

CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E

What equipment will I need?

*CAPTION IT FORWARD:
EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY,
AND PRAYERS | PAGE 13*



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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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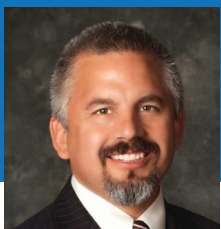
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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

“PUT ME IN COACH, I’M READY TO PLAY TODAY”

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

In the middle of the baseball season comes what is referred to as “The dog days of summer.” It’s the long, hot part of the season that seems to stretch on for an eternity. It’s also the time that major league teams begin to call up new talent to join the professional squad in what is often referred to as the “show.” CCRA is also entering the dog days of summer, and it’s at this time of year that we begin looking for the new rookie ready to jump in and change the outcome of the “game.”

In a lot of the same ways that MLB teams go about restocking their roster every year, CCRA has the same need. We are now looking for qualified freelance, official, CART and Captioning reporters who are interested in making a difference in the profession. We are looking for seasoned veterans, as well as newly licensed rookies, to help us fill out the CCRA board of directors and to also assist us on our many committees.

CCRA, for more than 100 years, has continued to be the preeminent professional court reporting association in the state of California. We have thwarted time and again the use of electronic recording in the courts, the use of video recording in depositions, and we have worked and continue to work on leveling the playing field with regards to contracting by deposition firms.

Now is your chance to help. Do you want to be a part of the change? Do you want to look back at your career and know that you helped to keep the profession viable and the court reporting schools open? CCRA is the team to join if you do.

What can you look forward to as a board member of CCRA?

- **Leadership:** Your voice will be heard by the state legislature. You will have the opportunity to go into the halls of the Capitol to talk with legislators about the reporting profession while lobbying those legislators to pass legislation that will benefit reporters or striking down legislation that will hurt reporters. You will help shape the direction of the profession.
- **Innovation:** You will work with committees and other board members to prepare seminars and classes to teach new technology and current trends in reporting to your professional colleagues.



- **Travel:** You will have the opportunity to attend NCRA’s Legislative Boot Camp in Washington DC. You will have the opportunity to attend the State’s CSR tests in Los Angeles and Sacramento and using your experience to pass the test to help test takers remain calm and pass the test.
- **Decision Making:** Feel like your voice does not count? Does it feel like you’re screaming into the wind at times? Do you not like the direction that the profession is heading? You can help shape the direction of the profession. You will be one of the decision makers on policy that will affect court reporting.
- **Friendship:** It’s not all work. You will meet and get to know many, many reporters, legislators, lobbyists, vendors, teachers, students, and others during your tenure on the board of CCRA. The friendships that you develop will open doors for your career and could also develop into a lifetime of camaraderie.

Is there work involved? Yes. Is it hard at times? Yes. Is there a commitment involved? Yes. Will it always be fun? No. Will it always be hard? No. Will it be rewarding and will the growth outweigh the sacrifice? **YES.**

If you’ve ever wanted to be a part of something bigger than yourself and help to steer your industry, now is the time to act. **Click here** to nominate yourself or to nominate somebody that you know would be a good leader in our profession.

The ride will be wild, exciting, and sometimes hairy; but it will leave you smiling, just like a come-from-behind victory by your favorite team in the dog days of summer.



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.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!](#)



MY EXPERIENCE WITH CAPTIONS AT THE BETH MOORE CONFERENCE IN HERSHEY, PA



By Joyce Edmiston

Originally posted on: <http://xpressivehandz.blogspot.com/2014/05/my-experience-with-captions-at-beth.html>

"It was one of the best experiences that I've had in my life to be part of the Beth Moore conference. The camaraderie between the women in the audience was amazing and heartwarming." – Terri Avis, professional captioner at the Hershey, PA Beth Moore Conference, May, 2014

I agree with Terri! I had the most wonderful experience at the Beth Moore conference, courtesy of Drew Dillon, the ADA Coordinator for Hershey Entertainment. Drew contacted 2 captioners to provide captions for the deaf and hard of hearing whose first language is English, not ASL.

The first evening Terri Avis was our captioner, and Lori Dulls from Silver Spring, Maryland, of Vital Signs LLC provided captions the second day.

When Lori began to set up the second day, she had different colors on the screen, black background with yellow texts. Terri used the standard blue and white. I'm used to the blue screen with the white texts since that is what is used at our PUC Telecommunications Relay Advisory Board meetings at the PA State Capitol Complex in Harrisburg, as well as our Hearing Loss Association of America, Pennsylvania, Advisory Board meetings.

Lisa Lee Swope, a member of the local ASL Dauphin County Facebook group, came to us before the conference began the second day and told us that the captions were easier to read the night before from where she was sitting six rows up in the stands. At first, we thought it was because Terri had used a blue background with white captions. For me, the black background with yellow captions was easier to read, a very nice contrast.

It was suggested perhaps it was because the captions Terri provided were all CAPS. The CAPS, along with the color contrast the second day were FABULOUS!!

I would like to offer a few tips if you decide to attend a Beth Moore Conference (or any public event) in the future:

I first contacted LifeWay and requested CART when my friend Carol Mellott told me that Beth Moore was coming to our area. LifeWay, the sponsor for the Beth Moore event in Hershey, provided an ASL interpreter for the small culturally deaf community, but refused to pay for captioning for the larger population who depend on captions for access to language.

Reach out and try to connect with LifeWay (or the sponsor of the event you wish to have access to) in plenty of time before the event comes to your area. You will have to meet with the volunteers and coordinators and explain why you need captions. You will have to explain that by providing access to only one group of deaf people, the culturally ASL deaf, yet refusing to provide CART for English speaking deaf and people with hearing loss is discrimination. It's an ugly word, but that is what it is.

LifeWay does not provide captioning, nor will they pay for it at this time, though they are accountable to do so and can be sued for not providing it. I didn't want to be "that person" to pursue legal action since Drew Dillon, the ADA Coordinator of Hershey Entertainment, stepped up and provided access for us.

