

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

February 2013

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sue Campana, *CSR, RPR*

As I sit here writing what will be my final president's newsletter article, I can't help but feel a slight sadness overcome me. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as president on your behalf for the past year. Knowing that time is quickly coming to a close is certainly bittersweet.

I remember when I was first asked to become DRA's secretary. I thought, "Wow! Okay. I'll do it," and I jumped right in without realizing the effects that one decision would have on my life. My DRA journey has been filled with laughter and tears, but above all, it has been filled with pride to have been elected to serve you – the members of DRA.

Having moved from the position of secretary to district director to vice president and then to president has allowed me to gain an abundance of knowledge and to make lifelong friendships. I often think to myself, "Where would I be without DRA?" Have you ever asked yourself the same question? Or, more importantly, how about asking, "Where would the court reporting profession

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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

HON. RON KIND OF
WISCONSINI IN THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2013

MR. KIND: Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the hard work of court reporters and broadcast captioners nationwide, as well as the recognition of the National Court Reporting and Captioning Week from February 17-23, 2013.

Court reporters and broadcast captioners have the unique skill of translating the spoken word into text to record history, preserve judicial proceedings, assist individuals who

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT



Susan Campana,
CSR 9573, RPR
president@caldra.org

VICE PRESIDENT



Vicki Saber,
CSR 6212, RPR, CRR,
CCRR, CLR
vicepresident@caldra.org

SECRETARY



Cheryl Haab,
CSR 13600, RPR, CLR
secretarytreasurer@caldra.org

DISTRICT 1



Lorrie Marchant,
CSR 10523, RPR, CRR,
CCRR, CLR
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Counties Represented:
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin,
Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and
Sonoma

DISTRICT 2



Robin Riviello,
CSR 11694, RPR
district2@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Monterey,
San Benito, San Francisco, San
Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz

DISTRICT 3



Diana Sasseen, CSR 13456
district3@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Alpine,
Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa,
Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn,
Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc,
Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento,
San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou,
Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity,
Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba

DISTRICT 4



Rich Alossi,
CSR 13497, RPR, CCRR, CLR
district4@caldra.org
County Represented:
Los Angeles

DISTRICT 5



Kristi Johnson,
CSR 12585, CLR, CCRR
district5@caldra.org
County Represented:
Orange

DISTRICT 6



Linda Nelson,
CSR 11795, CLR
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Counties Represented:
San Bernardino and Riverside

DISTRICT 7



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Counties Represented:
San Diego and Imperial

DISTRICT 8



Monyeen Black,
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Counties Represented: Fresno,
Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera,
Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San
Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara,
Tulare and Ventura. (*All
Professional Members residing
in counties or states other than
California or the USA.*)

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www.caldranews.org/

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DRA_Tweets



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- continued from page 1

as a whole be today without DRA?" Luckily we don't have to worry about a world without DRA because your association – YOUR DRA – is in good hands.

At this year's convention in Newport Beach, we will be installing a new president, Vicki Saber; a new vice president, Monyeen Black; and a new secretary, Kimberly Durso. Our current secretary, Cheryl Haab, will be taking over as the director for District 8. Continuing on as directors are Lorrie Marchant, District 1; Robin Riviello, District 2; Diana Sasseen, District 3; Rich Alossi, District 4; Kristi Johnson, District 5; Linda Nelson, District 6; and Vanessa Caparas, District 7.

During my speech at last year's convention, I quoted Margaret Mead when she said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Your new board represents an amazing group of talented, dedicated individuals who are ready, willing, and able to help change the court reporting world.

I hope you were able to take advantage of at least one of the many educational seminars DRA presented this past year. Our RealtimeARMY/Mark Kislingbury seminars were designed to help our members be more prepared and feel more confident while providing realtime, and the Covering the Courts seminars were held to educate reporters and agency owners alike who are now faced with the prospect of covering court assignments.

February will once again bring another educational opportunity

when DRA's 17th annual convention is held in Newport Beach. If you have never attended a DRA convention, I encourage you to do so. In addition to attending the great lineup of individual seminars, the networking and mingling with fellow court reporters is always one of the highlights of my year. This year's convention committee has put together a terrific program for you. And who knows? Maybe you will be the lucky raffle prize winner and walk away with a new Infinity writer or

iPad. We hope you will come "Ride the Wave" with us in Newport Beach!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued commitment to our profession and, specifically, your continued support of your association. DRA is here to serve you, the court reporting professional, and it has truly been my pleasure to have done so on your behalf.



