

CCRA *online*

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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.

President's Message — CCRA's 101st Convention

By Early Langley, CSR, RMR
CCRA President



Welcome to San Diego, Everyone! Welcome to CCRA's 101st Convention! Thank you for coming!

I want to introduce and thank my family for being here. If you would please rise: My husband Peter; my daughter, Heather and her husband Steve; my son Mike and his girlfriend, Jeannette; my son Andy.

I'd like to thank President Debby Steinman for her dedication to CCRA this year, our Board, and all of the behind-the-scenes people who put this wonderful convention on. And I'd also like to thank those who are here from Aiken Welch that I work with for their support and contribution to CCRA this year. I'd like to thank Toni O'Neill for representing NCRA here today. We are honored to have her.

Shortly after 11:00 on the night of May 1, 2011, two MH 60 Black Hawk helicopters lifted off from Jalalabad Air Field in eastern Afghanistan and embarked on a covert mission into Pakistan to search for Osama bin Laden. What preceded that event were years and years of intelligence gathering, practice and precision. Countless rehearsals took place in North Carolina and Nevada. Countless hours were spent by military and White House officials calculating the risks. Each senior official weighed in with a confidence rating of the mission's success. As one official said of the raid that almost went awry, this was not one of three missions. This was one of almost 2,000 missions that have been conducted over the last couple of years, night after night.

While only one SEAL found him, he didn't do it alone. There was a team present with him, a team behind them, and untold numbers of teams behind them.

They were America's Jedi Knights, an elite group of special warriors given a mission-impossible challenge.

Their challenge: The threat of terrorism had escalated to the point that they used unprecedented measures to secure their target.

In California, we court reporters have challenges that have reached the point that we need to stand up and take notice: We've never faced a budget crisis that has resulted in court closures and layoffs to this degree. It's going to take an unprecedented effort to continue to fight electronic recording. In the freelance field, we must continue to fight unethical gift giving and unfair pricing practices.

It has not been enough for a handful of us to do all of the educating, the letter-writing, and all of the testifying at the Capitol.

The economic facts of California are clear: there is only so much money to go around and litigation has slowed down.

Let's take a look at that Navy SEAL team. The future belonged to them. They knew what the risks were. This wasn't one of three missions; this was one of almost thousands. They took two helicopters, lost one, but with a handful of men and a ton of intelligence, they were successful.

The same with CCRA. Countless hours of preparation go into each appearance at the Capitol, each visit to a legislator. Countless hours go into monitoring bills and risks are assessed that endanger our jobs as court reporters. When we go to the Capitol to visit legislators and testify before subcommittees on issues that have plagued us for years and years, such as electronic recording, we're part of a legacy of CCRA warriors that have rolled up their sleeves and protected jobs for the last 100 years.

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President's Message — CCRA's 101st Convention

(continued from Page 3)

We have a skilled lobbyist who's well connected. He's a watchdog for freelancers and officials, and he helps frame bills that protect our jobs. We have an arsenal of Past Presidents as advisors.

We educate the legal community. We publish articles about unethical gift giving in the Daily Journal, the Fresno County Law Journal, San Luis Obispo Law Journal, as well as NCRA's Journal of Court Reporting.

We're part of a group that's performed hundreds of missions like this over the last 100 years. The future does belong to us.

So let's roll up our sleeves for 2011-2012 and get to work. Here are three steps:

ONE: It's time to be thinking about "beyond realtime" for our profession. We must be ready to be the fabric as well as the gold standard to provide the services that our technology allows us to provide to our clients, the courts, law firms and consumers. We need to think in terms of services we can provide our clients that make us invaluable: Repositories for law firms; Document retention, search engines, large file transfer of data, skyped proceedings.

We need to be the best we can be: Sounds simple. It's beyond realtime. Keep up our skills so we are at maximum speed and accuracy. Get transcripts out on time. Complaints are out there from law firms that a simple law and motion transcript is taking two months. We are our own worst enemy. ER begins to look mighty attractive. Be on time for your job so court reporters don't get a bad name. Be conscientious about the details and proofread. Join NCRA's Ethics First and proudly display your logo. Unethical practices put our jobs as officers of the court in jeopardy.

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2011/12 CCRA Officers

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Gerie Bunch

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President's Message — CCRA's 101st Convention

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TWO: It's time to be an active constituent. Let's talk to our legislators, our assembly members and our senators. They want to know what we have to say. They want our vote. And because they have term limits, they need to be told what we have to say every two years, and more often than that. Take one of us along.

THREE: Show the Spirit of CCRA. Start by connecting with and making a good impression on people that matter:

First, the public. Think about it. They're a group that's overlooked. They walk into a courtroom. Up in front of them is a judge, a clerk, a court reporter and a bailiff. They're scared. **SMILE!!** Make them feel comfortable in a very uncomfortable setting. They have little sympathy for budget woes. And they make their vote known at the ballot box.

Second: Connect with lawyers, judges, bar associations and law firm staff. Go the extra mile to make a good impression. Get involved in a bar association event.

Third: Go viral and get others to join CCRA whom you know. Get court reporting firm owners and freelance reporters to join. You never know: They could be the lead for your next job.

So let's pull our wallets out and contribute to the PACCRA fund. The PACCRA fund supports the legislators who support us and need our vote. Let's continue to lead the United States in protecting the court reporting field. CCRA continues to be the strongest association in the country, and it represents the global interests of both the official and freelance industry. We've developed statutes that protect the Certified Shorthand Reporter as the only method of reporting.

CCRA has achieved state and nationwide recognition for educating the legal community about the risks of unethical gift giving in the deposition field, the risks of electronic recording and voice to text. CCRA has nationally recognized experts in court reporting technology and education. And we have a passion for the profession. Our collective mind, once stretched by new ideas, will never be the same and will blossom into new dimensions.

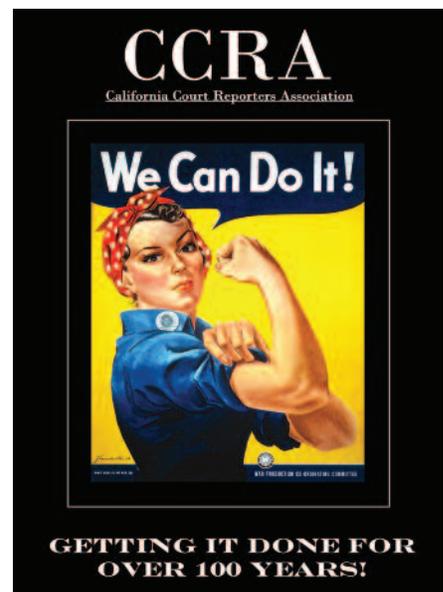
Adversity didn't hold the Navy SEAL 6 team back; it revealed their character. Adversity isn't going to hold us back; it's going to reveal who we are: a strong, statewide and nationwide leader in legislative advocacy, the Spirit of teamwork and intelligence.

