

The Deposition Reporter

WINTER 2016

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TRADE ASSOCIATION
DEDICATED TO THE
FREELANCE DEPOSITION
REPORTER

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RICH ALOSSI, RPR, CCRR, CSR
DRA PRESIDENT

Well, the time has come. Another year has flown by, and this is my final president's message before passing my captain's hat to Monyeen Black, CalDRA's incoming president.

As president of this association, I have had the great fortune of interacting with many reporters at events, at regulatory hearings, on Facebook, via email, and even at depositions. Over and over, I hear the same message: "Thank you for fighting for us." It's that message that keeps us moving forward and gives us a reason to fight – and to win!

One theme which has been emerging recently, becoming louder each year, is that to stop declining membership numbers, this profession would be better served if California's three state associations were to combine under one umbrella organization serving the interests of official reporters and deposition reporters.

Though the sentiments are well meaning, they are based on the premise that the interests of officials and of freelancers are always in alignment. Under an umbrella association, tough choices must be made when deciding where to spend membership dues, and that doesn't even touch the potential myriad conflicts of interest that may arise when interests are in direct opposition. California's reporting community is large and varied enough that having a freelance association and an official association is a wonderful thing and what we believe is best for all reporters in this state. On matters of joint interest, we have and will continue to work together for the common good.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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So let's grow our associations not by tearing down the "California solution" to the question of which wing of the profession gets the attention and resources, but by fighting – and winning! – to make reporting a profession that commands a high income and great respect again. This may not work everywhere, but our track record proves that it can and does work here in this great state.

CalDRA values high ethical standards, responsible regulatory oversight and consumer protection, aggressive advocacy, and a reporter education agenda that keeps this industry moving forward. That winning formula has drawn nearly a thousand members into the fold from this state and beyond, and it has spawned similar associations in other states, including most recently the formation of the Texas Deposition Reporters Association (TexDRA).

I am incredibly proud of the work that this board has done over the past year, having made strides in the legislative, regulatory, educational, and membership arenas, as well as ensuring that your association is on solid financial footing as we lay out the next phase of our advocacy agenda. Your trust in us is something we on this board hold sacred.

Writing this article was bittersweet for me personally, as my two-year plan for moving abroad as a reporter – namely, to Amsterdam, the Netherlands – comes to fruition. California and the hills and valleys (and traffic) of Los Angeles will always be home to me, and I do intend to return often to see family and participate in one of the best conventions in the world. What an incredible journey it's been!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Dorothy Malone

Cynthia Manning

William McDonald

Lisa Michaels

Susan Portale

Debra Skaggs

Siew Ung

Zandonella Reporting



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EXPOSE BOGUS E.R. CLAIMS
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THE STATE BAR
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SMILES FOR CALDRA

"We are very lucky to have an association such as DRA. Thanks for all the hard work you all put in!!" – Karina Ruiz

"Look at all the DRA has accomplished in ONE year! I am amazed and proud! The DRA listens to their members and acts in their behalf for the betterment of our profession. Bravo!" – Keren Guevara

"I wouldn't be the reporter I am today if not for my beloved Holly Moose and DRA! I LOVE my DRA family! Thank you for ALL of your hard work and VOLUNTEER time, both past and present DRA officers and board members."
– Lorrie Marchant



BIT BY BIT

KERÉN M. GUEVARA, CSR



They say that the best way to accomplish big tasks is to break them down bit by bit, tackling one small step at a time. Little by little, we can all accomplish big things. Imagine what we can do if we collectively work together to accomplish something big, ignoring those who say that it can't be done or that nothing will ever change. The results could be amazing!

On October 30, 2015, our DRA Board and DRA member Charlotte Mathias went before the Court Reporters Board to take the first step in battling what could be considered one of the biggest issues in a Southern California freelance reporter's life - that thorn in our flesh, the pesky SoCal stip. Each speaker worked hard in preparing their presentations, some traveling long distances to be in San Diego to plead our case to help bolster the working depo reporter in saying, "No. You cannot stipulate away my duties under the Code."

For more than 40 years, attorneys in Southern California have had the custom and practice of stipulating away the original transcript to the deponent or deponent's attorney to facilitate the reading and signing of the document. We've written it thousands and thousands of times. Some of us, I dare say, can recite it in our sleep. . . and we hate it. Why? Because we are the keepers of the record, and abandoning that record to be taken apart, altered, abused, illegally copied and distributed, and possibly changed strikes at the core of who we are as the professionals charged with ensuring that that record is delivered into the hands of the Court intact.

So how did it go? As many of you stood attentively and watched, it was a very interesting discussion, and very good things are happening because of it. For those who say nothing ever changes, please pay attention. Things are changing. We got the CR Board's attention. We came away with something better than a win at the CR Board level. We came away with the opportunity to work with attorneys and judges to find a way to not just change behavior in a because-we-said-so-and-that's-why way, but to really get to the core of the issue: educating the legal community at large as to why they don't want to stipulate away this vital Code provision for the protection of their record, their clients, their cases, and the justice system as a whole; not leaving us as individual court reporters to fight this out by ourselves, one depo at a time, at the extremely high cost of losing clients and relationships. We came away with the possibility of changing the way people think and feel about the sanctity of the record, and that, my dear colleagues, is the most important change of all.



Deposition Reporters Association of California

20th Annual Convention

BREAK THROUGH THE LIMITATIONS



February 19-21, 2016

Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina
San Diego, California

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Up to 1.95 CEUs available

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REPORTERS RACE FOR THE CURE

JODI MONROE, CSR, RPR, CLR
CALDRA DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR

On Sunday, September 27, I had the privilege and the honor to participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Newport Beach with team Court Reporters for a Cure sponsored by South Coast College. Enthusiastic court reporters, court reporting students, and faculty totaling more than 70 walked the three-mile course around Fashion Island. Although a sobering event with pictures sprawled across the course of loved ones lost, the comradery that fills the course is inspiring. Men, women, and children all walk with inspiration of a possible cure as music fills the streets, cheerleaders chant, and people cheer with hope. A special thanks to South Coast College and Cassandra Caldarella for organizing Court Reporters for a Cure. I hope to see you all out there next year!