Board Member Spotlight:

RICH ALOSSI, District Representative, received this nice shout-out recently on Depoman.com. DRA feels the same way about Rich!

"You are one of my heroes. You are everything a student, new reporter, and even a longtime reporter should be, and you are an inspiration when it's really easy to become uninspired in this business. Kudos to you."



SMILES 4 DRA

The DRA board has in the past and continues to be a great group of true professionals.

Janice Scott

I am pleased and proud to be a member of DRA, actively working for ME!

Mary Ann Payonk

Just joined! Although I'm in Texas, I'm very appreciative of the efforts by DRA. I may not get to attend the conventions in California, but I'm glad to know you're working hard for me and my profession!

Delicia Struss

As a school owner, I am so grateful for the involvement DRA has with reporting students. The information available for students is invaluable and greatly appreciated by our student body and staff. Keep up the wonderful work!

Sandy Finch

AskDRA

Dear Depo Diplomat:

I've got a code clarification that came up with one of my clients re rough drafts.

I make it a policy, as my reporters do, when a rough draft is ordered at a deposition, of telling all present that a rough has been ordered and asking if anyone else would like to purchase a rough draft. We do not sell rough drafts to a party unless they also purchase a certified copy of the final transcript.

However, if a rough draft order comes in several days after a deposition is completed, I do not make it a practice to contact the other parties, asking if they would like a rough draft as well.

The Code refers to transcripts or partial transcripts, but I don't read that as pertaining to rough drafts. Just for future reference, should we be contacting all present at a depo about a rough if a rough is ordered a day or several days after the deposition proceeding?

Thanks for your input.

Dear Reporter:

You're quite right that the section you refer to – 2025.510(d) of the Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP"), which covers the issue of providing a rush or partial transcript and the requirement to notify all parties of such a request – doesn't exactly cover the provision of a rough draft, although it could very loosely be considered to include a rough version. Here's that section for further review:

2025.510. (d) If the deposition officer receives a request from a party for an original or a copy of the deposition transcript, or any portion thereof, and the full or partial transcript will be available to that party prior to the time the original or copy would be available to any other party, the deposition officer shall immediately notify all other parties attending the deposition of the request, and shall, upon request by any party other than the party making the original request, make that copy of the full or partial deposition transcript available to all parties at the same time.

But what does apply to roughs, and to all other services that we may be asked to provide, is Section 2025.320(b), which basically says that all services or products offered or provided by the depo officer to one party must be equally offered/provided to all parties. So this language covers just about anything we could do for attorneys, including something as unrelated to the transcript as a ride to the airport. That Code section reads as follows:

2025.320 (b) Services and products offered or provided by the deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or to any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action shall be offered to all parties or their attorneys attending the deposition. No service or product may be offered or provided by the deposition officer or by the entity providing the services of the deposition officer to any party or any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action unless the service or product is offered or provided to all parties or their attorneys

attending the deposition. All services and products offered or provided shall be made available at the same time to all parties or their attorneys.

I know that it's sometimes difficult to remember to do this when an order for some service comes in later, as this one did, but technically if one party calls and wants a rough – or just about anything else – it does become our responsibility to then contact the other parties and offer to them the same service that's just been requested, even though we may feel certain that the party will decline the offer. Probably emailing all other counsel is the easiest approach, and then you'll also have a paper trail, if necessary, to show that you've made the offer to all, though you may never get a response to your emails.

Antonia Pulone
DRA Depo Diplomat



TEXT IN THE CITY

“It’s Like Deja-Vu, All Over Again.”

I always like a good challenge. If you can make it through court reporting school and pass the CSR Examination, you can do anything. Training for a marathon (I’ve run four so far), is not much different than speed building on your machine. You train to run one mile, then two, then five. Before you know it, you’re running ten. And if you can run ten, you can run 15. And on and on.

With the recent announcement of the upcoming layoffs in the Los Angeles Superior Court, I find myself again facing another challenge: After 33 years as a court reporter, the last 13 in Superior Court, what lies ahead?

I came to court because I felt I had accomplished all of the goals I had set for myself as a freelancer. I needed to move to that next step. I needed that next challenge. I wanted to experience reporting a jury trial, sitting in the courtroom, front and center, with all of the excitement and drama that comes with a trial. I wanted to see how those deposition transcripts that I had worked so hard to prepare were utilized in court. I wanted to witness the process from the beginning of the case, with all of the discovery being taken, to the end, when the clerk reads the verdict form.

