

# The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION  
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CALIFORNIA

Summer 2025

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CINDY VEGA, CSR 6640, RDR, CCRR 95

I had the pleasure of being officially sworn in as our new CalDRA president this past May at our annual convention in Ventura. The whole weekend event was pure magic. I always gain valuable knowledge and also have the privilege of engaging with reporters whose enthusiasm and insight are truly inspiring!

I am deeply honored to carry on the role as president with such a distinguished list of past presidents. I will strive to serve our organization in a way that honors all who came before me. As someone who loves the beach, I think of leadership like caring for the shoreline: Leave it better than you found it. That is certainly my intention in serving in this role. Having been a court reporter for 40 years (and counting), I feel I can achieve my goals in the coming year.

I am very fortunate to be working with amazing board members who step up to the plate with their time, energy, and wisdom. We already have several exciting events planned for 2025. We have our fall seminar in August and our student picnic in October. We look forward to seeing you at one of our events!

During my presidency, I will be addressing the many challenges that arise in our ever-evolving profession. We will continue to work behind the scenes to protect our careers, working closely with our dedicated lobbyist, Ed Howard. Your membership dues play a vital role in supporting these efforts, helping us advocate for the security and future of our profession. Let's all do what we can to grow our membership together.

As the saying goes, "It Takes A Village." Volunteers are always welcome in our



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organization to help with the various tasks that each of our board members carry out. We value your input and ideas!

Being a member of DRA has many benefits: staying informed on current legislation, keeping abreast of advancing technology, sharpening our skills, as well as the added benefit of networking with others, just to name a few.

Please contact me anytime with any questions, issues, ideas, and just general thoughts you have about DRA. I look forward to hearing from you!



## New Members

Carol Altamirano	Alexandra Guevara	Saquib Rasheed
Mary Argyropoulos	Nancy Heraldez	Denise Redfield
Laura Bailey	Jennifer Holmes	Corey Rotblatt
Cory Barrett	Chelsea Howery	Denise Shuey
Kylee Barrios	Heather Hughes	Debra Skaggs
Vickie Blair	Brooke Jimenez	Lauren Smith
Erin Blair	Ariane Johnston	Maricela Solorzano
Lindsey Brittain	Marisa Joslyn	Selene Soto
Dallas Carter	Sarah Kennedy	Patrick Stephens
Nicole Chuck	Carol Kim	Madison Swoboda
Marilissa Cram	Nicole Kochy	Tiana Taitague
Kimberly Crane	Susan Koenig	Natalie Thomas
Jennifer de la Puent	Shao-Wei Larios	Carly Tillotson
Brittany Dean	Miles Lendway	Magdalena Valdez
Jeanette Emerson	Lindsey Lozano	Jessica Villanueva
Helene Flores	Kress MacLaren	Danielle Watson
Adele Frazier	Alyssa Maurice	Natalie Wills
Samantha Frutos-Vasquez	Robert Maxim	MaryAnne Young
Betsy Galdamez	Skye Meinel	Douglas Zweizig
Amy Galkin	Sandra Nalley	
Breane Galvan	Madeline Neavez	

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**Counties Represented:**  
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin,  
Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San  
Benito, San Francisco, San  
Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz,  
Solano and Sonoma

## DISTRICT 2

**SHIVANEE SUJATA SINGH,**

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Redwood City  
district2@caldra.org  
**Counties Represented:** Alpine,  
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Humboldt, Inyo, Kern, Lake, Lassen,  
Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono,  
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Trinity, Tuolumne, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba  
counties

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CSR No. 14098  
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district3@caldra.org  
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and Ventura counties

## DISTRICT 4

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**County Represented:** Orange  
County, plus all Professional  
Members residing in counties or  
states other than California or the  
USA.

## DISTRICT 5

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San Bernadino, and San Diego counties.