To quote Margaret Mead, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The future still belongs to us, you, me and CCRA. Your presence here says it all: You care. You want to protect your job, learn more about technology and topics that affect our profession, and you want to be involved.

So everyone, please stand, join Rosie the Riveter and me roll up our sleeves and give the CCRA fight fist: "We can do it!"

THANK YOU ALL!



Charting the Course



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Charting the Course



San Diego, CA

October 7-10, 2011



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Meet Your New Board Members



Early Langley, CSR, RMR, is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. She worked as a paralegal in San Francisco before becoming a California Certified Shorthand Reporter in '77 and a Registered Merit Reporter in '78.

She served as an official reporter for seven years, and she has been a realtime freelance reporter with Aiken Welch Court Reporters since 1985. She specializes in complex litigation.

While serving as a member of the Board of Directors of CCRA, Deposition Advisory Committee Chair, Vice-President Freelance, President-Elect, she has testified before a California Senate Subcommittee, visited legislators, lobbied on behalf of the members of CCRA and researched legislation. She serves on the Ethics First Task Force of the National Court Reporters Association.

Her publications have been "Lost in Digital Translation: Why Voice to Text and Digital Recording Won't Work in Depos or Court" appearing in the upcoming November 2011 issue of the Orange County Lawyer Magazine; "Dollars for Depos: A Risky Business," San Francisco Daily Journal September 2010, with sequels appearing in Fresno County Bar Association, San Luis Obispo County, NCRA Journal of Court Reporting; "Dollars for Depos: Hanson Bridgett Opinion Weighs In," Fresno County, Alameda County and JCR; "Transcribing Testimony," Plaintiff Magazine 2009.



Erin F. Robinson, CSR, RPR, CRR, has been a freelance reporter since 1999. She started her freelance career working for Verbatim Reporters in San Diego, and has been a staff reporter at Aiken Welch Court Reporters in Oakland for 11 years. She graduated from Bryan College of Court

Reporting in San Francisco. Erin received her Bachelor of Science in Court Reporting from Humphreys College in Stockton. She is currently working on her Master of Arts in English Literature and Creative Writing at California State University East Bay. Erin is a member of NCRA. Erin is

passionate about encouraging her fellow court reporters to provide realtime and to stay abreast of our ever-changing technology. She lives in Pleasanton with her husband Daniel. She and Daniel are active in their church community, teaching Sunday school and singing in their choir every week. Erin and Daniel are in the process of adopting their first child.



John Terry, Jr., CSR, began his career as a court reporter in 1994, working per diem in the Fresno County Superior Court. He was then hired as an extra-help reporter, and in 1999, he was hired as an Official in Fresno County. In his career, he has worked in numerous assignments in

State and Federal Courts.

John has his real estate license and enjoys helping clients find their dream home. He enjoys bowling and loves to travel with Jeff whenever they get the chance. One of the joys in John's life is spending time with his great niece Jocelyn.

Linda J. Hart, CSR, RMR, CRR, began reporting in 1979 at the age of 19. In 1984, she opened L.J. Hart & Associates, a full-service court reporting firm, in Sacramento. She is a past treasurer and past president for NCCRA, 2009/2010, she has served on the Bryan College Program Advisory Committee for realtime reporting, 2011, and she has served as a proctor for the California CSR exam. She has two sons, Eric & Jeremy, who are her pride and joy, and she loves to travel, snow ski, and have fun in the sun.


California Court Reporters Association

Advancing our profession
for over 100 years. >>>



Distinguished Service Award Recipient — Doreen Perkins

The recipient of the Distinguished Service Award has sometimes (not often, but sometimes) been controversial or chosen with some grudging or less-than-enthusiastic yes votes. But the DSA was MADE for a person like this year's recipient. The fact that she (yes, it's a woman) was chosen in her first year of eligibility is like being voted into the Hall of Fame unanimously and on the first vote. The choice was a slam dunk or, because this is playoff and almost World Series time, a bases-loaded standup home run.

She has been an official reporter in the same county superior court system for over 30 years, working in nearly all of the departments and with almost every judge, but with three long-term assignments. She passed the CSR exam in 1980 the first time she took it.

She is her county's most senior court reporter, more senior by years than any of its current judges.

In the beginning of her career, she produced transcripts with an IBM Selectric typewriter and a Stenorette tape dictating machine, then progressed to the first portable computer, a \$28,000 Baron OZ, with a 5-megabyte hard drive and 5-1/4 inch floppy disks. She is now a realtime reporter who helps promote this technology to her colleagues.

Her CSR number is the same as the code section for an involuntary psychiatric hold. Though I am many years older than she, and my CSR is lower by almost 2,000, I can tell you that all of this warms my old heart.

Her first big trial (when she was a very young and inexperienced reporter) was the DBCP case, which stands for 1-2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane, and featured lots and lots of other chemical jargon, 26 attorneys, and lasted for six months.

As a young reporter, the first death penalty case she worked on was the case of Clarence Ray Allen. As of today, he is the last person executed in the State of California. He was on death row for 28 years.

One of her cases involved two farmers, one suing the other because a bull had broken through a fence and

taken advantage of his cow. The bull's owner then cross-complained because his bull had eaten a piece of rope belonging to the cow's owner, which became knotted in the bull's stomach, and then killed him. The disgusting piece of rope was, of course, an exhibit.

She organized the reporters in her county to join a union for the first time in 2000. And tried FIRST to have it be the Teamsters — because she wanted a union that would do some ass-kicking (I'm just reading some of this, folks) — but settled on SEIU. She negotiated the MOU contract then, and again in 2003, 2006, and 2011. She was the first and is still her courthouse's SEIU president.

She was instrumental in getting the law changed to what is now called the Fresno retirement formula in the Government Code, which adds the transcript income to the salaries for the purposes of calculating retirement benefits.

She was so good at getting reporters to call and fax and otherwise contact their legislative representatives in Sacramento that the politicians have capitulated and promised their votes just to get the onslaught to stop. Asked her to "Call the Dogs off."

