

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Board of Directors	2
Write Short – Write Fast!	5
Are You Ashamed of Your Browsing History?	10
Student Corner	12
AskDRA	14
DRA Bill Watch	15
Help Wanted!	17
Puzzle Me This	18
Gadgets Galore	19
Advertising Opportunities	20
Pop Quiz	21



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MONYEEN BLACK, CalDRA PRESIDENT

Just like you, I am always proud to be a freelancer. But sometimes things happen along the way that hit home and really illustrate why. Recently, there have been three events of note that, simply put, were awesome, and they brought a smile to my face. I'd like to share them with you today.

The first was what I saw while attending and proctoring the CSR exam in Ontario in early July. We had a really large number of test takers eager to join our profession, and the energy and enthusiasm was infectious. It was so wonderful to see so many smiling faces at what is, after all, an exam. And, here is the kicker: It was a really, really good test (fingers crossed!).

The second occurred the following day. As I'm sure you're well aware, CalDRA is always innovating, always coming up with new ways to serve you, like our **CCEM Continuing Education Program** (How many CCEM points do you have so far this year?). This time around, our newest offering for brand-new CSRs and high-speed students, called "GAP 2.0," was hosted by South Coast College in Orange. The turnout was full of eager participants, ready to learn the ins and outs of their future profession. And what a fantastic day it was! Andrea Rinker-Chavez, Ivy Reid, and I shared our many experiences, our knowledge, and also some funny and memorable stories with the crowd. Even with the enormous amount of information that attendees were tasked with absorbing, each future CSR left that day filled with excitement, gratitude, and renewed determination to enter the field. It was a truly inspirational afternoon.



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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

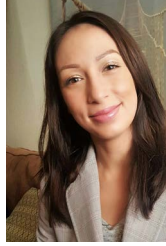
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT



MONYEEN BLACK,
CSR No. 10574, RPR, CRR,
CCRR, CLR
Paso Robles
president@caldra.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT



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

VICE PRESIDENT



DIANE FREEMAN,
CSR No. 5884, RPR
Novato
vicepresident@caldra.org

SECRETARY



VESNA WALTER,
CSR No. 11989, CCRR,
RPR, CLR
Riverside
secretary@caldra.org

TREASURER



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR No. 13437, CCRR,
RPR, CRR, CLR
Fullerton
treasurer@caldra.org

DISTRICT 1



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

DISTRICT 2



KIMBERLY D'URSO,
CSR No. 11372, RPR
Grass Valley
district2@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Alpine,
Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa,
Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno,
Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Kern,
Lake, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa,
Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada,
Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San
Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Shasta,
Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus,
Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne,
Tulare, Yolo and Yuba counties

DISTRICT 3



ERIKA SJOQUIST,
CSR No. 12350, RPR, CRR
Camarillo
district3@caldra.org
Counties Represented: Los
Angeles, Santa Barbara, and
Ventura counties

DISTRICT 4



ANDREA RINKER,
CSR No. 13437, CCRR,
RPR, CRR, CLR
Fullerton
district4@caldra.org
County Represented: Orange
County, plus all Professional Members
residing in counties or states other
than California or the USA.

DISTRICT 5



TRICIA ROSATE,
CSR No. 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

Subscribe to DRA News:
www.caldranews.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
Cheryl Haab,
CSR, RPR, CLR
newslettereditor@caldra.org



CALDRA



CAL_DRA

All opinions expressed herein are strictly those of the authors or advertisers unless they are specifically identified as DRA policy. DRA reserves the right in its sole discretion to accept or reject submitted advertising or content.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The third event occurred the day after the GAP 2.0 success: Waking up Sunday morning, after the long three days on the road, to a thankful GAP 2.0 attendee (who had also just taken that CSR exam):

"The Perfect 'Bridge'

Hi, Mo,

I just wanted to thank you so much again. I've only been a member of DRA for a short while, all due to Melinda Nelson's encouragement and support (she speaks so highly of you). But you all have been SUCH a blessing to me in the short amount of time I've been with you.

Each time I see a post or get to chat with one of you, it makes me just want to be a better writer and reporter. And that's the type of community I thrive off of. So I just felt the urge to reach out to you, as the President, out of appreciation and assure you that you're making an impact.

Thank you for finding little people like me on Facebook and making me feel special. I love when others set the bar high for what we can aspire to, and I can certainly see that in how you conduct yourself. I can't wait to join you all in the field! I learned so much today. This couldn't have come at a more opportune time for me.

Eternally grateful,

Katie B."

Knowing I am impacting the CSRs-to-be fills my heart and reminds me why I continue to volunteer for my profession. It's simple gestures of thanks like this that push me to be an even better and more educated reporter, and a more dedicated President of our beloved association.

I urge every new CSR to join our [mentoring program](#). By doing so, you will be paired with an amazing mentor that you can have lunch with regularly, call or email or text with any question you may have. The program, and the mentors who participate in it, are worth their weight in gold. All that's required is your own willingness to listen and learn from an experienced professional. Get mentored by DRA; you won't regret it!

To learn more about our mentoring program, visit <http://www.caldra.org/get-mentored>

Thank you all for your continued membership. Have a safe and happy summer!



A Proud Sponsor of the Deposition
Reporters Association of California

Let's Depo!