**Deposition Reporters Association**

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CAL\_DRA

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# Distinguished Service Award

## Vicki Saber

by Sue Campana, DRA Past President, 2021 DSA recipient



If you've ever heard someone say DRA is like "Hotel California," you probably know they were talking about Vicki Saber. This year, I had the pleasure of handing her the keys—literally—with a Hotel California keychain and the Distinguished Service Award, DRA's highest honor. Why? Because Vicki has done it all: board service, convention planning (yes, even negotiating turkey orders), scholarship committees, career fairs—you name it, she's shaped it. Her fingerprints are all over DRA's history, and her legacy is one of laughter, leadership, and limitless dedication. Read on for the speech that had us all laughing, reminiscing, and cheering on a true DRA legend.

Good afternoon, DRA!

As we gather this weekend to learn, network, make new friends, and rekindle existing friendships, it is also a time to celebrate excellence and dedication. The Distinguished Service Award is one of the highest honors we can bestow upon a member – reserved for someone who has gone above and beyond in their commitment to DRA and its mission. Today it is my honor and privilege to recognize a truly exceptional individual. Someone who embodies DRA's values. Someone who has made an impact throughout the years with their service to DRA and the reporting community – MS. VICKI SABER.

Vicki, you've joked in the past (perhaps in jest, but still with a hint of truth) that DRA is like the song "Hotel California," with the catchy, unforgettable refrain of, "You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave." I know you were joking – and yes, the song might seem like a far stretch from having anything to do with DRA and the DSA award -- but there is something to it. The line speaks to the power of meaningful experiences – those that leave such a profound impact that they become a part of us. It's about people, moments, memories that shape who we are – who DRA is. And, Vicki, that is just what you have done for DRA...you have left an enduring legacy.

When you joined the DRA board, you didn't just "check in" for a committee or project. You dove in headfirst and immersed yourself fully in every assignment, whether it was serving as secretary, district rep, vice president, president, or past president, whether it was spending hours planning the convention (and yes, I still laugh about having to convince Vicki Squires to "just go ahead and order the extra turkey" – oh, those were good times! And now everyone I'm sure is wondering, "What's the deal with the turkey? I'll let Vicki explain that. Sorry to put you on the spot!"), or chairing the fall and spring seminar, helping to plan the student picnic, serving on the scholarship committee, the nominating committee, and being the original trailblazer behind the high school career fair visits -- your fingerprints are everywhere. Even the fairly recent shift in our convention luncheons – cutting back on speakers to allow more time for connection – that was you too. And, of course, DRA owes you a huge thank you for helping us find our incredible executive director, Sally Poppe. Oh, and don't you act as the admin for a Facebook group as well in your "spare" time? I'm exhausted just thinking about all you do and have done!

As DRA has grown and evolved as an association, your enduring influence is woven into its very fabric. Your kindness, your vision, and your perseverance have inspired us all. You've shown us not only what excellence looks like, but what it truly means to give back. Your contributions have left a permanent mark on this organization, and, more importantly, on the people in it. Just look around...you've touched so many of us, as a colleague, a mentor, and a friend.

And on a strictly personal note, I am so grateful I had the chance to serve alongside you. I will always cherish the friendship we've formed and the times we spent together on the board – the highs and lows of board service. But always more highs. Always! (I don't want to scare anyone away from serving on the board in the future!) Because of all that you have done – and the lasting mark you've left - not only are you receiving the Distinguished Service Award today, but we are also presenting you with your very own Hotel California keychain. A symbol of your permanent place in the DRA family.

So, without further ado, please join me in giving a rousing round of applause – and a well-deserved standing ovation – for my dear friend, the incredible Vicki Saber.

Congratulations, Vicki!

# May Convention Highlights







# CalDRA Travels To Sacramento And Capitol Hill To Fight For You!

By: Mary E. Pierce and Sarah Maksim

At the invitation of CCRA, several Board members of CalDRA, along with Mary Pierce, the current legislative chair, traveled to Sacramento to participate in the April 1st Lobby Day activities.

Stephanie Leslie, still DRA president at the time, led the group, which also included District Representatives Sarah Maksim, Shivanee Sujata Singh, and Carline Fonseca, as well as Secretary Debbie Fuqua. We all met very early in the morning at the Sacramento offices of SEIU for a strategy session, after which we split up into groups and workshopped talking points for the three bills to be addressed when we went to the offices of various legislators.

