

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

CONVENTION ISSUE
SPRING 2017

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THE FREELANCE
DEPOSITION REPORTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONYEEN BLACK, CSR, RPR, CCRR
DRA PRESIDENT

aMOzing, the Sequel

Thank you for electing me to serve a second term as President of CalDRA.

To be honest with you, last year when I accepted the gavel, I was a little nervous, a little excited, a little determined, and a little in awe, especially as I thought about those who founded this freelancer organization and those who have held this office before me. This year I am still feeling all those things -- still so humbled by the honor, but more than anything else, I AM EXCITED! I am excited about what we have accomplished and excited about what's on the horizon for us as an organization.

Think about just a few of the things we have accomplished together:

- Playing a key role in winning the *Burd v. Barkley* case, a lawsuit that had the potential to set a dangerous precedent of requiring freelancers to charge the same rates in court as officials; a case that would have devastated many an income within our organization.
- Enactment of AB 1197, requiring disclosure of so-called contracts in notices of deposition, a key step toward ensuring fairness in our profession.
- Along with the Court Reporters Board of California (CRB), successfully preventing the passage of well-intentioned legislation that would have rendered our profession second-class citizens in licensing regulation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MONYEEN BLACK,
Black, CSR 10574, CCRR,
RPR, CLR
Paso Robles
president@caldra.org

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CHERYL HAAB,
CSR 13600, RPR, CLR
Westminster
presidentelect@caldra.org

VICE PRESIDENT



DIANE FREEMAN,
CSR 5884, RPR
Novato
vicepresident@caldra.org

SECRETARY



VESNA WALTER,
CSR 11989, CCRR, RPR,
CLR
Riverside
secretary@caldra.org

TREASURER



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR
Fullerton
treasurer@caldra.org

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KELLI RINAUDO,
CSR No. 6411, CCRR, RPR,
RMR, CRR, RDR
Pacific Grove
district1@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Alameda,
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Monterey, Napa, San Benito,
San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa
Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and
Sonoma counties

DISTRICT 2



KIMBERLY D'URSO,
CSR 11372, RPR,
Grass Valley
district2@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Alpine,
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Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern,
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Tulare, Yolo and Yuba counties

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ERIKA SJOQUIST,
CSR 12350, RPR, CRR
Camarillo
district3@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Los
Angeles, Santa Barbara, and
Ventura counties

DISTRICT 4



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR 13437, CCRR, RPR, CLR
Fullerton
district4@caldra.org

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states other than California or the
USA.

DISTRICT 5



TRICIA ROSATE,
CSR 10891, CCRR, RPR,
RDR, RMR, CRR, CLR
San Diego
district5@caldra.org
County Represented: Imperial,
Riverside, San Bernadino, and San
Diego counties.

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



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Successfully working with the CRB to assist it in formally assuming a leadership role in the Legislature on the issue of corporate practice. On this issue, we look forward to a great collaboration ahead, and I want to personally give a BIG THANK YOU to the CRB for their continued cooperation in this process.
- Passing legislation to ensure that realtime feeds do not carry the same weight and dignity as a formal certified transcript.
- Creating both the "Stip Stoppers" task force and the California Continuing Education (CCEM) Program.

And that is just the movie trailer for this past year -- the highlight reel, if you will.

So what's up for next year?

How about stopping the SoCal stip? Or making sure our freelancer court rates legal victory is sustained on appeal?

How about enacting a law that specifically outlaws the kickbacks that degrade us all; kickbacks that not only distort our profession away from quality and price, but send the most business to the companies that offer the best goodies? How about making sure that those of you who care about your profession can showcase that continuing education, whether you collect national CEUs or not? And how about supporting the CRB in its leadership effort to exercise common-sense regulations over California's court reporting corporations?

As always, we need YOUR help, CalDRA member. If you have volunteered to be a part of the Stip Stoppers, thank you. If you'd like to contribute to our legislative **War Chest**, we can use your donations to help fund our fight on your behalf.

And, with all of that behind me and even more in front of me, I look forward to another wonderful year, working with all of you, for all of us, and with the best team of freelancers anywhere in the country.

So with a smile toward the past and excitement for a bright future ahead, let's all raise a glass to toast the 21st birthday of the biggest, baddest, and best court reporting organization on the planet: a toast to DRA!