898 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Suite 750
El Segundo, CA 90245

323.393.3768
www.iDepoReporters.com
info@iDepoReporters.com



New Members

Ana Abundis
Karen Aligo
Katie Baldwin
James Brunskow
Deborah Burke
Leslie Chisum
Dashionne Cole
Katrina Collins
Josie Espinoza
Suzanne Firlotte
Michele Fitch
Victoria French
Nicole Giannotti
Michelle Gomez
Sophia Hernandez
Rebeca Horan
Terri Hourigan
Monica Huente
January Johnstone
Amanda Kallas



Joyce Kim
Maurice King
Samantha Maciel
Bridget Mastrobattista
Kristen McElderry
Allyson Mindoro
Latoya Nelson
Miranda Perez
Ashleigh Ratliffe
Sarah San Miguel
Sara Simoni
Taylor Smith
Kate Stickel
Shira Striks
Teresa VanMeter



WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW FOR DRA'S WAR CHEST

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

ONLY YOUR DRA TAKES THE FIGHT EVERYWHERE

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

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

Student Sponsorships:

Leesa Durrant	Melinda Nelson
Christianne Fong	Celeste Poppe
Heatherlynn Gonzalez	Andrea Rinker-Chavez
Cheryl Haab	Elva Soto
Chia Mei Jui	Vesna Walter
Mikey McMorran	Devon Willard
Lisa Michaels	



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Trina Cox
Deborah Meyers
Lucy Carillo-Grubbs
Deborah DeSilva
Lorrie Marchant

[CLICK HERE TO DONATE TO
DRA SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

Write Short – Write Fast!

JESSIE LOVE ON “WRITE SHORT – WRITE FAST!” WITH MARK KISLINGBURY

BY JESSIE LOVE, CSR

I can very clearly remember my first days in theory class learning this language of complete gibberish that I would come to know like the back of my hand. It felt like I was thrown into an alphabet soup of nonsense. Even more clearly, I remember my theory teacher standing in the front of the classroom and informing us that too much briefing was not the correct way to become a court reporter. Using the asterisk along with prefixes and suffixes was the “pure” way of learning stenography. She gave us the most basic briefs -- “plaintiff,” “defendant,” probably 20 in total -- and I was so hung up on being a “pure” reporter that I stopped there.

Around my 120s, as I was working on my speed and banging away at my machine with sweat pouring down the sides of my face, I started sneaking a brief in here and there. Students started passing them around like illegal substances, like it was a big secret. Then I started adapting phrases such as -FS for “-was” and -RP for “-were,” and it felt like my world opened up. I write these phrases 20 billion times a day. OF COURSE it made sense to brief them all! I still think back to my theory days and wonder what sort of reporter I would be if I had incorporated more common phrase briefs in the beginning. I bet it would have been a lot easier.

Fast forward to passing the CSR test with four years under my belt in the field, and I’m sitting in a Mark Kislingbury seminar with my mind blown wide open. There’s more.

Mark’s seminar is a buffet of steno genius. He uses the idea of brief families and overarching principles to make your writing as short as possible. Because the shorter you write, the less strokes you use, the faster you type, the easier you are on your body. It’s math. A reporter who writes the same sentence as another reporter in fewer strokes will be faster 9 times out of 10 with the exception of that freak student in speed class whose fingers fly as if



Mark Kislingbury

on the wind. Physically, your fingers can only move so fast. Why would you elect to take the harder path?

Some examples of the briefs from Mark’s seminar that I jotted down in fury were the right-handed phrase enders. The idea is you combine these with EU for “I,” U for “you,” E for “he,” and so on, to create hundreds of phrases written in one stroke that come up all day every day. I already knew -FS and -RP for -was and -were, but I didn’t know about -KD for -could, -S for -say, -Z for -see, or -G for -go. Then while you’re there for the -G, reach that little pinky

.....
CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Write Short – Write Fast!

JESSIE LOVE ON “WRITE SHORT – WRITE FAST!” WITH MARK KISLINGBURY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

up to -T for - go to. UGT, you go to. EUGT, I go to. Maybe throw in TK and you have a whole phrase -- TKUGT, did you go to. TPUGT, if you go to. WHUGT, when you go to. The possibilities are ENDLESS. And this, my friends, is only the tip of the iceberg.

If it's too overwhelming to think about changing everything, or even some things, just change one thing. Practice it and incorporate it. Once you've mastered that, move on to the next phrase ender. Once you have these common phrases boiled down to the fewest strokes possible, when the witness starts mumbling about otolaryngology and cochlear implants and occipital nerves, you've got the time. Start with the phrases that are going to make 90% of the difference in your everyday writing, and adapt those.

I've heard disheartening rumors of schools discouraging Mark's theory and briefing because students move too

fast through the program (and therefore they lose out on tuition), and I hope those are untrue. I wholeheartedly feel all schools should be teaching Mark Kislingbury's theory. When students are starting out, everything is gibberish. Why not make it helpful gibberish instead?

Some might say, "I've been doing this too long. Can't teach an old dog new tricks." And to that, I say, please don't sell yourself short. You're better than that. If you've been in the field 10, 15, 20 years, it is MORE essential to be kind to your body and make healthy choices. And healthy choices include mentally surviving fast-talking depositions and not succumbing to carpal tunnel, of which we are prime candidates. We adapt when technology advances, when realtime becomes more and more necessary for our career to thrive, and when a work-smarter-not-harder theory comes our way. And this, my friends, is it.