Having now reported well over 100 trials, I still get a little nervous when that jury panel first enters the courtroom for the voir dire process. Here we go again, I think to myself. But once the jury is impaneled and opening statements are given, you find your comfort zone and begin to sit back and start to relax, enjoy the show.

A VIEW FROM DRA’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jenifer McDonald,
DRA Executive Director

The support and engagement of members and vendors for the 2013 CRA Convention makes my head spin! What an amazing group of volunteers and vendors who are working tirelessly to ensure the 2013 DRA convention provides you with the most current information and networking opportunities. The event is nearing a sell-out so make sure you register for the convention that is set for February 22-24 at the beautiful Fairmont Newport Beach.

We are expecting a record crowd of attendees representing our professional members, firm owners, vendors, students and those interested in the profession at California’s premier convention that every year provides the most current information to help you – the Deposition Reporter.

Here at headquarters, we are impressed every day with the volume of calls and emails from members who look to DRA to be their go-to place for their professional needs. DRA is truly an engaged and socially active professional organization.

- Have you been keeping up with our e-notes that provide you with the most current information in issues that affect you?
- Do you subscribe to DRA News?
- Do you check out our Facebook postings?

DRA FIGHTS FOR YOU EVERY DAY so be part of it!

Engage – be active – don’t miss out!

memberservices@caldra.org

I once reported a trial in a tobacco case that took three weeks to pick a jury. All of the voir dire was handled in chambers, one prospective juror at a time. After five weeks of testimony, we ended up with a hung jury and had to try it all over again.

“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.” Another Yogi-ism. Some cases seem to never end. Even after the verdict is read, post-trial motions still have to be brought, rulings made, and then appeals filed. Some cases can be up on appeal for years before they are either finally adjudicated or remanded back to the trial court with direction from the Court of Appeal.

I was involved in one of the largest civil appeals in Los Angeles County. Over 12,000 pages of Reporters’ Transcripts on Appeal. 65 volumes. I was the lead reporter, having the responsibility to put it all together. Approximately 18 reporters had hearing transcripts that were included in the appeal. The case had been litigated for over five years, before three different judges, before it was brought to trial in my courtroom. The trial lasted three months, the jury deliberated for a month. Post-trial motions went on for another two years. That was back in 2009. The final arguments before the Second District are set for this summer. I’m planning on going down to watch.

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POP QUIZ

Vicki Saber, DRA Vice President

DRA asks Vicki:

What's your favorite word?

Bizarre.

What's your least favorite word?

No.

What is your favorite cuss word (in steno)?

SHEUT

What was your favorite food when you were a child?

Patty melts.

What was the first thing you bought with your own money?

A car.

If you weren't a court reporter, what would you be?

Pastry chef.

What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?

Sweetbreads. And love them.

What secret talent do you have that you're willing to share?

I have none; otherwise I would have pursued it.

Which celebrity do you get mistaken for?

Joan Rivers - not mistaken for; just reminded of.

What is your favorite movie and how many times have you watched it?

Mr. Mom - LOTS.

What's the most played song on your iPod?

None because I only have NPR's "This American Life," but it would be Boys of Summer.

What's your Starbucks order?

Skinny vanilla latte with 3 extra pumps, no foam.

What's your motto in life?

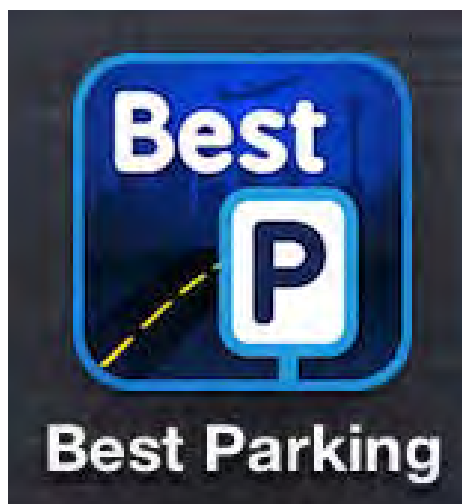
Work before play.