We knew in advance that we'd be touting support for AB 711 (Chen), the co-sponsored bill to reduce the incidence of duplicative booking of court reporters for the same court hearing, and AB 882, the CCRA-proposed bill to permit temporary electronic recording in some courtrooms along with securing requirements about hiring new officials.

The fly in the ointment landed a few days before our planned arrival when some proponents of licensing digital recorders in California found an author in Assembly Member Tom Lackey (Palmdale). But we arrived ready with our talking points in opposition to AB 1189.

After the prep sessions at SEIU headquarters, we all headed to the Capitol Building and started visiting the legislative offices each group had been assigned. After lunch, the ladies with whom I had been lobbying in the morning had to head back home, so at that point I joined up with Sarah, Shivanee, Carline, and Debbie and visited several more offices. If we didn't have an appointment, we just walked in and asked if we could meet with staff. Sometimes you'd get a meeting. Other times we would have an informative chat with the front office staff about the three bills and leave some written materials for their boss.

My training at NCRA Boot Camp came in handy for the day's activities, as I'm sure it did for Sarah Maksim. But I was so impressed with the afternoon group that was comprised solely of DRA representatives as we went from office to office. Every single member of the group raised their own points, all valid, all important, for a fuller exploration of the issues and a more informative visit for the legislative office staff. Each individual spoke up with intelligence, a unique voice, and confidence in their position. I could not have been more proud of how we functioned and performed as a group, and it filled me with optimism about the hands that hold the reins of CalDRA's future.

Collaboration between the state associations is always beneficial. The leadership of DRA is grateful and appreciative for the invitation to participate side-by-side with CCRA and SEIU to protect and advocate for the court reporting profession. And we believe it made a difference. Just weeks after our efforts in Sacramento, Assembly Member Lackey withdrew his bill from a committee hearing that might have advanced it. At least for now, we are safe from digital recording gaining licensee status in California. When the state associations work together, along with the largest union in the state, we all benefit. I continue to firmly believe that we are better together, we are smarter together, and we are stronger together.





Once a year, NCRA has a lobbying workshop that takes place in DC for reporters from all over the country to come and participate in learning how to lobby for our profession. I was selected to participate on behalf of DRA, and I jumped at the opportunity to sharpen my skills and to advocate for court reporting, which I hold near and dear to my heart.

Once I flew to DC, the training started with an overview of the various steps that it takes for bills to become laws. Of course, we were shown the famous musical School House Rock video "I'm just a Bill," which artfully explains all the rigamarole and red tape a bill must travel through, which gave me a new appreciation for how bills are written as well as how hard people work to draft and advocate for them. People think it's easy to just "create a law," but nothing could be further from the truth. There is a lot of legwork (literally and figuratively) that goes into it.

The workshop is rather in depth, with at least two days of intense training and prepping with various mock scenarios in a variety of settings, some of which were downright wacky. After each scenario, we were given valuable advice to learn from. I learned how to give a short 30-second elevator pitch as well as a much longer explanation in collaboration with my initial group, which consisted of six to seven other reporters from around the country.

It was insightful learning about how other states regulate

reporting. I didn't know that there were a handful of states that don't have state organizations like DRA, and those that did paled in comparison to the strength that DRA provides its members. I can't imagine working in a state that doesn't have such a support system.

Once the mock scenarios were finished, we were put into a group with reporters from California and were given a list of all the senators and representatives we would be visiting. The likelihood we would be speaking to an actual senator was slim as most advocacy groups speak to their staff, but that's to be expected.

On the morning of the big day, we all got up at the crack of dawn and boarded a bus to take us to Capitol Hill. I could feel the excitement from the one hundred reporters of us from across the country eager in anticipation to champion for our cause, which this year was to create a task force to study the pitfalls and possible benefits for implementing AI in courthouses. Since we believe this taskforce is a bipartisan issue, we were all looking for both a Republican and Democrat to sponsor the bill.