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Shirley Koch	Mary Rascon
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A WORD FROM THE CONVENTION

JULIE ROZELL, CSR

In 2016 I attended my first DRA convention in San Diego. I didn't know what to expect, but I was ready to jump in and find out. A few friends and I made our plans and signed up for the student track. Were we crazy? It was only a few weeks before the CSR exam. Shouldn't we stay home, chained to our machines, practicing? No. We decided that interacting and networking with real, working reporters would be just the motivation we needed to pass that elusive CSR exam. It wasn't my first attempt.

At the 2016 convention, I fell in love with the DRA, I fell in love with the people, and I fell in love with this profession of truly amazing individuals. I attended every workshop and session I could. I met reporters, exchanged business cards, and made contacts for my future. All of the professionals I met were supportive, helpful, and so open to answering any and all questions and concerns I had. I left San Diego an invigorated, refreshed, and excited student, ready to conquer that CSR exam.

So as much as I loved my 2016 San Diego experience at the DRA convention, how could this year's convention have topped that?

Well, to back up again, a few short weeks after returning from San Diego, I took that CSR exam – again – and I crushed it! My confidence was so high from the advice and support from those who motivated and encouraged me, that as I walked out of that exam room, I just knew I had passed.

That same feeling of pride and respect for a profession that I worked so hard to achieve filled my heart as I attended the Napa convention. This year as I attended all the workshops, sessions, and social events, I knew that I was one of you. I am a court reporter. I am one of the amazing individuals that I have admired for so long, and I hope to inspire our future court reporters to jump in and get involved.

Having attended as both a student and a professional, I'm honored to belong to such a remarkable group of professionals, and I look forward to attending the DRA convention in 2018.

SARAH MAKSIM, CSR

Even though I've been reporting for a few years now and feel like I'm finally getting the hang of freelance reporting, I always feel a bit nervous when I'm surrounded by peers whose abilities far surpass my own. It's as if I'm a common peasant trying to blend in with a crowd of royalty.

However, all that anxiety melts away as soon as all those elegant, brilliant people smile back at me as if to say, "Hello! It's good to see you again," with their arms outstretched, welcoming me into whatever fun conversation is going on around me.

When I attend conventions, I always set out to learn as much as I can when I'm there. It felt so great to soak up all the powerful tips and tricks from the CAT training software seminars, and every other panel I went to was entertaining and insightful! It's always one of the highlights of my year to pack my bag and travel for the opportunity to hang with the crème de la crème!



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WITH DRA**

SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR 2017 DRA CONVENTION



A WORD FROM THE CONVENTION

KELLI RINAUDO, CSR, RDR, CRR, CCRR,
CALDRA DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

Another convention has come and gone. Kudos to Kristi Johnson, the 2017 Napa Convention Committee Chair, for a job well done. DRA's seminars and conventions are always filled with excitement, laughter, and lots of hugs. This convention was even more exciting for me than ever because I was sworn in as the new District 1 Rep for the greater Bay Area. I am looking forward to being more involved with the DRA board and reaching out to long-time members, new members, and members who have yet to be found!

I became a member of DRA in its seminal year, and it's hard to believe it was actually 21 years ago. What drew me and keeps me coming back is the atmosphere of fun and enthusiasm along with the dedication to protecting, educating, and promoting the amazing and talented deposition reporters we have in California. I truly LOVE my skills as a reporter and the fact that this is a profession that continually evolves and challenges me to want to be better.

Among some of the benefits of attending the convention are catching up with colleagues I haven't seen in a year or more, networking and meeting new people, listening to "war stories" and how other awesome reporters have handled the stickiest of situations and have come out on top, and lots of socializing.

Some of the drawbacks of DRA's events are too much fun, too much frivolity, information overload from the seminars and speakers, not enough time to spend chatting, and having to say goodbye too soon. It's always hard to believe it's over so fast.

AIMEE EDWARDS-ALTADONNA, CSR

I went to the 2017 DRA Convention in Napa this year as a vendor selling LuLaRoe clothing. I have attended almost every DRA convention in the last five years, starting as a student and finally as a working reporter in 2015. I am a self-confessed convention junkie, and it was very cool to see the convention from a different perspective this year.

