

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

FALL 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONYEEN BLACK, CalDRA PRESIDENT

Wildfires and Your Freelancer Spirit of Independence and Hope

I live in the country. Wildfires are a part of life out here. A couple of times in the past, faced with the possibility of evacuation, my husband and I have had to pack our automobiles with valuables and, of course, my precious court reporting equipment, and then just sit ... and wait ... and hope.

So far, we have been lucky. The two times we have had blazing fires racing toward our home, the amazing CalFire firefighters have been able to control them before we were ordered to evacuate.

But others have not been so lucky. Too many of our members and our official colleagues have been devastated by the wildfires that hit Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Napa, and surrounding areas just a few short months ago.

As I sit down to write this, my heart hurts, thinking of the text messages and emails I received from and about cherished members whose homes had burned, having lost everything. I've also celebrated to hear the joyful news of one member's home, directly in the path of the fire, still standing days after evacuation. I praise God that I have not heard of any colleagues who have lost their lives during this disaster.

Fire happens. It can happen in the city or in the country. But as it has been featured so prevalently in the news these past months, it is a somber reminder of some professional best practices that we must follow to protect our work. Always make sure to back up your files on a cloud drive so that you can access them remotely.



THE NATION'S LARGEST TRADE
ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO
THE FREELANCE
DEPOSITION REPORTER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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CALDRA



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I know of some people who have mailed backup disks, containing their main files and dictionary, to a family member who lives far away, just in case. This is also another reason to have jobs you're currently working on set to back up every evening onto the cloud, so if you had to evacuate in the middle of the night like so many of our colleagues did (who didn't have time to grab anything), you are still able to access them at some point when you get back to work.

Another tragedy hit us in August: the loss of our beloved board member, Kelli Rinaudo, who passed away suddenly. Kelli had become a wonderful friend to me, and to all of the CalDRA family, over the years. We had roomed together at CalDRA's recent board retreat, completed CSR exam workshops for the Court Reporters Board together, and, most recently, shared an evening cocktail and dinner every night in Las Vegas over the summer at the National Court Reporters Association's annual convention. When I had asked Kelli why, after years of being asked, she finally decided to join the board of directors of CalDRA, she replied, "I joined because of you." I think that is probably the most wonderful compliment I could receive as the president of CalDRA. It is a special moment that I will cherish forever.

I'd also like to send a thank-you to the colleagues who helped to complete Kelli's outstanding transcripts. In times like these, it is heartening to see such a strong sense of community among us, stepping up to complete difficult tasks without reward.

All of this has caused me to think about you, the freelancer. In a very real sense, all of us freelancers, by taking the path less traveled, have chosen to be metaphorical "country-dwellers," if you will: independent, optimistic, determined. The risks are high, but so is the reward. Unlike so many of our friends and family, we have professionally chosen to live outside the box of a corporate or government cubicle. We are everyday pioneers making our own work, our own paths, tilling our own soil, building our own homesteads.

As I mourn for those members who have lost homes, and as we at your CalDRA mourn for our lost colleague, I am finally reminded of what truly binds those of us like you who have chosen, in our professional lives, to live "freely"... optimism ... grit ... independence... and, most of all, eternal and ever-powerful resilience. Cheers to the freelancer, and to you, dear member, this holiday season.



NOTE IT!

CALDRA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2018
CROWNE PLAZA LAX,
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA

CALDRA'S 22ND ANNUAL CONVENTION
FEBRUARY 16 - 18, 2018
RENAISSANCE HOTEL,
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

CCRR EXAMINATION
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018
Q&A - 5 MINUTES - 200 WPM - LIVE
DICTATION
RENAISSANCE HOTEL,
PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Highlights from the CalDRA Fall Seminar

“WRITE SHORT -- WRITE FAST!” WITH MARK KISLINGBURY

BY DIANE FREEMAN, CalDRA VICE PRESIDENT

This fall, I had the distinct pleasure of attending CalDRA's fall seminar featuring Guinness World Record holder Mark Kislingbury. It was truly an event like no other. Thank you, Mark, for an illuminating, entertaining day. You are not only an amazing reporter, but a great storyteller.

I must admit, I went into the seminar feeling ambivalent. Really? I can learn to write like Mark Kislingbury? All those briefs to remember? Fat chance!