M • O • A D E P O S I T I O N R E P O R T E R S

Your Trusted Litigation Support Partner Since 1992

Sacramento * Yuba City * Chico

1-800-600-1904

**MOA Deposition Reporters is looking to increase its reporter base.
We need reporters for depositions and court matters (criminal and civil) predominantly
in the following counties: Sacramento, Sutter, Yuba, Butte, San Joaquin, Placer and Yolo.**

www.MOAdeporeporters.com

SACRAMENTO
1760 Creekside Oaks Dr. #175
Sacramento, CA 95833
phone | 916.921.1397
toll free | 800.300.3072
fax | 916.921.2875

YUBA CITY
855 Harter Pkwy., Ste. 210
Yuba City, CA 95993
phone | 530.674.1904
toll free | 800.600.1904
fax | 530.674.1359

CHICO
1074 East Avenue, Ste. A
Chico, CA 95926
phone | 530.342.0199
toll free | 800.200.3376
fax | 530.342.3388

Write Short – Write Fast!

MARY PIERCE ON CALDRA'S SPRING SEMINAR

BY MARY PIERCE, CSR



Did you know that there are 2,097,139 different stroke combinations on a standard stenographic keyboard? And that's excluding any incorporation of the asterisk as part of a word. Add in the asterisk, and you have 4,194,277 possible combinations. Let's think creatively and put those numbers to good use.

July 2017 marks the beginning of my 35th year as a court reporter. For approximately 32 of those years, I wrote pretty much the same as when I came out of school. I may not write as clean as some, but I had fast hands and always got it somehow. Back in the day you had to get it or interrupt.

Three years ago at the DRA annual convention, I was fortunate enough to have the winning bid for the Impression writer that ProCAT generously donated. Very shortly, and rather slowly, I began to make changes to the way I write. I had to admit that I was not as sharp as I had been in my youth, coupled with my observation that attorneys, as a whole, are less cognizant of the record than they used to be.

A couple of years ago I attended Ed Varallo's seminar through DRA. His particular approach to briefs resonated with my style of writing and inspired me to come up with some of my own. I began to make more and more changes, and I can say two years into the process I have dramatically increased my speed by shortening my strokes.

What an opportunity then to listen to Mark Kislingbury speak about his theory/approach. I have known of Mark

for nearly all of my career. One cannot deny that he is one of the best writers in the nation and has been so for three decades. Certainly, he would have something to offer. And he did. While some of his particular theory does not always work for me (like the asterisk), many other suggestions did. And he freely invited us to use what works and leave behind what does not.

The moment that resonated the strongest with me was when Mark had all the attendees write along to a couple of short readings and then asked people to call out how many strokes they had taken. Even though I've shortened my stroke count easily by 10 to 15 percent in the last two years, there were reporters in the room that still used 10 to 15 percent fewer strokes than I required.

Secondly, Mark encouraged us to use our software to search for the two- and three-stroke words/phrases that we write most often. I didn't even know my software could do that, but what a brilliant suggestion. It's on my list of things to do.

I am being careful to not incorporate too many changes too quickly so that the new briefs are retained, but I am convinced that I can easily achieve another 10 percent, if not 20 percent, reduction in strokes and prolong my career another 10 years. Old dogs can definitely learn new tricks.

DRA seminars are such a wonderful opportunity to network with other reporters who are as dedicated to the profession as I am and who are willing to share their secrets of the trade, including those with a national profile like Mark Kislingbury. I am always satisfied with the return on my investment in DRA.





SMILES FOR “WRITE SHORT – WRITE FAST!” WITH MARK KISLINGBURY

I first heard Mark Kislingbury speak at the DRA convention in Monterey about five years ago. What he had to say spoke directly to me, and I began to implement some of his suggestions into my writing. But like anything that takes hard work, as time went on, my efforts waned; so I was very excited to hear that he was speaking again in Long Beach just a few weeks ago. I could really use the refresher and a boost to renew my commitment to improving my writing.

He started off his talk in Long Beach by explaining why his method can work for any one of us -- those still in CR school, new reporters, or those of us veterans who can be very stuck in our ways. Boy, is that true. We all can write shorter, no matter what our theory. What each of us chooses to take away from his method is up to us.

He also addressed how overwhelming it can be to tackle new ideas in our writing. I'm sure everyone in the audience related to that statement. I know I did. So I kept an open mind and listened intently to all he had to say. And it sure was A LOT!

Since the seminar I've been tackling one issue at a time, with varying degrees of success. This is hard work, folks. No two ways about it. But everything worthwhile requires putting in the heavy lifting, and I have a renewed commitment to improving my skills, even after having been in this career for so long now.

Mark is a marvel but also so humble and knowledgeable and empathetic to the difficulties of our profession. It was really a pleasure to spend my Saturday with him. And now I need to stop writing and go back to practicing my briefs!!!

- Laury Wasoff

.....

“It's pretty hard to sum up Mark's full-day seminar in a few sentences, but first of all, it takes a rather amazing person to pull off doing a one-person seminar all day. His stamina to be able to stand there all day sharing his knowledge gives us a clue as to the type of energy he brings to his reporting profession.

I am one of the blessed reporters who attended a school (Merit College in North Hollywood) that incorporated many of the shortcuts he shared into our theory. But even this “old dog” with 43 years' experience was able to learn a few new tricks through Mark's training. One unexpected side benefit has been that in the depositions I've taken since the seminar, I've found myself making up one-stroke briefs on the fly for words I've stroked in two or three strokes my entire career (for instance, AN-KEL for ankle has now become KEL). So thank you, Mark, for so generously sharing the tips and tricks that have enabled you to repeatedly be a contest champion. And thank you, DRA, for sponsoring this seminar. It was definitely worthwhile.”