Jodi Monroe, District 5 Representative (pictured with court reporting student Steven Frawley)



NEW MEMBERS

Kristen Baldwin
Breann Bertino
Julie Black
Linda Blythe
Anne Bryant
Patrice Chapin
Julianne Coldiron
Colleen Contreras
Vivian Deveroux
Anne Dillian Walton

Stephanie Fernandez
Tara Fouts
Samantha Frutos
Libby Garcia
Antonia Garza
Rich Germosen
Mary Goff
Kimberly Graham
Stephanie Hardesty
Tricia Holmes
Marissa Holt
Leslie Keatley-Clark
Gina Kessler
Monica Lepe-Georg
Theresa Martineck
Mark McClure
Janice McMoran
Evangelina Myers

Donna Nichols
Jessica Pena
Janet Pond
Ken Reeser
Angela Rodriguez
Donna Rudolph
Tracy Sato
Katy Schmidt
Suzanne Seeley
Sarah Seitz
Kathryn Serpa
Erika Sjoquist
Christine Smith
Merilyn Vaughn
Katherine Waki
Natasha Wentzel
Kim Whitmire
Serena Wong

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

Jamie Lee Asbury
Monyeen Black
Brenda Countz
Kimberly D'Urso
Aimee Edwards-Altadonna
Jody Gibney
Heatherlynn Gonzalez
Joan Grier
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Kristi Johnson
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Lorrie Marchant
Mikey McMorran
Lisa Michaels
Althea Miller
Jodi Monroe
Holly Moose
Diana Sasseen

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NOTE IT!

CALDRA'S 20TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19 -
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016

SHERATON SAN DIEGO
HOTEL & MARINA,
SAN DIEGO, CA

CALDRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016,
10:00 A.M.

SHERATON SAN DIEGO
HOTEL & MARINA,
SAN DIEGO, CA

CCRR EXAMINATION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2016,
11:00 A.M.

SHERATON SAN DIEGO HOTEL &
MARINA, SAN DIEGO, CA
Q&A • 5 MINUTES • 200 WPM
LIVE DICTATION

DRA Student Corner

ATTENDING YOUR FIRST CONVENTION: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

MICHAEL MCMORRAN, CSR

I remember attending my first DRA convention as a student back in 2011. As a first-timer, my head was swimming with information, and by the end of it, I had come away with an overwhelming sense of motivation that could only come from interacting with reporters in the field that I was ultimately striving to be a part of.

Fast-forward to 2012: I had qualified to take the CSR and had spent the majority of the convention picking the brains of reporters who had taken the exam previously, finding out what worked for them heading into the exam and how could I implement the strategies that seemed to be consistently coming up over and over again from both new and experienced reporters.

If you ask any student who has attended a DRA convention, they would all have a different experience, as every student's reasons for attending are different. Maybe you are like I was in 2011, never having been to a court reporting convention, and are intrigued by why everyone in the profession seemingly raves about how awesome they are. Maybe you are I was in 2012, gearing up for certification and looking for that final boost of confidence that veteran reporters can help instill in you or are looking for tips on overcoming the exam.

Having been a reporter for the past three years, I decided to approach some current students who have attended past DRA conventions and ask them some of the likely questions that a first-time student attendee may have.

My sincere thanks go out to the following DRA student members for taking the time to answer the following questions:

Alisa Church
Celeste Poppe
Amanda Powell
Jessie Frey
Melissa Murray
Andy Rodriguez

Having already gone to a previous convention, do you feel it more beneficial to go to just the Student Track or the entire weekend? (I don't want to be too overwhelmed my first time there.)

Celeste Poppe: I think it's important to go the entire weekend so you have more time for networking with working reporters and even some firm owners. If you're there for the entire weekend, there are times for socializing with everyone, whereas if you only go for the student track, most of the day you will be in seminars.

Melissa Murray: If it's your first time, it's best to go to the student track day only. It's more affordable and geared specifically towards students.

Besides the obvious notepad and some sort of writing instrument, is there anything else I should absolutely have with me?

Alisa Church: Business cards! This seemed odd to me at first since I was only a student, but I quickly learned my lesson after my first convention. Court reporters are so helpful and friendly to students. You will find that most of the people you meet will want some contact information so that they can make themselves available to you in the future. Most printing companies want you to order a minimum of 100 or 150 cards, but I found a place online called OvernightPrints.com that let me order as few as 25 at a time. That was perfect for a student!

Andy Rodriguez: Snacks, something to drink, and business cards (250 cards usually cost less than \$10 from VistaPrint).

Looking back, is there anything you would tell your past, newbie self to be aware of/something to do before going to the convention?

Jessie Frey: I went to my first convention alone and really only knew a handful of people. I would tell others that are brand new to networking that the reporters at these conventions are so excited to meet students, will never make you feel bad for still being in school, and will only have encouraging words to say especially if you're brand new. It's insanely motivating to see others who are working.

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ATTENDING YOUR FIRST CONVENTION: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

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Melissa Murray: Talk to as many people as you can. Don't be shy. Ask questions and be ready to listen. Don't sit with your friends; sit next to someone you don't already know. Follow up with the connections you make at the convention through email and/or Facebook.

Did you find attending a convention help your progress in court reporting school in any way?

Alisa Church: I always feel more determined and energized after a convention. Students get so focused on the next speed test that we can't see past it to the real goal - becoming a certified, working reporter! It is good to be reminded of the real goal.

I am an online student, so I also love that conventions give me the opportunity to interact with other students who are going through exactly what I am going through. But the thing that helps me the most is always hearing from and talking with newly certified reporters. The struggle of school is still fresh in their minds, but they did it! They reached the goal! If they can do it, I know I can too.

What was your major takeaway from attending a court reporting convention?

Celeste Poppe: The biggest takeaway I ALWAYS, ALWAYS get from conventions is a big kick in the butt of motivation. Always the week after the convention, I am on my machine twice as much because the convention makes me want to get out of school just that much more and get to working in this amazing career.

Amanda Powell: After coming home from the convention, I remember being so motivated. There's so much about the profession that they don't teach in school and you learn so much of it from going to the convention.

Jessie Frey: I always learn new things going to conventions, and I feel that much more prepared for when I go out in the real world. Both brand new court reporters and seasoned reporters have an amazing perspective and tons of advice that they're willing to share with students, which is something you can only get while at these conventions and not in school.

Andy Rodriguez: There's an entire community of wonderful people who are as passionate as I am about laptop specs and briefs. The people in this community are the only ones who understand the struggle of a court reporting student; so it's important that we stick together and help each other out.

WHAT'S NEW AT THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA?

"The mission of the Court Reporters Board is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring the integrity of judicial records through oversight of the court reporting profession. The CRB carries out this mission by testing, licensing and disciplining court reporters, and by recognizing the schools of court reporting that meet state curriculum standards."

Minimum Transcript Format Standards

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COURT REPORTER DREAMS NIGHTMARES!