It was fun to play dress-up with many of my amazing colleagues. Trying on gorgeous and comfortable work and around-the-house clothes brings another layer of bonding that I had not experienced before. Helping ladies see their beauty no matter their size, age, or shape is such a cool thing to be able to do. At the end of the day, all women want to feel pretty and confident in what they wear. LuLaRoe doesn't cost an arm and a leg and feels good to wear. Sharing LuLaRoe with my reporter friends was fabulous!

I did not attend the sessions this year because I was on the floor in the vendor room, but I did get to go to the luncheon and the opening night reception. I feel like I missed out on some of the wonderful presentations and the keynote speakers. Everyone was talking about the body language keynote session, and it sounded like something I could use in my day-to-day work. I would have loved to see the keynote and some of the other speakers that piqued my interest. In my opinion, the only downside to being a vendor would be missing the seminars.

Seeing all the behind-the-scenes work that the vendors, board members, and convention committee do to put on this event was quite inspiring. There is so much that you do not see as a working reporter attending these conventions. All the fabulous people who work so hard to create this great convention deserve major kudos and have my sincere admiration. Your efforts are noticed and appreciated!

If you've ever thought about going to a convention as a vendor, I would say to give it a shot. You will find a new way to bond with your colleagues and friends. I can't wait to go back next year and perhaps have the perfect mix as a vendor and a reporter who gets to go to all the sessions, while my hubby, Vinny, mans the LuLaRoe booth.

It's Here - The Seminar You've All Been Waiting For!

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with

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SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR 2017 DRA CONVENTION



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Margaret Clark
Alexsandria Grauer

Megan Green
Jaime Grenier
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Thank You!

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Due to the sheer volume of donors, sponsors, and volunteers, please accept our apologies if we have neglected to recognize you for your efforts at convention. CalDRA would like to thank all of its members for their time, effort, and generosity in giving back to the organization!

CALDRA PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT ROSALIE KRAMM

At its 21st annual convention, CalDRA had the distinct honor of presenting its prestigious Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to San Diego firm owner and Court Reporters Board member Rosalie Kramm.

Rosalie is currently the President of Kramm Court Reporting and has also been working as a freelance deposition reporter in Southern California since 1981. She specializes in technical, complex business, and realtime court reporting. She is no stranger to public service within the industry: Over the course of her career, she has been active in numerous industry associations, including serving as President of the Deposition Reporters Association of California, President of the Society for the Technological Advancement of Reporting, and serving on various committees for the National Shorthand Reporters Association.

Rosalie was appointed by the Governor of California to the Court Reporters Board as a licensee member in July of 2013, to a term expiring in June 2017.

On Saturday, February 25th, at CalDRA's convention luncheon, attendees were treated to presentations made in Rosalie's honor by Past CalDRA President Lisa Michaels, recipient of last year's Distinguished Service Award, Past CalDRA President Christine Randall, and past CalDRA board member Linda Pool. The ladies regaled the crowd with heartwarming and oftentimes hilarious accounts of their time spent with Rosalie, all the while painting a very detailed picture of the hard work and sacrifice that she has put into the profession, and into CalDRA, over the course of her tenured career.

CalDRA would like to again thank Rosalie Kramm for her contributions to the field of court reporting. We appreciate everything you do!



STARS SHINE AT CALDRA'S ANNUAL CALIFORNIA REALTIME COMPETITION

On Friday, February 24th, CalDRA held its California Realtime Competition at CalDRA's 21st annual convention in Napa Valley. The test consisted of two six-minute dictations: First, literary; the first two minutes at 190 wpm, the next two minutes at 200 wpm, and the last two minutes at 210 wpm; and secondly, testimony; the first two minutes at 210 wpm, the next two minutes at 220 wpm, and the last two minutes at 230 wpm. Contestants must qualify in each leg with an accuracy rate of 95% or better.

This daunting challenge has traditionally attracted the best and brightest steno writers from around the world, trying their hand at earning the coveted California Realtime Trophy, and this year was no different. The fierce competition ensued, and the winners were as follows:

In **third** place,
with 41 errors, 95.94 percent accuracy:

Clay Frazier

In **second** place,
with 35 errors, 96.53 percent accuracy:

John Wissenbach

In **first** place,
with 12 errors, 98.81 percent accuracy:

Mark Kislingbury

**Congratulations to our winners,
and to all those who competed!**





WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?