Vicki Saber, DRA Vice President

MY FAVORITE APP

Monyeen L. Black, CSR, CCRR, CLR



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DRA 2013 Scholarship Winner

Student Essay

My reporting career will definitely be my third act. I came to court reporting a little later in life. After graduating from college over ten years ago with a BA in human communications, it was my intention to go to law school. All I had to do was submit my final transcript to complete my application, and I was assured acceptance into Monterey College of Law. I had already been working in the legal profession for over a year and, as I really took time to consider the job at the end of the day, I realized it wasn't for me. I knew that being a successful lawyer was much more than just being proficient in the law; it was also a performance that you had to do in front of clients, judges, and juries. During this time, I was also very passionate about glass fusing and I decided to take a year and "play" with glass. One year ended up turning into five years culminating in my own gallery on Monterey's Cannery Row and eventually Carmel. It was a wonderful and exhilarating experience, and I really enjoyed being a small business owner at 22 years old. Forgoing law school was one of the best decisions of my life.

After five years, I closed my shop and began a family. I found that I really didn't miss running a business, but being a stay-at-home mom was not going to be enough for me. I needed to do and be more. I decided to head back to school so that I would have a career to look forward to when my kids were older. Even though I was still drawn to the law, I knew that I did not want to be a lawyer, and unfortunately was not interested in anything my BA qualified

me to do. The only thing I was certain of was that I wanted a career that was challenging, paid well, and was flexible. I started doing research and found court reporting which seemed like the best of both worlds. I could be involved in the legal field without having to be a lawyer. Even better, I love words and have been a voracious reader for decades so this seemed like a perfect fit. With my family's support, I contacted a local court reporting firm to inquire about future job prospects and came to the conclusion that I should go for it.

I signed up for what I thought was a two-year program at an online school in California. A year into my education, I took a planned leave to have my second and last child. A year after returning from my leave, I transferred to College of Court Reporting. Switching schools lengthened my journey a bit, but the support and tools made available to me at CCR have proven to be exactly what I needed. I overcame my first speed plateau and went from just shy of passing a 140 to exit speeds in a year and a half.

I know that I will be a great court reporter. I'm currently growing my scoping and proofing business which has shown me that I thoroughly enjoy this type of work and can't wait until it is my own. Over the last year, I have also attended several conventions, one software training event, and sat for the RPR three times. I would like to be considered for the DRA scholarship so I can finish up my schooling and continue to go to



these critical conventions, trainings, and certifications. I found these professional events, combined with the networking and learning opportunities, to be invaluable. I have just taken the RPR once again, and I believe that I only have the 225 testimony left to conquer. Once I complete the RPR certification, I will be able to sit for the CA CSR. My ultimate goal is to be a part of the RealtimeARMY and attain my realtime certification as quickly as possible. I will continue pursuing reporting certifications beyond the RPR and CSR levels. I aspire to be the very best court reporter that I can be and to always reach back and give back to other students as they come up. I know that I would not have made it this far in my court reporting journey had it not been for the help and advice of my amazing mentor and other court reporters I have met along the way.

By: Aimee Edwards-Altadonna

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LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD!
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THE PRESS
THE LEGISLATURE



The DRA War Chest is the designated fund that allows your DRA to meet the unexpected challenges that every year require quick action. In 2011-12 War Chest funds were used to pay for DRA's seat at counsel table in the US Legal trial, DRA's lightning fast response to the Board of Equalization's effort to tax transcripts, DRA's presence at the State Bar convention, and much more. It even funded the famous "Terminator" video, made in response to former Governor Schwarzenegger's endorsement of E.R.

WHERE ARE THE WARRIORS?

Robyn Chalk
Shawn Johnston
Diane Jones-Longaker
Kathleen Meheen
Sheryl Hilton Meyer
Todd Olivas
Dennis Peyton
Cindy Sebo
Dennis Souza
Janette Vine
Angela Weston
Candace Yount



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Thank you for your contributions!



DEPOSITION REPORTERS ASSOCIATION'S



17th Annual Convention

FEBRUARY 22-24, 2013

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**1.55
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DAYS OF
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The Fairmont Newport Beach combines European traditions with California flair in one of Southern California's most beautiful cities – famous worldwide for its picturesque beaches, endless recreational activities, award-winning dining, and world-class shopping.



