

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 2017

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ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO
THE FREELANCE
DEPOSITION REPORTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONYEEN BLACK, CSR, RPR, CCR
DRA PRESIDENT

Fellow freelancers and CalDRA Family, Happy New Year!

As I look ahead to 2017, I see opportunities, new horizons, challenges, and, as always with your CalDRA, lots of fun.

First, let's talk about the fun and new horizons. I'm enormously excited for our upcoming Annual Convention in Napa. Aside from our usual stellar roster of speakers and seminars, networking opportunities, and the best party anywhere in the reporter world, this year we have inaugurated our CalDRA CCEM program. This first-of-its kind California program will ensure that you get a leg up on the competition by distinguishing yourself as a reporter up-to-speed on the latest California laws, regulations, and standards.

Yes, CalDRA is again innovating and always looking for ways to be of assistance to you in furthering your career. We hope you will join us to celebrate, learn, network, and get certified in Napa!

Speaking of opportunities and challenges, your CalDRA has listened to you, the working freelancer. And through your votes and feedback at our seminars this past year, you have helped determine our full-to-the-brim advocacy agenda for 2017, which includes:



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONYEEN BLACK,
CSR No. 10574, GCRR, CLR
president@caldra.org

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JODI MONROE,
CSR No. 13010, RPR, CLR
vicepresident@caldra.org

SECRETARY



LINDA NELSON,
CSR No. 11795, CLR
secretarytreasurer@caldra.org

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DIANE FREEMAN,
CSR 5884, RPR
district1@caldra.org

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

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DISTRICT 3



KIMBERLY D'URSO,
CSR No. 11372, RPR
district3@caldra.org

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba

DISTRICT 4



CHERYL HAAB,
CSR No. 13600, RPR, CLR
district4@caldra.org

County Represented: Los Angeles

DISTRICT 5



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR No. 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR
district5@caldra.org

County Represented: Orange

DISTRICT 6



VESNA WALTER,
CSR No. 11989, RPR, CCRR
district6@caldra.org

Counties Represented: San Bernardino and Riverside

DISTRICT 7



TRICIA ROSATE,
CSR No. 10891, CCRR, RDR, CRR, CLR
district7@caldra.org

Counties Represented: San Diego and Imperial

DISTRICT 8



ERIKA SJOQUIST,
CSR 10574, RPR, CRR
district8@caldra.org

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.)

Deposition Reporters Association
800 South Pacific Coast Highway
#8-407

Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Phone: 888.867.2074

Fax: 424.271.9157

memberservices@caldra.org

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cheryl Haab,

CSR, RPR, CLR

newslettereditor@caldra.org



CALDRA



CAL_DRA

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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- Supporting and collaborating with the Court Reporters Board (CRB) in its legislative efforts to level the playing field between licensee-owned and nonlicensee-owned firms. And, just as last year, your CalDRA will stand firm and refuse to support any legislation that may relegate our esteemed profession to a second-class status, allowing nonlicensee-owned corporations to operate here legally without any licensee in management on the hook. We will ensure that your license is honored and that our profession doesn't become the only one in which corporations can practice without licensees being held accountable for management decisions.
- Sponsoring legislation to curb unethical kickbacks (read: goodies for paralegals and legal secretaries) that raise tax liabilities for law firms and distort the market away from bookings based on quality and price.
- Continuing our fight against the SoCal stipulation, with our "Stop the Stip" Volunteer Task Force, comprised of freelancers like you, working together to end this practice.
- Monitoring compliance with our landmark bill, AB 1197 (Bonilla), regarding disclosure of contractual relationships as a necessary first step toward possibly broader relief.
- Following up on the helping hand we have already extended to Sage College students in light of the sudden closure of their school (Did you see your CalDRA in the news? If not, check it out [here!](#)).
- And, as always, offering aid to our official sisters and brothers whenever we can in their efforts to protect our mutual profession.

In the courtroom, your CalDRA will continue to fight for your interests as it faces the court of appeal to preserve our successes of the prior year – both the litigation that attempted to impose official reporter rates on freelancers, and the case which sought to assist Holly Moose, former CalDRA President and California firm owner, in her effort to enforce current law against nonlicensee-owned corporations.

In court, in the legislature, before the CRB, the State Bar, the Judicial Council - your CalDRA is here, there, and everywhere, advocating on your behalf. Only your CalDRA has an aggressive agenda driven by its working freelancer members that, year after year, racks up countless successes to protect their interests.

I am so honored and proud to be a part of CalDRA, and even more honored and proud every day to wake up with you, the noble freelancer, on my mind. Your successes, like my own, are crucial to the future of our profession.

And so, when all is said and done, there is not a doubt in my mind: Freelancers, together, can achieve anything! In 2017 we will prove it... again. See you in Napa! (And I hear -- this is just a rumor – that they have wine there. Hmmmmm. I think I'll have to check that out!)



SMILES FOR CALDRA

"I derived great benefit from attending the meeting [yesterday]. It was great seeing the board in action. I look forward to participating more in ways that I can. Thanks again to all!"