After a day filled with tricks and tips from the best in the business, I left feeling renewed, refreshed, full of hope. I can write shorter! I will never be a master. Come on, let's be honest: After 35 years as a reporter, I'm an old dog. But Mark's seminar was a great reminder that I can certainly learn new tricks.

After all I had learned over the weekend, I went to my depo the following Monday filled with delusions of grandeur. I've got this! Well, maybe not quite. My notes were kind of messy. I mean *messy*. I was trying to make a brief on the fly for everything. It was a disaster. Well, “disaster” is a bit of an exaggeration. It just took longer to edit. Now I am taking baby steps with much more success. It's not that hard.

Thank you, Mark. I am now a believer – I can write short, write fast.

Of course, our crew of reporters met for happy hour at the hotel the night before the seminar. Everyone had a great time sharing stories and catching up, and of course enjoying a few glasses of delicious local wine.

It is a wonderful experience to attend these events along with the best and brightest in our profession. I, for one, have made lifelong friendships at CalDRA events. The networking is just an added bonus. I now have a wealth of knowledge and experience from which to draw, thanks



to all the wonderful men and women I have met over the years. All I have to do is pick up my phone or send an email and, voila, I have the answer to my question or the solution to my problem.

- **Joan Grier:** *“Mark’s seminars are always inspiring. He makes me proud to be a court reporter. He’s got such a great sense of humor. I didn’t want his seminar to end! Thanks for setting it up, CalDRA. The Palo Alto venue was perfect.”*
- **Melinda Nelson:** *“This is the first time I have attended a seminar presented by Mark Kislingbury. He was amazing! Besides being super talented, he is a down-to-earth, nice person. I left that seminar feeling rejuvenated and actually motivated to practice on my machine -- who would have thought?”*

Many thanks to Holly Moose for administering the CCRR test, to Vicki Squires for organizing the event, and to all the generous reporters who donated to the raffle.

See you in Palm Springs in February, everybody! Looking forward to hearing more stories, meeting new colleagues, and making new friends.

Registration opens December 1st!

Greetings FROM The Deposition Reporters Association's 22nd Annual Convention

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THE WORLD ON A STRING**

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www.caldra.org/2018

CalDRA Past President Rosalie Kramm honored with the 2017 Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism

The National Court Reporters Foundation recognized long-time NCRA member and CalDRA Past President **Rosalie Kramm, RPR, CRR**, of San Diego, California, with the 2017 Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism. The award was presented to Kramm during the Awards Luncheon on August 12 at the 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo, held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Santo J. Aurelio Award is given to a working court reporter with more than 25 years of experience who has given back to the profession and to the court reporting community with no expectation of any reward.

Kramm began her career as a court reporter in 1981 working for Robinson & Vint Court Reporters. In 1985, she opened Kramm Court Reporting. According to comments submitted by those who nominated her, Kramm is regarded in the profession for her professionalism, willingness to help, and love of promoting the profession.



This article was originally published on August 12, 2017, at www.thejcr.com. Thanks to our friends at NCRA for allowing its reprinting here.

You can find the original article at the link below:

<http://thejcr.com/2017/08/12/rosalie-kramm-honored-with-the-2017-santo-j-aurelio-award-for-altruism/#sthash.8IBRHDmz.dHjCJPji.dpbs>

DRA Student Corner

CALDRA HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING IN LIGHT OF RECENT LOW CSR PASS RATES



On Monday, August 28, CalDRA held its first-ever Town Hall Meeting at Tri-Community Adult Education in Covina, California, to address recent low pass rates for the dictation portion of the California CSR (Certified Shorthand Reporter) Exam. With passage numbers as low as 4% within the prior 12 months, CalDRA felt compelled to open up the floor to interested parties to identify possible causes and potential solutions to this troubling situation.