If you have no success with the sponsor of the event, then contact the venue where it is being held. Find who is in charge of "Accessibility" and talk with them. Most likely, captions won't even be mentioned on the websites because they've not yet had experience with this kind of accessibility. You will need to educate them, as well, and encourage them to add this to their list of accessible means on their websites.

If your request is turned down by both LifeWay and the venue, you need to contact your state ADA Rights Network to intercede for you. It took just one phone call from Carol Horowitz here in Pennsylvania to get the process started. She simply stated in the phone call they have two choices, either pay for the captioning or for a lawsuit. Captioning is not only less expensive; it is the right thing to do. The issue is "equal access."

Be prepared to explain why you need captions.

People don't realize that CART is a very real need if they don't see it in action or the faces of those of us who need it. Hearing loss and deafness are invisible disabilities, and for years many of us have hesitated to ask for captions because we've been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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**MY EXPERIENCE WITH CAPTIONS...
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5**

met with hostile inquisitions as to why we don't just learn to sign like the deaf community. Our hearing families and friends don't sign. We don't belong in the deaf community because our lives are integrated with the hearing community. Many people begin to lose their hearing by middle age, and often the loss progressively gets worse. The fastest growing population of disabled people today is those of us living with hearing loss. It is unreasonable to expect people who have spent their whole lives in the hearing culture and their friends and families to learn ASL at this stage in life. It is reasonable, however, to accommodate their request for English in text captioning.

We are protected under the ADA. We have the right to request CART captioning, not just in our schools or where we work, but anyplace that is a public venue, especially if money is required for entry. This is why I have been advocating all these years for open captions at cinemas and churches. We need to be visible in order to bring about access to language for our deafened community and for people struggling with hearing loss.

If more of us who need access to language via CART will speak up and advocate for us, captioning will be more accessible and visible to the population. Many of us who are losing our hearing don't realize this is available to us. You will not be the only person benefitting.

There was one woman at the Beth Moore conference who was asking for an assistive listening device who shared her appreciation for the captions being available because, even with assistive devices, we miss a great deal of what is being said. As we age, it becomes more difficult for some of us to understand speech or distinguish words because our brain can no longer "process" what it used to hear, which are speech sounds.

I want to take a moment to thank a few people before I get to the photos:

Terri Avis for meeting the LifeWay volunteers weeks before the event and demonstrating how captions work. Also, Terri did the leg work by initiating the conversation with Drew Dillon and finding out what equipment was available and compatible for captioning the event.

Nancy Kingsley for going to the meeting with us and explaining the laws regarding access for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Nancy is also the chair person for our local Lancaster Hearing Loss of America Association, as well as Director for Hearing Loss Association of America - Pennsylvania Advisory Board. Nancy also put me in touch with Carol Horowitz of the Disability Rights Network, PA.

A huge thanks to our Disability Right's Network here in Pennsylvania, especially Carol Horowitz for standing up for us and being our voice.

Drew Dillon, the ADA coordinator for Hershey Entertainment for making the event accessible for deafened people whose first language is English.



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CAPTION IT FORWARD: EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY, AND PRAYERS

By Regina DeMerville, CSR

One of the questions I get asked from students, and even working reporters looking to get into broadcast, is, "What equipment will I need?" It's simple, really; but for someone not in the field, it can be a bit overwhelming. My article picture features a diagram I made to show my setup. The good news is you're not the first one to use this technology, so there is always someone out there to help you!

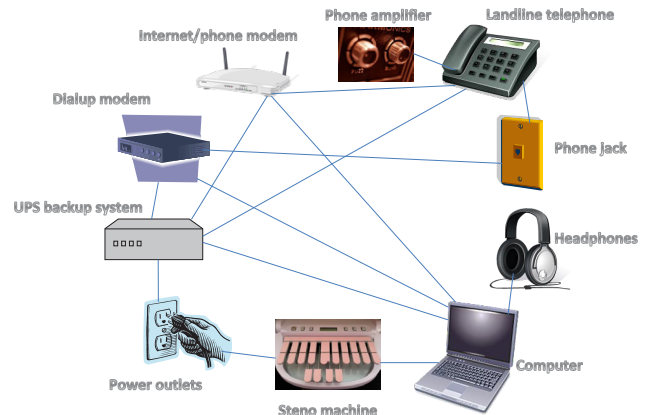
The main piece of equipment that I use is my steno machine, obviously; but the nice thing is that there are many options. I, however, did not research my options before buying the newest-fanciest-rip-every-dollar-out-of-my-bank-account-but-think-I-desperately-need-this machine. Let me go back and mention that I started theory with one of those bulky green machines. Yeah, the ones where the keys were so hard to press down, the ink ribbon got everywhere, and the paper would always go in 20 different directions. Yeah, that thing (blehh)! I used that green monster until I got to 140. I then purchased the Stentura 8000LX. I was in HEAVEN! I thought it was the coolest thing and I'd have that machine for years. Yeah, that was until the pink Diamante came out. Then I knew for sure I was doomed. I love pink, so I HAD to have it no matter how much it was costing me. I was already a working reporter when I purchased the Diamante. I loved it. I got all kinds of attention from it and great compliments. Attorneys loved it, too! I even had a doctor tell me (during a doctor depo) that he had never seen a pink one before. It made me feel unique, yet professional. It was a great machine for depositions, as it has memory and the screen. However, then I became a broadcast captioner and realized that I didn't need all that fancy schmancy stuff for captioning. With CART and Broadcast Captioning, we don't need all the memory. We are realtimers; on the spot. No changing it later. So we don't have a need to store our notes. So take it from me and research your options before you commit!