- Sue Imperial

New Members

Brenda Burghardt

Susan Bruzzese

Judith Thiel

Amanda Lentine

Tom Brown

Christine Phipps

Kaylin Bush

Anastassia Kokezas

Kristie Shepherd

Cynthia Poliseri

Kimberly Barrette

Whitney Adair

Raymond Gifford

Colleen Jeffers

Lauren Kelly

Celeste Ramsey

Jean Gonzalez

Joseph Janus

Francisco Flores

Lisa Mendel

Alyssa Marcum

Jenna Osborn

Amber Harlan

Jakenya Jones

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Jessica Hawkins

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CAN YOU SAY THAT?

The Legal Ethics of Working with Court Reporters

DIANE FREEMAN, CSR, RPR
DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

On January 25, 2017, I will be on a lunchtime panel sponsored by the Paralegal section of the San Francisco Bar Association moderated by Ana Fatima Costa. On the panel are The Honorable Charlotte Walter Woolard (Ret.) and two other reporters – Brooke Ryan and Kelly Bryce-Shainline. We are fortunate to have Ms. Antonia Pulone, CalDRA legislative chair, as our consultant sharing her knowledge. She will be in the front row to answer questions.

The attendees will receive MCLE credits, and there will be a webcast so they can attend remotely.

This is the beginning, hopefully, of a partnership between legal associations and court reporters. Ethics is the au courant topic right now. It is fitting to be the first such collaboration.

I want to thank all my CalDRA colleagues for their belief in me and their support; because of them, I am getting out of my comfort zone and sharing my passion for reporting.

Stay tuned for the outcome of the discussion.

For more information, click [HERE](#). You are welcome to sign up. We would love to see you there.

Ask DRA **Can My Transcripts Be Subpoenaed?**

BY ANTONIA PULONE

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

Can I provide a deposition transcript if I am served a subpoena to provide it? Or do I still have to follow the Code and send out all the letters and wait for anyone to object? Or if Applicant's counsel can prove that they are now representing the same party, can I provide it to them in place of the attorney of record at the time of the depo?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

Starting with your last question first, yes, if the attorney requesting the transcript is now representing an individual that was also a party to the case in the depo being requested, that party would have the right to order a copy of that previous deposition transcript where he was involved – if I'm understanding you correctly – so as that party's agent, the attorney could purchase a copy of the previous depo where his client was a party.

But going back to your first question regarding your being served with a subpoena for your transcript, I have good news for you on that situation. There's California case law from several years ago, where Althea Miller fought such a subpoena, and the court ruled that a deposition transcript is not a business record of a reporting firm – or of a reporter – and so cannot be subpoenaed as such, so

it could be that the subpoena you received is ineffective. I don't know whether attorneys ever subpoena a transcript from a reporter in any fashion other than as a business record, but check your subpoena for the specific language used there.

I'll attach the case citation here for your reference. If yours is a subpoena for business records and this citation applies in your case – I can tell you it's applied in every other instance where a reporter or firm has contacted me with this question, and it applied both times our office was served with a subpoena – then you can explain to the attorney that your depo transcripts cannot be subpoenaed in this way, but that he can request a copy as a nonparty per CCP 2025.570, and you will follow the procedures

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

AskDRA

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required there. If none of the parties or deponent from that case serve you with a protective order in due time after being notified by you of this copy request, you will then provide him the copy he's requested.

If the attorney is not just attempting to get a free copy from you by means of this subpoena, then this response from you may serve his needs very nicely. Both of the times an attorney tried a subpoena with our office, they were unaware of this CCP code section that gave them this option and were happy to have this information. So maybe that will be true in your case.

I hope all of this above isn't too confusing and makes sense, but if not, please ask me any other follow-up questions you may have. I'll paste below a copy of the relevant CCP section as well as attach the Miller case citation [HERE](#) for you.

2025.570.

(a) Notwithstanding subdivision (b) of Section 2025.320, unless the court issues an order to the contrary, a copy of the transcript of the deposition testimony made by, or at the direction of, any party, or an audio or video recording of the deposition testimony, if still in the possession of the deposition officer, shall be made available by the deposition officer to any person requesting a copy, on payment of a reasonable charge set by the deposition officer.

(b) If a copy is requested from the deposition officer, the deposition officer shall mail a notice to all parties attending the deposition and to the deponent at the deponent's last known address advising them of all of the following:

- (1) The copy is being sought.
- (2) The name of the person requesting the copy.
- (3) The right to seek a protective order under Section 2025.420.

(c) If a protective order is not served on the deposition officer within 30 days of the mailing of the notice, the deposition officer shall make the copy available to the person requesting the copy.

(d) This section shall apply only to recorded testimony taken at depositions occurring on or after January 1, 1998.



WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW FOR DRA'S WAR CHEST

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

ONLY YOUR DRA TAKES THE FIGHT EVERYWHERE

THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD
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LITIGATION
THE STATE BAR
THE PRESS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Lisa Michaels

SUDDEN CLOSURE AT SAGE COLLEGE CREATES UNCERTAINTY FOR STUDENTS

On Dec 12th, 2016, Sage College's accrediting agency, ACICS, lost their Appeal to the United States Department of Education, DOE, to continue operating with accreditation. As a result, Sage then opted to close their doors for good. The school has reiterated that administrative support would be available during the coming weeks to their student body as these displaced students begin to explore their next steps.

Students residing in California when enrolled paid an assessment to the Student Tuition Recovery Fund (STRF). The State of California created STRF to relieve or mitigate economic losses suffered by California residents who were students while attending certain schools regulated by the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education. Students were told that representatives from the Bureau will be contacting them to discuss options, possibly receiving loan forgiveness.

Sage's displaced students, rightfully upset at the sudden closure of the school, contacted local news outlets to share their stories. Interested television stations in the area enthusiastically offered to cover the story.

CalDRA's District 5 Director, Andrea Rinker-Chavez, paid a visit to Sage College's closed campus on January 3rd, 2017, to support its students and to answer inquiries from local television stations ABC7, KCAL9, and FOX11. In her capacity as a member of CalDRA's Board of Directors, Andrea took the time to assuage the concerns of Sage's student body and to provide guidance on possible next steps in their court reporting journey.

From feedback received at this event, it appears that the most challenging aspect for the students now is the distance to the nearest brick-and-mortar school. Some were already commuting 50 miles or more to attend Sage, and they are now tasked with deciding whether a three-hour commute, one way, to another court reporting school is feasible. Another possibility for students in this situation is enrolling in an online program.

CalDRA reminds displaced Sage students that we are a continuing resource for you in this time of transition. CalDRA and its lobbyist, Ed Howard, have excellent and longstanding relationships at the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Bureau of Private Postsecondary Education, the latter of which is charged with overseeing the provision of aid to students of for-profit institutions like Sage. Rest assured during this uncertain time that CalDRA is here for you.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind while planning your strategy moving forward:

- Don't feel pressured to make a rushed decision.
- Ask questions, gather information, and read reviews from any subsequent school in which you plan to enroll.
- Keep up your regular practice schedule to maintain speed.
- Surround yourself with a positive support system to avoid discouragement and frustration.
- Don't hesitate to reach out to CalDRA! We are here to help.

A few helpful links and tips:

A listing of the California Court Reporters Board's recognized private reporter training schools can be found [HERE](#).

A listing of the California Court Reporters Board's recognized public reporter training schools can be found [HERE](#).

Free dictation practice can be accessed [HERE](#).

If you are a Sage student who needs help navigating next steps or interacting with the Bureau, please email us at memberservices@caldra.org. CalDRA has your back!



THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IS FEAR ITSELF

MICHAEL MCMORRAN, CSR, RPR



“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

While I wasn’t alive when President Roosevelt said those immortal words to assuage the fears of a country in the midst of the Great Depression, as I look back on the past couple of weeks and

what has transpired in the court reporting community with the closing of my alma mater, Sage College, I can’t help but find comfort in those words.

When I first heard the news that Sage was closing on the eve of 2017, all I could think about was how awful I felt for the staff and student body who were probably getting ready for their New Year’s celebrations, only to find out that the trajectory of their academic and professional livelihoods had taken a dramatic shift. I was afraid that this profession would lose many future amazing new professionals.

However, as the days went by, I took note of the Sage community banding together and supporting one another through this terrible crisis. The Sage community quickly turned to the entire court reporting community and my fears suddenly turned into inspiration and adoration.

Court reporters are no strangers to adversity. The vast majority of us overcame it just to get through court reporting school in the first place. My best advice to all of the students who have been affected by this closure would simply be to avoid standing still. Do not let the fear of what to do next prevent you from actually taking that next step.

That next step could be anything from creating a study group with your fellow displaced peers to investing in dictation material to signing up with another school or program; perhaps attending a court reporting seminar or convention to get that shot of motivation from speaking with other court reporters who have also faced adversity, or investing in court reporting resources, such as theory supplements or briefing manuals to help shorten your writing.

Whatever you choose to do, the only thing that can stop you from achieving your court reporting dreams is not the closure of your court reporting school, but rather yourself. Court reporting school is simply a means to get to your end goal, but it by no means is the end-all, be-all of how you will ultimately achieve that goal.

Believe in yourself, and the rest of us will follow. If you want it, you can have it. Just go out and take it.

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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DRA Student Corner

LET'S BUILD STENO SPEED

MONYEEN BLACK, CSR, RPR, CCRR, CLR
CALDRA PRESIDENT

Every student has tried varying speed building methods at one time or another but are always unsure if they are actually helpful. I'm going to share a method with you that I came up with and have shared with many who have felt that this speedbuilding method is one that truly works. One of the students I shared it with has coined it Mo's Speedbuilding Method (MSBM for short.)

Choose any five-minute dictation – Literary, Jury Charge, Q&A. We are going to break this five-minute dictation down into one-minute takes. Pick a goal speed. Let's say your goal speed is 200 wpm.