Court reporters love their jobs, but even the job of their dreams can give them nightmares. When the stressors of work are mounting, have been over for decades, or have even yet to begin, court reporting has a funny way of infiltrating our dreams and drumming up some frightening scenarios! Do any of these court reporting nightmares feel familiar to you?

JORDAN GROVES, AL

I dreamed I was taking an easy depo and couldn't keep up and didn't know why, till I looked down and saw I had stuck my machine on my tripod upside down and was trying to write with my hands wrist-up and upside down. I woke up panicking that I had broken my Diamante screen by stabbing the tripod into it.

ANA FATIMA COSTA, CA

I just woke up from my first reporting nightmare in 20 years!

I am at a Saturday job. The table is square, and there are about 20 attorneys sitting around it. The noticing attorney is a friend, and he winks at me just before we go on the record. When he starts talking, there is such a loud echo in the room that I can't understand two words and have to stop him and move closer so I can hear him better. Several people nod in agreement. I relax.

During a break, three associates ask me for an excerpt by the next day and how much. I tell them it depends on how long it is since we are continuing and since tomorrow is a Sunday, \$20/page (lol). They gasp and I tell them, no, \$7 (lol again). They nod and walk away.

I wake up to a hotel room phone ringing. Apparently the depo had taken place in a hotel and I have spent the night. It's the associates asking, "Where is the excerpt?" I look at the clock: 9:00 a.m. I never sleep past 6:30! They say they needed it by 7:00! They had not told me for certain they wanted the excerpt, nor which portion they wanted. I don't remember if the depo is continuing or when. I don't remember my friend's first name, nor do I have his cell number. I don't have a CAT system or a typewriter with paper (ha-ha). And where are my steno writer and clothes?

I go back to the depo room, but it's been transformed into a department store makeup counter! My machine was taken apart and is sitting in pieces on a counter. My clothes are in various places. I am feeling anxious, not knowing if the depo is continuing somewhere and no way to get hold of anyone. I start putting on my makeup and realize that instead of using eyebrow pencil, I am using a pink/coral lip pencil. I wake up.

KATHERINE SCHILLING, CA

I had a dream the night before a mock trial where I showed up to the event and was informed that my machine was broken and I would be taking down the record using pen and paper in good old Gregg Shorthand. I didn't really question it, though I was very stressed out because, duh, I didn't know Gregg. Turns out the next day, my machine DID end up dying! Talk about prophetic dreams...

SUPERGIRL

I had this dream where the case was one piece of paper. Mr. Plaintiff's attorney folds it into a T-Rex and says, "Look, ladies and gentlemen. It's a T-rex. RRRGH!" Then Defense says, "No. No." He grabs the T-Rex and says, "Ladies and gentlemen, he's trying to confuse you." He folds it into a duck and says, "See? It even quacks. It's a duck."

SARAH MAKSIM, CA

So I'm in the middle of testing for the qualifiers and everything is going wonderfully. I'm getting every word and my notes are PERFECT. The material is being read as though time is slowing down. After what seems like two minutes, the test is over. I'm thinking, "I totally passed this sucker! I'm going to graduate!!!!"

Then I go to scope my work. I plug in my laptop, start up my software, and look at my notes. My spirits are soaring until I dump my notes into my software. To my dismay, they are all in Japanese. I should add that I can't read Japanese. I look at all the other students transcribing their exams and they look like they are all happily typing away translating their Japanese notes into English. So not only do I feel like I royally failed this exam, but that all the other students are miles and miles ahead of me.

I wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat, unable to breathe because my face is buried in my pillow. I bolt out of bed, thinking I'm late for school. I look at the clock and realize, to my relief, that it's 3 a.m. and I just had a nightmare. I slept like a baby for the rest of the night.

TOP CAT FEATURES YOU MUST KNOW AS A STUDENT

Today's CAT software are incredibly powerful, sophisticated tools. Reporters who use them experience cleaner writing, effortless editing, and fewer headaches. Below is a list of the top CAT features that you really owe yourself to learn while you're still a student. Don't expect to use them all while in school, but you'll be doing yourself a favor to understand just what your CAT is capable of, saving you time and confusion in the future. When it comes to working with your CAT, the motto is "make the software work for you!"

#1: Eclipse Hyperkeys/CaseCAT Keyboard Maps

Editing transcripts can take up a lot of time both in school and on the job. Learn how to perform a variety of time-saving shortcuts with your computer's keyboard to make editing a breeze.

#2: Job Dictionaries

If you're still scribbling down a test's preview words on a scrap of paper, then consider switching to using job dictionaries instead. They are key once you start working, and it's never too early to learn how to create them, fill them, and apply them to a translation for shorter editing time.

#3: Eclipse Analyze Documents/Build Dictionary/CaseCAT Case Prep/Dictionary Builder

Save hours on preparation for a case by having your software read the material for you, organizing it by frequency, and then input dictionary entries directly from your writer! This is also a super-efficient way to build your dictionary by importing text on any topic imaginable! Did someone just say "Wikipedia articles"?

#4: Eclipse Speaker List/CaseCAT EZ Speakers

Input and change speakers in a snap by modifying the speaker list for any job. Bonus points for color coding the speakers and using the seating chart!

#5: Eclipse Auto Brief/CaseCAT Brief It

Coming up with briefs on the fly will save you on the job; so get into the habit of making your CAT software come up with some for you! It might even remind you of a brief already existing in your dictionary or offer something quick and simple to make your realtime shine right out of the gate!

#6: Conflict Resolution/Smart Punctuation

"Conflicts" is practically a dirty word in school, but there are some instances where they can actually be used to your advantage – especially in the case of punctuation. Think commas around proper pronouns ("sir," "officer," "doctor,") or sentence tags ("naturally," "for example," "is that correct".) It'll save you strokes and hesitation as your CAT correctly adds or omits the punctuation for you. Learn the extent of your CAT's artificial intelligence to properly resolve conflicts and fear them no more.

#7: Organizing Your Files

You won't get anywhere if you don't know how your files are saved, where they're saved, and how to quickly and efficiently access them. Rather than dumping them all in one disorganized heap, take control of where files save. This may sound basic, but even creating a reliable and organized system of naming your files will help you keep your sanity on test days and on the job. As they say, cleanliness is next to godliness.

#8: Eclipse Realtime Macros/CaseCAT Accelerwriter

Did you know that you can actually edit in realtime right from your machine? Want to fix that untranslate without removing your fingers from the keyboard? There's a macro for that. Need to go back and capitalize those last three words? There's a macro for that! While speedbuilding is your primary focus in school, it will help you wonders to get acquainted with the macros your CAT already has built-in so that you're ready to hit the ground running once you're out in the working world.



