

# CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E



Rachel Passarella and Christy Cannariato at LEGISLATIVE BOOT CAMP, Washington D.C. | Page 5

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California Court Reporters Association

CCRA ONLINE

## 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.

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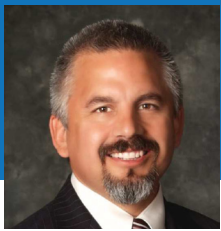
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# ONE OF THE 730.5

By Carlos Martinez, CSR, RPR, CMRS  
President, CCRA

I've written and spoken many times about giving back to the court reporting profession. From my personal view, there is no task more important than helping students. I've said many times that students are the life's blood of court reporting. My reasoning behind this stems from volunteer work in different organizations, but I will use my experience in church as an example here. I have been to a church where the demographic was people above 60 years old, and I have been to a church that was balanced with young couples and their children along with older couples. In the arena of the church, it is said that the demographic that only delivers to the older generation is a dying church. If there is not a youth presence, there is not a future present. Yes, there may be ample tithing to pay the bills, but as the membership continues to age and pass out of the church, there is not a younger generation coming up from behind to fill in the vacant spots in tithing or volunteer positions within the church to keep ministries alive and keep the church alive. Thus, even a church with dynamic teaching and high energy in leadership will eventually fail without a youth movement in their midst.

The same goes with court reporting. Without students in the schools filling up the rosters and passing the CSR test to get into the reporting profession, our profession is dying. NCRA has done a study, and the vast majority of reporters in our country are over 55 years of age. This means in the next eight to ten years, a lot of these reporters will be retiring out of the profession, leaving a very large vacancy of reporting positions in the United States.

This is where my feelings on volunteering to support the students comes into play. My belief is that when we support our students through school and into their first or second year of working as a professional reporter in whatever field they choose to work, we are ensuring the continued strength and growth of our profession by providing the supply of court reporters needed to fill pro tem, official, freelance, and CART and Captioning positions. It is up to us, the working reporter, to reach out and help a student



through a tough time in school. It is up to us, those that have benefitted so greatly from this profession, to make sure that this profession continues on long after we are no longer working in it.

We need to give back like those that came before us have done. So I come to you asking you to give an hour a month to a student. This hour may come in the form of an email exchange with a struggling student about how to make it off of a plateau or through a wall or how to overcome the test jitters that are keeping them from advancing through qualifiers. It may also come in the form of a few phone calls giving encouragement, or it may come in its most basic form, just lending an ear to listen when they've had a horrible day.

Out of the 730.5 hours a month that you are given, I'm challenging every reporter reading this message to give one back. Only one. Help to ensure that the student that is struggling just like you did when you were in school has that leg up that you didn't because you're there to help them through. The reward that you get when you see that student posting on social media that because of you, their guide, they were able to pass a test will greatly exceed the price of the hour you have given up to help.

Please click on the link below that will take you to CCRA's web page. From there, fill out the mentor form, and a student will be given to you.

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



## IF YOU CAN INVEST IN ONLY ONE CONVENTION THIS YEAR... MAKE YOUR INVESTMENT COUNT WITH CCRA

Inspired by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous convention attendees, CCRA is heading back to the Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, California, October 3-5, 2014. Why is this the best investment for your hard-earned dollars?

- 1. PRICE!** CCRA's convention is an incredible value! Other conventions being held in California this year will cost you over \$450, and that's just to get in the door. Their room rates are also higher. Get those CEUs instead with CCRA for just \$349 (students \$165), which includes 5 meals and 2 receptions at a luxurious hotel and spa.
- 2. LOCATION!** The Miramonte Resort & Spa is remarkably close to metropolitan areas of Southern California and Ontario International Airport, yet far enough away to still feel like you're getting a refreshing getaway in the Palm Springs Valley, nestled at the base of the beautifully scenic Santa Rosa Mountains. SoCal residents can pop over just for the day. And did we mention shopping? The Desert Hills Premium Outlets is tantalizingly close.
- 3. NETWORKING!** The convention this year will include two receptions and five meals. Bring those business cards, because you will not only renew friendships with colleagues but also meet more people from your own state who are in the best position to help you expand your career opportunities. Our conventions typically draw over 350 people, more than any other state association in the country.
- 4. SEMINARS:** We are excited about the wide range of seminars we are developing. We have expanded and intensified our offerings on technology and realtime. Plus, interested in CART and captioning? Wondering if you have what it takes? Thinking about transitioning to a new career path? We are introducing a CART/Captioning track. Bring your writer and get some hands-on practical training from some of the top realtimers in California.
- 5. STUDENTS:** When you attend a CCRA convention, we don't track you into a limited number of classes. Your low registration fee admits you to your choice of any of our seminar offerings.

We at CCRA believe reporters and students should attend all the conventions they can. But if you can only afford one in 2014, you will be sorry to have missed CCRA's 104th, our best convention yet.

Like us on Facebook and regularly visit our website to receive all of the exciting details in the coming months.



# LEARNING TO PLAY POKER IN THE HOUSE OF CARDS

By Christy Cannariato, Secretary-Treasurer



Earlier this month I had the distinct honor of being selected by CCRA, along with Director Rachel Passarella, to enroll in NCRA's Legislative Boot Camp in Washington, D.C. I had been informed what to expect by the CCRA leaders who had attended in past years, and I had attended CCRA's CATT Training a few years ago, but what I did not anticipate was finding the experience not only educational but also profoundly moving.

Rachel and I, living in different parts of the state, journeyed to DC separately on Saturday, March 1, 2014, and met at our hotel for a late dinner that evening along with a colleague from the Los Angeles Court Reporters Association, Julie Granger. We were tired from the trip and excited about the next day. We wondered how many state leaders from around the country had traveled to attend, and we lamented that people from the same state would not be allowed to be members of the same team. I am an introvert, and so the prospect of working in teams with new people is always a bit daunting and exhausting to me.

Day 1, Sunday. After a full day of seminars – that, mind you, started at 5:00 a.m. for those of us on Pacific Time – NCRA's impressive Government Relations team of Dave Wenhold, Adam Finkel, and Brandon Schall, then explained the next day's assignment. We were to pretend that a bill had been introduced in our state to cap the rate of deposition transcripts at \$1.00 per page. We were tasked as a team to craft a comprehensive strategy to defeat this bill being heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee or else, if we failed, like a domino effect, the entire profession may be severely impacted. Go!

Echo Team and I sat down and quickly devised a strategy. We were allowed to play roles other than court reporter. I elected to play what freelance reporters like me know best: an expert witness. I channeled every economist I had ever reported and on the fly wrote an economic impact study, and I would speak to the micro- and macroeconomic effects this pay cap would mean for court reporters and the judicial system. My teammates selected clever and strategic roles like the President of the Bar Association, a court reporting student, a court reporting school owner, a member from the Chamber of Commerce, and a hearing-impaired consumer of CART services.