The next piece of equipment I'll talk about is actually the software that broadcasters use. If you get hired on as an employee, most agencies will give you the broadcast software that you need. If you decide to be an independent contractor, you will need to purchase your own software. I use the Broadcast Captioning Suite in CaseCATalyst, but there are a few options. I was an employee for over two years at my previous company. There are pros and cons to being an employee versus an IC. The main benefits, in my opinion, are health insurance, bonuses, the agency provides all the necessary equipment, and you have priority over ICs to be given work. The main benefits I see to being an IC is you have a more flexible schedule, you're able to work for more than one agency at a time (as an employee, you cannot), you make more money, and you can be a little more picky choosy when it comes to your schedule. I personally can't decide which I like better. They both have pros and cons, but I'm happy where I'm at currently as an IC.

The previous two pieces, the machine and the software, were the main two components. Obviously, no reporter can work

Broadcast equipment set up

Diagram by Regina DeMerville



without those two things in any field; however, let's get to the stuff that's different in broadcast. We use what's called a "modem." A lot of TV stations are still using dial-up connection. Remember when AOL came out and it made that screeching noise when you got on the internet? Same concept. A lot of TV stations have not upgraded their systems. So we must use a modem to connect. The one I currently use is called a Zoom modem. It's a mini external USB modem, about \$60.

Being that we must use dial-up connection, we must have a phone line. Actually, two, one line that connects to the modem and the second line for the audio. We use a home phone to call in to the station for the audio. I use a phone amplifier that allows me to adjust the volume better. That is connected to the home phone. I think I paid about \$80 for the amplifier on Amazon. The headphones are separate and are not included with the amplifier.

The last couple things you will need are an internet/phone modem and a UPS back-up system. The internet modem is usually provided to you by your internet provider. The UPS back-up system is pretty much a power strip box. But the difference between the boxes and the strips are the boxes allow you about 7 minutes of power if you have a power outage. That way, if you have an outage, you have some time to contact your agency so they can get someone else on your show. I think I paid around \$45 for the UPS.

Now that I went through the equipment and how the technology works, you're wondering where the "prayer" part comes in; right? Well, technology is great, but just like with everything else, it's not perfect. Sometimes you have days or shows where you just cannot get connected. You've done troubleshooting, the station has reset everything on their end, and you STILL cannot get connected (it happens to the best of us). This is when I start to pray. "Please, God, please just let this stupid encoder connect!" Hahaha!

Happy Summer!

FAIL

FINDING STRENGTH IN FAILURE

By Stacie Parsons

Every person who has taken the CSR knows that the days and weeks after the CSR go by incredibly slow. Checking the mail becomes a daily habit in hopes of the results saying whether you passed or failed.

The first time I took the CSR, I was unable to transcribe my test because of a technical malfunction on my machine. I was devastated, but I learned a very important lesson and got to meet some amazing reporters who have helped me become a better person. I took that pain of failing the test and channeled it into practicing for the March 2014 CSR.

The time came to travel to Los Angeles for the test. After having already taken the November 2013 test, I felt so confident. I thought the test was a fairly easy test. I started interning in court and sitting in with a lot of different court reporters. I had a job lined up as a pro tem court reporter in a courthouse nearby and was just anxiously waiting for that letter saying whether I passed or failed.

The day came that I got the letter. My hands were shaking as I opened it. There was the word I wasn't expecting to see, FAIL. What? I failed? How could that be possible? I felt so confident. Tears started streaming down my face. I called my mom, and she thought I was joking. As she could hear the words trembling from my mouth, she knew that I was clearly not joking.

I sat there in disbelief for a few minutes. Then I was told something that I will never forget, "This is just a momentary

setback, not a lifetime of disappointment." As I thought about that, I realized that it really is just a little setback. There would be another test in 4 short months, even though that seems like an eternity at the time. I regained my composure and decided that I wasn't going to let this setback keep me from my dreams. I had to push myself even harder now in preparation for the July CSR.

The school I attended shut its doors to the court reporting program back in April 2014. I had graduated and was still traveling to school to practice for the CSR. Now that my school is no longer open, I have to be disciplined enough to be on my machine daily and make sure I am practicing. There were days I would find excuses to not want to practice; but after a long and frustrating night at work, I would come home and spend time practicing. That in itself is a huge motivator for me to practice every day.

Being a court reporter is not just a job or a career; it's a passion. It's a specialty not many people can do. Knowing those things and knowing that it took me under 3 years to finish school taught me that with perseverance, determination, and a love for this profession, I will reach my dreams.

As I sit here writing this, I only hope that those 100 other students who took the March CSR that didn't pass got right back on their machine with more determination and will join me in passing the July 2014 CSR. I will never give up on my dream of being a court reporter. I failed my test by less than 2 percent, but I got right back to practicing and am determined to pass the CSR in July.



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Move Photos from Smartphone to PC

Q. Can you recommend a simple program to move pictures from my Android phone to my Windows 7 computer?

A. You really don't need a program or an app to do that. Instead, follow these steps and you should be all set: First, connect your smartphone to your computer using the USB sync cable that came with your phone or is available at any Radio Shack. Once connected, a USB icon will appear in the Notification area of your phone. Drag the Notifications bar down, then tap it. Next, tap USB Connected > Mount.

On your computer, click Start > Computer or My Computer. The micro-SD card in your phone will be recognized and listed as a Removable Disk. Double-click its icon to open it. Double-click the DCIM folder > DCIM > Camera. From this location you can copy all pictures and videos taken with your Android phone to any folder on your computer.

To disconnect the Android phone, go to the Notifications area and tap the USB sign to disconnect. That's all there is to it, and no app required!

Q. When I send a new email and click To: a list of previous addresses appears. How can I remove individual, unwanted addresses from the list? I am using Outlook 2007.

A. Start typing the name or address you want to remove when composing a new message. Then use the down arrow key to highlight the undesirable entry and press delete.

Q. I'm tempted to try out a free junkware removal tool that I got an email about. What's your take on these types of programs?

