

CCRA *online*

Volume 13 | Issue 4

According to:
<http://www.bestfuture.com/>

Demand in jobs is
expected to grow by
9 to 25% by 2016

★ Court Reporters ★

Court reporters who
work outside the courthouse.

≤70%

Average income growth for a
court reporter over their career.

250%

★ Broadcast Captioners ★

Dollars per hour broadcast
captioners can earn per hour.

\$50 – 100

\$

★ CART Service Providers ★

Dollars per hour CART service
providers earn per hour in Canada.

\$110 – 150

\$

Required accuracy rate broadcasters
must achieve in their close captioning.

95%

Accuracy rate reached by single-voice
programs with voice-recognition technology.

85%

Hard-of-hearing
Canadians.

3.15 million

Deaf Canadians.

300,000



According to Forbes, court reporting is one of the top six-figure jobs for which you do not need a college degree.

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CCRA Online Copy Deadlines

The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 95656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries also should be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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the California Court Reporters Association

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CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

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

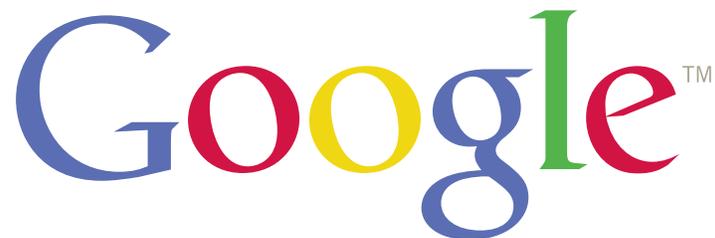
President's Message — The Importance of Continuing Education

By Kristi Garcia, CSR, RPR
CCRA President



Did you ever think that once you passed the CSR your education was over? Or after achieving that CRR you'd made it? No more practicing and no more studying? Guess what folks? That's just the beginning. Our learning never stops.

In the old days, as I like to call them, we used to have to do quite a bit of research if we had a deposition or trial that was technical. I remember calling one of my sisters, who is a nurse, and saying, "It sounds like this." If I had a construction depo I'd call my brother-in-law for help. I've bought books on guns, agricultural chemicals, trucks, prescription drugs and many more. And then, like the heavens opened, came GOOGLE! Oh, my goodness, life got a whole lot better. Those of you who are of the younger generation won't know life as a court reporter without Google. I Google everything. I now type in the name of a chemical or drug, and voila, it gives me the spelling I'm looking for! Like magic!



In California we don't have mandatory continuing education for court reporters....yet. But a better question would be: Why not? Lawyers and judges are mandated to have continuing education. Official reporters must have eight (8) hours of continuing education over a two-year period. We want to be treated as the professionals that we are, yet some balk at the thought of going to a class, attending a convention or taking an online test.



Did you know in October of 2011 the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) announced new continuing education requirements for their certifications to keep your certificates current? NCRA has adopted a system that recognizes both formal instructional activities and informal professional development activities. You must earn 3.0 units of continuing education each three-year cycle. Certification holders may choose to earn 3.0 of their required credits in formal ACCET-approved (Accredited Council for Continuing Education and Training) activities, but are restricted to a maximum of 1.0 professional development credits (PDCs) per cycle. In fact, it's a perfect time to make your reservation for CCRA's annual convention. Go to CCRA's Web site for all the information!

Next time those continuing education credits are due, check the CCRA Web site for recently posted online Webinars to satisfy your PDC requirements.

As for me, I will continue to strive for the CRR. I hope you all do too.



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for over 100 years. >>>



COLORADO OFFICIALSHIPS

The 12th Judicial District Court located in the San Luis Valley, with administrative office in Alamosa, Colorado, is seeking a Court Reporter I or II, who is realtime capable. Uncertified reporters must achieve certified status within two years from date of hire. This is a full-time position in a rural district. Monthly Salary Range: Court Reporter I (uncertified) - \$3,172 - \$4,255; Court Reporter II (certified) - \$4,063 - \$5,445; Court Reporter I Realtime Certified \$4,164 - \$5,582; Court Reporter II Realtime Certified - \$4,268 - \$5,720. Transcript page rates are additional at \$2.35/page for the original and \$.50/page for copies. Benefits: Vacation, health & life insurance, & retirement.

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The Tangled Web: Court Reporting Firms, Legal Assistants, and Insurance Companies

By Early Langley

The web of unethical gift giving by court reporting firms to legal professionals that hurts the unprotected consumer and affects insurance companies is being untangled.

The Ethics First Task Force of the National Court Reporters Association, a group formed in 2009 to educate court reporters, law firms, legal professionals, and associations across the country on the ethics of gift giving, has led the nation in promulgating rules which define the ethical lines drawn between the gift giver and the gift receiver. NCRA's Code of Professional Ethics require members to "Refrain from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift or anything of value to attorneys or their staff, other clients or their staff, or any other persons or entities associated with any litigation, which exceeds \$100 in the aggregate per recipient each year. Nothing offered in exchange for future work is permissible, regardless of its value."

At a grassroots level, the Ethics First Task Force has produced PowerPoint presentations and appeared at court reporting and legal assistant associations across the country, all with one goal in mind: Educating the industry that court reporters should not be giving gifts to get business.

While this represents a seminal event in the history of fighting unethical gift giving in the legal industry, it is important to understand the relationship of three major players in deposition booking: Court reporting firms, legal assistants, and insurance companies.

The scenarios begin something like this: An email comes across a legal assistant's inbox offering a \$200 gift card, an iPad, a gift certificate, or an award system applicable towards an exotic vacation for every deposition set.

Who do the gifts belong to? Do the gifts place the law firm in the position of choosing a court reporting firm based on gifts and not excellence in quality? Does the acceptance of free transcripts and copy costs force the law firm and court reporting firm into an ethical corner of favoritism? Is the defense insurance industry aware that law firms are engaging in activity that may affect their bottom line?

The Legal Assistant

The gatekeepers to deposition booking, the legal assistants, are largely unaware of what it all means. That is because most state and national legal assistants associations may not train their members to understand the ethical entanglements that tie court reporting gifts to their law firm and client. Most have an ethics code covering professional behavior such as attorney/client privilege; many adopt their state bar's standards. The NFPA, National Federation of Paralegal Association, is one such association. California's CAPA, the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations, the Texas Paralegal Association and the Central Florida Paralegal Association are others.

Secretarialsite.com, a Web site dedicated to secretarial, office and administrative professionals, pointedly addresses ethics: "Ethics No. 10: Bribery. Do not be tempted to accept gifts or favors from internal or external clients just in case there's an underlying reason. Always follow your Company's procedures and policies. Very rarely will you ever get something for nothing – there is usually always a tradeoff. You may end up paying the ultimate price — your job."

The Court Reporting Firm

While the legal assistant profession may be unaware of the gift-giving consequences, the court reporting (CR) firm knows full well what gift giving means: bookings and a long-term commitment. How does a CR firm do it?