NCRA leaders, including President Nancy Varallo and President-Elect Sarah Nageotte, CEO Jim Cudahy, and the board and

officers would play various characters in this little drama, from senators who hate court reporters, to senators who are our allies, to the press, the Governor's Chief of Staff, and a deposition firm owner who may or may not be completely on board with our agenda. We were told that evening that we would find them all in the hotel bar – in character – and we should feel free to lobby them and gain information for our use the next day.

I should mention that I do not have much of a poker face. You rarely have to speculate on what I am thinking; it shows. But, in character as an economist, I endeavored to engage the role-players, and I asked and answered tough questions. It was ridiculously challenging and fun, and all the while I had the distinct impression I was purposely being misdirected and tested to see if I could detect their underlying political motives before it could explode in my team's face the next day. It was like playing poker, chess, and Clue all at the same time. I fell into bed after midnight.

Day 2. I awoke at 5:00 a.m. to prepare my economic impact report (2:00 a.m. Pacific Time!). In our teams that morning we dashed all over the hotel to make our meetings on time with the various NCRA role-players, and we would attempt to lobby them to our point of view while they would interrupt and distract us to get us off message. Some even purposely detained us with personal photos so that we would be late to the next meeting, only for us to be strongly chastised by "the Governor's Chief of Staff" that we should never, ever, under any circumstances, be late to meetings like these. Well played, NCRA. Well played.

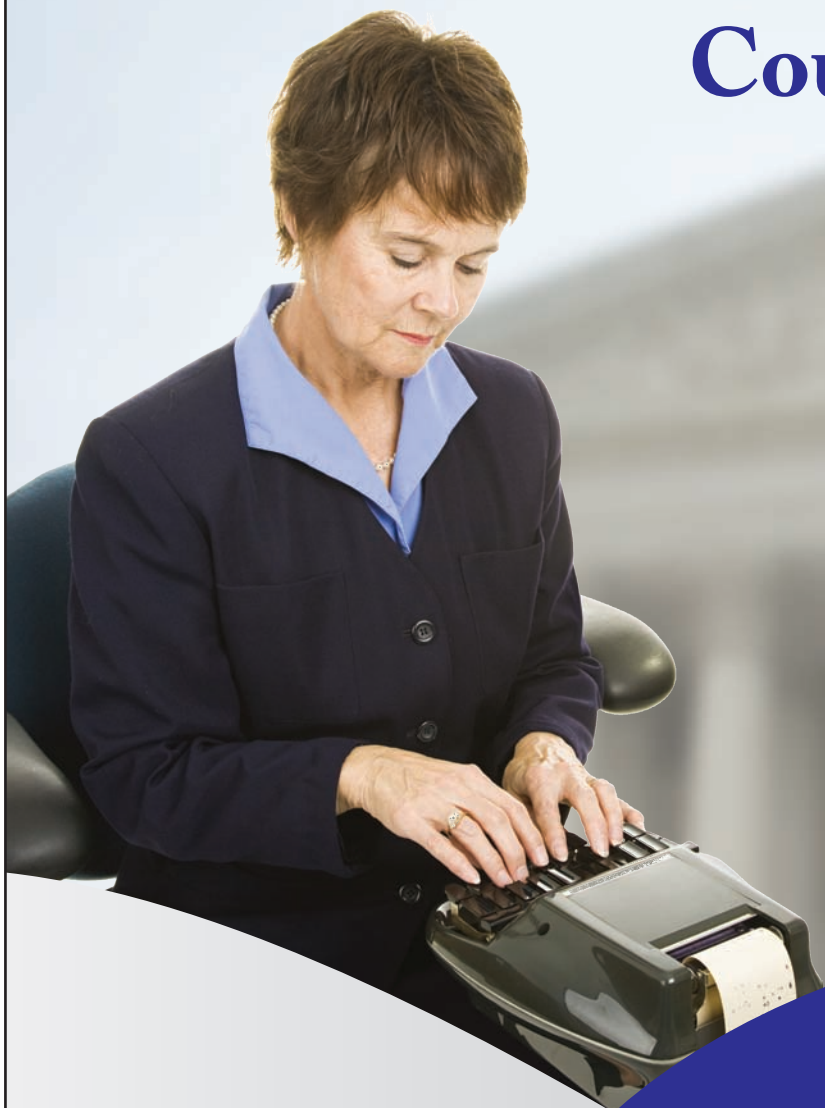
Our mock lobbying meetings over and valuable intelligence gained, we then had 90 minutes over lunch to prepare for the mock Senate hearing that would take place that afternoon. My team was up first – the toughest position because all of the teams behind us would get to see what was coming, adjust their strategies and inure themselves to the distractions they would face. In theory, anyway. The panelists proved to be endlessly creative in their ability to deflect and distract.



I began giving my testimony as the economist when "Senator Zinone" abruptly interrupted and accused my employer of improperly influencing the panel through campaign donations. I quickly had to figure out how to address that respectfully and get back on message. The panelists did outlandish things

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

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## LEARNING TO PLAY POKER IN THE HOUSE OF CARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

to distract us – getting up and leaving, breaking into private conversation amongst themselves, sniping at each other. Sadly, I have been told these things actually do occur in real life. It was maddening when it was our team at the table unable to get our perfectly reasoned arguments across; hilarious when you were out in the audience watching. After our 15 minutes were up, it was such a relief to be out of character and able to chuckle openly at last.

Team Echo did well, and all of the teams that followed also did a truly admirable job, all with different strategies for defeating this horribly misguided but all-too-realistic bill. Our team did not win, but we were told we finished a very close second. (I should add, I learned over cocktails that the other teams were also privately told they finished a close second!)

Wrapping up the training stage of Boot Camp, President Nancy Varallo spoke movingly, sharing with us that she had started at Boot Camp; that all of us had the power and now the skills to return to our respective states and work hard to promote and protect this great profession of ours; and further, that tomorrow, as we lobbied real legislators for issues on behalf of NCRA, she knew we would make all of them proud.



Day 3: The final day of Boot Camp, Capitol Hill Day. We fortunately got a very welcome and much-needed two-hour delayed start time due to snow. We loaded onto buses and journeyed to Capitol Hill. We had each been assigned legislators according to which state and legislative districts we lived in. All seven attendees from California were to meet with the staffs of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Senator Boxer, and then I was assigned Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA).

But as we criss-crossed Capitol Hill to reach our meetings, mindful that we could not be late under any circumstances, and trying to squeeze in a few sightseeing photos, it hit me: Here I am in the center of political power of the most powerful country on the planet, and these legislators – the same ones we see on television, who decide if our country goes to war and what kind of future our children will have – have agreed to a meeting with little old me, representing an entire country of court reporters, to discuss my comparatively humble issues of courthouse safety (S. 445). This task before me, therefore, was at the same time both enormous and inconsequential in the grand scheme of things.