A. There is nothing inherently "wrong" with programs of this type, but philosophically, I don't use them. My feeling is that unless a system is experiencing a problem that I am attempting to resolve, what's the point? In other words, if everything is working well, you're not going to make it run "weller" by throwing more software at it. And every additional piece of software carries the risk of potential conflicts, not to mention the underlying concept of "free." With virtually any "free" program, there is always a price to be paid. I would also steer clear of any offer that appears out of the blue. You can call that type of email anything you want, but it's still spam.

I'm very much an advocate of the old "If it ain't broke, don't

fix it" philosophy. I have 11 systems here running all versions of Windows, Mac and Linux and they run happy as clams -- if clams are truly happy -- and never give me any problems. The computers, not the clams. Clams are nothing but trouble.

So that's my take on it. Without question, you are the boss when it comes to your computer and you can try anything you want, but if you ask me if I would install it on any of my systems, the answer would be "Absolutely not." When it comes to unsolicited, free programs of that ilk, just remember the old axiom, "Beware of geeks bearing gifts."

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

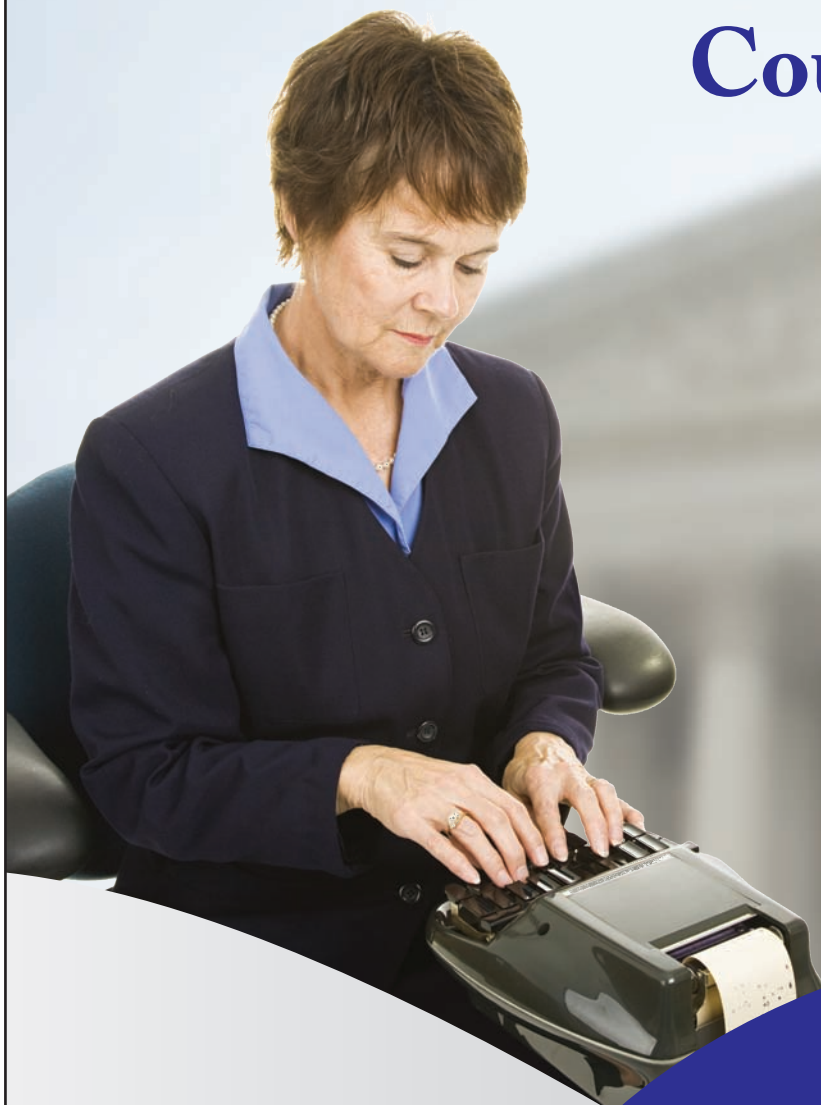
National Geographic: Education – This site is filled to the brim with teaching and related educational resources. Along the top of the page you will find a navigation bar with the categories Teaching Resources, Reference and News, Mapping, Media, Collections, Get Involved and Geo-Literacy. You will also find lots of interesting tidbits on the main page. Check out the Fast Fact section, the scrolling featured topics and Quote beneath the navigation strip. Below those you will find featured content from each of the categories on the navigation strip. This is an excellent resource for anyone interested in science, social studies, or geography. <http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/>

Public Art Archive – This site is home to a vast database you can use to search for public art exhibits in the United States and Canada. You can search by Artist, Collection, Material, Title, Venue or Year. Once you find a place or artist or collection you would like to view, click the image or the title link and you will be whisked away to that page, where you will find additional information about the artwork, its location, as well as more images and a map of the area. www.publicartarchive.org

Twinkies Facts – The Twinkie, long recognized as the cornerstone of any well-balanced diet, was created in 1930 by James Dewar, a plant manager at the Continental Baking Company. From its humble beginning as "Twinkie Fingers," today more than 500 million Twinkies are produced every year. Despite urban legends that suggest the shelf life of a Twinkie is measured in decades, the actual shelf life is 25 days per Twink. Before he departed for the Big Cupcake in the Sky at age 88, Mr. Dewar said that the secret to his long life was to "eat Twinkies every day and smoke a pack of cigarettes." What, no bourbon? <http://bit.ly/SstRSy>

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WHAT IS "ASK A REPORTER?"

By Gerie Bunch

"Ask a Reporter" is a feature on our website homepage www.cal-ccra.org. Frequently, we get questions from new reporters who are just starting out and learning the ropes, and we get questions from seasoned reporters who come up against something they have never encountered before and need some direction or assurance.

When you have a question, no matter if you might think the answer should be easy or that you should already know the answer, don't be shy. Please ask CCRA. Our team endeavors to answer your question within 48 hours. Sometimes, depending on the specificity of the answer, it may take a little longer to get your answer; but we do our very best.