The CR firm hires sales reps whose expenses cover gifts to maintain law firm accounts. The sales reps target the gatekeepers, the legal assistants, who book the depositions. The trouble arises when state laws prohibit the type of format manipulation that some large court reporting firms engage in at a national level.

The Defense Insurance Industry

Enter the defense insurance industry, another victim in this web. When CR firms are looking to cover the high costs of gifts and offers of free transcripts, they may do so knowing that an exclusive, nationwide agreement guarantees price. The one-price-does-it-all agreement makes it difficult to control costs, because, unless the insurance company is educated about transcript-

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The Tangled Web: Court Reporting Firms, Legal Assistants, and Insurance Companies

(continued from Page 6)

manipulated formats, and the effect of “tying” unordered services to the bill, these gimmicks are very easy to get away with.

Lessons in Social Psychology from the Pharmaceutical Industry

There is a striking similarity between the pharmaceutical and legal industry in gift-giving practices. Nurses, physician assistants, medical students and doctors are subject to the same conflicts, with little awareness of the ethics involved. There have been anecdotal stories reported in the British Medical Journal of doctors who have demanded that, unless pharmaceutical companies pay for foreign trips, they would threaten to stop using their drugs.

This social psychological dependence conjures up feelings of obligation to and expectations of the gift-giver. The relationship is flattering and builds contacts spun around seemingly benign gifts, no matter how insignificant. How many of us have acquired a sense of entitlement to frequent flyer miles and preferred grocery shopper discounts? If the same holds true for other industries, why not have frequent-deposition miles? It's probably been thought of already.

Unless paralegals and secretaries are aware of the persuasive tactics and consequences of accepting gifts in the deposition arena, they may remain unwitting recipients. Paralegals and secretaries might benefit from an understanding of marketing, persuasion, and the simple fact that a gift in the statutory sense proceeds from a “detached and disinterested generosity,” and any court reporter or non-court reporter-owned entity giving these kinds of “gifts” is anything but disinterested. And then comes the question of to whom the gift belongs: the client, the attorney, or the staff?

Protecting the Consumer

Minnesota has developed rules to protect the consumer by requiring that a lawyer consult with his or her client before accepting gifts that are not nominal in nature. Along the same lines, the American Bar Association, in its published Opinion 278, states that a lawyer should not accept a gratuity from anyone without the client's consent and that the gratuity belongs to the client.

Research by the Ethics First Task Force of NCRA has

revealed that one law firm has a vendor payee package that includes a W-9, reading in part as follows: “Any staff member who is doing business for the Firm must make purchasing or use decisions based on the interests of the Firm, and obtain the maximum value for each expenditure. Gifts or favors from a service or goods provider may either prejudice or give the appearance of prejudicing the Firm's decisions and must be avoided.”

Inroads to Ethics

The Ethics First Task Force has been successful in acquiring the recognition and support of the legal counsel employed by a major national insurance company: GEICO. It goes without saying that insurance companies have a major stake in this issue. If all insurance companies knew that they may be paying for court reporting services that are linked to gift giving instead of competence and honest competition, they might follow GEICO's lead.

Merrill Corporation, a national court reporting firm, announced a confessional turnaround in policy in January 2012. Appearing on the FAQ page for the DepoPoints Program, their answer to why they had ceased the incentive program was, “A growing number of concerns have been raised lately related to the appropriateness of gifting in the court reporting industry. To be proactive on this matter and to avoid any appearance of impropriety, Merrill has decided to discontinue its Depo Points program.”

The Bottom Line

Next time you book a deposition, book it for the right reasons: Excellence and quality. Self-serving motivations strike at the heart of unethical gift giving. Court reporting sales reps, anxious for a commission, look for the unwitting to fall for it, hook, line and sinker. They bank on the fact that paralegal, legal assistant and secretarial associations do not adequately address the ethics of gift giving, and that state statutes lack the teeth to enforce unethical deals. But beware: the unwitting are being educated and the educated are increasing in number.

Early Langley, CA CSR, BA, RMR, is Immediate Past President of the California Court Reporters Association, member of the NCRA Ethics First Task Force, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, can be reached at early.langley@cal-ccra



Guide to Civil Reporting: CCRA Educates Northern California Reporters

By Linda J. Hart, CSR #4357, RMR, CRR



On Saturday, April 27, 2013, CCRA presented their latest continuing education series on providing factual information from official reporters to educate freelance reporters on court procedures. I have been a freelancer for 34 years, but I felt that I could benefit from the important information being imparted by my peers. We had a breakout session to visit and network with our peers during the lunch hour, and had a great breakfast and lunch to boot.

Tom Pringle, CCRA's Continuing Education chair, began the morning presentation with a PowerPoint report on formats, courtroom decorum and terminology. Do you know what "the well" is? Do you know the seating formation for the jury and the numbering system? Do you know how to ask counsel to slow down following the court decorum rules? Do you know the rules to be followed when requested to readback to the jury? All these questions and many more were answered during this great class.

Karen Sotelo, CSR, who was recently laid off from her official position in Placer County Superior Court, spoke eloquently about the transition from being an official reporter to working for the private deposition firm that won the bid to report the criminal and juvenile proceedings. Her real-life experience was very informative, and it took a great deal of balance for her to find levity in this environment that we all find ourselves in. She was very informative in sharing her knowledge of how to prepare an appellate transcript and answered everyone's questions. She was very reassuring to everyone in the room that we are all reporters no matter where we work, and her motivation and suggestion that we all continue to work together and support each other was a wonderfully fresh approach.

Connie Parchman, CCRA VP Freelancers, also explained the hookups and realtime technology she and Sandy VanderPol, CSR, recently used during a trial that they together reported and provided daily realtime to all counsel.

All in all, I came home from the day enlightened, excited, and ready to tackle my next court job, feeling more informed and better equipped to do the job. I would highly recommend that any freelancers working in court become familiar with the procedures that should be followed and your court experience will be much more fulfilling.

**Thanks to the reporters who took time out of their schedules
to educate the freelance reporters in Northern California.**





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Question to the Court Reporters Board: Our Licensing Agency

A reporter is working for a depo firm covering court work. An appeal in a civil matter has been filed by the firm's client. The depo firm is asking the reporter to sign a waiver of deposit of fees. The reporter is reluctant to do so.



THE QUESTIONS ARE:

1. Does the reporter need a signed agreement with the depo firm setting forth how much per page the reporter will be paid if she signs a waiver? Signing a waiver will allow the depo firm to bill their client and then pay the reporter. The reporter may not know what is being charged.
2. What happens if the depo firm drops the ball and doesn't file the appeal transcript on time or the appeal transcript is rejected by the court because it's not done right or whatever? Is the reporter then responsible?