In Windows Media Player, you are going to adjust the play speed settings to 0.9 to make it 180 wpm. Write the tape for one minute. Analyze your steno for any briefs you might want to create or have but maybe have forgotten. Write those down in your notebook and work on those during each take.

Go back into play speed settings and adjust the setting back to 1.0, making it a 200 wpm.

Write that same 1-minute take again now at 200 wpm.

Go back into play settings, adjust to 1.1 (220 wpm), write; adjust to 1.2 (240 wpm), write; adjust to 1.3 (260 wpm), write; adjust back down to 1.1 (220 wpm) and try to NAIL IT! You want to nail a 220 wpm if your goal speed is 200 wpm.

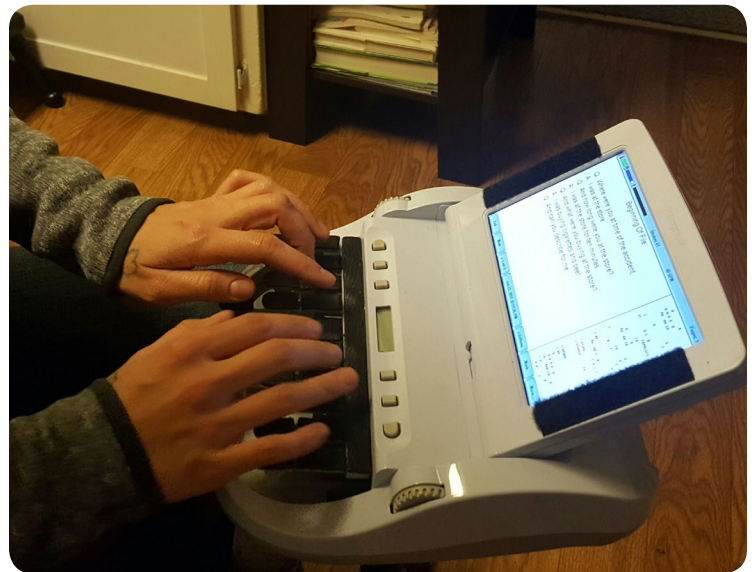
When you are going 240 and 260, drop the punctuation, write slop, just get something down for everything.

To recap – take EACH 1-minute increment of a five-minute dictation at 180, 200, 220, 240, 260, 220. Once you have finished this five times, then do the entire five minutes at 220. Doing this entire method only takes 35 minutes to do, and it is so beneficial to those who are trying to build their speed.

CELESTE:

I have been doing MSBM for almost a year now. I was a "write perfect, drop perfect" writer, and it was a big problem for me as I would hesitate on words that were

something I didn't write all the time or I didn't have a brief for or that were multi-stroke words. Doing MSBM every day, I have been able to let go of that bad habit, solidify my writing, create more briefs and phrases, and, obviously, build my speed. MSBM is the perfect mix of working on accuracy while working on speed. I love doing it minute-by-minute because I feel like I can actually hang on at 260 wpm for one minute as opposed to five minutes or longer (I'll get there one day). I directly attribute MSBM to helping me pass by RPR Testimony leg, RPR Jury Charge leg, and I am, of course, using this same method to help me prepare to take the RPR Literary leg next week.



To Court Reporters who prefer:

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HIGH MONTHLY EXPENSES
NOT ENOUGH TIME
FEELING OVERWORKED**

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Celebrate “Court Reporting & Captioning Week 2017”

NCRA has announced that the fifth National Court Reporting & Captioning Week will be held Feb. 11-18, as a way to recognize the efforts of its stenographic court reporters and broadcast and CART captioner members.

Court reporters work hard every day to help people access the U.S. legal system, while captioners give access to conferences, calls, educational classes, and television broadcasts to people who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is in their honor that NCRA has declared a national week to champion their ongoing efforts.

NCRA's public relations campaign will highlight the career options available to those who graduate from a court reporting program. Organizers anticipate that a combination of the official legislative recognition of National Court Reporting & Captioning Week, public relations and marketing, and member and state involvement, will significantly boost awareness efforts for stenographic court reporting and broadcast and CART captioners.

HOW CAN YOU CELEBRATE?

Visit the crTakeNote.com website for an array of resources and tools that can be used to help celebrate the profession. In addition, NCRA has also made available a member toolkit on the NCRA website (NCRA.org/awareness) that includes materials for presenting court reporting and captioning as exciting job opportunities for students, press release templates, social media-appropriate logos and banners, and more. Make plans today to get involved and support National Court Reporting & Captioning Week.

NCRA.org/Awareness • crTakeNote.com

POP A CORK FOR CHARITY!



Profits from each generously donated bottle of wine will be given to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Please join TeamDRA in helping to make a difference in the lives of these young warriors and their families.

**“NO CHILD SHOULD DIE IN THE DAWN OF LIFE.”
-DANNY THOMAS, FOUNDER OF ST. JUDE**

During DRA's 21st Annual Convention in Napa Valley, for a \$20 donation, attendees will pull a cork from a wine box, which will correspond with a number placed on one of our generously donated bottles of wine. Once we match the cork to the randomly numbered bottle of wine, that bottle is theirs to enjoy!