- Irene Abbey

.....

I signed up for DRA's “Write Short - Write Fast” seminar so that I could get needed CEUs. I know I'll never enter, let alone win a speed contest; so I didn't expect to learn very much. I was 100% wrong. I have been so jazzed about Mark's presentation and practice every day on some aspect of his theory. I just received his steno theory book, and it is fascinating. Mark talked about his students being ready to take the CSR exam in 18 months. This is the way to alleviate the reporter shortage and get more reporters trained.

I appreciate all the work the volunteers at DRA did before and during the seminar. Always a friendly smile on their faces.

- Karyn Abbott

.....

“I've been a deposition reporter for 37 years now. I do love my job. I was impressed by Mark Kislingbury's writing. Wow. I attended the seminar to enlighten myself on his writing skills, and I'm always looking for new briefs to speed up my writing as well. After I left the seminar, I thought to myself, I really do need to pick up some more speed and write shorter. He was talking about the team players on the basketball team. Do we want to be the team player or the star? He's right. We need to pick it up a bit to be the best we can be. I am looking into some speed tapes.”

- Sylvia Liebscher

HE'S BACK!

**Kicking yourself for missing him the first time?
Then sign up today for a special encore performance
this fall in beautiful Palo Alto!**

CalDRA presents:

"Write Short - Write Fast!"

with

Mark Kisingbury

Saturday, September 16, 2017

Sheraton Palo Alto

.6 CEUs available



DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

For more information or to register today, visit

<http://www.caldra.org/2017fall>

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR BROWSING HISTORY?

BY KELLI RINAUDO, CALDRA DISTRICT DIRECTOR



I don't know about you, but sometimes I am quite startled at the subject lines of some of my emails or ads that appear when I'm on social media or surfing the Web. It's usually not until I'm in deep in thought while driving to a job or drifting off to sleep that I suddenly feel like Jessica Fletcher (Angela Lansbury's character in "Murder She Wrote" – yes, I am still a fan of this show) solving the murder by putting all the puzzle pieces together.

"That's it! The depo of Dr. Smith, the urologist!" Ms. Plaintiff was having bladder weakness and pain due to an 80-pound labradoodle jumping into her lap at the Memorial Day party down the street. The doctor had inserted some type of device into her nether regions called a pissery – well, at least that's what it sounded like and it sort of made sense. Through Google, my favorite go-to search engine, I entered the keywords and quickly found the correct spelling. But now, I'm suddenly receiving emails for miracle pills, naturopathic remedies, or products to cure "my" bladder problems (and by the way, the correct word is pessary. Who knew?).

Other reporters on Facebook have also commented about the proliferation of pornographic emails they started receiving when they had worked on a divorce case that involved a lot of private adult activities. It kind of makes you giggle at first, but then a little bit of uneasiness creeps in, especially when you have to send your computer to the repair shop and you realize the techs will be able to see it all. When you stop to think about the gamut of what we search for, it must be extremely confusing to the companies that are tracking our usage. It can run the spectrum of guns, military bases, serial killers, chemicals, medications, couture designers, 17th century artists, current-day children's movies, and character names.

Early last November, new rules were set to go into effect with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that would have required Internet service providers (ISPs) to get your permission before collecting and sharing your data, also known as "opt in." As of March 2017, those rules have been put on hold by the FCC pending a Net Neutrality bill currently before Congress.

As of right now, your Internet service provider (the service that you have at your home, office, or cell phone; e.g., AT&T, Xfinity, etc.) can sell your data without your permission. They seek this data to sell it to advertisers. Your browsing patterns can include your health questions, shopping habits, extracurricular activities, financial practices or concerns, and political views. They even track when you are at home and when you're not.

While we are not being asked to opt in, for now we can still opt out. Each ISP should have a privacy policy or choice to opt out of being tracked. Here are links for AT&T and Xfinity.

http://about.att.com/sites/privacy_policy/rights_choices

<https://www.xfinity.com/support/internet/opt-out-comcast-ads/>

Depending on which browser you use (e.g., Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.), deleting your past searches, browsing history, and cookies can help. You can also choose to have the histories cleared when you close the program. These settings are usually found in the menu bar of Tools/Options/Privacy or something similar.

Use of encrypted sites can help as well. If you look in your browser's address bar, look for the letters "https" to the left of the address. The "s" stands for secure, which means that the data is encrypted between your browser and the site. Mozilla's Firefox browser has an "incognito" search available.

For the tech-savvy or those who have an IT person readily available, you can go a step further and look into a virtual private network (VPN). A VPN will encrypt and send your connection through one of their servers, essentially hiding the starting point where your search begins as well as the content from your ISP. Nothing is 100% secure, but they do reduce the chances of anything being intercepted. Most VPNs I've looked at are reasonably priced, some as low as \$5 per month. The consensus seems to advise against any "free" VPNs. As the saying goes, "You get what you pay for."

Even though we may be sitting in the safety of our own home or searching from our very own cell phone or tablet device, don't forget that we are reaching out into the abyss of cyberspace, and the information that is zipping around out there can be intercepted. Perhaps, by following the above steps, we can all benefit from the added layer of security around our browsing activities.

Take This Tuxedo Home!