She was recently recognized by a cashier at a local Dollar Store (who was also a student at the local court reporting school) as "that famous court reporter."

She serves on the Board of the Sierra Valley College of Reporting;

Is president of the Fresno Superior Court Unit of SEIU;

Served on NCRA's realtime committee.

Served on NCRA's convention committee.

She began her work with CCRA as the official representative from the Fresno area, District C. In the ensuing years, she has been the creator and editor of CCRA's Official Compendium; been on the CATT faculty in 2009 and 2010; helped officially and unofficially to put on CCRA's conventions nearly every year, including this year, where she is once again a convention cochair.

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Distinguished Service Award Recipient — Doreen Perkins

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She was president of CCRA in 2006 and is still working just as hard for the organization now five plus years later.

She is from the fifth largest city in the beautiful San Joaquin Valley, the home of one of my oldest and dearest friends and a lifelong CCRA supporter, Ray Eggebraaten.

She has two grown children and a pretty funny husband, who might consider a job writing comedy.

According to her husband, she hopes to retire in five years, but I know that CCRA is going to hope that just means she'll have more time to devote to the politics of court reporting.

It says here in her spare time (what spare time ???) that she enjoys scuba diving and relieves stress by participating in extreme sports.

The only thing I know about "extreme" is that she is extremely hard working, that she is the model for what this award is all about, and that there is no one more deserving of this award.

I am honored to announce and ask that you join me in presenting this year's Distinguished Service Award to Doreen Perkins.



Cal-e-licious

By Gerie Bunch

ARTICHOKE SPINACH GRATIN

Ingredients:

1 med. red bell pepper, chopped	2 14oz. cans artichoke hearts, drained & quartered
1 med. onion, chopped	1/3 c. sun-dried tomatoes (not in oil) chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced	Salt & Pepper
1 tsp. olive oil	1/4 c. parmesan cheese, finely grated
2 10oz. pkgs frozen chopped spinach, defrosted & drained	1/4 c. bread crumbs
8 oz. low fat cream cheese, softened	1 tsp. paprika
8 oz. fat free sour cream	

Sauté bell pepper, onion and garlic in olive oil 5-8 minutes; add the spinach, cream cheese and sour cream and continue cooking and stirring until blended; add the artichoke hearts and sun-dried tomatoes, mix well, season with S&P to taste. Pour this into an oblong pan that's been sprayed with Pam, top with the last three ingredients and bake at 350 for 30-40 minutes, until top is golden and bubbling.



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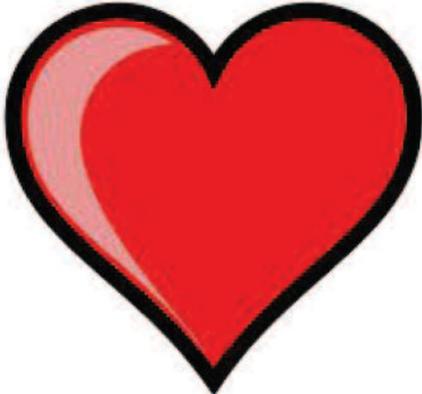
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Our 101st Convention in San Diego

By Christine Taylor
Director, District D



Now that all is said and done, CCRA's 101st convention is officially in our memory banks. And what a memory it is! For the second time, my daughter, a court-reporting student, joined me, and we both had a wonderful time. A record number of attendees traveled from all over California.

Where to start?

First off, it's the Welcome Reception on the Lanai for buffet snacks and beverages. Fun beach tunes really set the mood, had everyone chatting and laughing, with the students meeting working reporters while playing Student Bingo. Afterwards, it was up to the Presidential Suite, in a more intimate setting, for a nightcap with President-elect Early Langley and jazz music performed by her son.

The first morning, after a buffet breakfast, it was off to class, my daughter to the Student Track, and me to coteach the first session of CCRA's Legislative Track series. I continued with the Legislative Track throughout the weekend, helping out where I could and growing as a board member. Learning to teach was a great experience, even though it meant missing out on the back-to-back computer breakout sessions everyone was raving about. Next year...

After lunch with the exhibitors, including a fashion show featuring great handbags and accessories and super volunteer models, everyone went to hear our keynote speaker, Amanda Boxtel. At the conclusion of her presentation, after all of us were fired up with inspiration to tackle the various facets of our lives, there wasn't a dry eye in the room!

Saturday's dinner was followed with dancing, beach-ball tossing, and lots of laughter. Even the DJ joined in the fun! Then back up to the Presidential Suite and another intimate reception with our new president.



All too soon it was morning again, time to rise and shine with the PACCRA 5K run/walk. The participants donned their CCRA caps and were off on a spirited trek along the bay. Thank goodness classes start half an hour later on Sunday.

After breakfast, the education and entertainment continued, students and working reporters, freelancers and officials, in our various classes of interest throughout the day.

During the business luncheon, it was time to officially swear in CCRA's new president, Early Langley, for the next year, and board members for the next two years. Senator Bill Emerson, whose wife is a court reporter, spoke about the issues facing our state, as well as support for our profession.

Doreen Perkins was the honored recipient of CCRA's Distinguished Service Award.

I'm always very proud of the number of accomplished individuals in our profession who volunteer, giving their time and energy, and even more so this year as I complete my first year as a board member, looking forward to the next two years working alongside them.

Sunday evening, after a last call with the exhibitors, we head out for dinner on our own, exploring the downtown San Diego area with new and former acquaintances, family, doing some sightseeing, and being outside in the ocean air. The evening's finale was a relaxing Jacuzzi at the hotel before drifting off to sleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

Monday is an easy breakfast, mine "fast-food" from

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Our 101st Convention in San Diego

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Starbucks, before two back-to-back sessions designed to improve our realtime writing skills. Even after many years of writing realtime, I always leave with at least one, and usually more, stroke-saving, neatness-producing tip.

The final get-togethers were the information-gathering Talk-It-Out sessions with freelancers and officials brainstorming with respective board members on industry issues. These informal sessions are instrumental in helping CCRA develop strategies for the upcoming year with the known and perceived challenges already promising to be varied and active.

My daughter and I are already looking forward to next October, Columbus Day weekend, and CCRA's 102nd convention at the luxury Miramonte Resort in Indian Wells. I can already feel the wrap-around comfort of a fluffy terry-cloth robe, following fun and productive days, as we head off to enjoy all of the fabulous spa treatments in the company of wonderful reporter friends.

Coming soon...