But, of course, I wasn't doing this alone. Rachel and I, having barely seen each other since we broke into our respective teams, were joined by other California association leaders as we strategized who would take the lead speaking roles. And the best part? We had been tested so rigorously, yet so entertainingly, the previous days that I did not exhibit the least bit of nerves when it came time to speak at the real deal. That felt like a tremendous victory, knowing I could now play poker in the big leagues, to badly mix a metaphor. There is no question I can do this when my time comes to represent my fellow reporters in Sacramento.

After a long day, we all converged on the Capitol Hill Club where we attended a fundraiser for Kevin Yoder (R-KS), a great friend to court reporters. NCRA Director of Government Relations Dave Wenhold whipped us into an enthusiastic frenzy (alcohol was flowing), and he fostered such a feeling of accomplishment among this physically and mentally exhausted group of people as we were invited to share a particularly successful meeting that day to eruptions of cheers from our peers and mentors. I shared my and NCRA Director/CCRA Past President Toni O'Neill's meeting with Congresswoman Chu's staff member, who was so interested in the issue we were pitching to her that she said the Congresswoman may be interested in co-authoring the bill in the House. I got to claim a Senate coffee mug for that effort. I will treasure it always.

On the bus ride back to the hotel later that evening, we were treated to a surprise stop at the Lincoln Memorial. Assistant Director Adam Finkel told us we had only 15 minutes to make a run for it and back, and, having been involved in chartering buses before, knowing the strict time limitations put on drivers, I knew our driver was being generous to us. This was my third trip to D.C., but I had unaccountably never seen the Lincoln Memorial. My bursitis in my hip was really acting up causing me to walk a little like Charlie Chaplin, but I did a probably comical sprint/limp up those steps. I wasn't going to miss this opportunity. It truly is one spectacle in American life that does not disappoint when you experience it in person. I was genuinely choked up as I hobbled quickly back to the bus and grabbed Government Relations Specialist Brandon Schall's arm as I passed him and said a quick heartfelt thanks. His reply was a pleased, "Yes, ma'am!"



And then if these three days weren't exhausting enough, a dozen of us lingered at the hotel bar for a couple more hours. Newly-nominated as President-Elect, Stephen Zinone generously left his NCRA besties and came over to sit with Rachel and I, as the three of us reflected on our (and Nancy Varallo's) Italian-American heritage and how far court reporting had taken us. I look forward to his installation as NCRA President in – where else? – New York City in 2015.

I left Boot Camp determined to return to do it all again, on my own dime next time. But I urge any of you reading this to consider attending this event even if you are not involved in your state association and even if you are still in school. One of my teammates was Treshanna Robinzine, a student from Illinois, who came on her own initiation, not as part of a state delegation. So smart, already so engaged in this profession, she impressed all of us as a future President of NCRA.

Or maybe you're a 25-year veteran like me who is feeling a little less than completely inspired by the seminar offerings at conventions. Trust me. Register for this event and earn 1.5 CEUs, and you will depart completely energized, with a dozen or more new friends, and in love with your profession and your country again like you never imagined.

My profoundest thanks to the CCRA Board and its members for providing me with this empowering experience. I promise to put the education to good use for you in this great state of California.

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## COURT REPORTERS STORM CAPITOL HILL

By Rachel Passarella

No snow, ice, wind, or cold can stop determined California court reporters from moving on Capitol Hill to promote and preserve the Court Reporting profession. Ten inches of snow fell on Washington, D.C., on Monday; but Tuesday was my day to meet with my state representatives. I was ready with boots, scarf, gloves, and jacket, ready to storm the hill.

All dramatics aside, the issues we were addressing with our legislators on Tuesday were less applicable to California than I would have liked, but, of course, still very important to the profession as a whole. I chose to focus on only one issue when speaking to my representatives and that was the Local Courthouse Safety Act, Senate Bill 445, which would release excess, unused TSA equipment currently being stored at a cost of \$4 million per year to be used in courtrooms around the country. A statement by a colleague from Montana struck a chord – “The security in my courtroom is the can of bear spray I keep on my desk.” We had to study the issues and statistics, and had to effectively convey our message to the staff members of our state legislators.

I could write an entire magazine about the things I learned at NCRA’s Legislative Boot Camp on March 2nd through 4th in Washington, D.C. This was the best professional

experience of my life so far. For a more detailed look at our adventures, check out Christy Cannariato’s fantastic article elsewhere in this issue, “Learning to Play Poker at the House of Cards.” My favorite part of being chosen to represent CCRA at this event was the opportunity to meet board members and state leaders from the other states’ court reporting associations. I made lifelong friends and learned about the issues affecting other court reporters in our country. California is very fortunate to have the Court Reporters Board, a licensing exam, and the strong presence of CCRA in our state legislature.

Another highlight of my experience was meeting Joe Strickland and Ed Johnson, two of the most amazing reporters in Washington. As Congressional Reporters, these men are capable of taking down 435 different speaker designations and super quick speeches, usually read off a piece of paper in order to fit into a one-minute time slot, with all the hustle and bustle to boot. Here’s a picture of me with Joe Strickland. (Insert picture here.)

If you ever get an opportunity to attend NCRA’s Legislative Boot Camp, do not hesitate to jump on the wagon. It may be the most intense and exhausting weekend of your career, but you will return a different reporter and it will be the experience of a lifetime. Thank you, CCRA, for letting me represent you!

## QUESTION:

Hi, I am a court reporting student and I am feeling very unsure and scared about my future in this profession. Recently, I have numerous complaints and concerns in regard to insurance companies and their attorneys who have established contracting arrangements with court reporting firms in order to cut the costs of their litigation. I know there have always been a lot of nay-sayers and people who say negative things about computers taking over our jobs, etc, etc. And I have always ignored it. But this thing I can't ignore. Some reporters are saying that they are getting as little as 50% after all is said and done, and that they are making about the same amount of money as a full-time retail employee at the mall! That's crazy to me, and I don't want to work my ass off in this field just to find out it's not what I thought it would be. I'm in this trade because I love it first and foremost. But I'm also really looking forward to it all paying off and making a pretty nice living. So I guess my burning question is this: is it true? Are these contract relationships between agencies and insurance companies threatening our profession?

*Thank you, Andrea Davis*

## ANSWER:

Dear Andrea,

Thank you so much for asking CCRA this very important question.

One of the great trends we see as a result of social media is that court reporting students are extremely educated and savvy about issues in this profession before they even get out there in the field. This trend has unquestionably created a much better prepared work force than ever before. We at CCRA value smart and engaged students like you, and we are so hopeful for the future as a result.

There is no question that contracting has eroded the earning potential of many reporters in the field. There are so many things wrong with the contracting relationship, and compensation to the reporter, although not an insignificant issue, is only one of them. CCRA, along with the rest of the country, has been fighting contracting for a very long time, and we will continue to do so. We are currently working with our lobbyist on more new legislation. So this is not a new trend; and, rest assured, we will continue to work on it so that your career can be as rewarding and lucrative as mine has been.