In the competitive world of reporting, keeping up with the Joneses, in a strictly technological sense, is a must to stay on top of one's field. However, at our annual convention in Napa Valley this past February, CalDRA's Board of Directors -- all working freelance reporters themselves -- gave us a rare glimpse of the goodies hiding inside their own bags. In case you missed it, check out our [slideshow presentation](#) featuring some of the latest gadgets in the business to help streamline your working day. Happy browsing!

For more information on the items featured, please email: newslettereditor@caldra.org.



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A HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO CALDRA'S 2017

JOHN ZANDONELLA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Meet this year's winners below:



BRYWN WHATFORD

Brywn recently qualified for, and has just taken, the CSR exam this past March. However, she has had some unfortunate luck with her schools throughout her student career. She was enrolled in the Sage San Diego court reporting program and was also employed at the school when it closed. After the closure, she commuted from San Diego to Moreno Valley to continue her studies. Despite all that, Brywn manages to have an amazing upbeat approach to life. She regularly volunteers at the San Diego Food Bank and Feed America. She has been a CalDRA member since 2012.



CATIE SIEGNER

Catie is currently in qualifiers and was attending Sage College Moreno Valley when it closed this past January. The closure has not stopped her passion and drive at achieving her dream of becoming a CSR. She started a Facebook page for Sage students and is working hard at rallying her fellow students to practice hard and continue their dream. Catie is a regular at CalDRA events and co-chaired the 2016 student barbeque. She has been a CalDRA member since 2015.



ROSANA O'REAR

Rosana is currently in the 200 speed class at South Coast College. Rosana decided to come back to school after raising her children. School has not come easy for her, but she manages to show up every day with a smile and a great attitude. Putting herself second, she helped her daughter get through school and pass the July 2016 CSR exam, helps with her grandson, and manages other family affairs. She has worked in ministry for years and continuously volunteers her services. She's also volunteered with LACCRA at their career fairs. She has been a member since 2015.



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www.caldra.org/student-picnic
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SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR 2017 DRA CONVENTION



TEAMDRA PARTNERS WITH DRESS FOR SUCCESS WORLDWIDE

In its most recent endeavor, TeamDRA, the charitable subcommittee of CalDRA focused on community and volunteer pursuits, partnered with international not-for-profit organization Dress For Success Worldwide in an effort to collect professional attire for women entering the workplace. In the weeks leading up to convention, volunteers at CalDRA undertook a massive campaign to advertise the need for, and to collect, donations of gently used women's business clothing, shoes, and bags – something of which the vast majority of reporters in our organization have an abundance!

Unsurprisingly, the generosity of our members did not disappoint. By the end of convention weekend, CalDRA staff and volunteers were tasked with the daunting mission of transporting an untold number of bags chock-full with clothing back to Southern California to complete the donation process. Proudly, TeamDRA had the honor of dropping off its impressive haul directly at the Los Angeles-based headquarters into the hands of eager Dress For Success volunteers.

TeamDRA looks forward to continuing its partnership with Dress For Success in its quest to provide a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

Thank you again to all who generously donated.



SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR 2017 DRA CONVENTION






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POP QUIZ!

SHIVANEE SUJATA



Assistant CalDRA Newsletter Editor CSR
13983

Residence: Modesto, California

How long have you been reporting?

Since December 2014

How did you first get involved with DRA?

I attended a convention when I was a student in court reporting school.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Fiji Islands. My happy place is in Fiji on top of a rock at the edge of a mountain that overlooks the entire Pacific Ocean. My grandparents' home was on a mountain, and this rock was in their front yard at the edge of the mountain. When I close my eyes and I am asked to go to my happy place, that's where my heart takes me every time. It's where I grew up. I came to America when I was 7 years old.

Tell us about your family.

I am soon going to be starting my life with my fiancé, Simeon, who means the world to me. In my immediate family, I have my mom, two older sisters, one older brother, and two cute little nephews. I have a large extended family. I have many close cousins and relatives. I also have two best friends and a few CR friends who I consider family.