2013 Annual DRA Convention

<i>Professional Track & CEUs</i>	ROOM	START	END
Friday			
Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Business Meeting	Sequoia 3+4	8:00 am	12:30 pm
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	1:00 pm	7:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	1:00 pm	4:00 pm
I'll See You in Court: A Day in the Life of an Official Pro Tem 0.15	Bamboo Pavilion	1:30 pm	3:00 pm
CAT Training: CaseCATalyst 0.30	Bay Laurel South	3:00 pm	6:00 pm
CAT Training: Eclipse 0.30	Sequoia 3+4	3:00 pm	6:00 pm
CAT Training: ProCAT 0.30	Gold Lounge	3:00 pm	6:00 pm
CAT Training: DigitalCAT 0.30	Cypress	3:00 pm	6:00 pm
CAT Training: StenoCAT 0.30	Elm	3:00 pm	6:00 pm
Putting Your Best Foot Forward 0.15	Bamboo Pavilion	3:00 pm	4:30 pm
Opening Cocktail Reception	Bamboo Pavilion	7:00 pm	10:00 pm
Saturday			
Early Risers: DRA Fun Run	Valet Station	6:30 am	7:30 am
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	7:30 am	5:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	5:00 pm
Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	9:00 am
Keynote: Embracing Change 0.10	Bay Laurel South	9:00 am	10:00 am
Break in the Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	10:00 am	10:30 am
Breakout Session 1: LiveDeposition and eDepoze 0.15	Sequoia 3+4	10:30 am	12:00 pm
Breakout Session 2: RealtimeARMY: Basic Training 0.15	Bay Laurel South	10:30 am	12:00 pm
Installation Luncheon	Bamboo Pavilion	12:00 pm	1:30 pm
Busy Schedules: Get Your Professional Life in Order 0.15	Bay Laurel South	1:30 pm	3:00 pm
Break in the Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	3:00 pm	3:30 pm
Windows 8 Is Here: Top Reasons to Upgrade (or Not) 0.15	Bay Laurel South	3:30 pm	5:00 pm
Ready for Realtime? Preparing for the CCRR Exam 0.10	Sequoia 3+4	5:00 pm	6:00 pm
Sunday			
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	8:00 am	3:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	1:30 pm
Breakfast in Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	9:00 am
DRA Fights for You: Legislative Update 0.15	Bay Laurel South	9:00 am	10:30 am
Break in Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	10:30 am	11:00 am
Top Tips for Making the Most of the iPad 0.15	Bay Laurel South	11:00 am	12:30 pm
CCRR Exam (Separate registration required)	Sequoia 1-4	12:30 pm	1:30 pm
Lunch on your own		12:30 pm	1:30 pm
AskDRA with Antonia Pulone 0.15	Bay Laurel South	1:30 pm	3:00 pm

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



<i>Firm Owners Track & CEUs</i>	ROOM	START	END
Friday			
Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Business Meeting	Sequoia 3+4	9:00 am	12:30 pm
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	1:00 pm	7:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	1:00 pm	4:00 pm
Going Green with Paperless Transcripts & Digital Signatures 0.15	Sequoia 1+2	1:30 pm	3:00 pm
Office Check-in and Break in Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	3:00 pm	3:30 pm
I'll See You in Court: Covering the Courts for Your Clients 0.20	Sequoia 1+2	3:30 pm	5:30pm
Opening Cocktail Reception	Bamboo Pavilion	7:00 pm	10:00 pm
Saturday			
Early Risers: DRA Fun Run	Valet Station	6:30 am	7:30 am
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	7:30 am	5:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	5:00 pm
Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	9:00 am
Keynote: Embracing Change 0.10	Bay Laurel South	9:00 am	10:00 am
Billing and Collection Techniques II 0.15	Sequoia 1+2	10:00 am	11:30 am
Executive Break with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall	11:30 am	12:00 pm
Installation Luncheon	Bamboo Pavilion	12:00 pm	1:30 pm
Client-Friendly Technology - Remote Depositions in a Wireless Era 0.15	Sequoia 1+2	1:30 pm	3:00 pm
Modern Marketing 0.15	Sequoia 1+2	3:00 pm	4:30 pm
Executive Break with Exhibitors	Exhibit Hall	4:30 pm	5:00 pm
Building an Effective Team for Your Office 0.10	Sequoia 1+2	5:00 pm	6:00 pm
Champagne Reception for Firm Owners	Gold Lounge	6:30 pm	8:00 pm
Sunday			
Registration Desk Open	Bay Laurel Foyer	8:00 am	3:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Open	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	1:30 pm
Breakfast in Exhibit Hall	Exhibit Hall	8:00 am	9:00 am
DRA Fights for You: Legislative Update 0.15	Bay Laurel South	9:00 am	10:30 am
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Top Tips for Making the Most of the iPad 0.15	Bay Laurel South	11:00 am	12:30 pm
CCRR Exam (Separate registration required)	Sequoia 1-4	12:30 pm	1:30 pm
Lunch on your own		12:30 pm	1:30 pm
AskDRA with Antonia Pulone 0.15	Bay Laurel South	1:30 pm	3:00 pm

EVENT SPONSORS



Thank you to our generous sponsors!