Expression



by:



sales@procat.com

(800) 966-1221



DRA Student Corner

CALDRA'S GAP 2.0 SEMINAR PROVES A SMASHING SUCCESS

On Saturday, July 8, 2017, CalDRA held its information-packed GAP 2.0 seminar, geared towards future CSRs preparing to enter the field. The star-studded speaker panel consisted of California CSR Ivy Reid, CalDRA District Director/Treasurer Andrea Rinker-Chavez, and CalDRA President Monyeen Black, who took participants through the ins and outs of the freelance world. The day proved to be an enormous success, leaving all participants eager and anxious to begin their own careers as deposition reporters.

Attendees received a copy of CalDRA's [GAP Transcript Formatting Reference Manual](#), included in the price of full registration, to assist them in navigating the layouts and worksheets they will need to become successful freelance reporters.

Special thanks to our student sponsors, and to [South Coast College](#) of Orange, California, for hosting this event. We appreciate your continued support!



STUDENT SPONSORS

Leesa Durrant	Melinda Nelson
Christianne Fong	Celeste Poppe
Heatherlynn Gonzalez	Andrea Rinker-Chavez
Cheryl Haab	Elva Soto
Chia Mei Jui	Vesna Walter
Mikey McMorran	Devon Willard
Lisa Michaels	



Left to right: Ivy Reid, CSR; CalDRA District Director/Treasurer Andrea Rinker-Chavez; CalDRA President-Elect Cheryl Haab; CalDRA Past President Kristi Johnson; CalDRA President Monyeen Black



CalDRA's Speaker Panel: CalDRA District Director/Treasurer Andrea Rinker-Chavez, CalDRA President, Monyeen Black, and Ivy Reid, CSR



CALDRA STUDENT MEMBER KATIE BALDWIN ATTENDS GAP 2.0



GAP 2.0 provided me with more information than I thought possible. The amount of experience and wisdom communicated through the panel of reporters guiding the session was just what any student would covet and wish

to aspire to. While it is true that this training was slightly overwhelming in the amount of information it provided, I believe that this should be the whole purpose for those who are attending. This session is tailored to fit those who are about to take the plunge into the working world or who are new to the field. For those of us in this position, I can't imagine what more you would want from a seminar than to be drenched with information which will prepare you for the daunting field ahead of you.

While there was clearly a set agenda for what was to be covered, the intimate environment allowed every question to be asked and answered. A wonderfully detailed slideshow was prepared, which was packed with information and made notetaking easy. But there was so much knowledge and information exchanged beyond even the slideshow, through the anecdotes related by each reporter, along with personal tips they have picked up in their journeys. And, of course, most exciting of all, we were sent home with the GAP Reference Manual, which is packed with information to be rifled through daily as a working reporter. All this to say, GAP 2.0 was beyond what I was hoping it would be because it truly taught me everything that I didn't know I didn't know.

CALDRA ORGANIZES TOWN HALL MEETING IN LIGHT OF RECENT CSR PASS RATES



In light of an alarming trend of single-digit pass percentages for the California Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) examination, CalDRA has made a commitment to our student body to explore options for bolstering success at the skills portion of the exam. Identifying possible causation for this low level of passage is crucial to the future success of our profession.

Please consider joining CalDRA on Monday, August 28, 2017, for a brainstorming session to discuss this important issue and possible remedies. All members of the court reporting community are welcome, including students, professionals, instructors, and firm owners.

MEETING DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



Location: Tri-Community Adult Education

Address: 231 East Stephanie Drive,
Covina, CA 91722

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Due to time constraints, the meeting will begin and end promptly at the times listed above. Refreshments will be served. Space will be limited to 40 participants, so please RSVP to Cheryl Haab at presidentelect@caldra.org by Friday, August 25, 2017, if you would like to attend.

CalDRA would like to thank **Tri-Community Adult Education** for hosting this event and for their continued support during this process.

AskDRA

BY ANTONIA PULONE, DEPO DIPLOMAT

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

I have a question that I wanted to see if you could help answer. We have a client that has now requested to receive all original transcripts, copy transcripts, and exhibits via electronic format. This firm is a plaintiff's firm that sets a lot of depositions with our company, and they have instructed us that they do not want to receive any hard copies of anything going forward.

My question is, what is the responsibility of our company in regards to holding the hard copy original transcripts & exhibits going forward? This would eventually become a space allocation problem on our end if we continue to hold all of these hard copy transcripts and exhibits. We have had this client sign a release form stating that they do not want to ever receive these hard copy formats.

Please let me know if you can provide some insight to our responsibility going forward.

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

I don't think you necessarily have any responsibility in keeping your client's hard-copy originals and exhibits, even given his request for e-files only. I believe that there's a way you can honor his request and still observe the requirements of the California Code of Civil Procedure ("CCP") without finding yourself with file drawers full of original transcripts. I'm sure you're familiar with CCP Section 2025.550, but I'll paste it below, just so we can both refer to its specific wording as it relates to this situation.

2025.550.

(a) The certified transcript of a deposition shall not be filed with the court. Instead, the deposition officer shall securely seal that transcript in an envelope or package endorsed with the title of the action and marked: "Deposition of (here insert name of deponent)," and shall promptly transmit it to the attorney for the party who noticed the deposition. This attorney shall store it under conditions that will protect it against loss, destruction, or tampering.

(b) The attorney to whom the transcript of a deposition is transmitted shall retain custody of it until six months after final disposition of the action. At that time, the transcript may be destroyed, unless the court, on motion of any party and for good cause shown, orders that the transcript be preserved for a longer period.