Ten Tips: CCRA's Guide to Depo Work.

**AND
Announcing CCRA TenTips:**
The Freelancer's Guide to Court Work

"CCRA, California's greatest court reporting association, unveils a resource right at your fingertips! Get everything you need from the CCRA Freelancer's Guide to Court Work. Be confident the first time you report a jury trial and know just where to go, who to talk to and what to do. It's downloadable and easy to follow. CCRA epitomizes what an association should be: one that works hard on behalf of all court reporters!"



Congratulations! New NCRA Certificate Holders!

Registered Professional Reporters

Julie Gimenez, RPR, Indio, CA
Meghan Palma, RPR, Sausalito, CA
Susan Swan, RPR, San Diego, CA

Certified Realtime Reporters

Michelle Naert, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP,
Walnut Creek, CA
Myra Ponce, RPR, CRR, Fontana, CA
Kimberly Tietze, RPR, CRR, Vacaville, CA





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Use Wireless Keyboard with iPad

Q. I bought a Bluetooth wireless external keyboard to use with my iPad. It's a great little keyboard, but I cannot get it to connect with the iPad. What am I doing wrong?

A. The iPad's integrated virtual keyboard is adequate for some typing, but for any significant amount of data entry, a real keyboard can't be beat. My personal favorite is a Logitech Bluetooth iPad Keyboard (\$69), but Apple makes an excellent wireless keyboard, also \$69 (what a coincidence) which is available from the Apple Store (<http://store.apple.com>). It can be a bit tricky to establish the handshake between iPad and keyboard, so let's walk through through the process, step by step, in excruciating detail:

On your iPad, go to Settings > General > Bluetooth and make sure it is set to On. Next, turn on your keyboard using its power switch.

Return to the iPad's Bluetooth settings (Settings > General > Bluetooth) and after a couple of seconds you should see the cryptic words "Not paired," and your keyboard identified by name.

Here's the crucial, little-known, often-overlooked, hyphen-laden step: In the iPad's Bluetooth settings, tap "Not paired," and note the four- or six-digit number displayed. Type that number on your keypad, then press the Return key. Once the connection (handshake) is established, you will see the word "Connected" next to the name of your keyboard. You can then begin typing.

Once you finish using your Bluetooth device, be sure to return to Settings > General > Bluetooth

and turn Bluetooth off. If you leave Bluetooth on and raise the iPad to your ear, like an iConch, the sucking sound you hear will be the charge departing your battery.

The next time you use your keyboard, turn on Bluetooth, turn on your keyboard and after a few seconds the word "Connected" should appear. At that point, you're good to go.

For oodles (it's a technical term) more iPad tips, my latest ebook series, "Mr. Modem's Top 50 iPad Tips," Volumes 1-3, makes its debut on amazon.com this month.

Q. I somehow deleted the My Document icon from my XP computer. How can I get it back?

A. Right-click Desktop > Properties > Desktop tab > Customize Desktop button. Under Desktop Icons, place a check mark beside My Documents. If it already has a check mark, remove it, restart your computer, then return to the same area and replace the check mark, followed by OK.

Q. How do I capture or save what appears on screen?

A. The key to capturing whatever appears on your monitor is the keystroke combination CTRL + PRINT SCREEN, sometimes displayed as the PRNT SCR N or PRT SC key.

Pressing the PRINT SCREEN key copies data to the Windows Clipboard, from which you can then paste it into another document or email message.

If you want to capture only the active window —

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the window in which you are currently working — and not any other window that might be lurking in the background, hold down the ALT key first, then press the PRINT SCREEN key.

When I create a screen shot of a window, or an error message, or some other dialog box, I paste it into Paint, which can be found under Programs > Accessories. You can, however, use any other graphics program as your pasting destination.

Destroy Old CDs

Q. I have an old magnetized eraser for 5.25-inch floppy disks. Can I run some old CDs I want to destroy through it or is there a better way to destroy CDs?

A. The best way to destroy old CDs or DVDs is to physically destroy them. I usually give them one slash across the playing surface with a box cutter or a quick snip with pruning shears. It's very fast, but very permanent.

Q. I notice that you have been responding to a number of questions in your last few columns about the Apple iPad. Thank you for providing this information. I've been thinking of getting one, but wasn't quite sure. Do you have one and is it everything that it's cracked up to be?

A. Yes, and yes. I do have an iPad 2, with the optional 3G (wireless) service, and it definitely lives up to the hype. Mrs. Modem, who isn't a big computing enthusiast (she's 5' 1"), recently purchased one and her impressions are typical of most users:

She is particularly impressed with how easy it is to use, how simple it is to install programs (called applications, or apps for short), and she loves that she doesn't have to fuss with anti-virus or anti-malware protection. While she replaced her desktop computer with the iPad, that's not something every computer user will want to do, but in her case, she

primarily used her computer for email and visiting Web sites, so the iPad was an excellent replacement.

A free app also allows her to read Kindle and other ebooks, so she also saved the price of a Kindle. In fact, her enthusiasm for her iPad is the reason I wrote the Pulitzer-lacking ebook series, "Mr. Modem's Top 50 iPad Tips" available on amazon.com.

To view all my humble-yet-fabulous literary offerings, go to amazon.com and search for "Mr. Modem." Behold the miracle of the ebook!

Q. In the upper right-hand corner of my keyboard is a key marked "PrtSc/SysRq." Someone told me if I want to print a map, for example, to put it on the screen, press the F11 key, then hold down the other key and the Shift key to print a full-sized map. Can you elaborate on this? I don't understand it at all.

A. F11 switches into full-screen mode for most browsers, allowing more of a page to appear. Pressing the Print Screen (PrtSc/SysRq) key captures the current screen and places it on the Windows Clipboard. You can then use any graphics editor (Paint is fine, located within Windows, under Accessories) or word processor and paste (by pressing CTRL + V) the saved image onto the screen and print from there.

Historical Footnote: The SysRq or SysReq key, which shares your PrtSc key is a relic from another era — not unlike Mr. Modem. Short for "System Request," unless specifically programmed for a particular application, today the SysRq key is as useless as a Kardashian at a MENSA meeting. The SysRq key doesn't appear on most new keyboards.

Q. This may be a silly question, but can you tell me the difference between a CD and DVD?

A. Other than the spelling (sorry, I couldn't resist),

continued on Page 19

(continued from Page 18)

there are a number of technological differences between the two, but from a user perspective the primary difference is capacity. DVDs can hold far more data than CDs.