If you look at the Rules of Court, 8.130 talks about the "deposit or substitute for cost of transcript" and says "the reporter's written estimate" and "... the party may substitute the reporter's written waiver of a deposit ..." and "A reporter may waive the deposit for — and a party may submit a certified transcript of — a part of the designated proceedings, but such a waiver or transcript replaces the deposit for only that part."

So, I would appreciate an answer to this question. I need to provide this information to the reporter. I will be repeating your answer to this licensee and others.



ANSWER FROM THE CRB:

1. The CRB always recommends that subcontractors have written agreements with firms they work with, outlining the complete terms. Rule 8.130 subsections (b)(1) and (b)(2) are the reporter's "safeguard" to ensure he or she will be duly and sufficiently compensated for services. Therefore, detailed written agreements when exercising the exemption of subsection (b)(3) are strongly encouraged, although not specifically required by law.
2. The CRB always starts an investigation with the reporter, as the reporter is ultimately responsible for the transcript and its delivery. Each complaint is handled on a case-by-case basis, but the type of things the Board would look at as far as mitigating circumstances would be written communication verifying that the firm knew of the appeal deadline and informed the reporter of their intent to timely file, written communication that the firm would be charging statutory rates (and following all applicable laws, for that matter). Absent any proof to the contrary, the reporter would be responsible.



C.A. Rejects Challenge to Court Reporter's Allegedly Excessive Fees

By Kenneth Ofgang, Staff Writer
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

The sole means of challenging a court reporter's fees for deposition transcripts as excessive is by motion filed in the action in which the depositions were taken, the Court of Appeal for this district ruled yesterday.

Div. Six affirmed the dismissal of an equitable action seeking an injunction on behalf of a class made up of litigants who had purchased transcripts of depositions taken by various defendants — including Merrill Communications, LLC and its subsidiary Wordwave, Inc., which Merrill has described as the world's largest court reporting and transcription firm — over a four-year period.

The plaintiff, The Los Canoas Company, Inc., alleged that it was added as a defendant in a construction defects case in Santa Barbara Superior Court several years ago, after 57 depositions had been taken. The company said it inquired of the court reporters how much it would cost to obtain copies of the transcripts, and was told \$2 per page.

The company said it objected to the charge, which would have run to \$16,000 for copies of all 57 depositions. Instead, it paid about \$1,200 for copies of three of the depositions. While it made its objections known to the court reporters, the company did not seek to have the rate reduced by the court.

About four years later, the company filed suit. It sought an injunction limiting the defendants' charges for transcripts to 25 cents per page, or flat rates of between \$15 and \$35 for electronic copies, depending on the mode of transmission.

Demurred Sustained

Ventura Superior Court Judge Mark Borrell sustained a demurrer, ruling that the company should have filed a motion under Code of Civil Procedure Secs. 2025.510 and 128(a)(5), which allow trial courts to determine the reasonableness of court reporters' charges for copies of transcripts. The judge cited

Serrano v. Stefan Merli Plastering Co., Inc. (2008) 162 Cal.App.4th 1014, which suggested that the statutes could be enforced upon motion of a party that did not notice a deposition.

Borrell wrote:

"The deposition process is central to the administration of civil litigation, and court reporters, as deposition officers, are officers of the court and subject to the court's supervision. A non-noticing party's right to obtain a deposition transcript at a reasonable fee is statutory, and the means to enforce that right is by motion to the judge presiding over the action in which the deposition is conducted. That judge is in the 'best position' to resolve any dispute. Reserving the issue to be subsequently determined by another judge would undermine the discretion vested in the original trial judge to control proceedings in his or her courtroom."

He also said the request for injunctive relief was "[p]articularly troublesome" because granting it would "directly abridge the discretion of judges assigned to future cases to determine the reasonableness of defendant's fees."

Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert, writing for the Court of Appeal, agreed.

No Extraordinary Circumstances

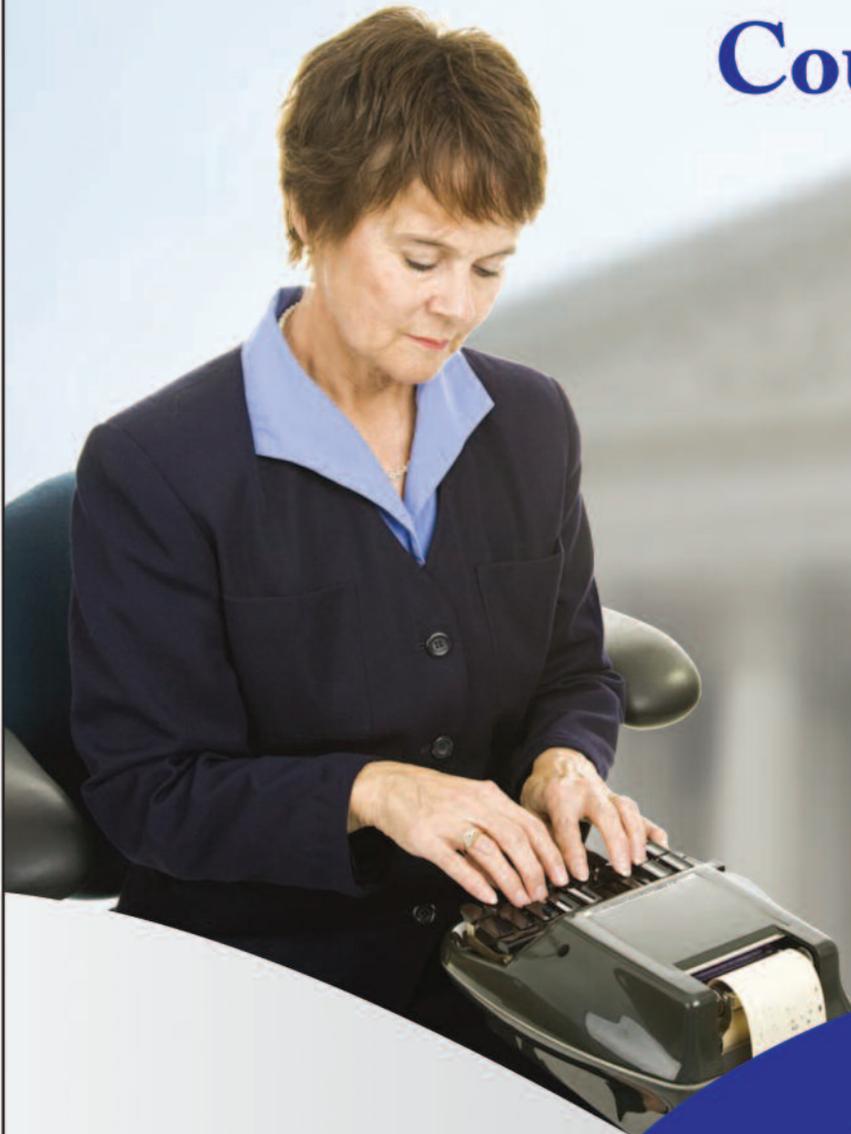
He acknowledged that nothing in the statutes or in *Serrano* expressly precluded a separate action to determine the reasonableness of transcript fees. But the concerns expressed by the trial judge, he said, illustrate why "absent extraordinary circumstances, the court in the action in which the dispute arises is the only court to resolve the issue."