As you see here, while the drafters of this language no doubt were referring to a printed, paper original, that

isn't specifically stated here, so you could send your client his originals and exhibits on a CD as a file bearing the title of the depo and sealed in some packaging and be in perfect compliance with (a) and still be delivering them per your client's request. There would be no need for you to ever print his original transcripts since he doesn't want those, and you could simply maintain those files electronically in the event they need to be reproduced later. You could, of course, deliver any copies ordered by other counsel in whatever format, print or electronic, that they asked for. But you would then have no paper to store. Your client could then destroy whatever media you used to deliver his originals on six months after the disposition of each case as (b) instructs; or, if needed, could maintain that media for a longer period.

The only other concern would be whether your client would be able to file his originals electronically for any of his cases going to trial. I know some counties in the state already accept electronic filing and some are even requiring it, and I'd guess within a year or so all counties will at least prefer, if not require, e-filing of originals. So if your client has no problem turning his electronic originals over to the court when starting a trial, then he'll be fine, but that is for him to deal with. And if he ever should run into a problem doing that, you'll have the transcript file and exhibits scanned and would be able to provide him with a print version upon his request.

I hope this answers your question and maybe relieves you of any concerns you've had over long-term storage issues.

DRA BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

When we last reported on our legislative watch list, we were following nine bills that have potential benefit or harm to our members, both deposition and official reporters. We have added a few more to our list with this update, so our lobbyist, Ed Howard, and your legislative committee is busier than ever, following these bills closely, appearing at critical committee hearings, and meeting with legislators and their staffs to ensure the best possible outcome for all reporters.

The status of each Assembly and Senate bill below was current as of July 31st. As always, we will keep you updated on these bills in each issue of The Deposition Reporter, as well as in our enotes when any important developments occur. If you ever have questions about the bills included here, please don't hesitate to contact your CalDRA Board representative or me at any time. We are all here to serve you and share what we learn as we safeguard this profession we love.



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 could therefore have some effect on jobs for officials throughout the State.

Support/Opposition: None reported yet

Status: Referred to the Assembly Budget Committee. Amended 5/3 and re-referred to that 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" in front of "CAT system" and would define "CAT system" as one that provides realtime 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: As of 5/26, held under submission by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 703 (FLORA)

Summary: This bill would require every board within the Department of Consumer Affairs – including the Court Reporters Board – to waive the fee for application and issuance of the initial license for an applicant who is married to or a domestic partner of an active-duty member of the Armed Services who is assigned here in CA.

Support/Opposition: None reported yet
Status: Referred to the Assembly Committee on Business & Professions; no hearing date set currently.

AB 710 (WOOD)

Summary: Currently all boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs generally meet at least three times a year, once in Northern CA and once in Southern CA. This bill would require that all boards, including the Court Reporters Board, meet once every other year in rural CA.

Support/Opposition: None on file.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. In Senate; referred to the Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. 6/19 hearing cancelled at the request of the author.

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,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

DRA BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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: Passed out of the Assembly, 5/11. In Senate, assigned to Judiciary Committee; amended and passed. Referred to Appropriations Committee.

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 if, prior to 2023, the court lacks the ability to use or store the transcript electronically or 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.

Support/Opposition: CCRA (sponsor), San Diego County District Attorney; no opposition on file.

Status: Passed by the Assembly; in Senate. Passed as amended by Senate Judiciary Committee; referred to Senate Appropriations Committee; no hearing date set yet.

AB 1631 (SALAS)

Summary: Existing law requires that a hearing 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.

As originally drafted, the bill created a new definition of "shorthand reporting service corporation" for firms rendering back-office support services. That language was amended out in response to strong CalDRA opposition.

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), DRA, CCRA; opposition by Esquire, Magna Legal, U.S. Legal Support, Veritext.

Status: Passed by Assembly; in Senate. Passed as amended by then Business, Professions & Economic Development Committee. Referred to the Appropriations Committee.

SB 27 (MORRELL)

Summary: Bill similar to AB 703; requires all boards within the Department of Consumer Affairs to waive fee for the application and issuance of an initial license for a person who has served in the CA National Guard or US Armed Services.

Support/Opposition: Author sponsor; supported by several veteran and engineering associations. No opposition on file.

Status: Passed by Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development and Veteran Affairs. Referred to Appropriations Committee, held under submission

SB (SENATE BILL) 72 (MITCHELL)

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

DRA BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

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: Passed by Senate. In Assembly; passed by Judiciary Committee as amended; referred to the Appropriations Committee.

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 to 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, U.S. Legal Support, Veritext Corporation.

Status: Passed by Senate; in Assembly. Referred to Judiciary Committee. Hearing set for 6/20 cancelled by author.



HELP WANTED: CALDRA ISO VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT NEWSLETTER EDITOR!

Are you a CalDRA member that loves to write? Want to stay updated on current events in the industry? Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Then look no further! CalDRA is currently in search of an assistant newsletter editor for our quarterly online publication, the Deposition Reporter. A qualified candidate should be a professional CalDRA member who is engaged in the industry and has a strong writing background. Tasks include: article brainstorming, member outreach for volunteer writers, and newsletter layout planning. No graphic design experience is necessary.