The meeting was well attended, with over 25 CSRs, instructors, students, and firm owners joining us for an intensive brainstorming session, which was also livestreamed on CalDRA's Facebook fan page. During this two-hour session, the group, along with input from the livestream audience, came up with a list of specific suggestions designed to improve the passage rate of the dictation exam. Some of them are listed below:

- Focusing on speed over realtime readiness
- Increasing vocabulary and terminology study
- Promoting brief-friendly steno theories and moving away from more stroke-intensive programs
- Requiring students to analyze steno outlines more frequently/reading from notes
- Taking an alternate path to certification (i.e., RPR route)
- Encouraging schools to mix up seating arrangements for qualifier testing
- Associations working together to create an online resource with free dictation/drills
- Raising the speed of the qualifying test to 225 WPM
- Requiring that 100% of tests administered at school be transcribed and graded
- Encouraging reduction of social media usage while in school
- Creating a more positive environment at the school level to improve morale
- Requiring students to transcribe longer dictation sessions of 30 minutes or more to improve writing stamina

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CALDRA HOLDS TOWN HALL MEETING IN LIGHT OF RECENT LOW CSR PASS RATES

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In addition, the group came up with a series of questions to be posed to our Court Reporters Board regarding the administration of the test and possible steps the Board may want to consider to help improve exam passage rates:

- Is the dictation exam practiced by the readers before given? If not, can it be?
- Have the writers of the test changed in the recent past? If so, could this be a potential factor in test content inadvertently becoming more difficult?
- Is it possible to offer recordings of past CSR examinations on the Court Reporters Board website so that potential test takers have more familiarity with the voices/styles of the test readers?
- Can a word list or the nature of the dictation be released to the test takers in advance of the exam to allow students the opportunity to prep?
- Are exams with higher pass rates compared against those with lower pass rates for discernible differences/patterns?
- Are failed tests that are within 10 points of passage examined more closely to look for style errors in grading?

CalDRA hopes that these concepts, and others devised at this brainstorming session, will offer the reporting community a more focused approach in arriving at a solution to this problem. As an organization we recognize that our student body is the lifeblood of the profession, and we intend to pursue every available avenue to help our future CSRs achieve their dreams of certification. Please stay tuned as we take these ideas to our colleagues at local schools and the Court Reporters Board, where we promise to continue advocating for the future of our profession.

Special thanks to Tri-Community Adult Education for hosting this important event. We appreciate your hospitality!



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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WE ARE THE 4 PERCENT

The California CSR exam has always been known to be a difficult test. Hundreds apply; few pass. We've all heard the numbers that scare us straight, driving many students to put in hundreds of extra hours practicing to obtain that elusive certification. The past year of CSR exams, however, have been particularly grueling and have garnered the attention of state schools and the CRB itself. March of 2017, in particular, left many students in fear as the CR Board released statistics on the spring examination: A mere 4 percent, six students in total, achieved passing scores on the dictation exam. At a time where the number of California court reporters is at an all-time low, the industry is worried, teachers are puzzled, and students are stressed, we ask: Why are these numbers so low?

Yet there were some student passers at the November 2016, January 2017, and March 2017 exams. We asked a sampling of this small batch the big question: **Why do you think you passed when so many didn't?** Here are their answers.

.....

Name: Bianca Torres, CSR No. 14179 (*finally*)
School Attended: South Coast College- Orange, CA
Skills Test Passed: January 2017 Retest
Pass Score: -50

The first time I went to take the CSR was July 2016, and I ended up missing the test with 56 errors. After appealing that test, I was at -51...-51! I was completely defeated and discouraged. And then the November 2017 test came along and -- well, we all know how that test went. I gave myself some time to feel sorry for myself and tried to get back to practicing as soon as possible. I kept attending classes, qualifiers, and practicing at home. Going in to the retake of the CSR in January, I tried to let go of all my nervous emotions, doubts, and any negative thoughts. I really believe my attitude helped me pass. I know I had the skills and

qualifications to pass; it was just my attitude that I needed to get into check. I actually listened to a TED talk that spoke about how important body language is to the way you feel. I listened to that same TED talk over and over again days leading up to the test, and I even had one last listen in line waiting to go into the test.

.....