The case is *The Las Canoas Company, Inc. v. Kramer*, 13 S.O.S. 2335.

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Anais Goldberg CCRA Scholarship Essay

Anais Goldberg, 160-170 speed

The first time I heard about the recent cuts to California's court system was at a family gathering. As usual, I was being asked about my progress in school. "How much longer do you have to go? Why does it take so long? What speed do you have to get to again?" It was then that my cousin, the attorney, asked me if I had heard that, as of May 15, 2012, there would no longer be court reporters in Los Angeles Superior Court. This came as a complete surprise to me. I had not heard anything about this, and I immediately started to panic. I had always imagined that I would graduate court reporting school, build up my experience through depositions, and then eventually obtain a position as an official with a steady schedule, benefits, and paid vacation time.

After wallowing in my disillusionment for a bit, the resiliency and positive attitude that has helped me succeed in court reporting school thus far started to take over. This was definitely not a closed door. First of all, hundreds of depositions all over Los Angeles County happen every day. The work of a deposition officer is challenging, interesting, and offers great flexibility.

What my cousin didn't realize at the time was that, although there will no longer be court reporters employed by Los Angeles Superior Court, that does not mean there will cease to be a record taken of civil court proceedings. The privatization of court reporters in the civil courts has proved to expand the opportunities for freelance reporters even further.

Outside of the courts and deposition conference rooms, there is a growing need for captioners. With the President's signing of "The Twenty-First Century Telecommunications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010," which will require all content that is broadcast on television to include captioning, there will be no shortage of work for future reporters. Additionally, CART providers are in great demand in colleges and universities to provide auxiliary aids to their deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

I am a firm believer that you create your own opportunities. Times may be tough for states' budgets, and voice-recognition technology will keep improving; but I have confidence that the skills I've learned in court reporting school, beyond even machine shorthand, will ensure that exciting and challenging job opportunities will always be available to me. With an open mind, a positive attitude, and a willingness to accept the opportunities that life presents, there is nothing that will hold me back from having a successful career as a court reporter. And that is what keeps me motivated to finish school.

Steve Matthews





A Second Chance with CTRL + Z

Q. Sometimes when I drag a file from one location with the intention of placing it in another location, I fumble with the mouse and it winds up in the wrong spot. When that happens, is there some way I can cancel what I just did so I can start over?

A. Windows does provide a second chance of sorts in the form of an Undo keystroke command for this type of oopsie. (It's a technical term.) The universal Undo command is CTRL + Z, which works just about everywhere within Windows. You can use it copying or moving objects, pasting and even when editing a document or spreadsheet. (If only life had an Undo command...)

Q. They say you can't teach old dogs new tricks and I am definitely an older dog. I have been using Windows XP since it came out years ago. Do you have a crystal ball handy so you can tell me how long XP will be around? Thanks Mr. M.

A. Technically, Windows XP, which was released on October 25, 2001, is "no longer around" in the sense that it was replaced by Vista (released January 30, 2007), Windows 7 (released October 22, 2009), and Windows 8 (released October 26, 2012).

The fact that XP is no longer the new kid on the block doesn't mean that it's going to disappear from your computer or cause any particular problems other than those associated with any aging operating system. Sometimes older operating systems become less cooperative than they were in their youth — something to which I can relate. If that occurs and you have the original XP installation CD, you have the option of having it reinstalled. XP newly installed today is the same as XP newly installed in 2001.

If you don't have the original XP installation disk, you're not out of luck. Windows XP is still available for purchase. Look on amazon.com and you will find several retailers who still have it in its original shrink-wrapped box. Some new PC purchasers opt to have Windows 8 removed and Windows 7 or XP installed in its place.

Q. I know this is a strange question, but I didn't know who else I could ask: Is there a site for old comic strips, specifically Smokey Stover?

A. Proving definitively that you can find anything online, there is indeed a smokey-stover.com site where you will find Smokey cartoons, as well as Smokey memorabilia. It also includes artist Bill Holman's other creations, Spooky the Cat and Nuts and Jolts.

If you are a funny-papers enthusiast, you might also enjoy GoComics.com where you will find hundreds of comic strips and some of the best editorial cartoons. Click the Political Slant link and you will find left-leaning, right-leaning, and middle-of-the-road editorial cartoons. The site is free, but you can upgrade to the Pro version (gocomics.com/help/pro) for .99 per month which, among other benefits, eliminates advertising.

Q. I have been using the Microsoft's Bing search engine and I like it very much. Every time I use it, there is always a new background image, which is nice, but I find it rather distracting. Is it possible to disable or turn it off in some manner? Thanks, Mr. M.

A. You sure can. If you want to use Bing (www.bing.com) without the background, simply copy the following address, exactly as it appears, into your browser's Address field and click Search or

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press Enter: <http://www.bing.com/?rb=0>. (That's a zero, not the letter O.)

If you are satisfied with the no-frills appearance of Bing, bookmark the above URL and you will never have to see a Bing background image again. Badda bing, badda boom.

The Case of the Missing Recycle Bin

Q. Without warning, my Recycle Bin disappeared. Do you have any idea where it went or how I can get it back?

A. Computers do things like this periodically just to let us know who is really in charge. There are several things you can try to return your Recycle Bin to the Desktop: In Windows Vista and 7, click Start > Search and type in "recycle bin." From the search results, click Show or Hide Common Icons on the Desktop. In the Desktop Icons section, place a check mark next to Recycle Bin, then Apply > OK. You will also note the option to Restore Default.

In Windows XP, right click your Desktop and choose Properties > Desktop tab > Customize Desktop button. In the middle of the Desktop Items dialog box you will see several icons. Click the one for the Recycle Bin, then click the Restore Default button. Click OK and your Recycle Bin should be back to its full and upright position on the Desktop.

If it isn't, don't abandon hope! Instead, right-click an empty area of your Taskbar. From the menu that appears, click Toolbars > Desktop. The word Desktop will then appear at the end of your Taskbar, with a double arrow beside it. Right-click the arrows and you will see an option for the Recycle Bin. Drag and drop that Recycle Bin item to your Desktop, which will resolve the problem.

Q. I am using Windows 7 and cannot figure out how to change to single clicking. Can you help?

A. To change settings so instead of having to double-click anything, you can single-click, in the Start >

Search field type "folder options," then click the search result. In the Folder Options dialog box that appears, select "Single-Click to Open an Item (Point to Select)" from the Click Items as Follows section. Click the Apply > OK to save your changes and exit. Your mouse will now be happy to respond to your single-clicks instead of double-clicks.