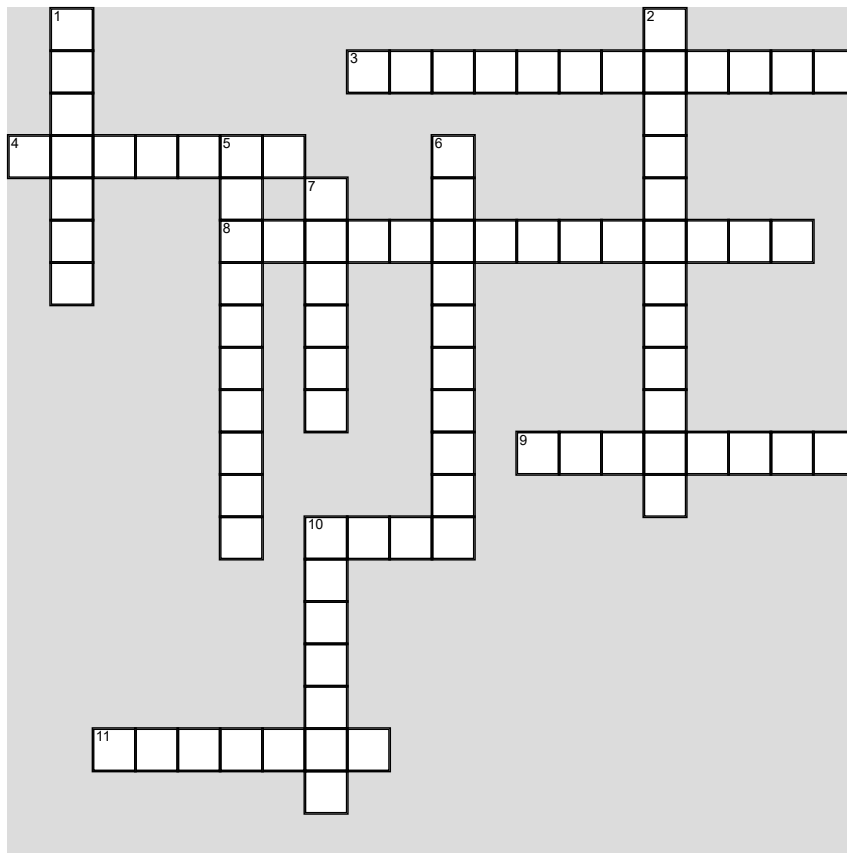
For more information or to apply for the position, please contact Cheryl Haab at newslettereditor@caldra.org

Puzzle Me This

In the reporting world, we oftentimes hear not only complicated English terminology, but Latin as well! Familiarity with this ancient language is a must for any well-versed reporter. How well do you know your Latin legal terms?

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

It's All Latin To Me



Across

- 3 (2 words) Let the buyer beware
- 4 Indications
- 8 (2 words) Proper person
- 9 (2 words) In good faith
- 10 Before
- 11 (2 words) Guilty mind

Down

- 1 How much
- 2 (2 words) Friend of the court
- 5 Let it be printed
- 6 (2 words) At first face
- 7 Against
- 10 (2 words) Describes those designated to represent parties deemed incapable of representing themselves

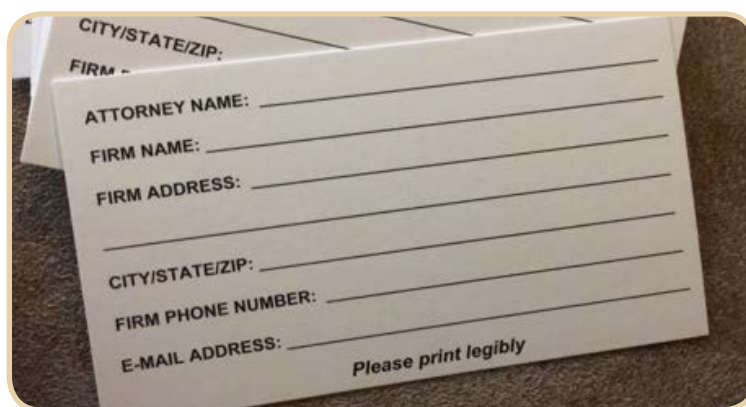
Contest Rules and Regulations: Only current CalDRA members are eligible to participate. One win per member per calendar year. \$25 Credit is nontransferable. Credit may be used for a single CalDRA event registration totaling at least \$99 before the earned credit is applied. Credit may not be used to 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.

GADGETS GALORE



Business Card Holder

In today's competitive market, many reporters have moved away from traditional "staff" relationships with a single firm and instead take freelance work from a variety of agencies. While this can prove lucrative when done correctly, there is a downside: business cards from dozens of different companies cluttering up one's bag. A simple solution? Try Ramble's [Business Card Holder](#), available on Amazon for a competitive price. With over 40 slots available for cards, even the busiest of freelancers will have trouble filling this holder to its capacity. Goodbye clutter, hello organization!



Blank Attorney Business Card

The average reporter would make an excellent Boy Scout, as it seems that our respective life philosophies are one and the same: Be Prepared! While a typical reporter bag holds a plethora of gadgets and accessories for every possible scenario, the same cannot always be said of our attorney counterparts. How often do you arrive at your job and ask for business cards, only to discover that harried counsel has once again forgotten to bring his credentials? Worse yet, all too often does the scene play out as follows: Counsel rips a page out of his or her yellow notebook, scrawling illegible and/or incomplete appearance information, which you are then forced to decipher like a series of ancient hieroglyphics days later when you are trying to meet an upcoming deadline. As if our jobs weren't hard enough!

Does this song and dance drive you up the wall? Well, consider this option: Our friends at [VistaPrint](#) are the masters of quality business cards, and it is affordable and easy to create your very own blank business card layout to offer an unprepared attorney at your job. This foolproof method ensures that you receive complete appearance information, and it will fit easily into a DepoBook or other notebook like a regular business card. A big plus? Room on the card to request that all information be printed **legibly** (fingers crossed!).