I am not sure whether that makes you feel better or worse to know we have been fighting the contracting battles since I was in school 30 years ago. Back then, when I was in school, I was told that we would all be replaced by tape recorders and that I was wasting my time. While it's true our profession is usually under attack, the good news is CCRA has been advocating on behalf of the profession for over

100 years. The fact is that California is comparatively one of the most stable markets to be a reporter as a result of our legislative and lobbying efforts throughout the years. So we've got your back, and we hope you will become a member, stay a member, encourage your friends to become members, and get involved to make this profession great, not only for yourself but for the generation to follow you.

I mentor new reporters, so I know exactly what kind of experience they receive when they first go out into the field. These new reporters, starting at the bottom, as all new professionals do, tend to get their first jobs with the agencies who will hire new reporters, and they accept jobs with a page rate that is significantly lower than average due to contracting. It pains me to hear what they are being paid. I inform them about contracting, but I let them decide for themselves whether to take those jobs. (There are also issues about antitrust price-fixing laws that make me not able to tell them what rates to accept or not).

Of course, many are so eager to get out there and work and have student loans and equipment leases to start paying for that any income sounds great to them, so they take those jobs. And, unquestionably, they are gaining the on-the-job experience they need to get ahead in this field, so it's not a complete loss. I have resigned myself that it is a bit like an internship.

After doing those jobs for a few months and accepting a few jobs at the going rate, work from other agencies that don't contract, these new reporters decide for themselves not to accept those low-paying contract jobs anymore. They have gained enough confidence to know their skills are worth more than that. And then they also continue with their education, gain more and more speed and certifications, become realtime providers, and they go on to earn a very healthy professional income. Two of my new reporters earned \$50,000 their first year. They work hard for it, no question, but they are on their way to earning six figures if they become realtime providers.

So you should understand that these agencies who contract generally can only get brand new reporters or reporters who have stagnated and have not continued to improve their skills, are not competitive, and they find fewer jobs available to them except for these low-paying contract jobs.

There is no question that the market is better in metropolitan areas in this state than in rural areas; and if a reporter is not in a position to move to a better market, then they could find themselves facing difficult choices. It is easy to say no to contracting rates when you have other choices; not so easy when you feel you have no other choice.

As for working in court as an official reporter with salaries and benefits, after a brutal few years during the recession when layoffs happened every week, courts are hiring back

reporters. Great news! And the best news is, even with the layoffs, all of that work was still being done by court reporters rather than electronic recording. And because CCRA was smart enough and strong enough in the 1980s to get laws passed that felonies and juvenile and some other proceedings must be reported by a stenographic reporter, it is illegal for courts to use electronic recording in those courts.

So that means, absent a change in the law that we have been fighting ever since, the courts will always need a work force of court reporters. And because the average age of reporters these days is 50 years old, that means in 10 years or so there will be a lot of reporters leaving the work force, and there will be a lot of opportunities for reporters like yourself, who will have gained a lot of experience by then and improved their skills to be at the top of their game.

On top of that, new federal laws expanding the requirement of captioning for the hearing-impaired population means that the demand for our skills is about to increase dramatically. The Bureau of Labor Statistics expects our profession to grow in demand by 18% by 2024.

So, in closing, yes, it's true about contracting; but the most powerful way reporters can fight contracting is by just saying no to those rates if they are in a position to do so. In some places in the country, when agencies couldn't cover their jobs with reporters who refused to work for the insulting rates they were being offered, the attorneys actually went to the insurance companies and got them to raise the rates. So there is hope in that attorneys generally really do respect what we do and know how important we are. We often can get them to advocate on our behalf.

So I would encourage you to stay in school, if you really want to work in this field, and get involved with CCRA to join the fight to keep this profession strong. We are a nonprofit run by volunteer reporters. We need smart people like you asking the tough questions, knowing the issues.

We would love to have you come attend one of our board meetings -- our last one was in Sacramento in February -- so that you can see for yourself that reporters are keenly aware of the issues and are working every day on your behalf.

Please feel free to contact me anytime. Friend me on Facebook, if you like. I would love to see how you progress through school and in your career. I hope to meet you at one of our events -- a Mock CSR, BOOT CAMP, and our annual convention in October. Need a mentor? Just fill out an application on our website. [www.cal-ccra.org](http://www.cal-ccra.org)

Best of luck with your schooling. Don't forget to apply for a scholarship!

*Kind regards,  
Christy Cannariato, Secretary-Treasurer  
California Court Reporters Association*

## **RESPONSE FROM ANDREA DAVIS:**

Ok, great! Thank you!

Well, first of all, I want to say how grateful I am for CCRA and other associations like it. I am a member, and I will continue my membership for years to come. I feel more safe and secure in my education, and in my pursuit of this career path because of you and this organization. I also agree that the social media trend in this field is directly related to a better prepared workforce, and more aware students. Being informed is so important to me because this journey in CR school is a huge investment of my time and money. I'm doing this with a 2-year-old at home, a 9-year-old in school and a fiance who is selflessly bringing home ALL the bacon so I can focus on school. So, I have to be on top of my game! ;)

I am very grateful for the lobbying efforts of you and CCRA, as well as NCRA. I hope to one day play a bigger role in that. I'm also very grateful for your honesty and realness. It is good to know that this is a real issue, and that there are good and bad sides to it. I'm glad that I have a better idea now of how to do my part in combating it too. I have the freedom to say no and to take other jobs at my discretion once I start working. I am in Sacramento, so I believe my location will play to my advantage as far as options go.

It's good to know that there are many attorneys out there who are on our side and who do stand up for us. It's also good to know that the harder I work on my real-time skills, the more in demand I will be at these agencies. It will be sad to see so many seasoned official reporters leave the workforce in the next 10 or so years, like you said, but that is encouraging for us newbies!

Your email was very encouraging to me, and I don't feel as scared or unsure about my career choice anymore. I know there will always be good and bad with any profession, but I know there is a great future in this field despite the tough issues like this.

I would love to attend a meeting or convention and get a chance to meet you too! When are the next ones? Oh, and I do have a mentor through CCRA's website! I emailed her about this as well, and we are supposed to chat on the phone about it this weekend. I will find you on Facebook so we can keep in contact. Thank you, again. I really appreciate your passion and concern. :)

*Andrea Davis*

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# ASK MR. MODEM

[www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com)

## **"Am I Being Tracked Online?"**

**Q. When I go to Google and search for items to buy, later on I see those same or related items as ads at the top of other pages I visit. It sure seems like I'm being tracked and then being solicited soon thereafter. Is that what is happening or do you think it is just a coincidence? Thanks for all the help you give us, Mr. M.**

A. It is definitely not a coincidence. Tracking (also called search profiling) is an inherent part of life online today. Everything we do online leaves a trail, and in your situation, Google (and other search engines) does indeed monitor searches and uses that data to personalize what appears on subsequent searches as far as advertising. It's very similar to going to a grocery store where you participate in a loyalty program or use a "club card" to take advantage of frequent shopper discounts: Everything you purchase is archived, your shopping profile analyzed and coupons and other targeted ads provided, based on your previous purchases.