I would suggest saving these instructions should you decide that single-clicking is not for you. Many people try it but ultimately find it confusing because they are so accustomed to double-clicking certain items. But give it a try and see what you think.

Q. My computer shows time in the 1:30 PM format. I prefer the military version of time, that being 13:30. How can I change that? I'm using Windows XP.

A. To display military time, go to your Control Panel > Regional and Language Options > Customize button > Time tab and choose HH:mm:ss from the drop-down menu. Click Apply > OK to save and exit.

Q. How can I change the default font in Word 2007?

A. Open a new Word document, then click Font in the Font group and choose the font style and size that you want to use as your default. Click Default and a dialog box will open and ask if you want to make the change to all new documents based on the Normal template. You do, so click OK. Close then reopen Word and enjoy your new default font.

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

Customer Service Scoreboard

Many people believe they receive inadequate or inept customer service today — with good reason: Only 46 out of the 604 companies found on this site have been rated as providing acceptable or better customer service, which translates to an anemic eight percent. The ratings on this site, provided by consumers, are calculated using an

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algorithm which considers many criteria, including positive versus negative comments, as well as scoring for specific characteristics such as friendliness and issue resolution.

www.customerservicescoreboard.com

How to Get Rid of Things

This site is dedicated to helping you banish common annoyances from your life. Everything from allergies to wrinkles, from adware to unsightly static cling, you will learn how to get rid of it here. (Unfortunately, it does not pertain to people. I just checked and Uncle Rudy is still here. Just my luck.)

www.getridofthings.com

Physics Games

Online, physics-based games. Need I say more? Perhaps. Here you will find 99 free, online, physics-related games. There is nothing to install and nothing to download. Just click to select a game and start playing. Instructions for each game are rather sparse, so be prepared for some trial and error gaming.

www.physicsgames.net

100 Most Beautiful English Words

Words are my life, tragic as that may be, but I was most impressed by the number of words on this list that were new to me. All words are mellifluous (which is also on the list) and roll off the tongue. The site, courtesy of LiteraryTourist.com, presents an excellent opportunity to improve one's vocabulary, as well.

<http://bit.ly/1082tbn>

Pocket Calculator Show

The '70s and '80s introduced the world to a variety of new consumer electronic products such as pocket calculators, the Walkman, boom boxes and other aural annoyances. This site celebrates those gadgets, so if you want to reminisce about the good old days or check out the primitive "high-tech" devices we once used, this site is a hoot.

www.pocketcalculatorshow.com

Twisted Sifter

This is a picture-of-the-day site with a twist: Every day at 5 PM (Eastern), the site posts the most stunning image encountered during that day. There are a number of navigation options: You can scroll down the page and click whatever images tickle your fancy, or you have the option

of using the navigation strip at the top of the page with its various sections. You also have the option of checking out whatever is being featured in the rotating selection of featured articles. The only thing I would steer clear of are the links at the bottom of the pages of picture sets because they tend to link to other Web sites, some of which may be offensive and some of which are questionable at best. Stick with Twisted Sifter and you won't go wrong.

<http://twistedifter.com>

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OH, THE IRONY

Life is full of surprises and I was the recipient of a delightful surprise this past Sunday when email started arriving from friends and readers throughout the country, congratulating me for "the puzzle."

I was clueless, of course (my natural state) but in this instance, the clueless became the clue. Oh, the irony.

You can now call me "Mr. 93 Across" (or "93" for short) because "Mr. Modem" has ascended to the rarefied atmosphere of "clue status" and appeared in this past Sunday's LA Times crossword puzzle, 5-26-13:

93 Across: "Syndicated computer adviser Mr. _____" (ANSWER: MODEM)

<http://www.laxcrossword.com/2013/05/la-times-crossword-answers-26-may-13.html>

I know what you're thinking: "Can a Pulitzer be far behind?"

The answer is "Yes, it certainly can," but thanks for the thought just the same.

I just wanted to share this tidbit of fortuitous (albeit goofy) news with a few friends and colleagues, so thank you for your indulgence.

Mr. M. (aka "Richard," aka "93 Across")
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Magic Mineral Broth

By Expert Rebecca Katz



This is my Rosetta stone of soups; a broth that alchemizes itself to meet any patient's nutritional needs. Yes, it really is that versatile, serving as everything from a delicious sipping tea to the powerful base for more hearty soups and stews.

Chemotherapy saps your strength through dehydration, pulling vital nutrients out of your system. This rejuvenating broth, chocked full of magnesium, potassium, and sodium, refreshes and restores the body, getting you back in shape for the days to come.

INGREDIENTS:

Cut the following four ingredients into large chunks:

- 6 unpeeled carrots
- 2 unpeeled medium yellow onions
- 1 leek, both white and green parts
- 1 bunch celery including the heart
- 4 unpeeled cloves garlic, halved
- ½ bunch flat leaf Italian parsley
- 4 medium red potatoes, quartered with skins on
- 2 Japanese yam or Hannah's or
2 sweet potatoes, quartered with skins on
- 1 Garnet yam, quartered with skin on
- 1 Tbsp. sea salt
- 1 (6 x 1 inch) strip of Kombu (seaweed)
- 2 bay leaves
- 12 peppercorns
- 4 whole allspice or juniper berries

Directions: In a 12-qt. stockpot, combine all ingredients. Fill the pot to 2 inches below the rim with water, cover and bring to a boil. Remove lid, decrease heat to low and simmer a minimum of 2 hours. As stock simmers some water will evaporate; add more if the vegetables begin to peek out. Simmer until the full richness of the vegetables can be tasted.

Strain stock using a large mesh strainer (remember a heat resistant container underneath) Bring to room temperature before refrigerating or freezing. Makes 6 – 7 quarts. Refrigerator, 4 days; Freezer, 3 months.

Variations: Chicken Magic Mineral Broth

The chicken bones infuse the Magic Mineral Broth stock with a richer flavor while adding mineral rich calcium and phosphorus, along with bone marrow, collagen and gelatin for a more nutrient-packed brew. Add to above the carcass from a chicken or 2 lbs of bones and 1 Tbsp. vinegar or lemon juice to the above ingredients.

Variation 1

For those seeking additional calories:

Boost calories to basic broth by adding 2 14oz. cans of coconut milk to stock

For those preferring an Asian style broth, add 3 one-inch pieces of ginger, three kaffir lime leaves, and one stalk of lemon grass cut into chunks.

Variation 2

For those with nausea: Add 3 one-inch pieces of ginger to stock.

Nutritional Sidebar: Kombu is a seaweed super food, full of trace minerals that are wonderful for people with compromised immune systems. It's often found in Asian markets or in the Asian specialty section of supermarkets and health food stores. Kombu is a long, dark brown seaweed that come in dried sheets and will store indefinitely in a cool, dry place. Japanese and European studies are looking at the ability of U-Fucoidan, a polysaccharide found in high levels of Kombu, to fight cancer tumors.