Name: Celeste Poppe, CSR No. 14183
School Attended: Bryan University - Online
Skills Test Passed: January 2017 Retest
Pass Score: -50

One important thing that I learned after the November exam is that the test can be ANYTHING. You should never consistently practice in your "comfort zone." In fact, it should be the opposite. The majority of practice should be things outside your comfort zone so that you can tackle anything that is thrown at you -- much like the real world. After the November exam, I was mentally prepared that I was going to be taking the March exam. I cried for a day, knowing that I definitely didn't pass November, then picked myself back up. When I returned home from Sacramento, I signed up for the 225wpm Testimony RPR leg. I practiced at 240 and 260, preparing for that leg doing one-minute snippets starting at 200, working my way up to 260, then back down to 240 as my goal speed. I did that for about a month while I prepared for the 225, and I passed that test with 97%. Shortly after I passed the 225wpm, the CRB meeting was held where the retest would be given. I continued with the same practice method, practicing things way outside my comfort zone. I went into January with a whole new confidence that "If I can pass the 225 Q&A, I can pass this." I think I was able to pass the January test because I worked my butt off practicing, combined with my new confidence from passing the 225 RPR leg. Anyone who qualifies to go to the exam has the skill to pass it. It's controlling the nerves and the confidence going into the test that will make the difference.

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Name: Victoria French, CSR No. 14193

School Attended: South Coast College (I chose the best court reporting school. All of the teachers and staff really wanted to see me succeed and they pushed all of us students to be better.)

Skills Test Passed: March 2017

Pass Score: -31

I treated every qualifier like it was the CSR. There was no option to fail. I got used to the nerves, accepted them, and actually embraced them as part of the process.

My fiancé and son drove me up to LA for the CSR. When they were leaving, I looked into my son's eyes and said to myself that I will not come home without a "W" (or, I guess, a "P" for pass).

At the hotel, I mostly stayed in my hotel room and practiced to higher speeds (225-240). I didn't want to listen to people who were talking about how scared they were or hear any negative thinking. I went to the gym that night, and I felt as if it released the built-up anxiety and stress.

My entire experience during school, I sat toward the back of the class. I HATED sitting in the front...I got the front row at the CSR. Ha ha.

During dictation, I was eerily calm. I silently said to myself that I was going to kill this test. First, I quickly made one-stroke briefs for the preview words. I focused on each word as it came. I knew I had to drop once during the warm-up to get the nerves out and get angry at myself so that I didn't drop again.

I remembered to breathe, and I was repeating in my head things rude people have said to me, doubting if I will actually do it.

Leaving the dictation room, I had no idea what the test was about, but I knew I got every word. I looked around and saw the shaking of heads, disappointed faces, and even some tears.

Transcription was another story. I started dumping my notes when Windows 10 decided that right then was the perfect time to do its massive update. I thought I updated my

computer the night before, but apparently not for Windows 10. My heart sank. I have never experienced such terror and stress. It wouldn't let me override the update. I sat there for about 40 minutes crying while it updated. It was only at 33% finished when I decided to hold down the power button. It worked. I started editing like a mad woman. It tried to update again every hour. I had to repeat the process. Later on, before I could print, my software was giving me an error message, and I couldn't edit my transcript again! The level of sheer panic I felt is indescribable. I held down the power button and repeated the process. It worked again!

After it was all said and done, I lost about an hour of transcription time. I turned in the transcript with five minutes left, felt like I just got hit by a train, and the rest is history.

Thank you for reading my story! Everyone's journey is unique.

Name: Kaitlyn Houston, CA CSR No. 14170

School Attended: Argonaut in Sacramento and Sage online CR school

Skills Past Passed: November 2016

Pass Score: -40 (ish)

Honestly, I have no thrilling, riveting reason that I contribute my pass to. I lived an hour-plus away from Argonaut in Sacramento where I did the majority of schooling, so I think I was just ready to be done with it all so I didn't have to commute the 2+ hours every day. I went through school in just a little over a year and a half. I worked full time throughout school while commuting. That was all pretty helpful in motivating me to finish my requirements as quickly and efficiently as I could to be ready to get the licensing portion over with as soon as possible.

Since the test was given in Sacramento, I stayed the night in the hotel. Long story short, I almost got my machine locked in the transcription room the night before. Also, my printer quit working after printing one page -- ONE SINGLE PAGE -- of notes as soon as I got in the transcription room after my

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WE ARE THE 4 PERCENT

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group dictation was done on test day. I was actually joking about the people that take additional printers to the test as a backup, and karma ended up having a great way of throwing that one in my face. I had a small mental breakdown (as well as the test-taker that was sitting straight in front of me that cried the entire three hours -- I think that's how long it was? -- while talking herself through it.) I was able to submit my test on a USB provided by the CRB.

