The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION REPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

FALL 2018

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CHERYL HAAB, CSR, RPR, CLR, *CalDRA PRESIDENT*

Here in Southern California, despite the omnipresent sunshine faithfully beating down upon its residents 300+ glorious days a year, there is a distinct chill in the air as the last remnants of summer dwindle away to make room for the colder temperatures of the fall and winter. And along with this changing of the seasons, preparing us for the holidays ahead – Halloween, Thanksgiving, and even Hanukkah and Christmas – comes the repetitious mantra of adulthood, with the lot of us asking, "Wherever did the year go so quickly?"

Well, the answer is simple: it came and went just like every other year prior, somehow still leaving us all more surprised than any of us have a right to be. Incomplete goals, unsaved money, abandoned diets – the whole gamut of unachieved tasks burning holes in our respective to-do lists are enough to drive anyone crazy. If you have been feeling this way, that there just aren't enough hours in the day, rest assured that you are not alone. I, too, have fallen victim to the passage of time, somehow, ever-reliably, sneaking up on me yet again. Seven months into my presidency with CalDRA, I find myself writing my first President's message a whole lot later than I should have, because there just hasn't been "time."

But upon further reflection, this statement gives me pause, mostly because I have never been one to embrace convention. We are all given the same 24 hours every single day, and we are all afforded with a wealth of choices as to how we spend each and every one of those hours. So that leads me to conclude that perhaps making smart goals and prioritizing the things — **and the people** — that matter is the most effective way that we can whittle away our time here on this planet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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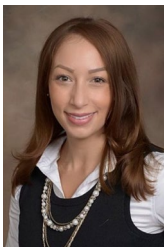

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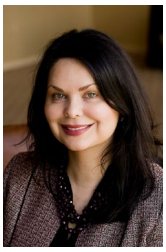

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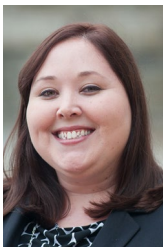

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Life sure does get busy. Kids, partners, friends, jobs, commuting, expedites, social and volunteer obligations — and, let's face it, Netflix — can eat up our precious waking hours in the blink of an eye. But in the frenetic pace of the day-to-day grind, finding that elusive work-life balance is now more important than ever. Not just for our relationships and businesses, but for our health and peace of mind. Stress is one of the six leading causes of death in the United States. So relax and take a load off. You deserve a break.

And after much self-flagellation about the protracted delay in sitting down to pen this message, I am going to cut myself a bit of slack too. It sure has been a busy seven months. And when I look at all we have achieved thus far, I perhaps wonder if I've been so preoccupied because we actually have just been getting down to brass tacks.

So, please, allow me to share with you just a few things that your CalDRA has had on tap since our annual convention:

- Two comprehensive town hall brainstorming/fact-gathering sessions with membership regarding the now-ubiquitous video-only deposition practice spreading across the state
- Our annual spring and fall seminars, educating membership on not only grammar and punctuation and the ins and outs of pro tempore court work, but also offering guidance on navigating the Supreme Court's earth-shaking **Dynamex** decision, which has effectively turned California's definition of independent contracting on its head
- Continued and transparent communication with the National Court Reporters Association regarding its Corporate Partnership program as it relates to its Code of Professional Ethics
- The passage of not one, but **TWO** assembly bills, one co-sponsored and one supported by CalDRA; AB 2664 (Holden) and AB 2084 (Kalra), both signed by Governor Brown this September
- **And coming soon:** CalDRA's Stip Stoppers will resume its campaign to educate attorneys on the dangers of using the SoCal stip by offering an all-inclusive packet of materials to reporting agencies, **free of charge**, making it easier and more desirable than ever to follow the Code in handling depositions (Email me for more info! We can use all the help we can get.)

Not too shabby, right? And rest assured that there is much more to come. Not just from CalDRA, but for the profession at large.

At times I feel an uncertainty about the future pervading the court reporting contingent across the state, and yes, it is certainly warranted. But I would like to reassure each and every one of you that as the largest professional organization in the country dedicated to the interests of the freelance reporter, we will continue to do everything in our power to protect your livelihood with the membership dollars that you entrust to us. Likewise, education and advocacy are the two most powerful tools in our arsenal, tools that we will continue to wield in fostering understanding about our vital role in the legal field and beyond. Bottom line is: We will never stop fighting for you. That is a promise I can make to you today, and a promise that I can honor.