CCRA Legislative Update

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CSR #3032

AB 186 (Maienschein R) Professions and Vocations: Military Spouses: Temporary Licenses

Current Text: Amended: 4/22/2013

Introduced: 1/28/2013

Last Amended: 4/22/2013

Status: 4/30/2013-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 1.) (April 30). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 4/30/2013-A. APPR.

Summary: This bill would require a board within the department to issue a temporary license to an applicant who qualifies for, and requests, expedited licensure pursuant to the above-described provision if he or she meets specified requirements. The bill would require the temporary license to expire 12 months after issuance, upon issuance of the expedited license, or upon denial of the application for expedited licensure by the board, whichever occurs first. The bill would authorize a board to conduct an investigation of an applicant for purposes of denying or revoking a temporary license, and would authorize a criminal background check as part of that investigation. The bill would require an applicant seeking a temporary license to submit an application to the board that includes a signed affidavit attesting to the fact that he or she meets all of the requirements for the temporary license and that the information submitted in the application is accurate, as specified. The bill would also require the application to include written verification from the applicant's original licensing jurisdiction stating that the applicant's license is in good standing. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 251 (Wagner R) Electronic Court Reporting

Current Text: Amended: 4/2/2013

Introduced: 2/6/2013

Last Amended: 4/2/2013

Status: 4/9/2013-In committee: Set second hearing. Failed passage. Reconsideration granted.

Location: 4/9/2013-A. JUD.

Summary: Existing law authorizes a superior court to appoint official reporters and official reporters pro

tempore as are deemed necessary for the performance of the duties of the court and its members. Existing law also authorizes a court to use electronic recording equipment to record an action or proceeding in a limited civil case, or a misdemeanor or infraction case, if an official reporter or an official reporter pro tempore is unavailable. This bill would additionally allow a court to use electronic recording equipment in a family law case if an official reporter or an official reporter pro tempore is unavailable.

AB 291 (Nestande R) California Sunset Review Commission

Current Text: Introduced: 2/11/2013

Introduced: 2/11/2013

Status: 4/15/2013-In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.

Location: 3/11/2013-A. A. & A.R.

Summary: Existing law establishes the Joint Sunset Review Committee, a legislative committee comprised of 10 Members of the Legislature, to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies and to conduct a comprehensive analysis of every "eligible agency" for which a date for repeal has been established, to determine if the agency is still necessary and cost effective. Existing law requires each eligible agency scheduled for repeal to submit a report to the committee containing specified information. Existing law requires the committee to take public testimony and evaluate the eligible agency prior to the date the agency is scheduled to be repealed, and requires that an eligible agency be eliminated unless the Legislature enacts a law to extend, consolidate, or reorganize the agency. Existing law also requires the committee to review eligible agencies and evaluate and determine whether each has demonstrated a public need for its continued existence and to submit a report to the Legislature detailing whether an agency should be terminated, continued, or whether its functions should be modified. This bill would abolish the Joint Sunset Review Committee on January 1 or an unspecified year. The bill would, commencing on that same January 1, establish the California Sunset Review Commission within the executive branch to assess the continuing

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need for any agency, as defined, to exist. The commission would consist of 10 members, with 8 members appointed by the Governor and 2 Members of the Legislature each appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly, subject to specified terms. The commission would be under the direction of a director appointed by the commission members. The bill would require the commission to meet regularly and to work with each agency subject to review to evaluate the need for the agency to exist, identify required statutory, regulatory, or management changes, and develop legislative proposals to enact those changes. The bill would require the commission to prepare a report, containing legislative recommendations based on its agency review, to be submitted to the Legislature and would also as defined, to exist. The commission would consist of 10 members, with 8 members appointed by the Governor and 2 Members of the Legislature each appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly, subject to specified terms. The commission would be under the direction of a director appointed by the commission members. The bill would require the commission to meet regularly and to work with each agency subject to review to evaluate the need for the agency to exist, identify required statutory, regulatory, or management changes, and develop legislative proposals to enact those changes. The bill would require the commission to prepare a report, containing legislative recommendations based on its agency review, to be submitted to the Legislature and would also require the commission to meet certain cost-savings standards within 5 years. This bill contains other related provisions.

AB 365 (Mullin D) Court Reporting

Current Text: Amended: 4/3/2013

Introduced: 2/14/2013

Last Amended: 4/3/2013

Status: 4/10/2013-Read second time.
Ordered to third reading.

Location: 4/10/2013-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 5/2/2013 #28 ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Current law provides that the report of the official court reporter or official court reporter pro

tempore, of any court, duly appointed and sworn, when transcribed and certified as being a correct transcript of the testimony and proceedings in the case, is prima facie evidence of that testimony and proceeding. The bill would make clarifying changes to those provisions.

AB 376 (Donnelly R) Regulations: Notice

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2013

Introduced: 2/14/2013

Status: 4/3/2013-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Refers to 4/3/2013 hearing)

Location: 3/11/2013-A. A. & A.R.

Summary: The Administrative Procedure Act requires the Office of Administrative Law to provide for the official compilation, printing, and publication of adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations, which is known as the California Code of Regulations, provide for a weekly update of the California Code of Regulations, and provide for the publication of the California Regulatory Notice Register, which includes, but is not limited to, a summary of all proposed regulations filed with the Secretary of State in the previous week. This bill would require a state agency enforcing a regulation promulgated on or after January 1, 2014, to notify a business that is required to comply with that regulation of the existence of the regulation 30 days before its effective date, and to cooperate with the Secretary of State to access business records to obtain the business contact information necessary to provide that notice.

AB 566 (Wieckowski D) Courts:

Personal Services Contracting

Current Text: Amended: 4/15/2013

Introduced: 2/20/2013

Last Amended: 4/15/2013

Status: 5/1/2013-Action From APPR.:
To APPR. SUSPENSE FILE.

Location: 5/1/2013-A. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Would establish specified standards if a trial court intends to enter into a new contract, or renew or extend an existing contract, for any services that are

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currently or customarily performed by trial court employees, or that were performed or customarily performed by trial court employees at the time the contract was originally entered into or previously renewed or extended. Among other things, the bill would require the trial court to clearly demonstrate that the contract will result in actual overall cost savings to the trial court for the duration of the entire contract as compared with the trial court's actual costs of providing the same services. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 648 (Jones-Sawyer D) Court Reporters

Current Text: Amended: 4/29/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amended: 4/29/2013

Status: 4/30/2013-Read second time.

Ordered to third reading.

Location: 4/30/2013-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 5/2/2013 #60 ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law requires the charge of an official court reporter fee, in addition to any other fee required in civil actions or cases. For each proceeding lasting more than one hour, a fee equal to the actual cost of providing that service is required to be charged per 1/2 day of services to the parties, on a pro rata basis. For each proceeding lasting less than one hour, a fee of \$30 is required to be charged for the reasonable cost of the services of an official court reporter. 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 require, for each proceeding lasting one hour or less, the \$30 fee to be charged only to the party, or parties if filing jointly, that filed the paper that resulted in the proceeding being scheduled. The bill would require the fee to be charged once per case for all proceedings conducted within the same hour if the total time taken by those proceedings is one hour or less. The bill would provide for the deposit of the fees collected into the Trial Court Trust Fund and would provide for the distribution of those fees back to the courts in which the fees were collected. The bill would waive the fees for a person who has been granted a fee waiver.

