



## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT** **MEET SUSAN SWAN!**



*Susan H. Swan, RPR, CRR, CCRR, CSR No. 7338, is a freelance court reporter. Susan enjoys complex litigation, intellectual property and business cases, and provides realtime to iPads via CaseViewNet.*

*Susan is available to cover assignments in San Diego County.*

[View Susan's DRA profile and contact info here!](#)

**Name:** Susan H. Swan, RPR, CRR, CCRR, CSR No. 7338

**Job/Title/Field of Expertise:** Freelance reporter.

**How long have you been reporting?** Since 1986 – my entire adult working life.

**What is your favorite thing about your career?** Flexibility, varied locations, and meeting new people all the time - including court reporters.

**What sparked your interest in choosing court reporting as a profession?** My mother suggested it randomly. The first day of school, I put my hands on that keyboard and knew it was for me. I was hooked!

**Any advice for student reporters?** Yes. It's a fabulous career that can take you in so many directions. Work hard and stay the course. Get a mentor even while you're in school. The seasoned reporters are happy to help you along. Courts reporters are nice people! And when you start working, find an experienced proofreader. Then later you can decide on scopist or proofreader.

**The most challenging thing about your career?** For me, change is sometimes hard. So I have to force myself to continually learn more about my software.

**What do you feel is the most valuable service you provide and why?** Well, I am a huge stickler about my transcripts being accurate and timely. I've had the same proofreader for over 20 years and nothing goes out, even if it's ten pages, without being proofed. I try really hard to keep a positive attitude. And even though I've been at it over 30 years, I'll still take the 5:00 doctor jobs. Also, I have mentored four reporters. It is so rewarding when you see them spread their wings and start reporting.

**Biggest witness pet peeve?** When witnesses cut the attorney's questions off continuously. It just makes the day long and miserable. And then, of course, those are the witnesses that speak rapid fire fast and go on for pages.

**Funniest thing you have heard during a deposition or in the courtroom?** We hear funny things all the time, but mine was on a loss of consortium lawsuit. For starters, as I was swearing in the husband, he looked me up and down and said "Yeah, babe." Then he was very vocal about how things weren't going too well in the bedroom anymore. He finally said one more outrageous statement and the attorney looked right at me. He lost it, which caused me to lose it. Then everyone in the room was laughing. Sorry, I can't repeat the comment here.

**What is your passion outside of reporting?** Travel, fitness, friendships, cooking, and my family.

**Favorite thing about your DRA membership?** So many things. I love all the resources. I don't feel like a lone freelancer. DRA puts on the best conventions. I am in awe of the DRA board and its volunteers who put in so much time and effort on behalf of the members.

**Anything else you would like to share?** Well...I met my husband at a depo. Coming up on 22 years of marriage!