So as I further reflect on all that we have accomplished this year, it is not only a testament to how hard I and others on this Board have worked, but a great reminder to practice self-forgiveness. I think I will give myself that break. And you really should give yourself one, too. If you're feeling overwhelmed, maybe it's time for you to sit down and make a list of all that you have accomplished this year. It just might surprise you, and in a good way. You, too, are doing a great job navigating this thing called life! ☺

I serve at your pleasure, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me at president@caldra.org. Your messages are always welcome. Looking forward to each and every one of them.

Cheers,

THE REALTIME CONTEST AT PALM SPRINGS: FAST, FOCUSED, AND FREAKING ACCURATE

Ten intrepid writers participated in the realtime contest at the DRA Convention in Palm Springs in February, administered by the calm and capable team of Andrea Chavez and Holly Moose. For the first time, the Realtime Contest was open to viewers, and several people lined up along the wall and quietly watched. I think it's fair to say that as deposition reporters, and many other settings where our services might be requested, we are typically the only one of our kind in the room. It takes a talented and steely-nerved individual to get in the ring with the best, and I reveled at the opportunity to observe them. Could I possibly learn something here just by watching others tap the keys?

So I observed. First, all wore headphones. The big ones that cover your ears. No buds here. More than half closed their eyes at some point, often for sustained periods. And about half of them had their machines on a tilt tripod that put the machine at an angle that looked to range from about 10 degrees to as much as 60 degrees. I have always written with my machine on a traditional horizontal-mount tripod. Maybe there's something to this forward tilt.

The dictation was a literary that started at 180 wpm and built to 210, 5 minutes (plus warmup). The second dictation was Q/A, 5 minutes at 225 wpm. It was gratifying to see that two of the top finishers are more than 30 years into their careers. Point being you can age in this profession and still be at the top of the game.

CERTIFICATES AND OTHER AWARDS:

Kristi Johnson (qualified through Minute 2 of Literary)

Monyeen Black (qualified through Minute 3 of Literary)

Tricia Rosate (qualified through Minute 4 of Literary, through Minute 2 of Q/A)

Clay Frazier (5th Place Literary, 96% accuracy, qualified through Minute 2 Q/A)

John Wissenbach (3rd Place Literary at 98.2% accuracy, qualified through Minute 3 Q/A)

Chase Frazier (1st Place Literary at 98.5% accuracy, qualified through Minute 4 Q/A)

Mark Kislingbury (2nd Place Literary at 98.4% accuracy, qualified through Minute 4 Q/A)

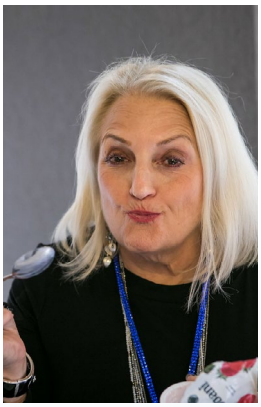
Ron Cook (4th Place Lit, qualified through Minute 6 at 97.5%, 1st Place Q/A at 95.47%)

AND THE OVERALL WINNER – DRA 2018 CHAMPION IS:

Ron Cook – 96.49 % accuracy

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON AND ALL THOSE WHO STEPPED IN THE RING!

2018 CONVENTION PHOTOS



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."

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CALDRA PRESENTS KAREN KLEIN, CSR, 2018 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

At our 22nd annual convention held in Palm Springs, California, our association was pleased to announce the winner of one of reporting's most prestigious honors: CalDRA's Distinguished Service Award (DSA).

The ideal recipient for the DSA is a tenured member of the association with a long service of volunteer pursuits within the profession. This reporter should be one who continues to uphold the values of professionalism, skill, and integrity in their daily work, and who strives to foster the next generation of reporters through mentoring and education.

With these laudable traits in mind, it was CalDRA's great honor to present a most deserving recipient with this award for 2018: Karen Klein, CSR, founding member of CalDRA.

Below is the transcript of a speech given by Valerie Eames, CSR, Past President of CalDRA, in honoring Karen Klein and her many accomplishments in the field:

"This afternoon we are here to honor this year's DSA recipient, Karen Klein. A DRA founding member, interim president during DRA's formation from 1995 to 1996, and DRA president from 1998-1999. It's been a long time coming.

Karen is not only a dear friend, a confidante, a partner in crime, but she's a mom to Kristen, 25, and Kara, 22, and married to Daryl for almost 34 years, through thick and thin, during DRA's early years.

Karen passed her CSR in November 1980 at the age of 20. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Cal State Fullerton in 1983.

Not only a working deposition reporter for 38 years, Karen also taught medical/legal terminology at the Cerritos College court reporting program. Karen's been involved with all aspects of NCRA. She received her RMR (CM - back in the day) - along with her friend Sharon Golding - another DRA founding member, and went on to attain her RDR - Registered Diplomate Reporter - certification.