Here is one member's response after getting her questions answered by CCRA's "Ask our Reporter" feature.

"Thank you so much for your prompt reply. I so appreciate it!

That's what my instincts were telling me was the correct action to take, but I had that nagging feeling of, "Is this the right course of action?"

In 27 years of reporting, I have not encountered this situation before, and I so appreciate the "Ask a Reporter" option on CCRA's website. One of the things I love about our profession is we're constantly learning new things, and it's so comforting to know I have such a valuable and knowledgeable resource as CCRA at my disposal.

Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge and your most valuable time!

Melissa Gum"

You too can get answers to your questions. All you have to do is "Ask a Reporter."

TOMATO, MUSTARD AND BRIE TART

From: *The Australian Heritage Cookbook*

When my daughter came back from her exchange in Ballarat, Australia, she presented me with this tome of a cookbook with exquisite recipes and photos. This is just one that I've tried from our friends down under – delightful.

Tart Ingredients:

- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. flour
- Pinch of sea salt
- 6 Tbsp. butter, diced
- 2 Tbsp. cold water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. milk
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Pepper
- 1 Tbsp. wholegrain mustard
- 1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 4 ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 1 round Dutch brie, about $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. thinly sliced

Herb Oil:

- 1 Tbsp. finely shredded fresh basil
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
- 2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

Sift flour & salt into a bowl. Cut in the butter with knives until the dough resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add water and mix, and then form into a ball. Cover and refrigerate for 20 minutes. Roll out large enough to cover an 8" flan tin and chill for 10 minutes more.

Preheat oven to 370. Line the pastry with baking paper and baking beans, then bake for 10 – 12 minutes. Carefully remove the paper and beans and bake pastry for 5 minutes more. Set aside, then reduce oven to 350.

In a small bowl whisk together milk, egg yolks, garlic and pepper (to taste). Spread mustard over the base of the pastry and sprinkle with shredded cheddar cheese. Arrange tomatoes and brie on top. Slowly pour the egg mixture over everything. Cook for 30 – 35 minutes, until just set and golden. For the herb oil, mix all the ingredients together and drizzle over the tart. Serve warm.

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NCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION... NEW IDEAS, NEW CONNECTIONS, NEW ENERGY

By Jim Cudahy

If you didn't yet know, the NCRA Convention is coming to your neck of the woods. We'll be at the San Francisco Hilton Union Square from July 31st through August 3rd. And I'd like to extend a personal invitation for you to attend.

You can find all of the information you need about the Convention at www.ncra.org/convention.

On the last evening of the Convention, we always have a big party and as I'm perusing the room, and talking with court reporters and vendors and legal videographers who are there, I always think about the positive energy of our event. I've had the opportunity to attend conventions and meetings across dozens of different industries, and I can tell you honestly, that the NCRA Convention is among the very best.

If you want ideas to improve your bottom line, you can walk away from the Convention with ten new ideas that you can use to redefine your business.

If you're looking to get a handle on how to harness the latest technology for your specific needs, there are dozens and dozens of ways you can do so ... at our Exposition of vendors, in seminars, and in one-on-one conversations with your friends and peers.

Or if you just need new energy ... if you want to talk with people who face the same challenges as you every day and who are happy to share their solutions and their approaches to dealing with those challenges ... there's no better way than to immerse

yourself for a few days in an atmosphere that is equal amounts fun as it is education.

While I am convinced your visit to our Convention in San Francisco will be more than worth the cost to attend, you'd probably rather hear from your fellow members and friends who had these things to say last year when asked what the best part of the Convention was for them.

"The Opening Reception was excellent. It was so easy to get around and see people. It was a very comfortable way to get the Convention off on the right step."

"Vendor booths, seeing the products and services that are used by professionals. The technology used is mind-blowing and motivational to me."

"The facilities were beautiful, but the seminars I attended were helpful and not overly technical. When I left, I felt like a learned and retained the knowledge I had come there for."

"Emphasis on the future of technology and learning from the creators of software and hardware."

"The fancy dress party! Court reporter prom!"

Whether you choose to come for the entire Convention or just for a day or two, I know you'll get something from the experience that will more than worth the cost to attend – whether that's a new business contact, a new idea, or a just a new friend. I hope you can join us in San Francisco.

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A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

by Candy Newland

Do you ever feel like a juggler in the circus? Between school, children, work, homework, practicing, kids' sports, trying to be present in my family.....do you feel like you're being pulled in a million places at once? The truth is, we are! That's why it's so important for us court reporting students to be extremely organized at all times.

There are some things to keep in mind for any student in college to help balance our busy lives outside of school. I'm not perfect, and I must admit, many of these pearls of wisdom are still being fine tuned on my part.

Organization. Being organized, I believe, is T-H-E most important characteristic that a student can possess while trying to balance this juggling act. I carry around with me a hardbound organizer in my purse. I put every single activity that I have for school, home, and work in this thing. It's my lifeline. Without this tool, I would probably lose my mind. Besides looking at it daily to see which direction I'm headed next, I also spend some time on Sunday reviewing what's logged out for me during the coming week. This helps my mind relax, knowing that there is a time and a place for everything. It helps me keep a level head, so that I know exactly when I will practice for school, go grocery shopping, play Monopoly with my kids, and study my briefs.

Something's gotta give. Another aspect I'm learning (slowly but surely) is that it is okay to say no sometimes. I've always

been that person that was able to take on "just one more task," until things started slipping. This might be one of the hardest things that I've learned while in school, but it really is okay to say no.

The last month or so, I've had to turn some things down that I would never have done before. But I feel confident about those decisions, because this has allowed me to be able to keep a commitment to my schedule, which includes practicing my steno. Something's gotta give. I'm learning that when you have an already cram-packed schedule, you simply can't take on any more tasks without it meaning that you'll have to give up something that you've already committed to.