DRA Student Corner

POP QUIZ



ALISA CHURCH
HIGH-SPEED STUDENT AND
CALDRA MEMBER

What made you want to become a court reporter?

In short, I went through a divorce. I had a small travel agency at the time, and my ex-husband and I still own a construction company together, but I wanted to get away from that. I wanted to find something that I would enjoy and that would provide a decent income.

The recession was not kind to my travel agency or our construction company. I didn't want to face that kind of scenario again in the future, so I researched different careers related to medicine and law. Those seemed pretty recession-proof.

I didn't know anything at all about being a court reporter, but as soon as I started reading about it, I knew it was perfect for me. Everything about it sounded interesting, and it sounded like a wonderful way to learn new things, which was the most appealing part. It seems funny to me now, but I remember thinking that it shouldn't be that hard for me to master since I already typed at 80 wpm.

How do you get motivated when you feel like you're "stuck" at a speed?

Finding motivation is harder some days than others. That feeling is one of the hardest things about being a court reporting student. I was "stuck" at 120 for almost a year. I cried a lot that year, but I never thought seriously about quitting. I just loved it too much, and I knew I could do it if I just kept pushing forward. As the year passed, it got harder and harder to continue to give it 100% without seeing any results. I tried hypnosis, spending more time on my machine, spending less time on my machine, meditation, daily affirmations, anything anyone suggested. I was so desperate to find a solution that I even considered moving to Texas with a couple of court reporters in the hope that their skills would somehow rub off on me, I guess.

Finally, a conversation I had with a veteran reporter and speed contest winner spurred me to evaluate my writing in a way that I had never done before. Maybe I was doing something that I was unaware of to sabotage my progress. I discovered that I had unknowingly developed some bad habits that were going to prevent me from progressing any further unless I addressed them. I soon realized that most

of them stemmed from becoming what I termed a "brief junkie." I worked with my teachers, went back through my entire theory book again, re-learned how to write, and kept at it. It felt like I had to take a step backwards to correct these issues, and I temporarily lost some speed during the process. However, it was well worth it, and I am happy to report that I haven't felt "stuck" since then.

What do you do to unwind when you're not practicing?

I really love to read and spend time with family and friends. One of my favorite ways to spend time away from school is to go to the local independent movie theater and just see whatever is playing next. It is usually a movie I have never heard of, and sometimes there are subtitles. I have seen some fantastic ones and some that were less than mediocre. It's like a box of chocolates because you never know what you're going to get!

If you weren't in court reporting school, what discipline would you pursue instead?

I truly enjoyed having a travel agency because I am very adventurous. I had started looking at taking groups on humanitarian missions or educational tours when I decided to close it down. I would probably get back to pursuing something like that. I would still like to do that someday even if it is as a tourist and not a travel agent.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing court reporting students today?

With so many California schools either closing or transitioning to online, the biggest challenge for me now is finding a way to get to the CSR. At this point I can either pass the RPR first or drive two hours to the school closest to me to prove that I "qualify." Both options are less than appealing. I intend to get my RPR anyway, but my more immediate goal needs to be to pass the CSR so that I can start working. Lack of access to a school plus the restrictions on who is allowed to sit for the test equals a difficult path to navigate for any student in California who doesn't live near one of the few remaining schools. Aside from my own struggle, this concerns me about the future of court reporting in California, so I am hopeful that this can be addressed at some point.

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POP QUIZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



TAMI LYNCH

CSR CANDIDATE AND CALDRA STUDENT MEMBER

What made you want to become a court reporter?

I have a bachelor's degree in human resources, but I suffered a job loss in 2009 along with so many other Americans. My efforts to find a new job were yielding no results, and I was beginning to think I would need a career change. My mother, aunt, and grandmother all mentioned to me that because I was so proficient in English, maybe I should consider court reporting. The interesting thing about this is that none of them had spoken together, discussed this idea together, or approached me together; they all made the suggestion to me at separate times, within a one-week time span, without the knowledge that anyone else in the family had talked to me. I took that as a message from God that He wanted me to pursue court reporting.

How do you get motivated when you feel like you're "stuck" at a speed?

My approach to this is very different from the "think positive" mindset that I've heard over and over again during the last five years of school. I stop and take a break. I cry. I get very angry at the entire process and myself. I honor and validate my feelings that this is an EXTREMELY HARD career, the training is beyond difficult, and there's a reason that so few people complete it. After maybe 24 hours or so, I get back in the chair and start practicing again.

I know that's very different from what instructors may say. Most of the time, they talk about staying positive and not letting hard things get to you. That's not a wrong approach, and it's beneficial for many students. But there are also students who don't respond well to that mindset. As a result, they sometimes feel that they are wrong to get discouraged or admit that court reporting school is harder than they anticipated, and they should just "suck it up," think positive, and move on because it's all about your attitude.

Again, that works for some, but for others, just the opposite is true as well. It's okay to admit that you're not happy or feeling awful or that you don't like the situation or don't like school. It's okay to be negative about something or complain about it for a short time. Don't suppress those feelings

and lie to yourself that they aren't there! Don't try to just smother them with positive thoughts if that doesn't help. Why? They'll just fester and come back to bite you later. Address them and deal with them, but then move on.

What do you do to unwind when you're not practicing?

Television, reading, the puzzle app on my iPad, and hanging out with court-reporting student friends so we can vent and discuss life as a student and how we are going to survive it all.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing court reporting students today?

Comparison. We say we don't compare ourselves to others who are progressing faster in the program, but we do. We are told NOT to compare ourselves to others who are going faster, but we do. We just do. It's human nature.

Unfortunately, teachers don't always help this situation. They say they don't compare us, but sometimes they do in an indirect way. For example, during my schooling, there was a student who began theory and advanced through all speed levels, making it into qualifiers within one year of starting. The teachers made sure everyone knew about this amazing accomplishment. Many students thought it was great and celebrated and congratulated the student along with the teachers. For some students, however, it caused them to reflect on their progress and start drawing comparisons and wondering why we generally praise and uplift those students who succeed in court reporting school faster than others.

I know several people who have been in school for over six or seven years because they have dealt with family issues, death, sickness, financial blows, etc., but they have not given up. And none of the teachers have made sure everyone knows about it and gives them encouragement or support in the process. Granted, they may not want the attention and prefer to keep things private. I get that. However, shouldn't we look at those people who have faced tremendous challenges in this training but refuse to succumb to life's hardships and give up their goals with a level of respect and awe that is greater than those who fly through school because they just "have that special gift"?

If you weren't in court reporting school, what discipline would you pursue instead?