Those of us from California visited the offices of Pelosi, Takano, DeSaulnier, Bera, Padilla, Schiff, and Levin and were well received by all their staff. Asking for a task force to be created was an easy sell since we weren't asking for funds to be allocated. What's surprising is the staff we spoke to were always very young. It was common to see people in their early 20s running the office and manning phones, but don't let their age fool you. These young adults were the eyes and ears of everything that goes on in Capitol Hill and nothing got past them. Every staff member was attentive and curious about court reporting and had insightful questions and expressed equal concern that AI should never be allowed to create the official record in the courtroom. Overall, we felt that our efforts were a success and I'm looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labor.

I would highly encourage everyone to get involved in advocating for our profession on either a state or federal level. While it is absolutely intimidating the first time around, I feel I can take the skills I learned and be an effective lobbyist for court reporting. While paid lobbyists have the charm and charisma to sway minds, what I found was the voices of those who do the job they are advocating for carries far greater weight. We have insane stories to tell and people can feel the passion we share for protecting everyone's right to a fair and impartial transcript, free from AI errors and omissions. In short, don't let your fear of speaking up keep you from showing the country how crucial our profession is. We all have the power to sway minds and stop the perils of ER and AI in courts!

# On the Climb to Mt. Olympus

By Rashonda Price, Edited by Andrew T. Ha

My name is Rashonda Price. I am a court reporting student of Allie Hall's, and the Deposition Reporters Association (DRA) Convention was my second ever court reporting convention. To that, I say that I was deeply inspired. A lot of us are facing the toughest parts of our training. There are so many things we students face during our education: the adoption of a new language, nigh never-ending slew of speed tests, the academic demands of certification. And these things must be balanced with the tremors and downpours of our daily lives of working, raising families, and seeking love and friendship.

I am a registered nurse, A+ certified, with a bachelor's degree in nursing and a certification in medical coding, and yet court reporting is the most herculean challenge I have so far encountered as far as schooling goes. At this stage of our lives, we students are most in need of a pat on the back.

And in the spirit of Philoctetes of Disney fame, here at the DRA Convention I found professional mentorship, networking opportunities, and inspirational stories from experienced reporters – a pantheon of glory and valor against incredible odds. In all my years in nursing and caretaking, I have yet to witness a greater gathering of positive energy, professional advice, sharing of common experiences, and togetherness, especially between students and working professionals.

One of the most energizing discussions dealt with the fact that court reporters are still coming together to fight back at a relentless force to remove them from courtrooms in favor of digital recorders. I became familiarized with the efforts and success stories of advocacy, legislative action, and grassroots efforts to inform lawmakers and other stakeholders of the irreplaceable role of the human court reporter. The consensus was clear: Court reporters provide an unsurpassed level of accuracy, real-time transcription, and the human judgment required to achieve a complete and fair record.

After the sober discussions of the day, the convention turned into a liberating party, featuring a dance performance by some of the officers dressed as the Greek gods. The vibe went from business to party as guests wore togas and gold jewelry in the spirit of drink and splendor that would make even Dionysus proud.

In my profession as a nurse, I had long learned through trial by fire to be bold and authoritative when the job needed me to be, but that had not translated well into my social life. But here, I eventually found myself out on that dance floor, dancing amongst the gods and goddesses of court reporting.

Reporters, students, teachers, and industry professionals joined together for an unforgettable evening – laughing, bonding, and sharing their passion for the industry. The finest moment of the evening was the induction of the new DRA president and a touching tribute to the outgoing one who was praised for their service and leadership within the community.

My experience is a testament to the closeness of the court reporting world. Whether honoring success, confronting adversity, or bidding farewell to leadership, the DRA convention proved one thing for certain: court reporters shine in unity, help each other out, and celebrate one another's fortitude with flair. I have long planned to move myself out to California. Court reporting paves the way, and the DRA lights my climb up Mt. Olympus.

# In Loving Memory

## Kenneth Gene Combs, CSR 1359 February 6, 1941 – June 27, 2025



Kenneth Gene Combs passed away on June 27, 2025, surrounded by loved ones after a life defined by hard work, innovation, perseverance, and humor. Born on February 6, 1941, in Del Norte, Colorado, Ken spent his early years in Cheyenne, Wyoming, before his family moved to Marin County, California, where he graduated from Drake High School in 1959.