We have 200+ attendees, so with your donation, please be sure to include the value of the wine(s) and your name/winery so we can prominently display your contribution. If you wish to mail your donation, please mail it to:

Freeman Reporting

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...BUT TRULY NEVER DULL

CHERYL HAAB, CSR, RPR
DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR

Volunteer board service. It is a confusing animal. Sometimes gratifying, sometimes frustrating, but truly never dull. In my five-plus years as a Board member of CalDRA, I have served on a host of subcommittees; small groups of likeminded individuals, brainstorming for a common cause falling under the umbrella of shorthand reporting. However, despite the many hours and hassles involved in one of our most labor-intensive committees, I have most certainly found my favorite on which to serve – Convention Planning. Why? Well, the answer is simple: Convention committee, while arduous, is tasked with a truly spectacular job each year – convention site selection!

California is an enormous state. But despite its impressive geography, there are really only a handful of locales appropriate to host a convention large enough to accommodate CalDRA's needs. Over the past few years, we have hosted our annual event at some fantastic venues – San Diego, Disneyland, and Monterey, to name a few – but as time wears on, our choices have become limited, barring a location repeat. Convention is traditionally held in February, too, which sometimes can limit choices such as Tahoe (too expensive during ski season) or Yosemite (too treacherous to reach during the winter months!). So after much deliberation, when our Board collectively decided that Napa Valley was the location of choice for February 2017, I was not only thrilled to bits, but amazed that we had never thought of it before. And with unanimous agreement from the Board regarding the site, it seemed only logical that I reluctantly raise my hand to volunteer for one of the most difficult jobs to which a CalDRA board member can ever agree: Co-chair of Convention Committee. Oh, boy. Hello, hard work, and good-bye, free time! Luckily, with our amazing staff, the formidable Vicki Squires and perennially organized Sally Poppe, this was the perfect year to step up to the plate and volunteer for this challenging task.

Fast forward some months to July 2016. My cohort and partner in crime, Kristi Johnson, CalDRA Past President and Co-Chair of Convention Committee, casually informs me that a site visit is in order to firm up details at our hotel, now booked for the upcoming convention. Napa in July, gratis, in a suite at one of the most luxurious resorts the area has to offer? Um, all right. I guess I can swing that! And a couple weeks before my birthday, to boot. I must have had some good karma coming my way.

And before I knew it, the day had arrived, and Kristi and I were at John Wayne Airport, patiently waiting to board our flight to Northern California. The day began propitiously: by running into an old friend of



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...BUT TRULY NEVER DULL

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mine who happened to be on the same flight as us. Both rabid LA Kings fans, I got a healthy dose of hockey talk in with him well before my first full cup of joe, which was already worth the price of admission. And wouldn't you know it: Now, boarding my plane with not just one but two great friends, I didn't even get stuck sitting next to some heavily perfumed stranger for the duration of the trip. Thank heaven for small favors.

After an uneventful flight (my favorite kind), we touched down in Sacramento and were whisked off by shuttle to fetch a rental car for the one-hour trek to Napa Valley. With Kristi firmly planted at the wheel, we hit the I-80 with nothing but open road ahead of us, both feeling pretty fortunate that we had escaped another year of serving on the Legislative Committee (sorry, Ed and Toni). The scenery did not fail to disappoint: despite California's ongoing drought, we were treated to a seemingly endless expanse of greenery and hillsides, morphing into lush, sprawling vineyards as we journeyed farther into the heart of Wine Country.

And before we knew it, we had arrived at our destination: The uber-luxurious Silverado Resort and Spa. Reminiscent of a colonial plantation with its imposing white columns and immaculate gardens, I was sure I had died and gone to heaven as we approached the front entrance of the hotel. Once parked at valet, we were greeted by the friendly staff as we quickly alighted from our vehicle. We checked into our rooms with ease, two separate mini suites complete with full kitchen and sitting room, and were delighted to discover a decadent basket of goodies waiting for each of us, stocked generously with local wine, fruit, and even a personalized card. Truly, Kristi and I would have been

content to bask in our luxurious rooms for the balance of the afternoon, but alas, there was "work" to be done. After taking a few moments to freshen up from the long journey, we were once again raring to go, anxious to wander the expansive grounds. A full day exploring all that the Silverado has to offer was exactly what the doctor had ordered after a stressful few days on the record. Time to channel my inner Scarlett O'Hara!

Needless to say, the afternoon and evening were a whirlwind of activity. With the brilliant Vicki Squires in tow, we set off to tackle an ambitious laundry list of tasks running the gamut from menu planning to touring the world class on-site spa, fitness center, and beauty salon facilities. The tour left me slightly star-struck. Everywhere I turned, luxury abounded: Pristine tennis courts, heated lap pools, and the immaculate golf course were but a few of the amenities that the resort had on offer. And these were but the mere details. There was still a convention to plan! Our heads were spinning with information. Organizing the logistics of seminars, receptions, cocktail hour, and our celebratory luncheon were daunting, to say the least, but with the expert staff of the Silverado at our beck and call to answer questions and disseminate information, we had tied up most of the loose ends in our planning efforts by the day's end. And what better reward for a job well done than a deliciously deep sleep in a comfy hotel bed? I couldn't think of anything better. Zzzzzzzzzzz.