A typical CD can hold 700MB (megabytes), while a single-layer DVD can hold 4.7GB (gigabytes), more than six times the amount of data. While CDs are primarily used for data and audio, DVDs are primarily used for video.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

10x10

A fascinating site that takes an hourly photographic pulse of the world. When you open 10x10, you will see a grid of the top 100 world images for that hour, ranked in order of importance, reading left to right, top to bottom. Along the right edge of the screen are listed the corresponding top 100 words, one for each image. Move your mouse around the images and you will see which words match which images. Click any word or image to zoom in and see the news headlines behind the word.

www.tenbyten.org/now.html

Get Relaxed

Soothing sounds to help you feel more relaxed and less stressed. Choose from mellifluous melodies such as "Eternal Hope, Midsummer Sky" or "Clear Water." Music is accompanied by a photo slide show, which I thought moved too quickly and kind of stressed me out, but perhaps that's just me. Better still, forget the slide show, minimize the window, and let this musical muscle relaxer play in the background. Ahhhh.....

www.getrelaxed.com

World eBook Library

The World Public Library Association is the world's largest eBook provider. Founded in 1996, the WPLA is dedicated to preserving and disseminating classic works of literature, serials, bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference works in a number of languages and countries around the world. Nothing by Mr. Modem yet, though. Pity.

<http://netlibrary.net/view/about-us.aspx>
Answers.com

A free, online reference guide with information covering more than a million topics. It's enough to make your head explode. The site's editors draw their data from a myriad of sources, including dictionaries, thesauruses (thesaurii?), encyclopedias, and atlases.

www.answers.com

Bookshare.org

Provides access to more than 125,000 digital books for the visually impaired. Works that are out of copyright are available to anyone; books that are still under copyright are available exclusively to Bookshare members. Individual, all-you-can-read, subscriptions are \$50 per year and you must provide proof that you have a "print disability" that prevents you from reading regular books.

www.bookshare.org

Compendium of Lost Words

Philologists and lexicographers will love this collection of hundreds of obscure and rare words. In order for a word to qualify for inclusion, it must be found in the Oxford English Dictionary, but it must not appear anywhere on the Internet — except, apparently, on this Web site. A few minutes perusing Forthright's Phrontistery will transform visitors from humble wordsmiths to knowledgeable, hyphenemious aretalogers — and you can quote me on that.

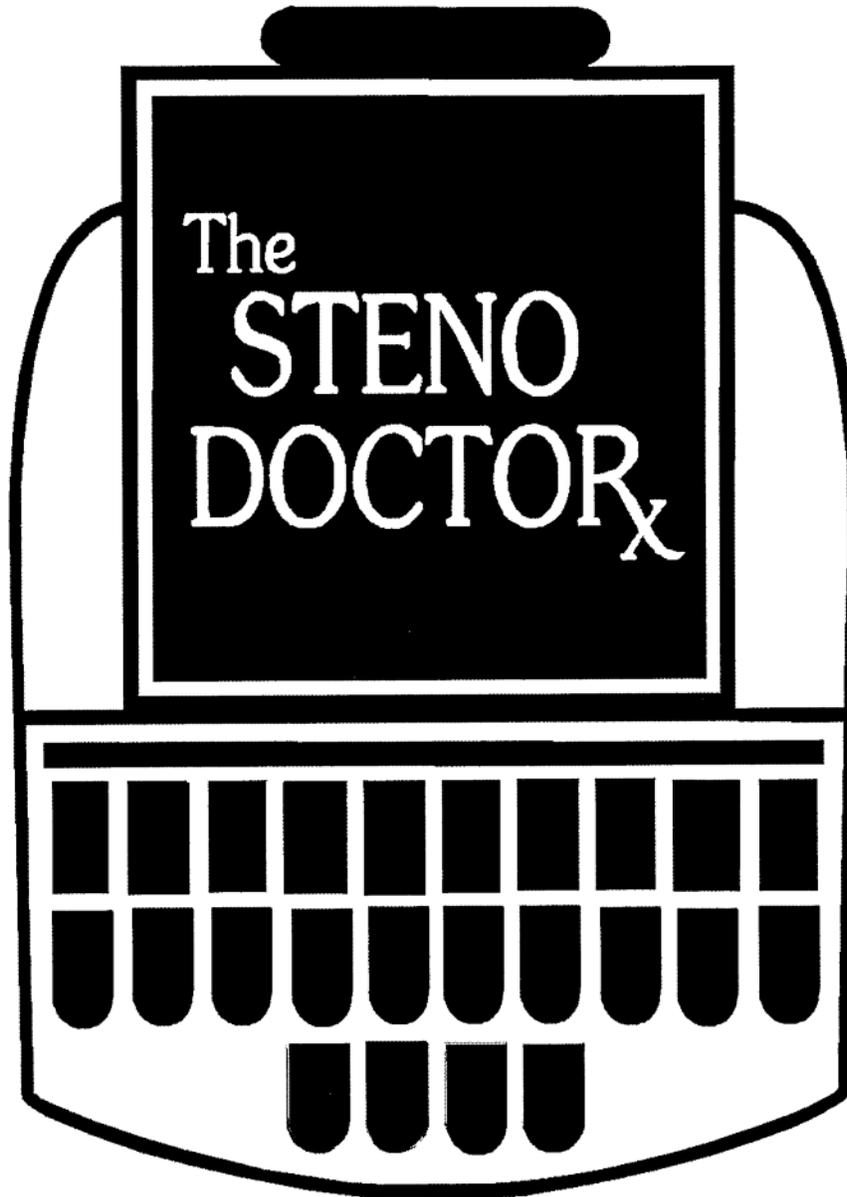
<http://phrontistery.info>

"Mr. Modem's Top 50 Computing Tips," a life-altering five-ebook series, is just a download away on amazon.com! Each (only \$2.99) features 50 of Mr. M.'s greatest computing tips, all easy to understand, all written in Mr. Modem's entertaining and occasionally informative style.

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What To Do With That Clause At The End?

By Margie Wakeman Wells
mww@margieholdscourt.com

Sometimes a person makes a statement that is a complete sentence.

That is what I was talking about.
That is the important thing.

It is completely absurd.
It is not the idea I had.

This is not the concept he presented.
This is the complete explanation he gave.

Notice, however, that the subject of each of these sentences is a pronoun and that we have no idea what that pronoun refers to. Without other information, the communication is not really effective.

So now the person adds the explanation in the form of a fragment — often in the form of a clause.