I went home with a very small hope of passing, especially after seeing everyone outside of the transcription room and after the emergency meeting by the CRB that showed that only two first-time students had passed. Thanks to that test, I will have a life-long habit of watching for the USPS truck to drop by my house.

I was blessed enough to not have to worry about too much while I was working on getting my license, so I tried to pressure myself as little as possible and just go with whatever God had planned for me. It's very important to love yourself and be proud of yourself throughout the process of school and state testing because it is HARD, which I am sure everyone agrees with. Celebrate the small victories and surround yourself with positive people.

Name: Kaitlin Holland, CSR No. 14198

School Attended: Westec in Shafter, CA

Skills Test Passed: November

Pass Score: -43 (ish)

I believe the main reason I passed the November 2016 CSR is because of mental preparation. I spent almost as much time mentally preparing as I did practicing on my machine. I would do stress-relief yoga every morning and every night. All it took was five minutes twice a day, and it makes a world of difference. Breathing deeply and stretching your muscles is so important. I also used a line of stress-relief lotions from Bath and Body Works. Maybe it was all in my head, but I would feel instantly more relaxed whenever I put on eucalyptus lotion.

My main suggestion when it comes to mentally preparing for the CSR is so simple, but we all overlook it. Don't forget to breathe. I trained myself to focus on my breathing whenever taking a test or practicing in general. Oftentimes when we're taking a test, we get anxious or excited. It's at that time we start to hold our breath and then lose it because our hands start shaking. We've all been there. My suggestion is to practice on focusing on your breathing. The whole time during my CSR I had people clearly in distress around me and the person next to me decided not to write at all. I did nothing but pay attention to my breathing and nothing else mattered. Focusing on your breathing not only gives the test-taker something else to think about other than how nervous they are, but it also keeps their nerves in check.

My last suggestion is probably the most obvious. Positivity is key. If you don't believe in yourself, then you're not going to pass. If you tell yourself it's too hard, then I promise it's going to be too hard. Believe you can, and you will.

I spent six years working towards this career. I underestimated how difficult it would be to become a CSR, but I am so glad I stuck with it and achieved my dreams. I have a career that doesn't feel like a job to me because I truly enjoy it. Good luck to all the future CSRs still working to achieve their goals. You'll be working before you know it.




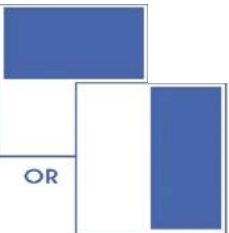
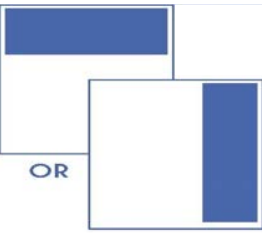
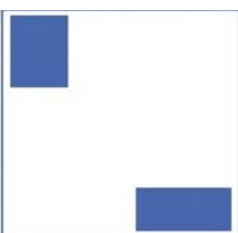
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DRA reserves the right in its sole discretion to accept or reject submitted advertising or content.

CaDRA Members Rock!

CaDRA loves its members! Every year, our five district reps organize social events in their geographic area to celebrate our membership and thank them for their loyalty. Here are a few snapshots from some recent social gatherings held this year. Want to attend the next one? Don't forget to reach out to your local district rep to get info on an upcoming gathering in your area. All members are welcome!



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DRA BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

This report marks the close of the first year of a two-year legislative session, which ended with the Governor's signing, vetoing, or approving without signing all bills which made it to his desk after successfully clearing both the Assembly and Senate. During the second year of this session, we may see any bills listed below that did not pass both houses but are still viable continue through the process, in their original form or perhaps amended. Along with those, any new bills that are introduced that could have any impact on our profession will be added to this list of bills, and they will be followed closely, as always, by our very skilled lobbyist, Ed Howard, and your legislative committee.



Below is a short summary of the twelve bills our committee was tracking this session and the status of each as of October 15th, 2017. The legislator who introduced and authored each bill is shown in parentheses following the bill number.

AB (ASSEMBLY BILL) 96 (TING)

Summary: Called the "Budget Act of 2017," it would appropriate funds for the support of the State government for 2017-2018.

Status: Was referred to the Assembly Budget Committee but never heard by the committee. It may continue through the legislative process this next year.