Ken completed court reporting school in an astounding ten months, a testament to the drive he brought to every pursuit. He began his reporting career in 1962 and quickly earned a reputation for his sharp mind, quick fingers, and pioneering spirit. Along with his partner, Bill Greenley, he co-founded Combs & Greenley in San Francisco, which grew to become the largest reporting firm of its kind on the West Coast. He was an early champion of computer-aided transcription. In 1973, at a time when computers filled entire rooms and home computing was unheard of, he made a visionary investment in computer-aided transcription, taking a financial leap that few would have considered at the time. The technology was new, prohibitively expensive, and untested, but he saw the future in it. It was the first of its kind on the West Coast. His pioneering spirit didn't stop there. He also was instrumental in the creation of Reporter Base software, which became a cornerstone for court reporting offices nationwide. His agency provided work for countless freelance court reporters, and he was a mentor for many. His success inspired others to enter the field, including his own brother, Merlin Combs; his daughter, Renee Combs Quinby, and his nephew, Brandon Combs, with possibly

more to follow in his footsteps.

Following his military career, Kenneth became a champion—and ultimately an icon—in the field of court reporting. In the early 1970s, he was among the first to champion the use of computers in the courtroom, helping to usher the profession into the digital age. He co-founded Combs & Greenley Court Reporters, which grew to become the largest firm of its kind on the West Coast before its sale in 1997.

Ken's influence extended well beyond his own achievements. In 2003, he and his son Todd co-founded Combs Reporting Inc., continuing the family legacy. He remained a source of mentorship and wisdom to colleagues until the very end. His wife, Tamaron, stood faithfully by his side, and in his final years, he was cared for with great devotion by his family, a support that brought comfort and stability during a difficult chapter.

He played a key role in the development of real-time transcription and, with his partners Bill Greenley and Yong Lee, helped design Reporter Base—a landmark office management software that transformed court reporting operations across the country.

He worked hand in hand with IBM in the development of computerized transcription systems, and as a result of his work, Combs and Greenley, Inc. became one of the first court reporting firms to make use of the computer.

He is survived by his wife, Tamaron Combs; his son, Todd Combs; daughter, Renee Combs Quinby, daughter-in-law, Lisa Ray-Combs; and son-in-law Scott Quinby; and his beloved grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, who each brought him enormous pride and joy.

Ken will be remembered not only as a visionary in his profession, but as a loving father and grandfather, a loyal friend, and a man who could make you laugh when you least expected it. His final years were marked by kindness, affection, humor, and a softer side, but we will also remember the man he was in his prime and the lasting contributions he made to his community.

He was one of a kind. He will be deeply missed.

# *Fall Seminar*

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**Yvonne Fenner (CSR, CRB Executive Officer)**

**Cheryl Haab Scott (CSR, RDR, CRR, CCRR, DRA Past President)**



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# Reporter Spotlight - Jaclyn Kinsbursky



**JACLYN KINSBURSKY**

Jaclyn Kinsbursky,  
CSR No. 13858  
Orange

**How long have you been reporting?**

I've been reporting since 2013.

**Where did you grow up?**

Born and raised in Chino, Ca. Back home we call it cow town.

Many of my friends' families owned dairies out there, and I miss Chino every day!

**Tell us about your family.**

I have two sisters Brittany and Nicole. I am the middle child. We have quite a large family with many cousins. Growing up our holidays were quite chaotic, but in the best way. Many of us are still close to this day!

**How did you first get involved with DRA?**

Back in the day, I learned about DRA while I was a student at South Coast College. I attended a couple functions while a student. I became a member probably mid-way through my career, and I wish I would have done it sooner.

**What do you like to do when you're not reporting?**

You will very likely find me on a hike with a friend, taking a weights class, screaming at the top of my lungs at a concert with my hubby or definitely traveling. Those things are usually on repeat for me whenever I am able. They fuel my soul, and I highly recommend!

**What has been the highlight of your career?**

While I may not have a specific event in mind, really and truly it's been the community of people I've grown close to in our industry, the freedom that freelance has given me while still earning a full-time income. I pinch myself every day.