**Q. Those flexible, flat, ribbon cables inside my computer, do they need to be replaced periodically or do they last for the life of the computer? Thanks in advance for your help, Mr. M.**

A. Multiple hard drives, DVD drives, even old floppy drives, all connect to your computer's motherboard with flat, ribbon-like cables known as Parallel Advanced Technology Attachment (PATA) interface cables or Multiple ATA (MATA) cables. (Bonus Tip: If you ever have a problem with the latter, simply ask your tech support person, "What's the MATA?" then stand back and enjoy the gales of laughter that are sure to follow.)

Available in a variety of lengths and colors, in 40- and 80-pin configurations, these cables, in addition to being an inexpensive method of transferring data, have a high tolerance for heat and great flexibility (not unlike Mr. Modem 40 years ago) for reaching even the most awkwardly placed motherboard connections.

The sturdy construction of a typical ribbon cable adds significantly to its longevity. In fact, I have never had to replace a ribbon cable due to any malfunction caused by degradation of the cable itself. So unless a ribbon cable has suffered physical damage, such as a cut or tear – you should not have to replace any of these cables during the working life of your computer.

**Q. Where can I find the CheckDisk utility and run it? I'm using Windows Vista.**

A. CheckDisk (CHKDSK) is a Windows utility designed to check

and correct hard drive errors. To run CheckDisk in either Vista or Windows 7, click Start > Computer, then right-click the drive that you want to scan. Click Properties > Tools tab > Check Now (under error checking.)

A dialog box will appear that provides an option to automatically repair errors, as well as an option to look for and attempt to fix bad drive sectors. If a sector of your hard drive contains corrupted data, it can probably be recovered. If a sector is bad due to a hardware problem, such as physical damage to the disk surface, then it cannot be recovered. It's a good idea to click (select) both boxes.

Once you click Start, CheckDisk can take anywhere from a few minutes to a few hours to complete, so it's often best to run it at night when you won't be using the computer. Whenever you decide to run it, be patient and let it take whatever time it requires before using the computer again.

CheckDisk has been redesigned in Windows 8 (of course), so visit <http://bit.ly/PWXQLa> for step-by-step instructions.

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

**Dog Tricks** - This site not only contains written instructions how to teach your poodle to doodle, but it also has video instructions. Some of the tricks include turn around, crawl, speak, twirl, high-five, take a bow, make a sandwich, wash the car, groom the cat – it's amazing! Click the trick you want to teach your canine, then follow the instructions. I started to check out a similar site in order to teach my cats tricks, but one of the cats jumped on my keyboard and hissed, "Don't even think about it." Sigh. [www.loveyourdog.com/tricks.html](http://www.loveyourdog.com/tricks.html)

**Forget the Film, Watch the Titles** - When Mrs. Modem and I leave the compound and go to the movies, it always annoys her that I'm the last one to leave the theater because I remain seated until the final closing credits scroll off and the screen goes dark. This site celebrates the talented people who create the opening and closing credits that most movie-going heathens ignore. This isn't a site that will appeal to everyone (Mrs. M. comes to mind), but I think it is interesting to peek behind the scenes and see how the credits can transcend their functional role of setting the tone for a movie by becoming mini works of art. [www.watchthetitles.com](http://www.watchthetitles.com)

**Makers** - A treasure trove of videos about extraordinary women from all walks of life. Through video interviews, these fascinating women share their life experiences and personal stories. [www.makers.com/browse](http://www.makers.com/browse)

**For more information about Mr. Modem's award-winning, weekly computer-help newsletter featuring personal answers to your questions by email, visit [www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com)**



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# CAPTION IT FORWARD: ARE YOU "LUCKY"?

By Regina DeMerville, CSR

We've all heard someone say, "You are so lucky"; right? Someone finds money, gets the closest parking spot at the mall, or even passes a speed test in Court Reporting School and everyone thinks that person has amazing luck. Is it really "luck"? Hmm...

Many people have told me, "You are so lucky you get to work from home!" But am I lucky? I don't think so. I think it's a result of the hard work and dedication I put into my career. I am passionate about my career, and I see working from home as a reward for the loyalty and devotion to my career.

When you are in that speed class and you see someone pass a test, what's your first thought? "They are so lucky. I wish I could pass a test!" Are they "lucky" or did they work hard to gain the skill needed to pass that test? I don't think "luck" is going to get you to the CSR exam! But guess what? Skills will!

I remember when I took my English exam the 5th time (I don't like to admit that), I came out of that test room feeling horrible about it, thinking to myself, "I hope I get lucky and pass that test." We've already established luck didn't get me to the state exam, so why would luck help me pass it? There were many questions on that test I had no clue what the answer was. I guessed more times than I care to admit. But the difference is that I didn't go into the test blind. I had plenty of study material and wonderful teachers to lead the way. I could make an educated guess. That is not luck. That is three years of constant practice and my face in the books. Okay, sooo...it took me five times to pass English. But guess what? I passed. And that's all that matters; right? RIGHT??

I live my life based on the phrase, "Everything happens for a reason." YOU are in Court Reporting School FOR A REASON! I failed FOUR English exams FOR A REASON (I'd sure like to know why)! My point is stop thinking that everyone passing tests are just getting "lucky" and stop wishing you could get lucky too. Practice makes perfect! So take that machine out and practice, practice, practice until your fingers turn green (Okay, maybe not THAT long!)

I have a few mentees and friends who, lately, have been feeling down. "Why can't I pass a test?" "This is so hard!" "I don't know what to do anymore." After assuring them that they CAN pass a test and that they should stay calm and stick it out, they passed their tests. They are always



overwhelmed with joy and tell me how thankful they are for my encouragement. I am flattered. But really, they should be giving credit to themselves. They pushed. They practiced. They cried those tears, but pulled themselves together. THEY did all the work! I just know what it's like to be in their shoes and need someone there to reassure you this will all be worth it. Be patient. Your "lucky" time will come, as long as you put in the effort, of course. Once you pass a test, everyone will be saying how lucky YOU are!

Fun St. Patty's Day Challenge: In the theme of "paying it forward," do something nice for someone in Court Reporting School. Buy someone a pad of paper (Do students still use paper? I don't even know! Haha), give a theory student an old book you have sitting in your desk drawer collecting dust, or bake green cookies for your favorite speed teacher! They will be so appreciative and think they are "lucky." This world is lucky to have someone like you who has a giving heart! Take a photo and send it to [payitforward2014@hotmail.com](mailto:payitforward2014@hotmail.com)!