AB 701 (GALLAGHER)

Summary: Sponsored by CCRA, would prohibit an official reporter producing the official record from also providing CART services for a deaf or hard-of-hearing participant in a civil or criminal proceeding and would require that a CART reporter be provided in addition to the official reporter. Would require that the Court Reporters Board establish standards to certify CART reporters by January 1, 2019, and that CART reporters be certified pursuant to these standards by July 1, 2019.

Status: Was held under submission by the Assembly Appropriations Committee. May continue this next year.

AB 703 (FLORA)

Summary: Would require every board within the Department of Consumer Affairs, which would include the Court Reporters Board, to waive the fees for the application and issuance of an initial

license for a spouse or domestic partner of an active-duty member of the armed services.

Status: Was referred to the Assembly Committee on Business & Professions but never heard by the committee. May continue this next year.

AB 710 (WOOD)

Summary: Would require that all boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs, which would include the Court Reporters Board, meet once every other year in rural California.

Status: Passed by the Assembly; now in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development. The hearing set for 6/19/17 was cancelled at the request of the author and was never heard. May continue this next year.

AB 976 (BERMAN)

Summary: Sponsored by the Judicial Council of California, would authorize all trial courts in California to require electronic filing and service of documents in civil actions. Requirements re filing, signature, encryption, and other details were also included.

Status: Passed by both houses. Approved by the Governor, September 27, 2017; to take effect January 1, 2018.

AB 1450 (OBERNOLTE)

Summary: Sponsored by CCRA, would require that all official and official pro tem reporters deliver transcripts in electronic form to any court, party or person entitled to a transcript, unless the recipient requests the transcript in paper form.

The other exceptions to e-delivery would be, only prior to 2023, if a court cannot use or store transcripts electronically or the reporter lacks the technical ability to deliver the transcript electronically. The requirements of Government Codes 69950 and 69954 would still apply, and reporters shall not be required to use a specific vendor or software to comply with this electronic delivery.

Status: Passed by both houses. Approved by the Governor, October 16, 2017; to take effect January 1, 2018.

AB 1631 (SALAS)

Summary: Would prohibit a reporting entity from giving cash or gift cards for marketing purposes. Specifically would not prohibit reasonable entertainment and marketing expenses. Also, specifically would not limit anyone from entering long-term or multi-case contracts with attorneys, law firms or third parties financing an action. As

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DRA BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

originally introduced, created a new definition of “shorthand reporting service corporation” for firms rendering back-office support services, but that language was amended out in response to strong opposition by CalDRA.

Status: Heard by the Assembly Business & Professions Committee and failed passage. Bill dead.

AB 1660 (KALRA)

Summary: Sponsored by the Court Reporters Board, would allow for an individual or entity to provide or arrange for court reporters if the individual were a CSR, if the entity were a shorthand reporting corporation, or if the individual or the entity were registered with the CRB as a court reporter provider. Any individual or entity registered as a court reporter provider would be subject to the same laws and regulations applicable to the conduct of CSRs.

Would also require that a CSR or a shorthand reporting corporation not engage in the practice of reporting on behalf of any individual or entity that is not registered with the CRB as a reporter

provider and is to verify such registration before working on behalf of that individual or entity.

Status: Passed by both houses. Vetoed by the Governor, October 15, 2017.

SB 27 (MORRELL)

Summary: Would require all boards within the DCA, including the CRB, to waive the fees for the application and issuance of an initial license for a person who has served in the California National Guard or the US armed services.

Status: Referred to the Appropriations Committee; held under submission. May continue this next year.

SB 72 (MITCHELL)

Summary: Also called the “Budget Act of 2017.” Essentially the Senate version of AB 96, would also appropriate funds for the support of the State government for 2017-2018.

Status: Referred to the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee; never heard by the committee. May continue this next year.

SB 76 (NIELSEN)

Summary: Would permit an employee organization representing an employee who files grievances with the Department of Human Resources to request arbitration. The party would have the right to have a CSR report the arbitration, and the transcript would be the official record of the arbitration.

Status: Passed by the Senate; in the Assembly. Referred to the Appropriations Committee; held in the inactive file. May continue this next year.

SB 484 (ROTH)

Summary: Sponsored by CalDRA, would make it unlawful for anyone employed by or who contracts with an agency that arranges for deposition reporters to offer any gift, incentive, or anything of value to anyone associated with a proceeding being reported.