My dad passed away right before I started court reporting school. The last day of the prayer ceremony to mourn for his death was a day before my first day at CR school. My parents were the reason behind my determination to finish CR school and start working. I knew that not having my dad, my mom would go into depression and she did. I knew that it was time for me to step up and become independent and help my mom and siblings have a roof over us and have a comfortable life, and now we do. My mom is now my mom and dad, and she's doing a hell of a job at it! She's the best mom/dad anyone can ever have. I am blessed to have a very loving and caring family and I thank God for all of them.

Do you have any pets?

YES! We have so many little babies. I love them all. We have a crested gecko named Nismo, who was mine and Simeon's very first pet together. We have six little guinea pigs named: Gimli, Skyrim, Godric, Bentley, Poomba, and Valentine. They

all have a personality of their own. It's fun to sit and watch them do them. We recently adopted our little Thor. He's a sulcata tortoise who is only two years old right now, so we are enjoying picking him up, bathing him, and watching him walk around in our yard.

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

When I'm not reporting, I love spending time with my loved ones, including my little babies. I love cooking. I love shopping. I'm obsessed with LulaRoe right now. I love going hiking and being out enjoying nature. I also love staying home and doing nothing but binge watching T.V. It's rare that I get to watch T.V., so I enjoy it when I am all caught up with work and have time to.

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

I cannot see myself doing anything else. I started right out of high school, and I love what I do. I love meeting new people. I love having a new work environment every day. And most importantly, I love learning every day.

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

I want to be a certified realtime reporter. It's on my list of goals to achieve!

What is your secret talent?

My secret talent? I think it's cooking. I love cooking. I love making my dishes look and taste good. I love making my own ingredients and creating something new.

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

"If you can dream it, you can do it." (Walt Disney) I truly live by this quote. I make my dreams come true. Baby steps, of course! I'm a believer in God, and I feel that if you set your mind on something, you can achieve it. Nothing is impossible in life. It's just a matter of time. If someone else can do it, then so can you. You just have to want it really, really bad and be patient with yourself. Time is key. Use it wisely. Remember, success stories don't happen overnight or just because you want it. You have to put in the work for it and stay determined and motivated. Don't give up. Keep trying, because you're progressing every day, even if it's baby steps. Baby steps means getting closer to your goal.

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POP QUIZ!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Applaud yourself for your baby steps, and be your own cheerleader to move forward and push through the hiccups!

What is your favorite thing about your job?

My most favorite thing about my job is that it's not 9:00 to 5:00. I can go home and work in my PJs and I can make my own schedule!

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

Court Reporting firms who are contracting with insurance companies. This hurts the small businesses just as much as it hurts all court reporters. We are unable to raise our rates because of the court reporting firms who decided to lower their rates to get contracts with big insurance companies. And aren't we supposed to be the most impartial ones in the room? Wouldn't being a court reporter for an attorney's client, the insurance company who has a contract with the court reporting firm we are representing, automatically be putting us on their side? I don't know, but this is one thing I wish I could make right for so many reasons!!

What's your cocktail order?

Long Island Iced Tea 😊

What is your favorite brief that always saves the day?

The asterisk. I throw the asterisk in everything I want to brief on the fly.

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

Teacher/Counselor

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

Pizza

Why is DRA membership important to you?

My DRA membership is important to me because I feel that I am contributing by giving back to an organization who is working with others to help protect our profession as deposition reporters. I feel this is one way I can show my support to the organization for representing and fighting for us. Thank you, DRA, and its members.

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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 R H F S A E H A N B Q E T N S F I Q V C J D X L M
 O Q G L H U M A R T E L J D T L V G H M Z N A H R
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Be the first to submit your answers to newslettereditor@caldra.org for your chance to receive a \$25 credit towards your next CalDRA event!

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

DRA BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

This report marks the beginning of a new two-year session in the California legislature. Any bill that was not passed and signed by the Governor as of September 30th of last year is dead, and the legislature has started with a clean slate, with new bills introduced in each house between December 5th and February 17th of this year. So in keeping with that schedule, your CalDRA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee have been very busy, as we've reviewed the language of these new bills to be certain that we find every piece of legislation that could potentially impact you, our members, and the reporting profession.