DRA is grateful for the support of its sponsors. Their generosity allows us to keep your registration fees low so more members can participate in the convention.

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EVENT NETWORKING 101

If you want to succeed, you must be willing to interact with people who can help you – and vice versa. These guidelines will help you put your best networking foot forward and inspire others to interact with you – or on your behalf.



- Show up. Those with outgoing personalities relish opportunities to network with people great and small. However, the fact that you may be shy is no reason to stay away from such opportunities. The only way to overcome a fear is to just do it.
- Name tags are to be worn on the right so that when you shake a person's right hand, your eyes naturally stay focused on his or her right side or vice versa.
- Introduce yourself and include helpful information that will allow the person to ask you follow-up questions.
- When you are introduced to someone, say the person's name and use the name a couple times in the conversation to reinforce it in your memory.
- Remember to start off with "small talk." Don't bore your acquaintance with long, detailed stories and avoid controversial topics such as politics, religion, race, sexual orientation and so forth.
- Give the person you're talking to your full attention. Don't let your eyes wander around the room as if looking for a more interesting individual.
- Don't offer your business card until asked. Make sure your cards are crisp and clean.
- Always keep breath mints handy.
- Hold your glass in your left hand and keep your right hand dry for handshaking.
- Try to bring your conversations to a close before moving on. Offer a handshake and a parting remark, "It was great talking to you."

Try setting a goal of talking to five or more unfamiliar people during the course of the event. Most of all, smile and enjoy yourself!

What's New At The Court Reporters Board of California?

December CSR Dictation Exam Stats

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TEXT IN THE CITY

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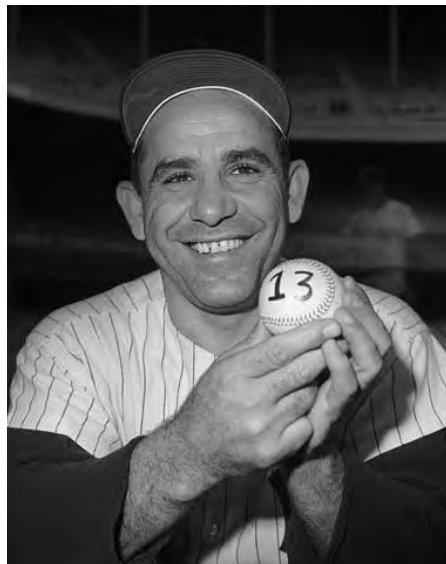
Motion practice, as they call it, can be just as nerve-racking and exciting as a trial. Very impassioned, persuasive arguments, pro and con, are made by very able counsel. Sometimes, depending on the motion, full-blown PowerPoint presentations and exhibits are presented. Heck, you can have a class certification motion take one or more days to argue.

If you ever have the experience of reporting in the Complex Courts (CCW), where I've been assigned for most of my tenure here, you can hear some of the biggest cases in California argued and adjudicated. This courthouse is not for the faint of heart. It's not uncommon to have 20 or 30 lawyers fill the courtroom, with eight to ten counsel immediately facing you in the back-to-back counsel tables, the jury box filled with attorneys, and standing room only with the local and sometimes international press sitting in the audience. The appearance pages alone can sometimes reach ten or more pages.

One of my first days floating in Complex, as I was beginning to set up my machine the clerk told me not to set up, that we were going to go upstairs to the judges' lounge to hold the hearing. When I asked her why, she explained that the courtroom wasn't large enough. Okay, I'm thinking, what have I gotten myself into? It was the initial status conference for the Firestone-Ford Explorer Rollover cases. 85 attorneys made an appearance that day, sitting in groups of six in round tables.

But as I prepare now to step down from my employment here in Superior Court

and re-enter the field as a freelancer, I think to myself: How did I ever make it through those days? How many daily transcript trials have I reported? How many appeals have I prepared? Where did I find the strength and stamina to sit through a six-hour trial day, knowing that I still had to get the transcript out by morning and then back again tomorrow and again the next day? Such is the life of a Superior Court Reporter.