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**



## PROFILE: ROBIN SELIGMAN

Robin Seligman, CSR, RPR, CRR, CBC, Lic #4386  
Job Title: Broadcast Captioner/Court Reporter  
Location: Broadcast Company Out of State  
Years of Experience: 35  
Interviewer: Teresa Russ, CSR

*Who said it never rains in Southern California?  
The day I caught up with Robin it had been  
raining, but this didn't stop us from enjoying our  
lunch at the Acapulco Restaurant in beautiful  
Long Beach, California, on PCH at the marina.*

**Q: Robin, why did you want to become a court reporter?**

A: I wasn't the type of person to go to a four-year college. It was not in my DNA. Actually, my mother told me about it. She thought it was a good field for me. I knew it was something that I could do.

**Q: At which court reporting program did you complete your training?**

A: I went to Bryan College of Court Reporting.

**Q: What year did you take the CSR exam?**

A: I took the November 1978 test.

**Q: When you passed the CSR exam, did you want to work in court or did you want to depositions?**

A: I wanted to be an official court reporter, but during those days, you needed some deposition experience before you went into the courts; so for the first two years, I did depositions. I was an official for the Los Angeles Superior Court of Compton for nine years and then I went back to depositions for 16 years. I floated around to different courts. Eventually, I got an assignment in Compton and I had my own judge.

**Q: How did you like that having your own judge?**

A: I loved it.

**Q: When did you start training to be a broadcast captioner?**

A: I began my training at the end of 2005.

**Q: When you were training to become a broadcast captioner, how many hours did you put into it?**

A: That's a good question. I did around eight hours a day. I looked at it as if it was a job.

**Q: How long did it take you to complete the broadcast captioning program?**

A: Three months. I was already a court reporter. I did it full time. I already had the speed.

**Q: Who trained you?**

A: Her name was Janet Cassidy-Burr. She doesn't do it anymore. She hasn't done it for years. She was an extremely experienced captioner.

**Q: How did Janet train you?**

A: I had lesson plans. I would do my lesson plans and call in once a week, and then we would go over it.

**Q: And how many agencies or companies have you worked for?**

A: Three.

**Q: What has been the most rewarding part of your job as a broadcast captioner?**

A: I love working from home, just getting better and better, and being more and more accurate. It's like I'm always striving for that. Also, it felt good passing my CRR 30 years after I passed my CSR. That was a huge accomplishment. It shows you never stop learning.

**Q: That's an important thing you just said. Do you still practice?**

A: No. Well, when you're constantly working, it's like practicing.

**Q: What has been the most difficult part of your career?**

A: Learning to be a broadcast captioner was very difficult. In depositions and court, it's verbatim and you're allowed to stop the attorneys if they're speaking too fast, or you can ask for something to be repeated. You can't do that when you're a broadcast captioner. You're out of control. You don't have that control and you have to think. If you know you can't get it all, you really have to make selective editing or think of other words. There are no second chances. You only get one chance.

Let's say, as an example, the word fuchsia comes up, and you know fuchsia isn't in your dictionary; so you have to think what can take its place. You can say pink, or if they say President Ahmadinejad, and you can say President of Iran. You have to think quickly on your feet. I'm not saying you're a robot in depositions or in court, but you take word for word. Whereas, literally, when you're a broadcast captioner or CART Provider, obviously, you have to think at the same time.



# GOING BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL

by Lindsey Ikeuchi

Thankfully, it was just for a career fair! A couple weeks ago, I was asked by my mentor and president of CCRA, Carlos Martinez, to represent CCRA and the court reporting profession at Granada High School, a local high school to where I recently moved. It seemed like a fun thing to do, so I agreed. CCRA and Karly Greenshields, a former classmate of mine, did an amazing job setting me up with everything I needed: banners; information sheets on the profession; and, most importantly, candy! I also decided to bring along my machine, laptop, and my theory book so the students could see how I learned to write everything out (even though only one person looked at it).

Of course, on the day of the career fair, it decided to rain. So once I carried everything inside and was drenched from head to toe in my professional attire, I started to set up. I was informed by the staff in charge that the students would have to do a "scavenger hunt" where they had to find different careers that met certain criteria, and then I would have to sign their piece of paper indicating I met that criteria. "Do you have a master's degree?" "Do you work more than 40 hours a week?" "Do you have to travel for your job?" "Do you spend most of your day on a computer?" These were just some of the questions I heard throughout the day over and over again. Some of the students seemed genuinely interested

in what I was doing, while others simply wanted me to sign off on their paper.

To grab the students' attention, I would start off by saying, "I can write 200 words a minute with four people talking," and, "We can make a lot of money depending on how much you want to work."

If the students were still around after hearing this, I would write their name on my machine and let them watch how it translated onto my computer screen. I would also write my ABCs and my numbers. Most found it pretty amazing.

I think it is an awesome idea for high schools to have career fairs like this one and for the reporting profession to be present at them. Even if the students aren't interested in reporting at the present time, maybe in the future, when they're looking for a career, they'll think back on what they thought was interesting at their career fair and they'll think of court reporting.

I'd like to thank Carlos and Karly for thinking of me to present CCRA and our profession. I had a great time. Then the person next to me asks what I thought of the ride. I stare off into space realizing that I can't even recall anything about the ride except getting in and sitting down. I don't really know what to say, so I just subconsciously say the first thing that comes to mind. "The ride was good...really good!"



## ROYAL HAWAIIAN HOTEL MACADAMIA NUT CREAM PIE

Having just been to Maui, I had to share this fabulously decadent, yummy cream pie. From: Gerie 'ono

- 1 9" Rich Pastry pie shell\*\*\*
- ½ c. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. sifted cornstarch
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 c. milk
- 4 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 Tbsp. Kahlua liqueur
- ¾ c (4 oz.) macadamia nuts, chopped
- 2 c. whipped cream

Prepare and bake pie shell according to recipe below or pkg. directions, if purchased.

Combine sugar, cornstarch and salt into the top of a double boiler. Slowly add milk, stirring constantly. Place over gently boiling water and cook 10 to 15 minutes. Stir constantly until mixture thickens to a loose custard consistency.

Blend ½ cup of the hot sugar mixture into the beaten egg yolks, 1 tablespoon at a time. Slowly pour and beat the

warm egg back into the remaining sugar mixture. Continue cooking 3 to 5 minutes, until the custard is quite thick. Add the butter. Cool to room temperature.

When cool, stir in the Kahlua and all but 1 tablespoon of the chopped nuts. Fold in 1 cup of whipped cream. Fill the baked pastry shell. Garnish with the remaining whipped cream and reserved nuts. Chill.