I would probably do bookkeeping or clerical/secretarial work since I'm an extremely organized person and I do that on a part-time basis for extra income while I'm in school.

THE CASE FOR MENTORING

VESNA WALTER, CSR, RPR, CLR, CCRR
CALDRA DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR

When I was in court reporting school 17 years ago, I knew absolutely no working reporters. There was no Facebook. Was there e-mail back then? I definitely didn't use it on a regular basis. I did have to do my hours of interning in court and at depositions. I think that involved two days of sitting out with a deposition reporter.

When I passed the CSR, I did NOT feel ready to do a deposition on my own. I knew how to write, but sitting out for two depositions does not boost your confidence enough to make you feel ready to take a deposition solo. Yes, I survived my first deposition, but I believe it would have been so much less stressful if I'd had a mentor.

Since then, I've mentored four students. It's been a great experience for me and for them (I think). For a working reporter, taking on additional responsibility on top of our regular work may seem daunting. I'm here to tell you that mentoring can easily be done with a busy work schedule and with a busy family life. All it takes is communicating via e-mail when your student has a question or concern. They don't expect immediate answers or constant attention.

I actually enjoy having students sit out with me. It's kind of nice having a "coworker" once in a while. I've stayed in touch with my former mentees. I enjoy hearing from them and don't mind answering a question as needed. You can also earn CEUs through mentoring, which is a nice additional benefit.

If you'd like to give mentoring a try, sign up at www.caldra.org. We are in need of mentors in all counties. The students really appreciate having a working reporter's support, and it helps them get off on the right foot.

Here is what our membership has to say about their experience with the mentorship program:

STEPHANIE LESLIE, DRA MENTOR

"I absolutely love mentoring students and new reporters! Talking with them and sharing what I have learned over the years reinvigorates me and reminds me of the enthusiasm I had when I first began. Also, I know the value of a mentor. I stumbled upon someone willing to mentor me right out of school, and I really don't know what I would have done without her. She was my lifeline, and the fact that she never made me feel like a burden was a fantastic quality that I try to



emulate when filling that role for others. It is evident that there exists a sizable gap between the training we get in school and the training that is necessary to be successful in our careers, so to have someone to help bridge that gap on a personalized basis is worth its weight in gold. I highly recommend it to everyone!"

ANDREA RINKER, DRA MENTOR

"Remember when you were a baby reporter, unsure of what this life was like and unaware of the upcoming challenges you would face? Wouldn't you have loved to have a mentor at your disposal to ask those newbie questions to? Well, now you have the opportunity to be that new reporter's lifeline. You can learn something new while benefiting someone else!"



ANDY RODRIGUEZ, DRA STUDENT MENTEE

"There's so much to this business that isn't taught in school. Having someone you can turn to for advice or answers to 'dumb' questions is invaluable. DRA's mentoring program is a great way for students or new reporters to connect with mentors who have a wealth of knowledge and experience to learn from."



BRIDGETTE RAST, DRA STUDENT MENTEE

"My experience with the DRA mentoring program has been fantastic. I received a mentor as well as a friend from the program. I believe that a mentor is crucial to the success of an online court reporting student. Having a mentor that is working and can share all their experience with you is invaluable. As an online student, having a mentor that willingly took me out on depositions to provide me with the experience of being in a working situation with live human beings versus receiving all dictation via a computer really helped me a great deal. One of the challenges in online school is having to sit for the CSR exam with live dictation. With most of the court reporting education now being provided online, I know for a fact that it is vital to our success to have a mentor."

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THE CASE FOR MENTORING

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CALLIE BLACK, CSR, FORMER STUDENT MENTEE

"I had a wonderful experience with DRA's mentor program. I was paired with a successful former court reporter and current agency owner, who also ran other businesses. Talk about inspiring! She was a shining example of what I hoped to someday be and not just as a court reporter. I was paired with my mentor shortly before I took the CSR. Although many others told me I would be 'fine,' it was only when I heard it from her that it sank in. Hearing her say she was much less prepared than I was and that she passed was the first time I thought, 'Okay. Maybe I CAN do this.' She was there for me when I had small and big questions, and she was there when I passed the CSR with beautiful potted flowers and a thoughtful card. Having my mentor be just a phone call away was the cushion I felt I needed to feel comfortable transitioning into becoming a working reporter. I am forever grateful to my mentor, Karen Sussman."



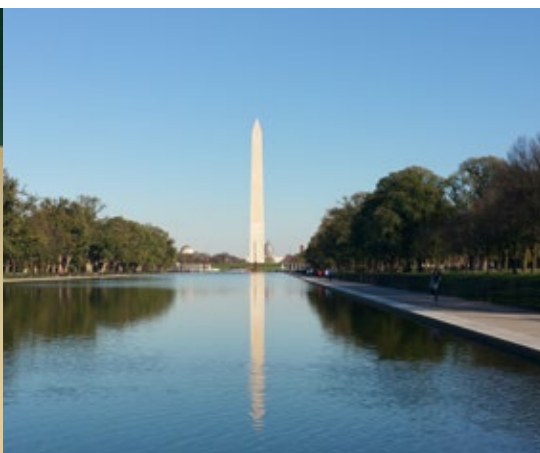
CALDRA GOES TO WASHINGTON

CHERYL HAAB, CSR, RPR, CALDRA VICE PRESIDENT

This November, I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to join our colleagues at NCRA for their regularly scheduled board meeting at their brand-new offices in Reston, Virginia. Just a short drive from Washington, DC, the new NCRA world headquarters is truly a testament to how far the profession has come in recent years. The offices are bright, airy, and filled to the brim with NCRA's hardworking staff, continually brainstorming to better the profession as a whole.

During my weekend in the DC area, I had the fortune to attend NCRA's open house event to showcase their new offices. Court reporters from far and wide arrived that Saturday evening to pay tribute to NCRA's tireless work for the industry in a festive environment filled with, food, drink, and friends. It was also a great opportunity for the association to highlight their collection of antique steno equipment, a fascinating representation of the evolution of technology in our industry over the past century. I had a wonderful time exploring all the premises had to offer, and I had the distinct pleasure of reconnecting with old friends and making a few new ones as well.

Special thanks to NCRA for your hospitality. It is a great comfort to know that NCRA is paving the way for associations like CalDRA to continue the important work that we do for court reporters everywhere!



CALDRA LAUNCHES AB1197.COM TO HELP EDUCATE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AND THE COURT REPORTING COMMUNITY ABOUT THE NEW LAW

Following Governor Brown's signing into law of the John Zandonella Act of 2015, Assembly Bill 1197, authored by Assemblyperson Susan Bonilla, the Deposition Reporters Association of California today launches an informative website aimed at educating court reporters, court reporting firms, and legal professionals about the law's requirements and ramifications.