That is what I was talking about — that he did not do his job.

This is the proposal that she presented — that she would head up the project.

Notice that in this case the clause “that he did not do his job” really could replace the word *that* in the original sentence. Notice that the clause “that she would head up the project” could go into the sentence in lieu of the word *this*. The sentences probably should have been

That he did not do his job is what I was talking about.

That she would head up the project is the proposal that she presented.

When this pattern pops up and starts with the pronoun and has a clause after the sentence has concluded, the only possible punctuation for that final element is a dash.

RULE: When an appositive is a noun clause and it comes when the sentence has finished and renames the pronoun subject, use a dash before the appositive clause.

This is the reason he gave — that he did not have a job at the time.

That’s what he is talking about — that the employees there had no rights.

The dash is also used when other elements come in this position and rename the pronoun subject.

That is what he expressed he wanted — to be included in the group.

That was a familiar refrain of his — the need to have time off.

This is not acceptable — to be late every day.

Margie Wakeman Wells has taught reporting for 36 years and has given over 300 seminars on punctuation for the court reporting community. She has written the definitive text and an accompanying workbook on punctuating the transcript, *Court Reporting: Bad Grammar/Good Punctuation*. Check out the book on Facebook, and check out Margie’s new website, margieholdscourt.com, where her books are now being published and distributed.



Congrats!

Congratulations to the following PACCRA 10-10-10 drawing winners: \$832 each

Three winners were:
Lois Mason (donated winnings back to PACCRA)
Katherine Cardozo
Nancy Floyd

Court Reporters Board Examination Statistics

March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

English

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	9	3	33.3%	4	1	25.0%
Bryan - Los Angeles	3	2	66.7%	1	1	100.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	4	1	25.0%	2	0	0.0%
Cerritos	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	3	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Cypress	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Downey	6	5	83.3%	0	0	n/a
Golden State	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%
Humphreys	6	4	66.7%	4	4	100.0%
Sage - Moreno Valley	5	2	40.0%	1	1	100.0%
Sage - San Diego	4	1	25.0%	1	0	0.0%
Sierra Valley	17	5	29.4%	6	2	33.3%
South Coast	14	11	78.6%	11	10	90.9%
Taft	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	2	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%
SCHOOL TOTAL	78	36	46.2%	36	21	58.3%
Closed	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Five Plus	8	3	37.5%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	11	6	54.5%	5	4	80.0%
Work	2	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	99	45	45.5%	42	25	59.5%

continued on Page 23

Court Reporters Board Examination Statistics

March 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011

(continued from Page 22)

Professional Practice

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	5	3	60.0%	4	3	75.0%
Bryan - Los Angeles	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	4	2	50.0%	2	2	100.0%
Cerritos	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%
Cypress	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Downey	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Golden State	2	2	100.0%	2	2	100.0%
Humphreys	4	4	100.0%	4	4	100.0%
Sage - Moreno Valley	2	2	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Sage - San Diego	2	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Sierra Valley	14	5	35.7%	6	2	33.3%
South Coast	8	6	75.0%	5	5	100.0%
Taft	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	2	2	100.0%	2	2	100.0%
SCHOOL TOTAL	48	29	60.4%	31	24	77.4%
Closed	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Five Plus	3	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	5	4	80.0%	4	4	100.0%
Work	1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	57	33	57.9%	36	28	77.8%



I Reported For 50 Years!! Who Does That????

By Linda J. Hart, CSR #4357

LeRoy Swanson, CSR #1095, celebrated his 50th anniversary of active reporting on January 19, 2011, and also celebrated his 75th birthday on August 5, 2011.

LeRoy began his young life by joining the Navy, where he served our country during two tours of duty in the Western Pacific. After his discharge in San Francisco, California, he found himself enrolled in a court reporting school in San Francisco, and became a Certified Shorthand Reporter in 1961.

His court reporting career started in the Sacramento Superior Courts, where he reported for Judge Babich in 1961 and 1962. It was in Sacramento where he met and became partners with Edward J. St. Amour, Donald King, Donald Schuessler and James Dunn and formed the partnership of Sacramento Deposition Reporters.

In 1958, LeRoy married the love of his life, Judy, and they were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Kristen in 1966 and Kim in 1968.

In 1995, I was blessed, as LeRoy Swanson became a staff reporter in my office and spent the last 16 years of his career covering the calendar for L.J. Hart & Associates, a deposition firm in Sacramento. There is no one who is more professional than LeRoy. He would always drop what he was doing and run out the door for an emergency appearance, never asking why, always wearing a tie and jacket, covering court appearances, trials and depositions.

In late January of 2011, LeRoy began his retirement. He finds retirement "boring," as compared to the hustle-bustle of reporting, and he is sorely missed by the office staff, and me, who absolutely love him. We wish him the best in his retirement years.

And, again, I ask: Fifty years? Who does that?

Now you know.



"Ode to the Spell Checker"

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea.
Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.
Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Three Cheers for CCRA's Vendors, Exhibitors, Sponsors and Donators!!!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Wow, what an incredible Convention! Because of you, our members, we were able to pull off a spectacular live auction and opportunity drawing raising over \$7K. CCRA would like to extend our thanks to all of the vendors, local associations, exhibitors and individual reporters that participated in this event. Your donations played an integral part in the fun and success of our convention. Thank you for your generous support of CCRA. It is because of you that CCRA will continue to be successful in protecting the reporting profession.

We would like to give special thanks to the following premiere vendors, exhibitors, associations and individual reporters who donated to this year's convention:

Advantage Software
Aiken-Welch Court Reporters
Anne Hall — Monterey Official Reporter
Cita Insurance Services
Depobook
Depo Deadbeats
Fresno County Official Court Reporters
LACCRA — Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association
Life Wealth Financial & Insurance
Orange County Court Reporters Association
Pengad
Phil Liberatore
ProCat
RPM
Sacramento Official Court Reporters Association
San Bernardino County Official Court Reporters
San Diego County Official Court Reporters
Search Master
Silpada Designs
Sten Ed
Stenocast
Steno Doctor
Stenograph
Stenovations
System One
The Neutrino Group
Tidwell & Associates
Tulare County Official Court Reporters
Veritext
YesVideo

U.S. Legal Citation Trial Date Set

The Court Reporters Board filed a complaint in Santa Clara County Superior Court asking for the court reporting firm U.S. Legal to be required to pay a fine issued for alleged violation of the regulation restricting gift giving. A trial date has been set for January 17, 2012.