**If you could do it all over again, would you choose court reporting as a career?**

Even on my worst day, YES.

**What is one professional accomplishment you'd still like to achieve?**

I have always said I'd like more certifications beyond just the CSR. One day, I shall!

**What's your cocktail order?**

Extra dirty vodka martini with blue cheese olives. And, yes, the ice chips are a must.

**Do you still practice on your machine?**

I practiced before jobs as a newer reporter, especially after being off my writer during a vacation, but I can't remember the last time I did that. Interesting. It's probably been 10 years since I've practiced.

**What advice would you give to a struggling court reporting student?**

Have laser vision. Quiet the noise as much as possible and focus on why you started. Use that as fuel. Don't compare yourself to other students and create your own lane for yourself. It's you against yourself, always.

**If you couldn't be a court reporter anymore, what career would you choose?**

If it paid the bills, I'd work in the event space or somewhere in the fashion world.

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Believe it or not, give me a loaded turkey sandwich, and I'm yours forever. It's been my favorite meal since I was a kid. Very specific order, though. Turkey, bacon, avocado, toasted sourdough, lettuce, tomato. Oh, and chips. Must have potato chips. If I died tomorrow, send me on my way with a sandwich.

**Why is DRA membership important to you?**

There's comfort in knowing someone has your back. A quote always stuck with me: if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others. Even if I never attended a DRA event, they'll always have my membership because it's a small way to give back to our CR community, and I believe every membership counts. It's because of all of our associations, including CalDRA, that I'm able to merely show up to a depo and collect a paycheck. They help our industry to run more smoothly, more effectively, and they believe court reporters are the gold standard, so they'll always have my support.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW FOR DRA'S WAR CHEST

PROTECT OUR PROFESSION  
LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD  
EXPOSE BOGUS E.R. CLAIMS  
PROTECT OUR SCHOOLS



## ONLY YOUR DRA TAKES THE FIGHT EVERYWHERE

THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD  
THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION  
THE PUBLIC  
LITIGATION  
THE STATE BAR  
THE PRESS



Respond to  
Sarah Maksim, CSR  
Newsletter Editor:  
[sarahkmaksim@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkmaksim@gmail.com)

## NOTE IT!

Nor Cal seminar in Walnut Creek

August 23rd

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Happy Hour to follow

ATTENTION  
STUDENTS!

SOCAL STUDENT  
PICNIC

OCTOBER 11 IN  
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SAVE THE DATE FOR  
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CONVENTION COMING  
SOON!

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Mary Pierce	Sarah Maksim	



# Cheers to Cosmo Pink!



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*National Verbatim Reporters Association*

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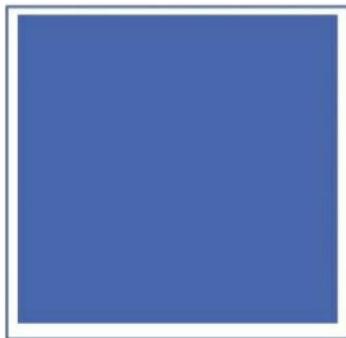
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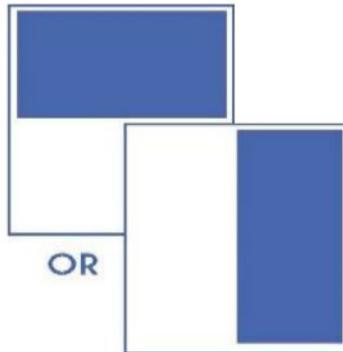


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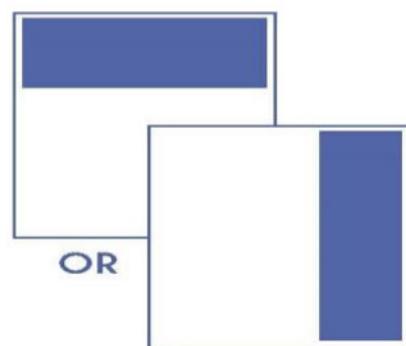


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