Relax. Additionally, I'm learning how to manage the stress that comes along with a busy schedule. With being uber-organized and learning the ability to take on only what I can handle, this has allowed me a few hours a week for "me" time. Forty-five minutes at the gym a couple mornings a week or an hour to sit and read a book that has nothing to do with school is absolutely necessary to a person's sanity.

School is supposed to be hard work; I get that. But I hope I can look back one day and remember some fun times too. Learning to maintain balance is a studied ability, but it can be done. Basically, the take-home message is, "Work hard, but don't forget to schedule in some breathing room too."

FCC ORDERS CAPTIONING ON 16 PROGRAMS THAT WANTED EXCEPTIONS

Wednesday, June 4, 2014

Original Article: <http://deafnewstoday.blogspot.com/2014/06/fcc-orders-captioning-on-16-programs.html>

The FCC has started dismissing petitions by program producers who want exceptions to the Commission's new captioning rules. On Monday, the FCC told a group of 16 that they have 90 days to get closed captions on their video in accordance with the FCC's rules. Among them:

- Zomboo's House of Horror Movies - Reno

- Seeking the Lost - Jasper, Alabama
- The Bridge - Harlington, Texas
- Unionville Missionary Baptist Church Services - Macon, GA
- Ten O'Clock Worship Service, Panama City, Florida

Read the full list of program producers [here](#). The FCC has said it will give exemption from the rules if the captioning would be "economically burdensome."

THE PRESSURE OF THE CSR

By Gareth Briscoe

There aren't many professions out there where your ability to be employed rests upon performing well enough during a 10- or 15-minute window to pass a licensing test that, if failed, would only be given again in four months. The stakes are high, and it's a situation guaranteed to get your adrenaline pumping more freely than probably ever before. My "second" professional life is that of a cellist, and it felt appropriate to treat the CSR more like an audition for the Berlin Philharmonic than, say, a calculus final. I've given dozens of auditions in my career as a cellist, and I can honestly say that none of them carried the same sort of pressure as the CSR. If an audition goes south in the music industry, it's not the end of the world. There's another one to take next week and the week after that and so on. Not so in the court reporting world of California!

Some folks are blessed with the ability to perform in these high-pressure situations like it's just another day. I'm most definitely not one of them. Ironically, I've had to work at keeping my cool in these situations, and I found some methods that worked for me beyond the typical, "Just relax!" or, my personal favorite, "Focus!" I kept the *Inner Game of Tennis*, my peak performance bible, at my side in the months leading up to the CSR exam, and I used qualifiers as opportunities to refine my strategy for the big day. I'm really not a fan of leaving things to chance – hoping for a good test, hoping for a perfect night's sleep, et cetera – so my goal was to bring my writing level up to the point where I could pass rough tests under adverse conditions pretty consistently.

I settled into a good groove with passing qualifiers around a month before the CSR – right on time. I'd finally found a focal point that could be easily transferred to the CSR (focusing on the readers' eyes), and I was generally feeling like I couldn't realistically do **that** much more to prepare. My speaker identifications were consistently good, my little words were counting for fewer and fewer errors, and my ability to maintain quiet concentration up to the very last word was finally feeling solid. The stage was set, and the test felt like mine to lose.

Sure enough, the adverse conditions started piling on the minute I got to Los Angeles. I checked into my room after driving down from Sacramento on Wednesday to find empty cases of beer and some LAPD officers doing some sort of "operation" (I didn't even want to ask), so that was a nice surreal start to the trip. I woke up in the middle of that night dying from heat. So I stumbled over to the thermostat and pushed what I figured was the 'down' button, went back to bed, and tossed and turned for the rest of the night. Of course, I was pushing the 'up' button (moral of the story: just take the extra minute and painful flash next time). My appetite was shot the next day (again, I don't do well with pressure!), so my body was really not feeling 100 percent. I know for a fact that I slept no more than two hours on Thursday night, the night before the test.

By the morning of the test, I was thinking that I hadn't prepared for just how shot my body felt. My fingers didn't feel responsive, my brain felt like someone had been playing hacky sack with it, and I could only think about how ridiculous it would be if I failed this test because my body wouldn't cooperate. In hindsight, it was silly wasting time even thinking about these concerns. Adrenaline is a wonderful thing, and it started flowing in abundance as I lined up to take the test with the rest of Group 2. My body woke up, my brain felt alive again, and I couldn't have felt more ready for the next 15 minutes.

Besides the test itself, there was one more variable to negotiate: the dreaded seating lottery. I was given a "5," which meant that I was to sit in the last row on the risers. As I took my seat, it quickly became clear that I couldn't make eye contact at all with the readers on the sides. A large part of my preparation hinged on being able to maintain eye contact with the readers, and I most definitely wasn't going to write this test without doing it on as many of my terms as possible. As I was getting ready to blurt out my concern, one of the readers reminded us that we could move around to get a better view, and most of my row jumped ship for a closer spot. I settled into the most beautiful spot I could have asked for. I was dead center in the back with a clear, panoramic view of all four readers. Bring it on.

And bring it, they did. The test itself is a blur in my memory, but I remember distinctly thinking that it was harder than what I'd anticipated. I gently reminded myself not to worry, I'd prepared for the worst, and I mentally checked out again until just after the final, "Yes, your Honor." I knew I had it all in there, so I gave myself a congratulatory fist pump and listened carefully to ensure that my performance didn't go to waste on some technicality while the readers gave instructions on what to do next.

My notes loaded without issue, scoping took less than an hour, and I used to remainder of the time to exhaustively check words in the dictionary (even ones I'd written a thousand times, like cross-examination). As I finished my last read through and started to put my materials into the most important manila envelope I'd ever dealt with, it started to sink in that, barring some catastrophic oversight, I would almost certainly be getting good news in a month or so.