Heard in Court:

Q. The consensus of scientific opinion at one point in time was that the earth was the center of the solar system.

A. That's before we knew it was Los Angeles.

From the testimony of Pathologist Dr. Burr Hartman

Q. Plasma referred to blood in general or just --

A. Red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Those are formed elements that are floating around in the blood. Contrary to what you may have heard, in addition to platelets there are not forklets and spoonlets. That's a laboratory joke.

Q. And above our heads, doc.

Vocabulary Test No. 10

By Debby Steinman

1. **contumacious – adj.**
 - a. obedient
 - b. disrespectful
 - c. rebellious
 - d. docile
2. **mendacious – adj**
 - a. dishonest
 - b. veracious
 - c. sincere
 - d. hopeful
3. **prevaricate – intrans verb**
 - a. to dispose of
 - b. to praise
 - c. to quote
 - d. to equivocate
4. **enmity – noun**
 - a. good will
 - b. deep-seated dislike
 - c. sympathy
 - d. adversity
5. **canard – noun**
 - a. domestic bird
 - b. premonition
 - c. unsubstantiated rumor
 - d. card game
6. **scion – noun**
 - a. descendent
 - b. ancestor
 - c. aristocracy
 - d. snob
7. **pejorative – adj.**
 - a. complicated
 - b. superficial
 - c. complimentary
 - d. derogatory
8. **vapid – adj**
 - a. expressive
 - b. dull
 - c. morbid
 - d. comical
9. **intrepid – adj**
 - a. timid
 - b. irreverent
 - c. fearless
 - d. eager
10. **rectitude – noun**
 - a. morality
 - b. solitude
 - c. indifference
 - d. hostility

Answers:

1. **contumacious – adj. – (c)** rebellious
2. **mendacious – adj. – (a)** dishonest
3. **prevaricate – intrans verb – (d)** to equivocate
4. **enmity – noun – (b)** deep-seated dislike
5. **canard – noun – (c)** unsubstantiated rumor
6. **scion – noun – (a)** descendent
7. **pejorative – adj. – (d)** derogatory
8. **vapid – adj. – (b)** dull
9. **intrepid – adj. – (c)** fearless
10. **rectitude – noun – (a)** morality





By Judge Judy
Holzer Hersher

VIEW FROM THE CIVIL TRIAL BENCH: “Don’t Spit on Me” and Other Words of Wisdom from 50 Years of Court Reporting

This article represents the thoughts and opinions of the author and should not be considered court policy or the opinion of other trial judges. Comments should be addressed to hershej@saccourt.ca.gov

Court reporting is not for the faint of heart. It requires a unique skill, one which reporters describe as the ability to tune their brains and ears, in coordination with their hands, to a frequency that enhances and records the myriad of voices in a courtroom. To secure state certification, each has to report at the minimum rate of 200 words per minute. Sacramento County Superior Court reporters have clocked transcriptions in excess of 340 words or more per minute. The later rates come with a number of problems, including the potential for dropped words or incorrect phrasing, as well as exhaustion and the need for more breaks. As you might imagine, at the top of the list of a court reporter’s pet peeves are the attorneys and witnesses who are speed talkers, particularly those for whom the words “slow down” has no meaning. They are followed by the gum chewers, pen clickers, those who mumble, and the attorneys who hover dangerously close to their stenowriters.

“I have literally been ...spit on, had my glasses knocked off, stepped or fallen on, elbowed in the back of the head, almost hit with a baseball bat during a demonstration and harpooned by a pointer stick when pregnant, and got a paper cut on my nose by an attorney handing a witness a document...” Kathy Ennis, Dept. 10

I recently sat with three of the Sacramento County’s reporters as they collectively shared their stories on attorneys and the importance of making a good record. Collectively, they have over 50 years of experience reporting and preparing appellate transcripts on everything from auto accidents to death penalty cases. They have seen thousands of attorneys in action. Space does not permit sharing all of our conversation. One thing they all emphasize is keeping a safe distance from them during trial. Attorneys apparently forget where the court reporter is in the room and, on occasion, reporters have had their glasses knocked off, their \$5,000 machines knocked over, evidence spewed on them, and been hit with flying parts of exhibits. At a minimum, the equipment surrounding each reporter represents a personal \$10,000 investment that they are understandably protective of. Here are some additional highlights of the conversation.

THE BASICS

Attorneys should better prepare their witnesses about the importance of an accurate record. They should impress upon them, and practice if necessary, the need to speak loud enough to be heard and slow enough to be understood. It looks better to the jury if the attorney controls the pace of testimony, admonishing his or her own witnesses to slow down or speak up, rather than the court reporter or the judge. Frequent interruptions by the latter impact the flow of the testimony and may reflect poorly on both the witness and the attorney.

During trial, attorneys often turn to the court reporter and direct him or her to read the witness’s answer or his/her question back. Don’t be surprised if you are ignored, they say. The court reporter is trained not to read back unless and until the judge requests it. A trial is not a deposition and the court reporter only takes direction from the court, even when the reporter’s time is charged to the parties in a civil trial. Admonishing the attorney regarding this may leave the impression that the attorney is ignorant of trial procedures or is being disrespectful of the court.

Although self-evident, it is often forgotten. Attorneys should place themselves physically in the courtroom in such a way that they are not speaking with their back to the court reporter and the jury, both of which impact the accuracy of the record and what people in the courtroom hear and, truth be known, jurors’ impressions about them.

They also advise that the typical record does not require a court reporter to prepare a word index, a concordance, and/or to provide a searchable disk. All these things are doable, but they require advance notice to the court reporter and usually an additional charge. Each of the reporters indicated that if, for example in a civil case, there is a word index already prepared from depositions, sharing those indexes at the beginning of the trial will allow the reporter to immediately build a word dictionary and trial index, making the record all the more useful to the attorneys during the trial and after.

JURY SELECTION AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NUMBERS

When attorneys pose a general question to a group of

jurors during voir dire, they often point to a juror to further converse without identifying the person. This leaves the record with an unidentified responding juror. To the extent the answer might be important on appeal, there is an inadequate record to identify the person. The obvious recommendation is to identify any juror who responds to a global question by name or number, and to remember to do so every time.

A lot of numbers get discussed at trial, and different attorneys and witnesses mean different things when they use different phrases to identify them. For example, the phrase "twelve fifty" has been used to mean \$12.50, 1,250, and/or 12,050. Street slang, as well as common usage often plays a role in how people express numbers. The recommendation is to be clear when stating numbers. For example, rather than twelve fifty, say 'twelve dollars and fifty cents.' Clarity is particularly important during read-back when jurors are considering damages or the value of drugs or stolen items.