Effective January 1, 2016, legal professionals who prepare deposition notices have new disclosure obligations.

"I encourage court reporting firm owners to contact their clients with a link to AB1197.com to let them know about the new requirements," said CalDRA President Rich Alossi. "In addition to the full memo, we've included sample language for deposition notices as well as printable quick-reference guides tailored for various segments of the industry."

[Click here to visit AB1197.com](http://AB1197.com) to read the memo and download educational material for law firm clients!

The Act was named in honor of John Zandonella, CalDRA Founding Member and champion of anticontracting causes whose passing in 2008 was a loss for the entire reporting profession.

Supported by Consumer Watchdog, Consumer Attorneys of California, and our colleagues at the California Official Court Reporters Association (COCRA), the John Zandonella Act is only the latest success in CalDRA's longstanding, multiyear leadership in ensuring a level playing field for reporters.

Thank you, CalDRA, for helping to effect this important change in the legal community!

COURT REPORTING – A FAMILY BUSINESS

JODI MONROE, CSR, RPR, CLR, CALDRA DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR



I remember back when I was in court reporting school and my sister Lindsey was in high school, I said to her, "You should go to court reporting school." She immediately smirked, "I don't want to type for a living." After graduating from high school, my sister went on to college. During her four years of college, I started my life as a court reporter. She was living with me at the time, and she would watch me get up and go to work for a few hours a day, be home in the afternoon to spend time with my daughter, and make a pretty good living.

One day she came to me and said, "Guess what? I want to be a court reporter." With a smile on my face, I happily drove her down to South Coast College and helped her enroll. Lindsey excelled in court reporting school. She finished the program in three years, passed the CSR exam her second try, all while planning a wedding and beginning her life as the new Mrs. Werner.

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COURT REPORTING – A FAMILY BUSINESS

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My sister and I are ten years apart in age, so growing up, we didn't share many things in common. I love being able to share my passion for court reporting with her. Although she's now a mom of two and has set aside work for the time being, we always talk shop, and she's the one person who always understands me when it comes to court reporting.

Court reporting can be contagious. Share your passion with those around you. Tell people what a great career it is. Court reporting has so many opportunities, from the depo room to the courtroom to captioning. There's no doubt we need more reporters, and we need great reporters like you to spread the word. After all, court reporting is a family business.

AskDRA

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

So I know I've read it somewhere, but now I can't find it. We have to include our CSR number on communication, business cards, stationery, etc. What is the code? Also, I read somewhere while doing some research that a firm must have the "main" reporter's name and license on their documentation. Do you know where that would be? And thanks for all your hard work.

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

This same question just came up from another reporter recently, so your timing is perfect. The language you're looking for is in Section 2406 of the California Code of Regulations, a code we don't usually look at for this sort of requirement, so I understand why you couldn't locate it. If you have our AskDRA Code Book – which is a great resource and member perk and can be downloaded from our website, if you haven't already done so – you'll find this language on page 127, but I'll copy it below for you so you'll have it handy.

I'm not sure if this also answers your question regarding a "main" reporter's name and license, but then I don't know what that source may have been referring to by "main," and I've never heard that reference used in this context. If they were referring to the CSR owner of a firm as the "main" reporter, then per the following Code, a firm owner's license number should be included in all "presentments to the public," as listed below.

Many years ago, the Court Reporters Board did require, in keeping with this language, that the license number of the owner(s) appear on all business cards, stationery, and all forms of advertisements, but they stopped insisting on that some time ago.

Section 2406 of the CA Code of Regulations reads as follows:

A reporter licensed under Chapter 13 of Division 3 of the Code shall list his license number on the cover page and certificate page of each deposition, court transcript, or transcript of other legal proceedings. The license number shall also be included in any and all presentments to the public including but not limited to advertising, solicitation, business cards, stationery and telephone listings.

OH, BABY!

Sure, you THINK you know your CalDRA Board of Directors... but have you ever seen them like this? Here are some adorable snaps of six of your District Directors and Officers long before they were in the business of court reporting. Can you guess who's who? Come on – take a stab at it and earn credit towards your next CalDRA event!

(HINT: Visit page 2 of this newsletter for some more recent pictures of our current Board)



Be the first to submit your answers to newslettereditor@caldra.org for your chance to receive a \$25 credit towards your next DRA event!

Contest Rules and Regulations: Only current CalDRA members are eligible to participate. One win per member per calendar year. \$25 Credit is nontransferable. Credit may be used for a single CalDRA event registration totaling at least \$99 before the earned credit is applied. Credit may not be used to pay membership dues. Credit must be used within 24 months of the date of issue. Multiple entries will not be accepted. Sorry, but CalDRA Board of Directors members are not eligible to participate.

BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

TAWNY LABRUM

Part 3 – 5 Reasons Why You Should Embrace Realtime Technology

For some court reporters, realtime is a component of everyday life. For others, realtime is eerie and just thinking about it brings on panic. From taking the “realtime plunge” to breaking down the mysteries of realtime technology and its benefits to reporters, this four-part series will discuss how, as a court reporter in the 21st century, realtime is not only your future, it is a must for career advancement.

Technology makes the world go round. Think about it: What’s one thing you never leave home without? If you are anything like me, your answer is your smartphone. Modern-day technology enables us to do more in less time, making us more efficient and productive. We are able to instantly communicate with coworkers, correspond with clients, book appointments, and even read the news. Technology has forever changed the way business is conducted. The legal industry is no exception to this, and as a court reporter who provides services to this industry, embracing technology is pivotal to your career.

As a whole, the legal industry is known for being on the slower side when it comes to adopting and implementing technology, but as more and more Baby Boomers reach retirement age, a new generation of attorneys and litigation professionals, a generation born with smartphones and tablets in hand, are entering the workforce. This generation, the Millennials, are accustomed to using technology to get instant results, and because of this, they are demanding that service providers, such as court reporters, offer solutions that will allow them to do so.

So what does this mean for you? Why is it important for you as a court reporter to embrace technology, specifically, realtime technology?

1. Realtime technology keeps you relevant.

Over the past few years, the court reporting industry has grown tremendously. As with attorneys and litigation professionals, many court reporters are reaching retirement age and will be replaced by a workforce accustomed to innovation, a workforce not afraid to use technology to broaden their careers. Rather than being phased out by this new generation of reporters, embracing realtime technology allows you as a court reporter to stay relevant.