The men of the Briscoe family have a long and proud history of getting a little misty-eyed on appropriate occasions, and this one was no exception. The sense of catharsis I'd been eagerly anticipating came over me like a tidal wave as I exited the transcription room, and the first familiar face I ran into was our president, Carlos Martinez. After assuring him that I really felt wonderful about it and that my tears were coming from a happy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



THE PRESSURE OF THE CSR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

place, Carlos wisely told me to not second-guess my feelings about the test a few weeks down the road. I took his advice, basked in having the beast behind me, and resumed studying for the remaining leg of the CSR content in the knowledge that I really had given it my all.

On April 19th, a deceptively thin envelope arrived from the CRB confirming that my confidence hadn't been misplaced.

I'd passed with 23 errors. Honestly, it was a little anticlimactic since I'd had my emotional moment in Los Angeles, but it was satisfying to have it on paper regardless. The whole experience feels like a dream in retrospect (and one I never want to go through again); but the moral of the story for me was that thorough and thoughtful preparation, along with a healthy dose of optimism, allowed me to pass a statistically difficult test under less-than-ideal conditions, and I plan on using the same strategy to be the best court reporter I can be as I begin my career.



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CCRA 2014 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM

JUNE 18, 2014

AB 655

(Quirk-Silva D) Court reporters: salary fund.

Current Text: Amended: 6/14/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amend: 6/14/2013

Status: 8/30/2013 – Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a) (11). (Last location was APPR. on 6/25/2013)

Location: 8/30/2013 – S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing law provides for the appointment of official reporters of the courts, and prescribes the fees and compensation for reporting services. Existing law requires the charge of an official court reporter fee, in addition to any other fee required in civil actions or cases, for the services of an official court reporter on the first and each succeeding judicial day those services are provided, as specified. Fees collected pursuant to this provision may be used only to pay for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings. This bill would authorize each trial court to establish a Reporters' Salary Fund for the payment of the salaries and benefits of official reporters, as specified. This bill contains other existing laws.

Summary: Existing law provides for the appointment of official reporters of the courts, and prescribes the fees and compensation for reporting services. Existing law requires the charge of an official court reporter fee, in addition to any other fee required in civil actions or cases, for the services of an official court reporter on the first and each succeeding judicial day those services are provided, as specified. Fees collected pursuant to this provision may be used only to pay for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings. This bill would authorize each trial court to establish a Reporters' Salary Fund for the payment of the salaries and benefits of official reporters, as specified. This bill contains other existing laws.

AB 788

(Wagner R) Court transcripts.

Current Text: Amended: 6/24/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amend: 6/24/2013

Status: 7/12/2013 – Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10) (SEN). (Last location was JUD. on 6/24/2013)

Location: 7/12/2013 – S. 2 YEAR

Summary: Existing law authorizes a superior court to appoint official reporters and prescribes the fees for their services. Existing law requires that transcripts prepared by a reporter using computer assistance and delivered on a medium other than paper be compensated at the same rate set for paper transcripts, except as specified. Existing law establishes certain fees for second copies of transcripts, as specified, including

transcripts in computer-readable format. Existing law authorizes a court, party, or person who has purchased a transcript to reproduce a copy or portion thereof as an exhibit, pursuant to court order or rule, or for internal use, without paying a further fee to the reporter, but prohibits otherwise providing or selling a copy or copies to any other party or person. This bill would limit the reproduction provisions described above to computer-readable transcripts. This bill would additionally authorize, in the case of transcripts that are not computer-readable, the purchaser of a transcript to reproduce the transcript for internal use or in response to a request for discovery, a court order, rule, statute, or subpoena without paying a further fee to the reporter. The bill would also authorize, without paying a further fee to the reporter, but would prohibit otherwise providing or selling a copy or copies to any other party or person. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

Summary: Existing law authorizes a superior court to appoint official reporters and prescribes the fees for their services. Existing law requires that transcripts prepared by a reporter using computer assistance and delivered on a medium other than paper be compensated at the same rate set for paper transcripts, except as specified. Existing law establishes certain fees for second copies of transcripts, as specified, including transcripts in computer-readable format. Existing law authorizes a court, party, or person who has purchased a transcript to reproduce a copy or portion thereof as an exhibit, pursuant to court order or rule, or for internal use, without paying a further fee to the reporter, but prohibits otherwise providing or selling a copy or copies to any other party or person. This bill would limit the reproduction provisions described above to computer-readable transcripts. This bill would additionally authorize, in the case of transcripts that are not computer-readable, the purchaser of a transcript to reproduce the transcript for internal use or in response to a request for discovery, a court order, rule, statute, or subpoena without paying a further fee to the reporter. The bill would also authorize, without paying a further fee to the reporter, but would prohibit otherwise providing or selling a copy or copies to any other party or person. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

AB 1457

(Skinner D) Budget Act of 2014.

Current Text: Amended: 5/28/2014

Introduced: 1/9/2014

Last Amend: 5/28/2014

Status: 5/29/2014 – Re-referred to Com. on BUDGET.

Location: 5/29/2014-A. BUDGET

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

**CCRA 2014 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21**

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2014-15 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

Summary: This bill would make appropriations for the support of state government for the 2014-15 fiscal year. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 1657

(Gomez D) Courts: interpreters.

Current Text: Amended: 6/15/2014

Introduced: 2/11/2014

Last Amend: 6/15/2014

Status: 6/15/2014 – From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 6/15/2014 – S. JUD.

