction cases, and arraignment by 2-way electronic audiovideo communication. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.



The Colon:

By Margaret L. Wakeman Wells

The colon is used to point out something that is coming, that something is being signaled.

There are often words -- though they do not have to be there -- like as follows, the following, this, these that signal that something is coming.

The following dates are included: May 5, June 3, and July 12.

These are the people we used: Nelson, Johnson, and Riggs.

My question is this: Were you on the board at the time?

The word after the colon is capped when it begins a grammatically complete sentence.

There are two grammar rules that govern the use of the colon in text:

The colon must have a grammatically complete sentence in front of it.

YES: He sent them to his associates: Harris, Evans, and Sills.

NO: He sent them to: Harris, Evans, and Sills.

The colon must have the entire sentence in front of it. When the sentence continues after the listing, the colon may not be used. You need a set of dashes.

YES: He sent them to his associates: Harris, Evans, and Sills.

YES: He sent them to his associates -- Harris, Evans, and Sills -- before the meeting on Friday.

NO: He sent them to his associates: Harris, Evans, and Sills, before the meeting on Friday.



By Lesia J. Mervin, CSR, RMR, CRR; CCRA – VP officials, present elect; Technology Committee Chair

In an effort to inform our members of new and upcoming technologies and to educate our members on existing technologies, the Technology Committee has asked the various CAT vendors to participate in highlighting new features of their software and offer any tips to better educate us in the use of new or existing features.

Below is the second of several installments to be featured.

ProCAT WinnerXp and Stylus Hot Tips & Tricks

Today's WinnerXp is more powerful than ever. Don't **drag** your feet in learning these new tips to help you take advantage of some of the powerful features of your software. If you **drop** the ball here, you'll miss out on having WinnerXp do more work for you!

WinnerXp Tip:

Do you drag or drop specific letters? If so, you may want to go to Translation and click on the Preferences icon. You will notice a selection for Drag and Drop. Put a check mark in that box and then click on the Details button next to it.

In details, if you Drag the Final T, click on the Drag button and Click on the Final T.

If you Drop your Final L key, Click on the Drop button and then Click on the Final L key.

Now, as you are writing, let's say you want to stroke the word DOOR and you drag your Final T. Previously, it would have come up as an untranslate. Now, WinnerXp looks at any untranslate and analyzes it according to what you have in your Drag and Drop area and tries to determine if using the letters you have entered in those fields for drags and drops will translate the stroke into a correct word. In this case, you will now get the word DOOR translated.

The corrected word will come up in a blue color to let you know it came from your Drag and Drop area. And all of this is done instantaneously in the background during translation!

WinnerXp Tip:

Now that you have identified certain keys in your Drag and Drop area, WinnerXp can take it a step further. When you are globaling a misstroked word, you will see in the Global window a button that says Misstrokes. If that misstroked word could be written with the letters

you previously entered in your Drag and Drop area, you will now see a list of other ways you may have written this word.

If you click the Down Arrow under the Misstrokes button, you will now see a list of other ways you could write this word because you either Drug the T or Dropped your L. This list will automatically be added to a Dictionary called Misstrokes. You can view a detailed list of words in this dictionary in Dictionary Maintenance.

In order for WinnerXp to create this "Misstroke Dictionary" and add these misstrokes to it, you must do the following in your Global Window: Put a check mark next to the box for Misstrokes. This tells WinnerXp to add these misstrokes to your Misstroke Dictionary. Now, when you are writing, WinnerXp will automatically use any words in the misstrokes dictionary without you having to select that dictionary before realtime or translation. Again, this will help you because you will no longer have to global misstrokes because of Drag or Drop issues.

ProCAT Stylus tip:

While we're on the topic of dragging and dropping strokes, did you know you can identify these drag and drop strokes on your ProCAT Stylus as well? Just one more way to help you get more done with less effort.

Open the StylusSync program on your computer, click on the realtime preferences tab, and then click on the Drag & Drop Icon. Place a check mark in the box Enable Drag and Drop Correction and enter your drag and drop strokes. Click on the Apply button to save the entries you've identified.

It's amazing how a few moments fine tuning your software and your writer will save you time editing and help with your realtime!



What's New in Case CATalyst version 8?

By Vickie M. Main, Development Product Manager

Case CATalyst version 8 is currently in limited release and targeted for general release in February. You can go to www.stenograph.com to program your security device for version 8 (you need to be on a current support contract) and version 8 will be sent to you FREE starting in February. The sooner you program your security device, the sooner you will get version 8!

What's in Case CATalyst version 8? Whether you are an official or freelance reporter, scopist, captioner, CART provider or student – Case CATalyst version 8 has something to make your job easier, more efficient and accurate. Enhancements include: Global Suggest instantly displays a list of suggested text for the steno you are defining and learns as you edit. Misspelled words display with a red squiggly underline and you can

quickly add the word to a wordlist. Search the Internet using a user selected search engine or go to www.onelook.com with the press of a key. Copy/Cut/Paste has been enhanced to remember the last 10 items that you copied or cut and can be pasted anywhere in CATalyst. More EZ Text lines, enhanced number conversion and indexing features, create a concordance index across multiple files. User-defined fields can have individual scope settings and you can see all your fields in one place. Quickly build a dictionary from an ASCII file, customize redacted text, batch print steno note files for archiving when using a paperless steno machine. For BCS, new captioning format symbols and a voice input option. For a quick tour of version 8, go to www.stenograph.com and check out the Case CATalyst 8 Tour.





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