2. Realtime technology builds your credibility.

Being a realtime reporter, you are already one of the most elite and qualified professionals in your field. Using realtime technology to showcase those skills to your clients builds your credibility and, in the end, will build a stronger demand for your services, leading to more jobs.

3. Realtime technology enhances your career.

Being familiar with and using realtime technology will enhance your career. As realtime becomes more mainstream within the legal industry, the skills and technology you use will become more in demand, resulting in career growth and higher-paying jobs.

4. Realtime technology saves you time.

When your clients are sitting across the table from you, viewing your realtime transcript on their tablet, there is little room for error. If you have a question about the spelling of a name or an uncommon word, the witness is right there to clarify and edits can be made on the go. By the time the deposition is over you basically have your rough draft completed, ready to be emailed to your clients without them having to wait an extended period of time.

5. Realtime technology makes you irreplaceable.

Utilizing realtime technology to enhance the services you provide makes you irreplaceable. Once upon a time, tape recorders were thought to be sufficient replacements for court reporters, but that trend quickly fizzled out. Realtime technology provides attorneys instant access to clean, precise text; no other technology has the capability to do that. There has yet to be – and there likely never will be -- a technology created that can replace the skills of a court reporter using realtime technology.

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BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Realtime technology has quickly become a permanent fixture within the legal industry. The growing demand has opened the doors to a whole new world of opportunity for court reporters. As more litigation professionals become aware of the benefits realtime technology provides, the demand for court reporters who utilize cutting-edge technology will only grow. Knowing what's out there, embracing it, and taking action to further your skills is imperative in this competitive industry, as well as to the future of your career advancement.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT...

Realtime Technology in a World of Mobile Devices

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tawny Labrum is the Marketing Director for LiveDeposition, a provider of universal onsite and web-based local as well as remote realtime delivery and electronic exhibit solutions. For more information on LiveDeposition, please visit their website at www.livedeposition.com or give them a call at (888) 337-6411.



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FUNNY STORY! ONCE A COURT REPORTER....

RUTHANNE ESPARZA



I've been out of the court reporting field for three years now, out of being an actual reporter for almost ten years. I didn't leave voluntarily; my neck decided for me that I was finished as a reporter.

A great life lesson for me was being able to accept this and move on.

And move on, I certainly have! It took time and patience, but today I love what I do and I'm living my life's purpose. I stay connected to the field by being on various court reporter Facebook pages, as well as groups on LinkedIn, because there's just something about being a reporter that, once you become one, there will always be a part of you that remains one; and so I read the posts with a vicarious, nostalgic heart. And believe it or not, even the not-so-great aspects of being a reporter can give me a warm, fuzzy feeling.

My funny story relates to the fact that once I began to attempt to write articles, put together talks, etc., putting down my thoughts into the written word turned out to be quite the challenge. To begin an article, a writer must jot down thoughts, ideas, concepts, and then put them together into a cohesive, meaningful manner that allows the reader to engage and receive the intended message. After 20 years of writing and editing other people's words, any attempt I'd make at writing down my own thoughts would come out stilted, way too formal, and the urge to perfectly punctuate each sentence completely got in the way of me being able to express myself with the written word. It's taken a couple of years of practice (and tossing out articles that sounded dry as toast!) to overcome this, but it still creeps up on me at times.

I initially posted this story on a couple of court reporter Facebook pages and was surprised at the numerous responses relating to the feeling of being creatively stifled by virtue of being a reporter, expressing the idea that our profession leaves no room for individual creativity. Well, I urge reporters to find their artistic expression both on and outside the job.

On the job, putting a transcript together, especially a dense, technical one, can be seen as a craft. A perfectly researched, exquisitely punctuated transcript is a work of art, in my opinion. I remember taking the deposition of a rocket scientist in an accident case and having the attorney ask a question for a solid page and a half, where I kid you not, the way it was worded, there was no place for a period! I went round and round and carefully placed my semicolons and commas and sent it to the best proofreader there was.

Only another reporter can understand the feeling of elation when I got the transcript back with no corrections in that question! I truly felt the sense of artistic ability.

The beauty of conversations on social media is the exchange of ideas and advice people so generously offer. Many reporters piped in on my post with ways in which they get their creativity groove on outside of the job, including my favorite: "Have two glasses of wine and then start writing." Instead of closing yourself off from being creative, I see it as crucial to find a way to express that need inside in order to balance the constant left-brain aspect of being a court reporter. This could be doing yoga, where each time a pose is mastered, it feels like a work of art; gardening, where the perfectly red ripe tomato you grow is a work of art; music; painting; writing; carpentry; crafts; etc., etc.

Everything in this life is about perspective - how you see things. The great thing is we have the ability to reframe and reconsider how we view the world around us. We can choose to see the creative, artistic expression in absolutely anything in our lives.

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FUNNY STORY! ONCE A COURT REPORTER....

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So as I mentioned, I'm presently living my passion, my purpose, as a life coach. Life is also about remaining flexible, open to whatever it throws our way, and we must embrace reinventing ourselves when the opportunity arises.

It's not about moving on, completely leaving the past behind, though; rather, it's about taking the positive, enjoyable aspects of that past life experience and interweaving it into the new one, and it also includes being able to look back on the negative, difficult parts of the past affectionately and know every challenge has made you a stronger, better, deeper person.

Whether transitioning into a new career, new era in your life, or taking a hard look at your present

situation, be sure to cultivate and find expression of your creativity and always honor the lessons learned, knowledge gained, and gifts you receive from life's messy, crazy, painful, joyous, delicious, amazing journey!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ruthanne Esparza, now a life coach, is a retired court reporter. She worked in the reporting industry for more than 27 years. She trained, certified and spent time working as a coach-advisor for the Robbins-Madanes Coach Training Program. She currently practices as a certified strategic intervention life coach. You can reach her through her website RuthanneEsparza.com, [Facebook](#), and [Linkedin](#)



SAN DIEGO REPORTERS DO HAPPY HOUR WITH CALDRA

VANESSA CAPARAS, CSR, RPR
CALDRA DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR

Great time at Gordon Biersch on January 7th! San Diego court reporters and students didn't let El Nino get in the way of getting together. Keren Guevara won the raffle for a Nordstrom gift card. Thank you to Tricia Rosate, our incoming District 7 representative, for helping me host the mixer, and to everyone that stopped by. It was so nice to interact face to face. We'll see you at the next one!