The morning dawned clear and bright, and after a rejuvenating sleep and a hearty breakfast, I was ready

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...BUT TRULY NEVER DULL

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to tackle yet another onerous task with my colleagues: the business of wine tasting. Oh, what a chore! (Hah.) I will sheepishly admit that my knowledge of wine is minimal, at best, so I was beyond thrilled to learn that Vicki was something of a wine connoisseur. Over her years of enjoying the fine wines of Napa with her husband, John, she had cultivated a handful of relationships with upscale vineyards of the region, and she was able to book us a private wine tasting session at the picturesque Von Strasser Winery in Calistoga. A delightful morning of snacking on artisan cheese, scrumptious dried fruits, and sampling the expert blends of Von Strasser left me with a newfound appreciation for the art of winemaking. Wowed by the craftsmanship of each varietal, I gave into temptation and purchased a bottle of my favorite blend of the morning: Gruner Veltliner, a crisp aromatic white with notes of tropical fruit, peaches, and herbs. My very first wine-tasting experience was a success!

The afternoon progressed much in the same way – tasting our way through the Valley, taking in its charms, all while firming up last-minute details of the upcoming convention. By now, time was growing short – we had a 7:25 pm flight to catch out of Sacramento - and as much as I would have loved to dawdle around Napa sipping wine with my girls all day, getting back to my son (and my cats!) in Orange County was the number one priority on my agenda. After one last pit stop at the Beaulieu Vineyard for a quick sample their signature Cabernet Sauvignon, Kristi and I reluctantly bid our adieu to Vicki and began our journey back to the airport.

But oh, how the fates conspired against us! Unseasonably heavy traffic, road blockages, and Sunday drivers impeded our every turn, and what should have been a simple one-hour drive became two, and then closer to three. Finally, in the middle of nowhere, with dying phone batteries and minimal cell reception, we sheepishly were forced to admit that catching the 7:25 at this point was an unlikely proposition. But we are court reporters, which of course means that we are resourceful and not easily deterred by difficult circumstances. We continued our frustrating journey to Sacramento, and very close to three hours after leaving the Beaulieu Vineyard, we arrived, mostly unruffled, at the airport. Southwest Airlines graciously exchanged our tickets for a later flight, and our fears of spending the night stranded in Sac Town went unrealized. Phew!

And that was our trip to Napa in a nutshell. I have been told I have a penchant of leaning towards the dramatic

in my storytelling. It may be wisest to plead the Fifth on that accusation. But I suppose this brings me back, full circle, to my initial musings on CalDRA board service, my sojourn to Napa but a narrow brushstroke of that broader picture: It is sometimes gratifying, sometimes frustrating. But our profession, staffed with unrivaled brilliance, light, and diversity from all sides, could never be mistaken for dull, or even ordinary. It is, simply put, the best job in the world. And as a member of your CalDRA board and public advocate for the practice of stenographic reporting, it is my honor and my privilege to continue serving your interests to further this amazing career – even when it means serving on the committees that don't include day trips to the spa.

See you in Napa! ★



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TEAMDRA SUPPORTS DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

NEED A REASON TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET?

TeamDRA will be hosting a drive at the 2017 Napa Convention to benefit Dress for Success Worldwide - West, an international not-for-profit organization that empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and the developmental tools to help women thrive in work and life. Dress for Success has provided clothing, confidence and career boosts to more than 925,000 women around the world since 1997. Since opening its doors in 2009, Dress for Success Worldwide – West has helped more than 6,000 women.

Bring your donations to the convention and we'll take care of the rest! Let's all pay it forward!



Clothing Drive Donation Guidelines

Dress for Success accepts women's office-appropriate, professional attire that is clean; ready-to-wear; new or gently used in all sizes, such as:

- Contemporary suits
- Dresses
- Blazers
- Skirts
- Pants
- Cardigans
- Dress shirts & blouses
- Twin sets
- Handbags & totes
- Accessories: jewelry, belts, scarves
- Dress shoes
- Boots (seasonal)
- New toiletries (must be new/ unopened): hygiene and grooming products, cosmetics
- New hosiery, undergarments and control undergarments

Dress for Success' greatest donation needs are:

- Women's plus-size clothing (size 14 and above)
- Women's business appropriate
- Control undergarments in large sizes
- New, unused, cosmetics

We kindly ask that all career appropriate clothing donations are laundered or dry-cleaned and are ready-to-wear. The following items are NOT accepted:

- Any items that are in need of cleaning or repair
- Sweatshirts, sweatpants, bathrobes and sleepwear
- Opened/ used toiletries, cosmetics, grooming and hygiene products
- Formal wear/ party wear
- Sandals or sneakers
- Children's or men's clothing

A LETTER FROM DEBBIE DIBBLE TO STATE LEADERS

The following is a letter from Debra Dibble, current Secretary-Treasurer of the National Court Reporters Association, to the state leaders of court reporting organizations across the nation. It has been reprinted here with her permission.