Calendar: 6/24/2014 1:30 p.m. – Room 112 SENATE JUDICIARY, JACKSON, Chair

Summary: Would expressly authorize the court to provide a court interpreter in any civil action or proceeding at no cost to the parties, regardless of the income of the parties. The bill would require interpreters to be provided in accordance with a specified order of priority, until sufficient funds are appropriated to provide an interpreter to every party who needs one. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Summary: (1) The California Constitution provides that a person unable to understand English who is charged with a crime has the right to an interpreter throughout the proceedings. Existing statutory law requires, in any civil or criminal action, as specified, a sign language interpreter to be appointed for a party or witness who is deaf or hearing-impaired and generally requires the payment of these court interpreters' fees to be a charge against the court. This bill would expressly authorize the court to provide a court interpreter in any civil action or proceeding at no cost to the parties, regardless of the income of the parties. The bill would require interpreters to be provided in accordance with a specified order of priority, until sufficient funds are appropriated to provide an interpreter to every party who needs one. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 1742

(Maienschein R) Trial court funding.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2014

Introduced: 2/14/2014

Status: 5/9/2014 – Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(6). (Last location was PRINT on 2/14/2014)

Location: 5/9/2014 – A. DEAD

Summary: Current law, for the purpose of funding trial court operations, authorizes the Judicial Council to establish bank accounts for the superior courts, into which shall be deposited all moneys appropriated in the Budget Act and allocated or reallocated to each court by the Judicial Council, moneys held in trust, and other moneys as deemed necessary or appropriate. "Court operations" is defined for these purposes. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the provision defining court operations.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Trial Court Trust Fund, the proceeds of which are required to be apportioned for authorized purposes, including apportionment to the trial courts to fund trial court operations. Existing law, for the purpose of funding trial court operations, authorizes the Judicial Council to establish bank accounts for the superior courts, into which shall be deposited all moneys appropriated in the Budget Act and allocated or reallocated to each court by the Judicial Council, moneys held in trust, and other moneys as deemed necessary or appropriate. "Court operations" is defined for these purposes. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to the provision defining court operations.

AB 1773

(Allen R) Public contracts: courts.

Current Text: Amended: 3/13/2014

Introduced: 2/18/2014

Last Amend: 3/13/2014

Status: 5/23/2014 – Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(8). (Last location was A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 5/23/2014)

Location: 5/23/2014 – A. DEAD

Summary: Current law requires the Judicial Council to provide two reports each year to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the State Auditor that provide information related to the procurement of contracts for the judicial branch. This bill would require the semiannual reports to include a list of all new contracts, the complete history of contracts amended during the reporting period, and other specified information about how and to whom the contract was let. The bill would also require the reports to be provided in an electronic format, as specified.

Summary: Existing law requires the Judicial Council to provide two reports each year to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and the State Auditor that provide information related to the procurement of contracts for the judicial branch. This bill would require the semiannual reports to include a list of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

CCRA 2014 LEGISLATIVE TRACKING FORM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

all new contracts, the complete history of contracts amended during the reporting period , and other specified information about how and to whom the contract was let. The bill would also require the reports to be provided in an electronic format, as specified.

AB 2747

(Committee on Judiciary) Civil law: omnibus bill.

Current Text: Amended: 6/12/2014

Introduced: 3/4/2014

Last Amend: 6/12/2014

Status: 6/12/2014 – From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Read second time, amended, and re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 6/12/2014 – S. JUD.

Calendar: 6/24/2014 1:30 p.m. – Room 112 SENATE JUDICIARY, JACKSON, Chair

Summary: The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act does not apply to specific transactions, including a transaction regarding security for a rental agreement for residential property that is used as the dwelling of the tenant. This bill would remove those security transactions from the list of transactions to which the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act does not apply. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Summary: Existing law, the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, generally allows parties to contract to conduct transactions by electronic means and imposes specified requirements on electronic transactions. That act does not apply to specific transactions, including a transaction regarding security for a rental agreement for residential property that is used as the dwelling of the tenant. This bill would remove those security transactions from the list of transactions to which the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act does not apply. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 315

(Lieu D) Contractors.

Current Text: Amended: 5/29/2014

Introduced: 2/15/2013

Last Amend: 5/29/2014

Status: 6/5/2014-From committee: Be re-referred to Com. on B.,P. & C.P. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (June 5). Re-referred to Com. on B.,P. & C.P.

Location: 6/5/2014-A. B.,P. & C.P.

Calendar: 6/24/2014 Anticipated Hearing ASSEMBLY B.,P. & C.P., Not in daily file.

Summary: Existing law provides that courts should, to the extent feasible, permit parties to appear by telephone at appropriate conferences, hearings, and proceedings in civil cases to improve access to the courts and reduce litigation costs. Existing law permits a party to make appearances by telephone at specified conferences, hearings, and proceedings. This bill would expand the circumstances under which a party may appear by telephone to include all conferences, hearings, and proceedings except a trial and a trial readiness conference.

Summary: Existing law provides that courts should, to the extent feasible, permit parties to appear by telephone at appropriate conferences, hearings, and proceedings in civil cases to improve access to the courts and reduce litigation costs. Existing law permits a party to make appearances by telephone at specified conferences, hearings, and proceedings. This bill would expand the circumstances under which a party may appear by telephone to include all conferences, hearings, and proceedings except a trial and a trial readiness conference.

SCA 13

(Anderson R) Courts: appellate jurisdiction.

Current Text: Amended: 4/1/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amend: 4/1/2013

Last Reviewed: ccra24: 4/8/2013 10:14 AM

Status: 4/30/2013 – Set, first hearing. Failed passage in committee. (Ayes 2. Noes 5. Page 758.) Reconsideration granted.

Location: 5/1/2013-S. PUB. S.

Summary: The California Constitution provides that courts of appeal have appellate jurisdiction when superior courts have original jurisdiction in causes of a type within the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of appeal on June 30, 1995, and in other causes prescribed by statute. The California Constitution authorizes the Legislature to permit courts exercising appellate jurisdiction to take evidence and make findings of fact when jury trial is waived or not a matter of right. This measure would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Summary: The California Constitution establishes the jurisdiction of the courts, providing that the Supreme Court has appellate jurisdiction when judgment of death has been pronounced. The California Constitution provides that courts of appeal have appellate jurisdiction when superior courts have original jurisdiction in causes of a type within the appellate jurisdiction of the courts of appeal on June 30, 1995, and in other causes prescribed by statute. This measure would , instead, establish appellate jurisdiction in the courts of appeal in cases when judgment of death has been pronounced . This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.