### \*\*\*Rich Pastry Shell

- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- Dash of salt
- ¾ c. butter, softened
- 2 egg yolks, lightly beaten
- 2 Tbsp. cold water

Place flour and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and put into it the butter, yolks, and water. Using your fingertips, gradually pull in the flour. Mix until all ingredients are well combined and dough forms a ball. Cover. Chill several hours before using. Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Roll out the dough and place in a 9-inch pie pan. Prick the bottom several times with a fork. Bake 12 to 15 minutes, or until crust is crisp but not brown. (I've found that pie weights are good to use to prevent the bottom from puffing up and the sides collapsing.)

# NCRF SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

NCRF raises funds to support & recognize both the court reporting professional, and the student reporter.

## **SANTO J. AURELIO AWARD FOR ALTRUISM**

Each year at the NCRA Convention, the National Court Reporters Foundation awards its highest honor, the Santo J. Aurelio Award for altruism. This award goes to a long-time court reporter who has given back selflessly to the profession or community. The nominee must be an NCRA Participating or Registered member, or a Retired Participating or Registered member; must have demonstrated altruistic behavior; and must have been a working reporter for at least 25 years. The 2013 winner was announced during the Awards Luncheon on Saturday, August 10th, during NCRA's Convention & Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. He is David Jackson, RDR, of Dallas, Texas, a working reporter for more than 40 years who has given back generously to his profession and to his community. [Click to read more](#) | [Click for Past Award Recipients](#)

## **FOR STUDENTS**

The Foundation is thrilled to be awarding three scholarships and one grant in 2014 to deserving NCRA members. In order to qualify for either the Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship, or the (2) Student Intern Scholarships awarded each year, students must be enrolled in an NCRA certified court reporting program, be a member of NCRA, have a 3.5 GPA and meet other criteria. \*\*Note: our scholarships are not designed to be self-nominating, rather student nominees are selected by their program instructor or program administrator based on qualifications and financial need. For more information contact B.J. Shorak, NCRF Deputy Executive Director, at [bjshorak@ncra.org](mailto:bjshorak@ncra.org), or on (800) 272-6272, ext. 126.

### **Frank Sarli Memorial Scholarship – Deadline March 28, 2014**

Frank Sarli dedicated his professional life to court reporting, and especially to students, serving many years on NCRA's committees and boards that guide the education of court reporting students. NCRF gives out a \$2,000 scholarship each year in Mr. Sarli's memory to a student nearing graduation who meets very specific criteria demonstrating achievement and professionalism. The deadline for this year's nominations is March 28, 2014. [Click here for the Nomination Form](#) | [Click here for List of Recipients](#)

### **New Professional Reporter Grant – Deadline March 28, 2014**

NCRF awards an annual \$2,000 grant to a qualified new

working reporter who graduated from an NCRA-certified program within the last year. The reporter must be nominated by his/her supervisor or employer and must be working in one of three career paths: judicial (official/freelance); CART or Captioning. The grant is intended to help the reporter establish him- or herself as a professional, or help with such items as school loans, equipment purchases, etc. Nominees must meet specific criteria and represent the qualities of a stellar reporter. The deadline for this year's nominations is March 28, 2014. [Click here for the Nomination Form](#) | [Click here for List of Recipients](#)

## **STUDENT INTERN SCHOLARSHIPS**

Two 2014 awards will be made in early-summer 2014. Watch for announcements here and through NCRA media, such as the Journal of Court Reporting and the JCR Weekly emails.

NCRF awards two \$1,000 scholarships to students who have completed or are currently performing the required internship portion of their court reporting program. They must also meet other specific criteria, as outlined in the link below. A generous annual donation from the Reis Family Foundation helps fund these scholarships. [Click here for List of Recipients](#)

## **PAST SCHOLARSHIPS**

The following two scholarships are not currently being awarded; however we want to recognize the winners of these scholarships.

### **Second-Year Student Scholarship**

Winners received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,400. [Click here for List of Recipients](#)

### **Disabled Student Scholarship**

Three disabled court reporting students have received NCRF scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each! [Click here for List of Recipients](#)

# COURT REPORTING STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

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By James Littau  
Student Member, Support Our Students Committee

*Janice (JT) Turbyfill was a Court Reporting student at West Valley College, a community college in Saratoga, California, in the 1990s and left the program to become a police officer. She returned to West Valley last year to resume her Court Reporting education.*

**Q: You, like myself, went to Court Reporting school many years ago and dropped out. Tell us a little about that. When did you leave CR school the first time and why? What have you been doing in the years between leaving and returning? And why did you come back after all these years?**

A: I began my "Steno" journey back in the late nineties. After completing theory and the 80 speed building class, I left the program. I believe it was approximately one year later after I began. I attended West Valley College during this first part of my journey. I do remember being very excited about this new endeavor and can recall carrying my newly rented steno machine (at the low cost of \$20 per month.....a bargain!!). My machine was the basic paper machine from way back, which ironically the school still uses. Old fashion or high tech, the keyboards are all the same.

The reason I left was two-fold. I remember thoroughly enjoying my theory class. However, there were no transitional classes between theory and speed building like there is today. It is very easy for a student to become frustrated and land in a downward spiral when you leave theory, knowing just the basics and then trying to learn how to write at a significant increase in speed. I recall sitting in the back of the class, almost feeling like I was my own island. It was a very isolated feeling and I do not recall much encouragement. I don't really recall the particulars, but I was also a different person back then; young and still trying to find my way.

The second reason is what could only be described as "my calling." Since high school, if not before that, I was always interested in the legal system. I was convinced I was going to be a police officer or perhaps a lawyer. Later, I learned about court reporting and that sounded like a good fit too. When I was first attending my theory class, I would often see the Administration of Justice students (the building was next to ours) outside practicing handcuff techniques. I would think, that's where I should be. Long story short, I became a police officer. I never regretted that decision. Fifteen years later, I still wear the uniform of blue. It's an awesome job! Life takes us in directions we never expect at times. Yet, often times, the paths we take are intertwined.

I never forgot my brief court reporting experience. As an officer, I have testified numerous times in court. I would always be sitting on the stand and watching the court reporter. (Now more than ever, since I'm back in the program.) When I testified, I always made sure to speak well and not give non-verbal answers, all for the sake of the reporter. I tucked my brief encounter in court reporting away, but it was not forgotten.

Fast forward to today. I like to plan ahead and one thing that is consistent with police officers is when they retire they usually end up in some sort of related field. As much as I enjoy law enforcement, I would like to leave the profession early. So I began asking myself, "What can I do?" I kept coming back to court reporting. Again, another great decision! I absolutely love it! I feel so much better prepared now than I did the first go 'round. Both life and work experiences have made me more focused and definitely self-motivated, two requirements I feel are needed to succeed in this program. My competitive edge also helps, as I refuse to give up. And it makes me more resolved in my determination to succeed in this program.