To begin this message, I suspect I should introduce myself. It feels a little awkward as I have had many wonderful opportunities to spend quality time with so many of you and feel you are a part of my NCRA family. To those of you that I have not had such an opportunity, I look forward to that day!

My name is Debbie Dibble. I am presently serving as the Secretary-Treasurer of NCRA, having completed three years as a director this past July. I live in Utah with my family, consisting of a wonderful husband of a quarter century, four children, and two dogs. I have also lived and worked in Tennessee and spend a considerable amount of my time in Wyoming, my close neighbor, that suffers from a reporter shortage on the side of the state that borders my home. I am a freelance reporter but have spent a considerable amount of time in the courtroom as well as arbitration and mediation settings. I provide CART on a regular basis and do broadcast captioning as often as possible and, at a minimum, weekly on a recurring international broadcast.

As I sit down with thoughts of how to address our state leaders on this first day of 2017, I am overcome with thoughts of admiration for your leadership, your service, your dedication; and I feel this is an appropriate time to truly express my appreciation to those of you in the states, in the trenches, doing the hard work. I spent ten years serving on my state board, and those struggles are still fresh in my mind.

It is a brand new year. What will that year bring for us? What will we make it? I recently was introduced to a book called *Grit, the Power of Passion and Perseverance*. In this book, the author shows anyone striving to succeed—be it parents, students, educators, athletes, or business people—that the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but “grit.” The hypothesis is that what really drives success is not “genius” but a unique combination of passion and long-term perseverance. It is not the smartest, the fastest, the most courageous that succeed but those that truly believe, are truly dedicated, and NEVER GIVE UP! I guess there is hope for me still!

Service can take so many forms. As reporters, we are afforded such great opportunities to serve. CART has provided me with some of the richest and most rewarding experiences of my career. I remember a particular circumstance where I was assigned a Friday afternoon job. After the deposition I was taken aside by the attorney and asked for a special favor. Their client was deaf. She had lost her husband due to a terrible accident, which was the subject of the lawsuit. They wanted to spend Sunday preparing for her deposition on Monday but didn't know how to communicate with her. They asked if I would come and provide CART services to her (of course, they didn't call it that!) so they could help her to understand the proceedings. Wouldn't it stand to reason that that very week my husband and I had made a new commitment to each other that we were not going to work on Sundays. I went home to have the discussion. After said discussion, I called the attorneys and explained the circumstances: that, while we had agreed that I couldn't “work” on Sunday, I could do service. I committed to the assignment on the condition that they could not pay me. After a moment of stunned silence, a deal was struck. Several months later, I received a crystal Baccarat angel with a card of appreciation that filled my heart with the satisfaction that only true service can bring. Funny note: The box was unmarked, and my office thought it was a bomb!

Although we can do it anytime, the beginning of a new year feels like a natural time to reflect upon the past even as we look forward to the future. It's a chance to leave behind yesterday's regrets and look forward to a tomorrow full of potential. There's no reason to doubt that this year can be the best ever. Indeed, when a positive spirit ignites realistic goals, the resulting flame can fuel our efforts to accomplish great things.

Perhaps we could learn a valuable lesson from the sunflower. Sunflowers are noteworthy for a unique reason--their young blossoms always follow the sun. At daybreak, they face east to catch the morning's first rays of light. As the sun moves across the sky during the day, the blossoms follow it until it sets in the west. Then overnight they turn east again, ready to greet the next day's light and repeat the cycle. In this way, the sunflower receives the maximum amount of the sun's vital energy throughout the day. They constantly focus on their source of strength.

We can begin this year determined to focus our best efforts on those things of greatest worth. We are struggling in

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

A LETTER FROM DEBBIE DIBBLE TO STATE LEADERS

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every state to strengthen our associations. You are among a select few that see the “big picture.” You give for the sake of giving--not expecting anything in return. You LOVE our wonderful profession and want to see everyone reap the benefits it has to offer. You will go to sleep every night knowing you did everything in your power to help your fellow reporter. It’s as simple--and as complicated--as that.

You DO this because it’s the right thing to do. Most people don’t “get it,” but you do! It is to you, those leaders that are at the head of the charge with your undying passion and energy that inspires and motivates others, that I send my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for your continued and untiring service on this New Year’s Day. May this coming year be full of the rewards you so honestly deserve. If I can be of any assistance to you, please feel free to contact me!

With Warmest Regards,

Debra A. Dibble

RDR, CRR, CRC

Realtime Systems Administrator

ddib06@gmail.com

Expression

by:



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Points



The old saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” But sometimes, and especially in the case of CalDRA’s photo collage contest, your pictures can be worth valuable points as well! Want to earn \$25 off your next DRA event and have your picture featured on our Instagram and Facebook feeds, as well as our next newsletter? Then play the photo collage game with DRA!