So far we have identified nine bills that contain language that might either benefit or harm reporters, and we are closely following these bills and will continue to do so and also watchful for any amendments that may later have some effect on us. The status of each Assembly and Senate bill below was current as of April 27th. We will, as always, keep you updated on these in each issue of The Deposition Reporter as well as in our enotes when any important developments occur. So please continue watching and listening for our legislative reports.

AB (ASSEMBLY BILL) 96 (TING)

Summary: Called the "Budget Act of 2017," as the name reflects, it would appropriate funds for the support of the State government for 2017-2018. We'll be following this because it includes budgeting for the courts and so could have some effect on jobs for officials throughout the State.

Support/Opposition: None reported yet

Status: Referred to the Assembly Budget Committee; no hearing date set yet.

AB 701 (GALLAGHER)

Summary: Existing law requires that a hearing-impaired participant in a civil or criminal proceeding, including arbitrations, mediations, and administrative hearings, be provided with an assistive listening system or a CAT system, upon request. As amended March 30th, this bill would change the term "hearing impaired" to "deaf or hard of hearing;" would append the language "the services of an operator of a" to "CAT system" and would define "CAT system" as one that provides real-time captioning or similar technology; would require that advance notice of the need for the services of this operator be given when the hearing is set or not later than five days prior to the hearing; that the hearing will not begin until the requested system is in place or the services can be performed. It would also require that the

Court Reporters Board establish standards to certify operators of CAT systems, as defined above, by January 1, 2019, and that by July 1, 2019, operators of so defined CAT systems shall be certified pursuant to the standards so established by the CRB.

The bill would also prohibit the official or pro tem reporter assigned by the court to produce the official record from being the operator of a CAT system as defined. The operator of a CAT system shall provide the speech-to-text equipment to be used, unless otherwise provided by the court.

Support/Opposition: CCRA (sponsor); Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association.; Northern CA Court Reporters Association.; and Sacramento Official Court Reporters Association. No opposition on file.

Status: On 3/29, heard by and passed as amended by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. On 4/26, heard by the Assembly Appropriations Committee; referred to the suspense file.

AB 976 (BERMAN)

Summary: This bill would authorize all trial courts in CA to require electronic filing and service of documents in civil actions. It would also remove the authorization for Orange County Superior Court to establish a pilot project to require electronic filing and service. Requirements re filing, signature, encryption, and other details are also included.

Support/Opposition: Judicial Council of CA

(sponsor), CA Council of Legal Support Professionals, and five other groups. No opposition on file.

Status: On 4/19, heard and passed as amended by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee with a recommendation to the consent calendar; no hearing date set yet.

AB 1450 (OBERNOLTE)

Summary: This bill would require that an official reporter or official pro tempore shall deliver a transcript in electronic form, in compliance with the CA Rules of Court, to any court, party, or person entitled to the transcript, unless the recipient requests the transcript in paper form or the court lacks the ability to use or store the transcript electronically or if the reporter lacks the technical ability to deliver the transcript electronically. The requirements of Government Code 69950 and 69954 shall still apply whether delivered electronically or in paper form, and the transcript shall be deemed to be an original transcript for all purposes. The official or pro tem official reporter shall not be required to use a specific vendor or software to comply with this section unless the reporter agrees with any of the transcript recipients to use a specific vendor or software.

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DRA BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

Support/Opposition: CCRA (sponsor); San Diego County District Attorney

Status: On 4/19, heard and passed as amended by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, with a recommendation to the consent calendar; no hearing date set yet.

AB 1631 (SALAS)

Summary: As amended, this bill would prohibit a person or entity employing reporters or contracting with reporters from giving cash or cash equivalents of any amount, including gift cards, for marketing purposes. The bill specifically does not prohibit reasonable entertainment and marketing expenses. It also specifies that nothing in this bill or any other law shall limit anyone from entering long-term or multi-case contracts with attorneys, law firms, or third parties financing an action.

Support/Opposition: Veritext, Esquire, Magna Legal Services, U.S. Legal Support. Opposition by CalDRA.

Status: On 4/25, heard by the Assembly Business & Professions Committee; failed passage.