AB 655 (Quirk-Silva D) Court Reporters:

Salary Fund

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 4/9/2013-From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (April 9). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 4/9/2013-A. APPR.

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 679 (Fox D) Fees: Official Court Reporters

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 3/4/2013-Referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 3/4/2013-A. JUD.

Summary: Existing law requires an official court reporter fee of \$30 to be charged for each proceeding lasting less than one hour. Existing law requires the charge of an official court reporter fee, in addition to any other fee required in civil actions or cases, for each proceeding lasting more than one hour, in an amount equal to the actual cost of providing that service per 1/2 day of services to the parties, on a pro rata basis, for the services of an official court reporter on the first and each succeeding judicial day those services are provided, as specified. Existing law further requires the Judicial Council to adopt specified rules to, among other things, ensure the availability of an official court reporter, or in the absence of an official court

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reporter, authorize a party to arrange for the presence of a certified shorthand reporter, as specified. This bill would further require the Judicial Council to adopt rules to ensure that a party arranging for a certified shorthand reporter notifies the other parties of that fact, and that attempts to share costs for the certified shorthand reporter are made to provide better access to justice for all parties involved in the proceeding.

AB 772 (Jones R) Consumer Affairs: **Intervention in State Agency or Court Proceedings**

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 2/22/2013-From printer.

May be heard in committee March 24.

Location: 2/21/2013-A. PRINT

Summary: Under existing law, when the Director of Consumer Affairs finds that a matter or proceeding before a state agency or a state or federal court may substantially affect the interests of consumers within California, he or she or the Attorney General may intervene in that matter or proceeding and present the evidence and argument that he or she determines to be necessary to protect the interests of consumers. This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to that provision.

AB 788 (Wagner R) Court Transcripts

Current Text: Amended: 4/23/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Last Amended: 4/23/2013

Status: 4/24/2013-Read second time.

Ordered to third reading.

Location: 4/24/2013-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 5/2/2013 #45 ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

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 866 (Linder R) Regulations

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 3/4/2013-Referred to Com. on A. & A.R.

Location: 3/4/2013-A. A. & A.R.

Summary: The Administrative Procedure Act generally sets forth the requirements for the adoption, publication, review, and implementation of regulations by state agencies, and for review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law. The act requires an agency, prior to submitting a proposal to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative regulation, to determine the economic impact of the regulation by preparing an economic impact analysis. The act defines a major regulation as a regulation that the agency determines has an expected economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals in an amount exceeding \$50,000,000. Existing law requires an agency proposing to adopt, amend, or repeal a major regulation to also prepare a standardized regulatory impact analysis. This bill would instead

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define a major regulation as a regulation that the agency determines has an expected economic impact on California business enterprises and individuals in an amount exceeding \$15,000,000. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

AB 894 (Mansoor R) Consumer Affairs

Current Text: Introduced: 2/22/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Status: 2/25/2013-Read first time.

Location: 2/22/2013-A. PRINT

Summary: Under existing law, the Department of Consumer Affairs is comprised of boards that license and regulate various professions and vocations. Existing law provides that these boards are established to ensure that private businesses and professions are regulated to protect the people of this state. Under existing law, the department is under the control of the Director of Consumer Affairs. The term "director" is defined for the purposes of these provisions. This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to that provision.

AB 1008 (Torres D) Civil Procedure: Judges

Current Text: Amended: 4/23/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 4/23/2013

Status: 5/1/2013-Read second time.

Ordered to third reading.

Location: 5/1/2013-A. THIRD READING

Calendar: 5/2/2013 #67 ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING FILE

Summary: Existing law requires the clerk of the superior court to attend each session of the superior court in the county and upon the judges of the court in chambers when required. Existing law authorizes a judge to perform any act required or permitted to be performed by a clerk of the court. This bill would provide that the above-described requirements of a court clerk are required notwithstanding the latter provision.

AB 1017 (Gomez D) Incoming Telephone Calls: Messages

Current Text: Introduced: 2/22/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Status: 3/7/2013-Referred to Com. on B.,P. & C.P.

Location: 3/7/2013-A. B.,P. & C.P.

Summary: Existing law requires each state agency to establish a procedure pursuant to which incoming telephone calls on any public line are answered within 10 rings during regular business hours, except as specified. For purposes of this provision, "state agency" includes every state office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, and commission. This bill would require, in addition, that the procedure established by the state agency enable a caller to leave a message, as specified, and that the message be returned within 3 business days, or 72 hours, whichever is earlier.

AB 1127 (Chau D) Courts:

California Language Access Task Force

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 3/21/2013

Status: 5/1/2013-From committee:

Do pass as amended and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 2.) (April 30).

Location: 5/1/2013-A. SECOND READING

Calendar: 5/2/2013 #18 ASSEMBLY

ASSEMBLY SECOND READING FILE

Summary: Existing law requires, when a witness is incapable of understanding the English language or expressing himself or herself in the English language so as to be understood directly by counsel, court, and jury, an interpreter to be sworn to interpret for him or her. Existing law requires the Judicial Council to conduct a study of language and interpreter use and need in court proceedings, with commentary, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature every 5 years. Existing law requires that this study serve as the basis for determining the need to establish interpreter programs and certification and for establishing these programs and examinations

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through the normal budgetary process. This bill would, on or before March 1, 2014, require the Judicial Council to establish the California Language Access Task Force, which would be responsible for developing a comprehensive statewide Language Access Plan (LAP) for use by courts to address the needs of limited-English-proficient individuals. The bill would require the task force to, among other things, establish standards for meaningful and timely access to language services in all court proceedings and at all public points of contact within the courts, and to establish a statewide plan to provide for the translation of court documents using competent and qualified interpreters. The bill would also make related legislative findings and declarations.

AB 1313 (Donnelly R) Judgeships: Allocation

Current Text: Amended: 4/29/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 4/29/2013

Status: 4/30/2013-Re-referred to Com. on JUD.

Location: 4/30/2013-A. JUD.

Calendar: 5/7/2013 8 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 4202 ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, WIECKOWSKI, Chair

Summary: Existing law specifies the number of judges of the superior court for each county, and allocates additional judgeships to the various counties in accordance with uniform standards for factually determining additional need in each county, as approved by the Judicial Council, and other specified criteria. Existing law requires the Judicial Council to report biennially to the Legislature and the Governor on the factually determined need for new judgeships in each superior court, using that uniform criteria. This bill would require the Judicial Council, upon the availability of funding, to allocate 12 additional judges each fiscal year to those counties in which the current judicial position allocations are disproportionate to the Judicial Council's recommendation of assessed judicial need. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

AB 1352 (Levine D) Courts:

Destruction of Court Records

Current Text: Amended: 4/1/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Last Amended: 4/1/2013

Status: 4/23/2013-From committee:

Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (April 23). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 4/23/2013-A. APPR.