Yogi Berra - Baseball Player/Manager/Philosopher

It's the same way we get through everything in life: We train and work hard, we gain experience along the way, and we put all of that to practice. And you have to love what you're doing.

You know, I really am going to miss this job. Most of all I'm going to miss the courtroom staff and personnel that have become my family and friends after so long. I'm going to miss coming to work early, turning on the coffee maker, waiting for staff to arrive, getting one last transcript finished and printed before the judge takes the bench, and then starting all over again when that secretary calls asking for an expedited transcript from this morning. It's all in a day's work.

"When you come to the fork in the road, take it."

I finally understand what Yogi meant. I know now what I'm going to do once my tenure ends here. I'm going to remain a Superior Court Reporter. Yes, I love this job. I'm not going to let a little budget issue spoil my life. I'm going to continue what I started. I'm going to get my twenty years in one way or another.

Yes, it is like deja-vu all over again. Only this time I'll be on the outside looking in. As I walk down the corridors of the courthouse, passing the courtrooms where I have previously plied my trade, greeting counsel that I have come to know from previous matters, judges I've reported for over the years, thinking back to those early fears and anxieties that we all have in this profession, but always looking forward to another challenge in life, Yogi's words will again resonate in my mind: "It ain't over 'til it's over."

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COURT REPORTING & CAPTIONING WEEK

- continued from page 1

are deaf and hard-of-hearing with access to audio communications, and even capture the work of Congress in committees and on the floor of the House and Senate. They are truly the guardians of the record.

The profession of court reporting is thousands of years old; its roots can be traced back to 63 B.C., when Marcus Tullius Tiro created shorthand reporting to service the Roman philosopher, lawyer, and orator Cicero.

Since the dawn of civilization, the desire to capture the spoken word and record our history has been the responsibility of the scribe, known today as the court reporter.

The scribe has been an essential part of history from times in Ancient Egypt, to the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation and the recording of our entire American history.

Since the advent of shorthand machines, these scribes are now known as court reporters and have played a prominent and invaluable role in courtrooms, state legislatures,

and in Congress preserving Members' words and actions.

Court reporters and captioners are also responsible for the closed captioning seen scrolling across television screens, at sporting stadiums and in other community and educational settings, bringing information to almost 40 million deaf and hard-of-hearing Americans every day.

Congress has continuously worked with the National Court Reporters Association to make increasing this access a reality and to ensure that every American has access to the spoken word.

Whether called the scribes of yesterday or the court reporters and captioners of today, the individuals who preserve our Nation's history are truly the guardians of our national record. They have a tough profession but continue to excel through their dedication and expertise.

With that, it is my honor to acknowledge February 17–23 as National Court Reporting and Captioning Week across the country.

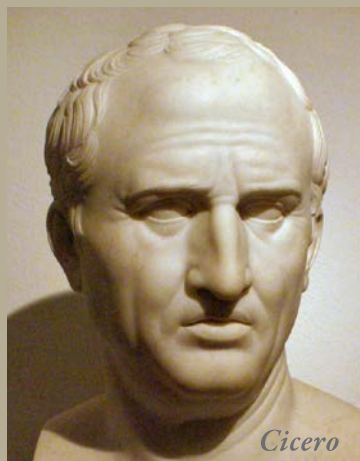


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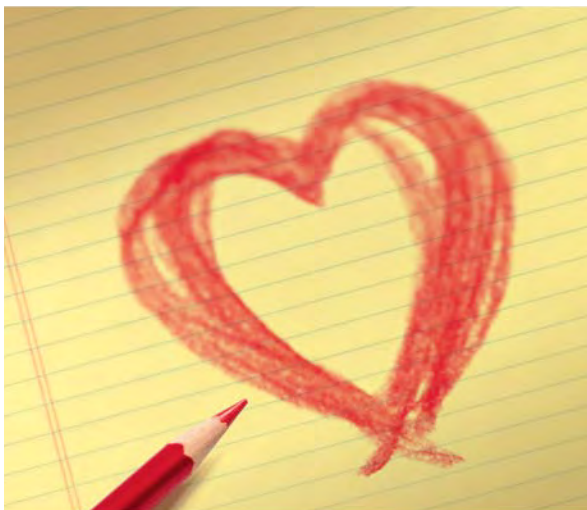
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