MEET CALDRA'S 2016 PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CalDRA is pleased to present to you its 2016 slate of nominees for its Board of Directors. Each nominee is carefully interviewed and selected by the nominating committee to serve the best interests of CalDRA and its members. Please take a moment to read each nominee's statement below:

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT



MONYEEN BLACK, CSR No. 10574, CCRR, CLR. Certified shorthand reporter since 1994 and currently freelancing as well as owns/operates a small deposition agency since 2005.

It has been a privilege to have served on the DRA board since 2011 in the positions of Secretary, District 8 Representative, and Vice President. I am honored to be nominated as the incoming president of CalDRA. The experiences I have gained from our prior presidents while I have served is invaluable, and I plan to continue down the path they have already paved. I am proud of the accomplishments CalDRA has achieved for the court reporting profession. I will continue to promote the ethics of our profession and will work hard to continue fighting and supporting all issues that affect reporters.

VICE PRESIDENT



JODI MONROE, CSR No. 13010, RPR, CLR

I am honored to be considered for Vice Present of the Deposition Reporters Association. I served as the District 5 Orange County Representative for the past two years. As a current freelance reporter, I look forward to working with CalDRA's devoted group of volunteers in continuing its efforts to fight for our profession. As your Vice President, I will work hard for you to promote the values and ethics that we, as reporters, all cherish. Thank you, and I look forward to another great year.

SECRETARY



LINDA NELSON, CSR No. 11795

I am deeply honored to have been asked back to the CalDRA Board as Secretary/Treasurer for this upcoming 2016 year. In years past, I served on the Board of Directors for District 6, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and during that tenure was very involved with decision-making for CalDRA, convention planning in Palm Springs, and planning and executing the Fall Seminar at Disneyland with great success. I've learned many things in my three years on the Board and look forward to once again being an integral part of CalDRA and working together as a team at attaining CalDRA's goals. Great things are already in the works for 2016! I'm really looking forward to whatever challenges come my way. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1



DIANE FREEMAN, CSR No. 5884, RPR

Counties Represented: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano and Sonoma

Diane is a CSR and RPR, a partner in Freeman Reporting with Cherie Lubash in San Francisco, which was formed in 2007. She also freelances for other reporting firms. She lives in Novato.

Diane became certified in July of 1982 and immediately began working as a freelance reporter. She received her Registered Professional Reporter Certificate from NCRA in November of 1996. Diane joined the CalDRA Board of Directors in February 2014 as the District 1 Representative, Northern California. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Godmothers of Timothy Murphy School for Boys in San Rafael, California.

Diane's 2016 goals are to represent the District 1 members by bringing their concerns to the CalDRA Board; planning networking events to keep members in touch, informed, and involved. Diane plans to continue working to enhance the freelance reporting profession through legislation and education; also, working with the schools in planning student events looking to the future.

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MEET CALDRA'S 2016 PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DISTRICT 2



LISA MCMILLAN, CSR No. 10383

Counties Represented: Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz

My name is Lisa McMillan, and I would be honored to once again represent CalDRA's District 2 members. This organization brings years of experience together and continues to educate and promote our profession in new and creative ways. I would be proud to serve.

DISTRICT 3



KIMBERLY D'URSO, CSR No. 11372

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

Hello, CalDRA Community. My name is Kimberly D'Urso. I would appreciate your vote for CalDRA District Representative.

I have been a working reporter for 18+ years and specialize in complex litigation.

I am a people person who values great communication. If elected, I promise to keep you apprised of upcoming board meetings and current events. I will also represent you in a professional manner that is committed to CalDRA's values. Thank you for your consideration.

DISTRICT 4



CHERYL HAAB, CSR No. 13600, RPR, CLR

Counties Represented: Los Angeles

Having served on CalDRA's Board of Directors now since 2012, first as Secretary-Treasurer, followed by two years as Director, and most recently as Vice President, I am honored to spend yet another year helping to carry out the mission of this organization as your District 4 Los Angeles County Director. Through legislation and advocacy, I believe that we can change the climate of court reporting in California and once again take our rightful place at the table as equals in the legal industry. It is time to bring honor back to our esteemed profession, and through our efforts in fighting the SoCal stipulation and continuing to advocate for your concerns as a whole, I believe that we will accomplish this and many other great things in the coming year. Thank you for putting your trust in me, and I look forward to serving your interests again in 2016.

DISTRICT 5



ANDREA RINKER, CSR No. 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR

Counties Represented: Orange

As an Orange County native my entire life, being nominated for CalDRA's District 5 representative position is truly an honor. I have been a freelance reporter since 2009, and have been a member of CalDRA since 2010. I have had the pleasure of serving on the scholarship committee, GAP committee, chair of the student barbecue committee, and serving last year as Secretary-Treasurer on the board. I also currently teach the six-week deposition procedures class at South Coast College twice a year in the evenings.

As your District 5 representative, I am eager to continue the fight our association sparked regarding the SoCal stip, as well as spreading the word about our profession given the predicted shortage of California reporters in the next few years. Thank you very much for your membership, and I look forward to serving alongside this distinguished slate of nominees.

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MEET CALDRA'S 2016 PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DISTRICT 6



VESNA WALTER, CSR No. 11989, CCRR, RPR, CLR

Counties Represented: [San Bernardino and Riverside](#)

Vesna graduated from California School of Court Reporting (Sage) in 1999 and passed the CSR immediately thereafter. She is also an RPR and CCRR. She has been a freelance reporter in Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties for 16 years. She is currently the CalDRA Director for District 6 and sits on the mentoring committee. She has been mentoring students for the past five years.

DISTRICT 7



TRICIA ROSATE, CSR No. 10891, CCRR, RDR, RMR, CRR, CLR

Counties Represented: [San Diego and Imperial](#)

I am honored to be nominated to serve as the CalDRA District 7 Director for 2016-2017. My goals as a district representative include strengthening the DRA membership in San Diego County and Imperial County and to continually engage the reporters in my district. I will be available to answer questions, address concerns, and will always do my absolute best to represent my fellow reporters at board meetings.

I have reported for 20 years, including 17 years in my hometown of Los Angeles. I moved to America's Finest City in 2012 and continue to enjoy a thriving freelance career.

In addition to CalDRA, I am a member of the National Court Reporters Association, Society for the Technological Advancement of Reporting, and the StenoCAT Users Network. I regularly attend professional seminars and strive to keep in step with the most current technology. I am proud to have earned the Registered Diplomate Reporter and Certified Realtime Reporter designations through NCRA as well as the California Certificate in Realtime Reporting through CalDRA and hold myself to the highest professional and ethical standards.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve. Thank you for your consideration.

DISTRICT 8

OPEN

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)

If you wish to participate and be interviewed for the board position, please contact the DRA office at (888) 867-2074 or memberservices@caldra.org



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