AB 1660 (KALRA)

Summary: This bill would allow for an individual or entity to provide or arrange for court reporters if one of the following requirements is met: 1) if the individual is a CSR; 2) the entity is a shorthand reporting corporation; 3) the individual or entity is registered with the CRB as a court reporter provider. Also, an individual or entity registered as a court reporter provider shall be subject to the same laws and regulations applicable to the conduct of CSRs.

An individual or entity shall not engage in the practice of reporting on behalf of an individual or entity that is not registered with the CRB as a reporter provider and shall verify registration with the CRB before working on behalf of that person or entity.

Support/Opposition: CA Court Reporters Board (sponsor), CalDRA, CCRA

Status: On 4/25, heard and passed as amended by the Assembly Business & Professions Committee. Referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee; no hearing date set yet.

SB (SENATE BILL) 72 (MITCHELL)

Summary: Also called the "Budget Act of 2017." Essentially the Senate version of AB 96, and being followed for the same reason, the possibility of the Court budget being limited, affecting official reporter positions.

Support/Opposition: None on file.

Status: Referred to Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee; no hearing date set yet.

SB 76 (NIELSEN)

Summary: This bill would enact the Excluded Employee Arbitration Act to permit an employee organization that represents an excluded employee who had filed grievances with the Department of Human Resources to request arbitration. A party to the arbitration would have the right to have a CSR report the arbitration, and the transcript would be the official record of the proceeding.

Following this bill since additional reporting opportunities would likely result from the bill's passage.

Support/Opposition: CA Correctional Supervisors Organization (Sponsor) and 11 other employee organizations. No opposition on file.

Status: On 3/28, heard and passed as amended by the Senate Public Employment & Retirement Committee. On 4/18, heard and passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee with a recommendation to the consent calendar; set for hearing May 1.

SB 484 (ROTH)

Summary: This CalDRA-sponsored bill would make it unlawful for any person employed by or who contracts with an agency that arranges for deposition officers to report/transcribe depositions offer any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to any person or entity associated with a proceeding being reported or transcribed. Any person or entity who violates this section shall be liable for a civil fine not to exceed \$5,000. The Attorney General, a DA, or a city attorney may bring a civil action for a violation of this section.

Support/Opposition: CalDRA (sponsor), COCRA, and numerous reporting agencies and independent freelance reporters within CA. Opposed (unless amended) by Esquire Deposition Services, Magna Legal Services, US Legal Support, Veritext Corporation.

Status: On 4/18, heard and passed by Senate Judiciary Committee. On 4/24, read on Senate floor for third time and passed by Senate. Now moving to the Assembly.

AskDRA

ANTONIA PULONE

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

I have two questions. First, we have a minor case where all the depositions have had the reporter use an initial for the minor's name throughout the depositions. If that is not stipulated to, do we still use an initial in the deposition, or can we put in the minor's first name? The caption shows "Plaintiff J." The minor is 13 years old. And second, do we always seal a minor's deposition transcript? In case, if it matters, this is a Federal case.

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

Neither the California Code of Civil Procedure nor the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure give us any instructions regarding how depo transcripts involving a minor are to be specially handled. I would say, however, that if all of the depositions in this case have included a stipulation that the minor's initial appear everywhere in the transcript in place of his name, then it's probably the safest course for you to do that for any depo in this case where no such stip was entered into.

To be even safer, I'd suggest that you email all the attorneys who appeared at the depo in question, point out to them that the stipulation regarding the use of the minor's initial in place of his name was not entered into, but that you are assuming they would all want that same procedure followed in the transcript of the deposition of XXX, so you will be following that same procedure for this transcript; and if any of the parties do not agree that this is to be done, they should notify you immediately and no later than some certain date. If you hear from any of them to the contrary, then you'll know that there is no such stipulation and that you should use the minor's name as spoken in the depo. This might be the best way to proceed with this.

As for the sealing of the transcript, again, there is no direction in either Code on that subject. If you were instructed to seal all the other depositions in this case and not give the witnesses an opportunity to review their transcripts and you're thinking that the same might apply to this one depo, then I'd include that question in your email to all the parties along with the above. If that was not done before in other depositions, then I can't offer any advice on this, but to my knowledge, there is no rule about a minor's depo being sealed without an opportunity to review being offered to the deponent.