Status: Passed by the Senate; in the Assembly. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. Hearing set; cancelled by the author. May continue this next year.

Expression

by:



Ask DRA *Attaching Non-Exhibits to a Deposition a Sticky Business*

BY ANTONIA PULONE, DEPO DIPLOMAT

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

My mentee through DRA asked a question I wasn't definitive on, so I'm running it past you.

She had an attorney ask to attach something to the record without actually marking it as an exhibit. I told her how I handle that in my index. Then she advised that he had asked her to attach it after the deposition was concluded, ex parte, off the record. Now, if this were an exhibit, I'd say that she may not include it. Would you see that any differently in that it was not marked and he only wishes it be attached?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

This is a rather grey area, that of attaching documents to depo transcripts which aren't marked as exhibits, but I would respond in much the same way as if it were being attached as an exhibit. I don't think it's appropriate to attach anything to a deposition transcript that doesn't have the approval of all parties present. One attorney should not be allowed to unilaterally attach documents without presenting the document to the other parties present and giving them the opportunity to object, if they choose to do so.

Now, unfortunately, in explaining to this attorney why she cannot do what he's asked of her, there isn't any language that I'm aware of in the Code of Civil Procedure that's specific to this subject. In fact, the CCP includes very little direction to the deposition officer

regarding exhibits. I've also searched the Evidence Code for some language re the handling of exhibits and not found anything. So I think we have to rely on our own judgment on this subject and keep in mind the basic tenet of maintaining our impartiality in all regards, which includes not taking any action like this without the knowledge and express permission of all parties.

So in general, I'd say that it is no more appropriate to attach a document, as an exhibit or just an attachment, out of the presence and without the knowledge of the other parties present at the depo, than it would be to add testimony to the record without the knowledge of the other parties. And if this attorney argues about her response, the reporter could perhaps use that analogy to support her answer.



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What's In Your Dictionary?

Ahh, the personal dictionary. Every reporter needs one, and no two are exactly alike. With the ever-evolving climate of the news and new colloquialisms being introduced into our vocabularies on a daily basis, the CAT dictionary has become a fluid document, constantly in need of modification. Here are some entries that every great realtime reporter should consider adding to his or her dictionary:

CURRENT EVENTS

Black Friday
Cyber Monday
Super Bowl
Hurricane Harvey
Hurricane Maria
Obamacare
Trumpcare
Academy Awards
Rose Parade
Hanukkah
Mount Agung
Las Vegas Golden Knights
Pope Francis

TELEVISION SHOWS

Stranger Things
Sons of Anarchy
Big Bang Theory
Seinfeld
Gilligan's Island
Game of Thrones
This Is Us
The Walking Dead
Breaking Bad
House of Cards
Antiques Roadshow
The Young and the Restless
The Real Housewives of Orange County

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY

laminectomy
amniocentesis
fluoroscope
hypothalamus
zygote
Tay-Sachs disease
Apgar score
preeclampsia
bilirubin
acetabulum
basal cell carcinoma
sartorius
kyphosis

COMPANY NAMES

Abercrombie & Fitch
Carl's Jr.
The Cheesecake Factory
Rite Aid
Walmart
Saks Fifth Avenue
Western Dental
Sparkletts
Keurig
Jamba Juice
Whole Foods
Brookstone
IKEA

CELEBRITIES IN THE NEWS

Prince Harry
Meghan Markle
Kevin Spacey
Harvey Weinstein
Charles Manson
Robert Mueller
Colin Kaepernick
Kellyanne Conway
Neil Gorsuch
Justin Trudeau
Kim Jong Un
David Cassidy
Tom Petty

Have an entry you'd like to see in our next feature? E-mail it to newslettereditor@caldra.org!

POP QUIZ!

CalDRA is proud to introduce Kelly Bryce Shainline, who has joined our Board of Directors as District 1 Representative after the tragic passing of Board member Kelli Rinaudo. We sat down with Kelly to get to know a little bit about CalDRA's newest representative.

KELLY BRYCE SHAINLINE

Certification: CSR No. 13476, RPR, CRR, WA CSR No. 3413



Residence: Castro Valley

How long have you been reporting?

10 years

How did you first get involved with DRA?