Summary: Existing law authorizes the court clerk to destroy court records, as defined, after notice of destruction, if there is no request and order for transfer of the records, upon the expiration of specified time periods after final disposition of the case. This bill would revise and reorganize these provisions to, among other things, generally reduce the retention periods for court records, and would establish new retention periods for additional types of records, including proceedings for the revocation of postrelease community supervision. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 123 (Corbett D) Environmental and Land Use Court

Current Text: Amended: 4/23/2013

Introduced: 1/18/2013

Last Amended: 4/23/2013

Status: 4/23/2013-Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

Location: 4/23/2013-S. APPR.

Summary: Existing law establishes a statewide system of courts with a superior court of one or more judges in each county. Existing law requires the presiding judge of each superior court to distribute the business of the court among the judges, and to prescribe the order of business, subject to the rules of the Judicial Council. This bill would, commencing July 1, 2014, require the Judicial Council to direct the creation of an environmental and land use division within 2 or more superior courts within each of the appellate districts of the state to process civil proceedings brought pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act or in specified subject

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CCRA Legislative Update

(continued from Page 25)

areas, including air quality, biological resources, climate change, hazards and hazardous materials, land use planning, and water quality. The bill would require the Judicial Council, by rule of court, to identify statutes in those specified areas that would be within the jurisdiction of the environmental and land use court division. The bill would require the Judicial Council, by rule of court, to establish appropriate standards and protocols for the environmental and land use court division to accomplish the objectives of consistency, expediency, and expertise, including educational requirements and other qualifications for specialized judges assigned to the division.

SB 176 (Galgiani D) Administrative Procedures

Current Text: Amended: 4/24/2013

Introduced: 2/6/2013

Last Amended: 4/24/2013

Status: 4/29/2013-Placed on APPR. suspense file.

Location: 4/29/2013-S. APPR. SUSPENSE FILE

Summary: Existing law governs the procedure for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of regulations by state agencies and for the review of those regulatory actions by the Office of Administrative Law, including procedures relating to increased public participation in the adoption, amendment, and repeal of these regulations. This bill would, in order to increase public participation and improve the quality of regulations, require state agencies, boards, and commissions to submit a notice prior to any meeting date or report, provided the meeting or report is seeking public input, as described. The bill would additionally require state agencies, boards, and commissions to submit specified notices to the Office of Administrative Law, for publication in the California Regulatory Notice Register.

SB 315 (Lieu D) Civil Actions:

Telephonic Appearances

Current Text: Amended: 4/30/2013

Introduced: 2/15/2013

Last Amended: 4/30/2013

Status: 4/30/2013-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Rereferred to Com. on RLS.

Location: 4/30/2013-S. RLS.

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.

For information concerning this report or the information contained herein, you may contact California Court Reporters Association, Attn. Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CSR #3032, at 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, California 92656 (949) 715-4682 or by e-mail at RealtimeCSR@calweb.com.





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Court Reporters Board: Examination Statistics — November 1, 2012 - February 28, 2013

English

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	3	1	33.3%	0	0	n/a
Bryan - Los Angeles	2	1	50.0%	0	0	n/a
Bryan - Sacramento	3	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Cerritos	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	2	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Cypress	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Downey	6	2	33.3%	2	1	50.0%
Golden State	5	3	60.0%	3	2	66.7%
Humphreys	3	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Sage - Moreno Valley	8	3	37.5%	1	1	100.0%
Sage - San Diego	2	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Sierra Valley	16	3	18.8%	1	0	0.0%
South Coast	10	10	100.0%	8	8	100.0%
Taft	3	2	66.7%	1	1	100.0%
Tri-Community	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	66	25	37.9%	16	13	81.3%
Five Plus	4	1	25.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	2	2	100.0%	0	0	n/a
SHR	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Work	2	2	100.0%	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	74	30	40.5%	16	13	81.3%

Professional Practice

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Bryan - Los Angeles	0	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Bryan - Sacramento	2	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Cerritos	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Cypress	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Downey	3	1	33.3%	2	1	50.0%
Golden State	3	1	33.3%	2	1	50.0%
Humphreys	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Sage - Moreno Valley	2	1	50.0%	0	0	n/a
Sage - San Diego	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
Sierra Valley	4	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
South Coast	9	9	100.0%	8	8	100.0%
Taft	2	1	50.0%	1	0	0.0%
Tri-Community	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
West Valley	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	29	16	55.2%	13	10	76.9%
Five Plus	2	1	50.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	1	1	100.0%	0	0	n/a
SHR	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Work	2	1	50.0%	0	0	n/a
TOTAL	34	19	55.9%	13	10	76.9%





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TEAM WORK

1
Brooke
Henrickson



2
Carlos
Martinez



3
Jim Partridge
and Robin Casey



Vocabulary Test No. 16

By Debby Steinman

These words came from the Commentary section of the paper, novels and court proceedings. If you have an interesting word or words you'd like to contribute, please send them to me at dsteinmancsr@cox.net.

1. **putative - adj.**
 - a. within the realm of possibility
 - b. commonly accepted or supposed
 - c. hot-tempered and irascible
2. **vapid - adj.**
 - a. flat, dull
 - b. expressive
 - c. baffling
3. **imbue - verb**
 - a. to permeate or influence
 - b. to absorb or assimilate moisture
 - c. to decorate or embellish
4. **hyperbole - noun**
 - a. supposition
 - b. false impression
 - c. exaggeration
5. **audacity - noun**
 - a. boldness
 - b. humility
 - c. persuasiveness
6. **prevaricate - verb**
 - a. lie
 - b. overcome
 - c. prolong
7. **timorous - adj.**
 - a. flawless
 - b. vicious
 - c. fearful
8. **supercilious - adj.**
 - a. despicable
 - b. precarious
 - c. haughty
9. **rube - noun**
 - a. unsophisticated person
 - b. conceited person
 - c. erudite person
10. **edify - verb**
 - a. enlighten
 - b. empower
 - c. revise

Vocabulary Test Answers:

1. **putative (adj.): B.** commonly accepted or supposed
2. **vapid (adj.): A.** flat, dull
3. **imbue (verb): A.** to permeate or influence
4. **hyperbole (noun): C.** exaggeration, i.e., mile-high ice-cream cones
5. **audacity (noun): A.** boldness
6. **prevaricate (verb): A.** lie
7. **timorous (adj.): C.** fearful
8. **supercilious (adj.): C.** haughty
9. **rube (noun): A.** unsophisticated person
10. **edify (verb) A.** enlighten