For more information on this layout or for assistance in creating your own, contact newslettereditor@caldra.org


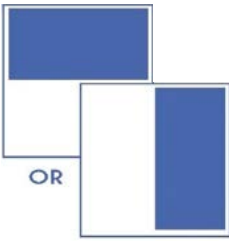

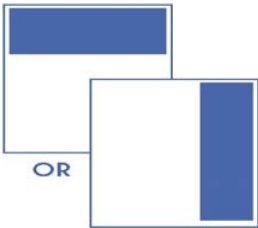
ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEPOSITION REPORTER

Want to highlight your small business to the court reporting community? Then look no further – advertise in The Deposition Reporter today!

THE IDEAL PLATFORM TO REACH PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS ACROSS CALIFORNIA

The Deposition Reporter has established a loyal readership through a long-standing commitment to quality coverage of trends and legislative issues that affect the industry. Our members are committed to improving their professional standards and advancing the profession, and that's why they read The Deposition Reporter.

A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT OPTIONS AND COMPETITIVE PRICES TO FIT YOUR NEEDS:

 <p>FULL PAGE 7.875" x 10"</p> <hr/> <p>\$200 per issue or \$400 for 4 issues</p> <p>+ \$295 optional ad design production support</p>	 <p>1/2 PAGE 7.875" x 4.8125" or 3.8438" x 10"</p> <hr/> <p>\$100 per issue or \$300 for 4 issues</p> <p>+ \$195 optional ad design production support</p>	 <p>BUSINESS CARD 2" x 3.5" or 3.5" x 2"</p> <hr/> <p>\$200 for 4 issues</p> <p>+ \$195 optional ad design production support</p>	 <p>1/3 PAGE 7.875" x 3.1875" or 2.5" x 10"</p> <hr/> <p>\$80 per issue or \$160 for 4 issues</p> <p>+ \$195 optional ad design production support</p>
---	---	---	---

AD PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Need help creating your ad? We can do that! Just fill out a form and we'll customize your ad based on our suite of templates for each ad size. We'll provide appropriate word counts, and you'll get to proofread your ad for any final updates.

CALL 888-867-2074 TO PLACE AN AD

For more info, visit our website at
<http://www.caldra.org/advertise-with-dra>
You can also contact the DRA office at
memberservices@caldra.org or 888-867-2074

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

POP QUIZ!

JESSIE FREY



Certification: CSR

Residence: Mid City, Los Angeles

How long have you been reporting?

Since May 2016

How did you first get involved with DRA?

I started going to events as a student, and I tried to take advantage of as many networking events as possible.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Inglewood and grew up on the Westside in Los Angeles.

Tell us about your family.

I was named after my great, great Aunt Jessie. She worked on a sheep ranch in Idaho, she chewed tobacco, and always carried a pistol. I like to think I emulate her – except for the pistol, chewing tobacco, and working on a ranch thing.

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

There's always something happening around Los Angeles, even when you think you know the city like the back of your hand. My fiancé, Zach, and I like to try different coffee spots around the city or local breweries, and there's always something new popping up in town that's fun to visit (like the Ice Cream Pop-Up Museum that was just as amazing as it sounds). I love hiking in Griffith Park up to Dante's Peak or the Baldwin Hills stairs.

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

Being a certified realtime reporter is my ultimate goal.

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

Even if you think you've bombed a test, transcribe it. This was my key to passing tests and moving up in speeds. You learn where you hesitate or make common mistakes, and it helps you better understand where you need to improve.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



POP QUIZ!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Half the time you end up doing way better than you've expected. Additionally, having the mentality that quitting is not an option really shifted my mentality through school. I had no plan B. I was going to become a court reporter no matter what, and I was never going to give up.

Who do you turn to when you're in need of inspiration?

I love talking to fellow reporters who have been in the field longer than I have. I'm always met with encouragement when I need it and inspiration to do better.

What's your cocktail order?

I have to go with beer! Avery's White Rascal is one of my favorites.

Do you still practice on your machine?

Yes! It's a must. I'm constantly learning how to shorten my writing.

What is the best reporting-related technology investment you have made thus far?

The Dymo so I can print exhibit stickers or the information of the agency I'm working with for the day so that I can stick that info on my business card to give to the attorneys. Attorneys are usually first confused by the printing sound, but when they see the stickers, they absolutely love how they look. I've only ever gotten compliments on the Dymo.

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

I graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in film theory thinking I would continue on to become a film archivist. Then I discovered court reporting, and my path changed entirely. I'm still passionate about film and its preservation, so if I couldn't be a court reporter anymore, I would continue down that road in the world of film history and archiving.

Why is DRA membership important to you?

I owe all my successes as a new reporter to DRA. Because I was involved in the DRA as a student, so many wonderful and generous reporters referred me job after job as a new reporter. I had a slew of fellow reporters I could go to for job and agency advice, as well as help with any unfamiliar situation I encountered as a brand new reporter. I wouldn't be the reporter I am today without the help of fellow DRA members, and I am forever grateful for this organization.

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

[DOWNLOAD PDF](#)

Recent CSR Test Results!

[ENGLISH & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES RESULTS](#)

[DICTATION EXAMINATION RESULTS](#)

Subscribe to CRB News

[SUBSCRIBE TO CRB NEWS](#)