DEFICIENT ORAL DESCRIPTIONS

When an attorney or a witness refers to a chart or photograph, they often point to it while talking, i.e., "the

defendant was standing here," or "the impact occurred there." This appears in the record parenthetically by the notation "witness indicating." "Here" and "there" means nothing on a cold written record and gives opposing counsel, jurors and others free reign to engage in subjective recollection at read back and on appeal. It is the attorney's job to provide an accurate and detailed oral description for the record. Don't wait for the court reporter or the judge to ask for an oral description to remedy the deficiency, as it might never come.

Just as importantly, with the increased use of Power Point and other types of sound or picture technology, attorneys have gotten lax in making an adequate record as to what is being shown to the jury. Making a good verbal record of the evidence is as important to the record in a case as bullet points shown on a screen are to a closing argument, they offer.

THE EMOTIONAL WITNESS OR THE WITNESS FOR WHOM ENGLISH IS NOT THEIR FIRST LANGUAGE

It is difficult to report a witness who is emotional. Often their answers to counsel's questions are hard to understand

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and can be misinterpreted. The same is true for a witness whose first language is not English. The court reporters suggest either that they ask their witness to repeat their answer, or ask them if they understood him or her to say "x", so that the record is clear.

QUOTING FROM DEPOSITIONS OR DOCUMENTS AND PROBLEM PRONOUNS

While the rules in this area to help insure an adequate record seem obvious, they are often not followed. If, as an attorney, you are going to read portions from a deposition, you should identify where the question starts and stops, and where the answer starts and stops. This should be done by stating "question" before reading the question, followed by stating "answer" before reading the answer. Otherwise, it is hard for the court reporter to know where one begins and the other ends. Similarly, if an attorney is quoting from a document, it is important to make sure that he or she orally states where the quotation begins and ends.

The use of "he", "she" and "they" can create a confusing record at best. Sometimes it is not clear, given the questioning, which 'he' or 'she' you are referring to. The reporters

suggest that you get in the habit of asking the question using the person's name. It may seem obvious to the attorney that "he" or "she" refers to the person most immediately discussed. However, days or months later, when the testimony is read back in the jury room or on appeal, it may not be so obvious to the listener or reader.

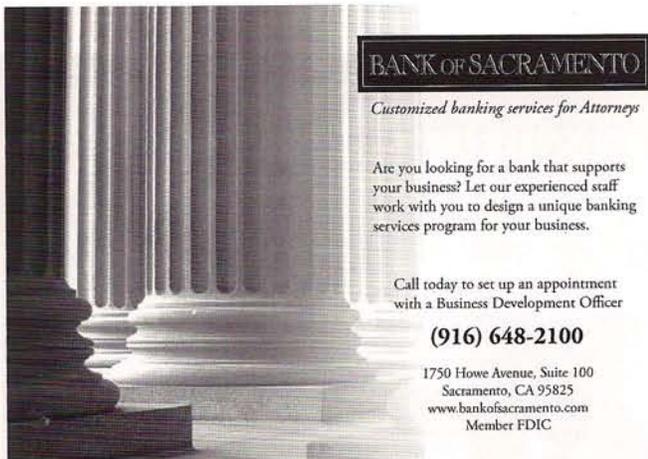
Fast-talking witnesses, late nights, daily transcripts and long trials, followed by more fast-talking witnesses and successive trials and inconsiderate trial attorneys, makes for a high-stress environment. Don't add to it, if you can avoid it.
Michelle Madrid, Dept. 45

DAILY AND APPELLATE RECORD PREPARATION

When attorneys advise court reporters that they are going to require daily transcripts, at a minimum two court reporters are assigned to the trial. Typically, a lead reporter is established and that person communicates with all other reporters regarding the product, timelines and whether extensions will be filed with the appropriate Court of Appeal, should it come to that. This means a lot of late nights and early mornings during trial for each of the reporters, as they switch out during the day, and prepare the record for the following one. A day's worth of court proceedings typically results in 200 pages of transcript. That means each reporter is responsible for approximately 100 pages turned around in less than 24 hours. In addition to working on their own transcripts, the reporters have to work together, conferencing each evening regarding terminology, proper spellings, identification of exhibits, indexing, pagination, the number of copies to be printed, the collation and binding of the transcript, and so on. This is particularly challenging, especially when it comes to putting together the record for a court of appeal. In longer trials, it is not uncommon to have upwards of ten reporters working together.

When a trial is over, and the attorney signals there will be an appeal, court reporters have a short window within which to prepare the transcript, unless granted an extension by the Court of Appeals, while they otherwise continue their work during regular hours on the next trial or trials.¹ This is true, regardless of the length of the trial, i.e., whether it is 5 or 150 days. Fast-talking witnesses, late nights, daily transcripts and long trials, followed by more fast-talking witnesses and successive trials and inconsiderate trial attorneys, makes for a high-stress environment. (See, e.g., *Malick v. Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District* (1982) 131 Cal.App. 3d 50, for an example of the time pressures on court reporters.) Their final recommendation is don't add to it, if you can avoid it. ⚡

1. Typically, criminal appeals are due 20 days after verdict and judgment, while civil transcripts are due in 30 days. Extensions of time are granted by the Courts of Appeal in those same equal increments

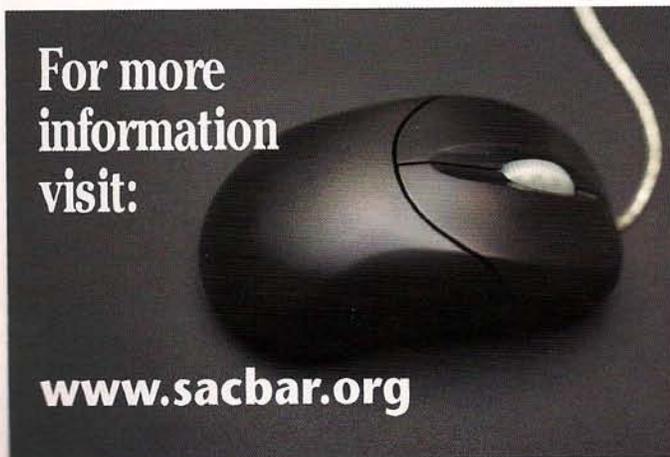


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