THE GAME WORKS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Collect nine photographs that meet the criteria below
2. Import all nine pictures into a photo collage app (both Android and IOS operating systems have several free photo collage apps available in their Google Play/App Stores)
3. Write a short description of each picture
4. Upload the picture to social media (Instagram or Facebook) with the hashtag #calDRAPhotocollage
5. E-mail your submission to newslettereditor@caldra.org
6. The submission consisting of pictures with the highest total point value receives a \$25 credit off their next DRA event and a \$25 Starbucks gift card!
7. Submissions are due by March 31st, 2017.

THE CATEGORIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2 POINTS

- Picture of your setup at a job
- Picture of your shoes at a deposition
- Picture of your home office setup
- Picture of your Stenograph Diamante
- Picture of your ProCAT Impression
- Picture of your security badge/sticker from an office building

5 POINTS

- Picture of your Stenograph Luminex
- Picture of your ProCAT Expression
- Picture of your Stenovations Lightspeed
- Work outfit selfie
- Picture of your uncomfortable depo chair
- Picture of your CSR certificate

6 POINTS

- Picture of your pet with your equipment setup
- Picture of a child playing on your steno machine
- Picture of your realtime setup at a job
- Picture of your DYMO Labelwriter or other label printer as part of your job setup
- Picture of the coffee setup at a deposition

8 POINTS

- Picture of your crowded elevator ride on your way to a job
- Picture of a bumper-to-bumper freeway (from your conference room view only, please!)
- Picture of your steno bag with the stairs you have to navigate to get to your job
- Picture of you with a Board member of CalDRA
- Nighttime view from your conference room on a late deposition
- View of the sunset from your job

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A Picture is Worth a Thousand Points

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

10 POINTS

- Picture of you in CalDRA apparel
- Picture of you with another CalDRA member
- Picture of you at a CalDRA event
- Picture of your CalDRA lunch bag at a job
- Picture of a parking sign at your job that charges more than \$40 maximum
- Picture of a job page count that exceeds 300 pages
- Picture of your RPR certificate

15 POINTS

- Picture of your RMR or CRR certificate
- Picture of your archived steno paper
- Picture of you at a deposition with a student intern
- Picture of you with CalDRA's president, Monyeen Black
- Picture of an animal attending your deposition proceeding

25 POINTS

- Picture of your steno setup with either the Golden Gate Bridge or the Hollywood sign in the background
- Picture of you with an attorney at a job
- Picture of your RDR certificate
- Picture of your personalized steno license plate

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.



POP QUIZ!

SHARECE ATKINS



CSR, RPR

Residence: Modesto, California

How long have you been reporting?

Two years.

How did you first get involved with DRA?

At an NCCRA seminar I had won a certificate for free registration for the DRA convention in Palm Springs in 2014. I also attended GAP in 2014.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Linden and Lodi.

Tell us about your family.

I'm recently engaged to Nick, a field technician. My father is a cherry and walnut farmer in Linden. My mom and younger sister are nurses.

Do you have any pets?

Nick and I added Gus to our family in November 2016. Gus is our English bulldog puppy born on the Fourth of July. He is the cutest English bulldog I've seen.



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

I would like to pass the CCRR and the CRR.

What is your secret talent?

Winning raffles.

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

Don't give up. Ever. Keep pushing. When you're upset that you're not progressing, practice. You aren't always going to pass the test on the first try. Keep practicing and you'll pass. Practice every day.

What's your Starbucks order?

Trenta ice green tea with no water and no sweetener. But if I feel like having a treat, I'll order a Skinny Caramel Frappuccino.

What is one thing you wish you could change about your job?

The SoCal stip.

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

It's hard to balance family time and free time. Most of my jobs are at least a two-hour drive from my home. My fiancé is great in that he'll take care of Gus and give me my space to get my jobs done.

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

Tacos.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Taco trucks, window shopping for and sometimes buying LuLaRoe, and chocolate (although I'm very allergic to milk chocolate).

Who is your steno "idol"?

There's so many! The two most important steno idols in my life are my mentors, Bobbi Jo Harr and Charlotte Mathias.

Do you still practice on your machine?

I don't practice as much as I'd like to. I ordered the Brief-It so now there isn't any excuse not to practice. My goal is to take the next realtime test.

Why is DRA membership important to you?

DRA really supports their deposition reporters. DRA has been feverishly fighting the SoCal stip recently. I love how supportive DRA members are. I also like to pay it forward, so being a mentor through DRA is one way I can do this. DRA seminars and convention are invaluable. They keep me informed of any changes in the field, and I get to network with amazing people.




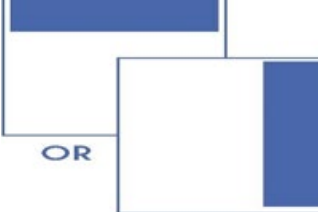
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Happy New Year from your CalDRA Board of Directors!



From left to right: Erika Sjoquist, Jodi Monroe, Diane Freeman, Cheryl Haab, Linda Nelson, Monyeen Black, Kimberly D'Urso, Andrea Chavez, Tricia Rosate

Not pictured: Vesna Walter

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