The program itself has also changed. I left when we had no computers in the classroom, cassette tapes were the norm, and of course, everything was paper, paper, paper! Now it's computers, new CAT software, flashdrives... wow! As you know, I'm back at West Valley. I cannot say enough how wonderful this program is. The teachers are so passionate about what they do and truly want the students to succeed. They give us the tools we need to progress on our own, yet are there with their encouragement when needed. I have seen and been the recipient of teachers dedicating their own time to work with students in areas where extra help was needed; (for me it was my CAT software.) They also added a transitional class between theory and actual speed building, which is great, and I believe has helped keep more students in the program. I can go on, but you get the idea; it's a great program!

**Q: Did you re-take Theory?**

A: Yes, I did re-take theory. It had been too long since I last attended school not to. I did remember a few things, but not enough. But the fingers remembered! Imagine my surprise when some briefs just started flowing from my fingers that I thought for sure were long forgotten. I ended up combining the new theory with the one I originally learned so I have a hybrid version. (Very few can understand my notes!) I finished theory in about three months, and through dedication and lots of practice, one year after I began the program, I am currently in the 140 class with one test left to pass.

**Q: Having been out of the court-reporting education environment for so long, what would you say were your biggest challenges upon returning to school?**

I haven't really felt challenged by the actual return to school. The challenges come just like any other student; getting the fingers to go faster and passing the tests. My law-enforcement background and criminal justice education has actually made some aspects of court reporting easier.

**Q. If you had only one bit of advice to give to students entering theory, what would that be?**

A: For students entering theory, there can never be enough emphasis on the proven results of practicing. Practice, practice, practice. Read all your notes. Besides the usual, I would highly suggest getting a buddy/having a support

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

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# YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?!

By Jesse Pickelsimer

Oh, what a month it has been. In last month's article I reported that, as a brand new reporter, I have been blessed to have found an agency that I am going to call "home."

I must start out by saying that it has been a very challenging month. My new agency is great and has really taken me under their wing, but I had no idea exactly how many different types of work is out there and what I would be called upon to cover.

There are, of course, your basic worker comp depositions that every brand new reporter will get put on first. These are great for getting your feet wet and into a rhythm of administering the oath and how the whole flow goes. Then you'll have those days where you'll also have an interpreter. Make sure you know that oath too! Then you'll have those days where you'll also have a videographer, and you've got to figure out how all of that flows.

Once you've got a handle on the worker comp depositions, you can let your agency know that you're ready for the next "challenge." Then things get interesting! There's also PMK & PMQ depositions (Person Most Knowledgeable and Person Most Qualified), expert depositions, doctor depositions, confidential depositions, judgment debtor examinations, construction defect depositions, arbitrations, Superior Court hearings. It just goes on and on and on, and all of them have their different nuances that you have to be on top of to have an accurate and complete transcript.

Then you might have to prepare a Certificate of Nonappearance if the other side doesn't show up; and there are a couple of different ones, depending on if counsel makes a statement on the record or not.

I've figured out that to be a successful reporter means different things to different reporters. Some reporters LOVE doing worker comp depositions and have no desire to take on anything else. Some reporters like to vary things up.

I happen to be one of those people that like to vary things up. If you are like me and want to have a variety of things you're covering, the trick is to not let fear get in the way. As long as you're up for the challenge, go for it. I've already covered a few different types of matters. As I said, it's been a challenging month because of that, having to learn all the different procedures and whatnot; but I think it's only hard the first time you try something. Then you're like, "Oh. Okay. Now I know what's up for next time."

Something that I touched on last month was that each of us is our own brand, and we need to build up and market that brand. On top of being a great reporter, you've got to be doing the whole P.R. thing too. Even though you are working for an agency, treat every attorney and every person in the room as if they're your own client. Schmooze them! It sets the tone for the deposition, and they love that.

My schmoozing has already paid off (not to mention my beautiful transcripts)! I have only been working for slightly over a month, and I already have two different attorneys requesting me. And that only starts to build the foundation and ensures how much work I will be getting in the future. Plus, the agency recognizes what type of reporter (person) I am, and they will feel confident about assigning me to other jobs.

I just recently got offered my next "challenge." My agency called me up and told me that one of the attorneys that requests me wants to start getting a real-time feed and if I'm ready to take that on. I said, "You want me to do what?" They started laughing. I really did know that I am ready for it; but, again, it's one of those "scary" things that I'm going to have to just take a deep breath and go for it! I spent a year doing CART, and that definitely gave me the courage to go ahead and accept the job. I'll be doing it tomorrow. Wish me luck!

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

system. I became friends with another theory student when I returned to school and we still share the ups and downs as we move forward. It makes it easier knowing someone else gets frustrated too, and we also encouraged one another. I think we also pushed ourselves more to keep up with one another since we are both very highly motivated. (She's now in 160 and she started when I did! Now I'm even more determined to pass my last 140 test!) Bottom line is, when you have someone there going through the same things you are, it helps you stay on your path.

Sometimes I just don't know, but somehow it all works. I have a wonderful husband who has stepped up to be with our son more. I am usually at school 8-10 hours a day, Monday -Thursday. I take both day and night steno classes

as well as academics. I then work 12½ hour shifts Fri-Sun. I somehow manage to get to the gym.....my stress reliever. Sleep is highly overrated. I am really determined to succeed in this program so I am giving it my all. But family will always come first. So if a class or work shift have to be put on the back burner on occasion, then so be it. Having a support system is a blessing while I am on this journey. I simply could not do it without one.

## How do you respond to that question we students have come to detest: "Why is it taking you so long to get through school?"

Since, thus far, I've been progressing at a decent pace, I haven't been asked that detested question. I do get asked, "How long does it take?" or "When will you be done?" My answer? I'll be done when I get there and not one day sooner, but probably one day later than I would have liked.

# MARCH 2014 LEGAL REPORT

Total Measures: 12  
Total Tracking Forms: 12

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SB 1313(Nielsen R) Courts: court reporters.  
Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2014 pdf html  
Introduced: 2/21/2014  
Status: 3/6/2014-Referred to Com. on JUD.  
Location: 3/6/2014-S. JUD.

Summary: Would repeal those provisions of law prescribing the compensation employment of official court reporters in Butte, El Dorado, Lake, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Nevada, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Solano, Tehama, Trinity, and Tuolumne Summary: The Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act establishes employee personnel system that provides authority to establish job classifications, benefits for trial court employees, including court reporters, without the approval board of supervisors, and without further legislative action, except as specified. authorizes a court to direct the making of a verbatim record of court proceedings, also regulates the appointment, certain conditions of employment, remuneration, official court reporters in specified counties. This bill would repeal those provisions the compensation and conditions of employment of official court reporters in Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Nevada, San Luis Obispo, Shasta, Trinity, and Tuolumne Counties.

SCA 13(Anderson R) Courts: appellate jurisdiction.  
Current Text: Amended: 4/1/2013 pdf html  
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Status: 4/30/2013-Set, first hearing. Failed passage in committee. (Ayes 2. Noes Reconsideration granted.  
Location: 5/1/2013-S. PUB. S.

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