While in school, I joined all the associations and tried to go to as many conventions as I could. I always enjoyed networking and being around other reporters. I decided it was time to join the board when I learned of Kelli Rinaudo's passing. A few weeks earlier, she and I were sitting at a poolside cabana at the NCRA convention in Las Vegas talking about life and, of course, court reporting. Her passion for the profession made me realize I needed to give more. She is the reason I decided to become a board member.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Castro Valley.

Tell us about your family.

I have a wonderful husband, Tyler, and two boys, Dean and Jackson. Dean is 3 years old and Jackson is 6.

Who is your celebrity crush?

I would say Dwayne Johnson "The Rock." The drive he has to accomplish everything he wants to do is amazing. Also, he seems to be a genuinely nice guy!

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

When I'm not reporting, I like to be with my family. The best is curling up on the couch and watching a movie.

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

Yes. I enjoy the freedom it has given me and my family. It can be tough and challenging, but I enjoy that.

What is one professional accomplishment you would still like to achieve?

I would like to get my RMR. I believe the more certs you have, the better. It's all the practice that it took to get that cert that makes the cert so important.

Who is your steno "idol"?

My steno idol would have to be my mom, Jo Ann Bryce. Everything she has accomplished in her career and still is accomplishing amazes me every day. She somehow does it all while still helping other reporters and giving her time to help troubleshoot a computer or lend an ear when someone needs to talk.

How do you balance your family and free time with the demands of reporting?

I owe so much to my support team. First off, I have an awesome husband who supports me and my career. Second, I wouldn't have any free time without my scopist. These two people are the reason I get to see my family all the time and actually can be present when I'm with them. Setting up a support team is crucial in the success of a reporter.

Why is CalDRA membership important to you?

Being a member of CalDRA has connected me with so many people. The huge network at our fingertips is invaluable. I enjoy all the knowledge there is when we all work together and can help each other. Knowing DRA has my back when it comes to the stuff some of us don't even know is going on; for example, all the legislation. The membership fee is worth every penny when I know DRA is working so hard to fight for us.



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CalDRA is proud to announce its proposed slate of nominees for its 2018 Board of Directors

President – Cheryl Haab

President Elect – Diane Freeman

Vice President – Tricia Rosate

Secretary – Andrea Rinker-Chavez

Treasurer – Andrea Rinker-Chavez

District 1 Director – Kelly Bryce Shainline

District 2 Director – Kimberly D’Urso

District 3 Director – Erika Sjoquist

District 4 Director – Mary Pierce

District 5 Director – Jamie Asbury

CalDRA would like to thank the Nominating Committee for its hard work in assembling the proposed slate for 2018. More information on each of the nominees and the member voting process will be made available in the coming weeks.

Here’s to another successful year at CalDRA!



IN MEMORIAM:

Kelli Rinaudo

CSR, CCRR, RDR, CRR

This past August, the CalDRA family lost one of its own – District 1 Director Kelli Rinaudo, a cherished longtime member of the organization. This holiday season, some months after her passing, we continue to celebrate her life and her accomplishments. Here are a few words we'd like to share in honoring Kelli:

CalDRA had the distinct pleasure of welcoming Kelli to its Board in 2017 as District Director for the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma. While she had served only months in this capacity, she quickly flourished in her role as liaison between the Board and its constituents, bringing her quiet grace and wisdom to the position, as only Kelli could.

Long before her service on the board began, Kelli was well known as a tireless contributor to the industry. She was a champion of integrity and volunteerism, and she never failed to donate her time and resources to CalDRA and other associations when help was needed. Despite the demands of

her thriving firm, Monarch Reporting, Kelli found time in her schedule to serve at CRB weekend workshops and meetings to further contribute to the profession.

A mentor and inspiration to many reporters, Kelli was dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in all its forms. Already an accomplished CSR, CCRR, RPR, CRR, RMR, and RDR, her quest to hone her skill continued well into her final year, earning yet another professional certification in 2017 for captioning.

Kelli resided in Pacific Grove, California. She was a staunch women's rights advocate and animal activist. In her spare time, she indulged her true passion, restoring her beautiful vintage truck. She is survived by her sister Michelle and her loving dog, Snoopy.

Kelli, the mark you have made on this profession, and on all of our lives, is beautiful and everlasting. You will be greatly missed by all who were lucky enough to have known you. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you -- for your service, your friendship, and the powerful legacy that you have left behind.