Karen was VP of LAGSRA (LA Generals) and was the CCRA legislative representative for L.A. County. As interim president, during the formation of DRA, Karen worked closely with the interim Executive Director and incorporator of DRA, Tom Golding - a big shout out to Tom. She and Tom were inseparable. They worked very closely together in the early days, speaking on a daily basis. When I asked Tom for some info about the early days with Karen, of course he said she worked very hard - I expected nothing less - and that she was a pain in the, well, "tush." Sorry, Tommy!

Karen's a founder, a president, a board member, a seminar presenter, panelist, and a mentor to many new court reporters and students. She is now a part of the firm Ludwig Klein Reporters and Video, along with Lois Ludwig, since 1999. She's the tech guru, I call her. Since about 2009, their focus has been reporting technology for clients and working reporters. And still not stopping, Karen and Daryl now mentor an 18-yr-old foster youth as a court-appointed special advocate.

Words cannot express how much time and love Karen has given to the court reporting profession. There's so much more I wanted to say to you about my friend, Karen Klein. But she is definitely one of a kind: stubborn, feisty, matter of fact, and right in your face. You always know where Karen is coming from. As most of her friends know, she does not hold back.

One little anecdote I want to leave you with:

During a LAGSRA meeting at the Sportsmen's Lodge, not long after the formation of DRA, Karen and her entourage came into the room. She was saying hi to everyone. I was in total awe of Karen. As a new DRA member, Karen Klein and Lois Ludwig were highly regarded. I put them up there on the highest pedestal. Funny how life works out. We are now very good friends - part of her entourage - and presenting her the Distinguished Service Award!

Congratulations, Karen!"

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CALDRA HOLDS TWO TOWN HALL BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS TO TACKLE QUESTIONS SURROUNDING VIDEO-ONLY PRACTICE SPREADING ACROSS THE STATE

This summer, in response to an overwhelming concern regarding the now-ubiquitous practice of video-only depositions spreading across the state, CalDRA held a series of two town hall meetings with stakeholders in the industry, consisting of members and nonmembers alike. In attendance at each session was a mix of reporters, students, firm owners, calendar staff, videographers, and other interested parties. The first meeting was held in Huntington Beach, California, on Saturday, July 21st, followed a few short weeks later by a replica meeting in Sacramento on August 11th for stakeholders in the Northern California area.

Each session was moderated by CalDRA Legislative Counsel, Ed Howard, who kicked off the festivities with a comprehensive explanation of current law with regard to this practice, followed by a Q&A and brainstorming segment with attendees.

With the aid of input offered by those in attendance, as well as solutions that were presented to alleviate California's troubling court reporter shortage that many believe is at the heart of this practice's inception, CalDRA plans to continue championing the usage of a stenographic reporter to memorialize legal proceedings in every instance possible, as well as ensuring that any video-only practices employed by agencies are conducted within the confines of existing law.

Each town hall meeting was stenographically reported by a CalDRA-member CSR on a volunteer basis. Plans to prepare and subsequently sell both transcripts are now underway.

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CALDRA'S ANNUAL STUDENT PICNIC CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

BY JAMIE ASBURY, CALDRA DISTRICT 5 DIRECTOR

In May 2018, CalDRA hosted its Annual Student Picnic at Don Knabe Community Regional Park in Cerritos, California. This is an event that the Student Picnic Committee works hard each year to coordinate, with the hope of showing the future of this profession that working reporters have their backs and want them to succeed. We strive for the picnic to be fun and informational, a student networking event where mingling and competition is encouraged. This year was a great success with a total of 68 students in attendance. Games were enjoyed, pizza, salad, cupcakes, and refreshments were served, and raffle prizes were awarded.

We eased into Saturday with coffee and introductions by Picnic Chair and CalDRA District 5 Director, Jamie Asbury, as well as CalDRA President, Cheryl Haab. Then the ice-breaker game and the streamer game helped to loosen the tone. Who thinks they can unroll a streamer roll in each hand the fastest without moving their feet? We had some pretty talented contestants, I must say.

After that, we asked each student to write down a question they would like to ask our reporter panel, consisting of three amazing reporters -- Katie Baldwin, Paige Hutchinson, and Kathleen O'Neill. As we read each question anonymously, it was interesting to hear the viewpoints ranging from a first-year reporter to an almost 10-year reporter to a very seasoned reporter with a diverse career path.

Next, we split everyone up into three teams and played "Who Wants to be a Court Reporter?" I was impressed with how well our students answered our tough questions – well, maybe they weren't that tough. Lastly, a good old-fashioned water balloon toss ended the day for us.

We extend many, many thanks to all of the generous sponsors. We had lots of superb items donated, which we raffled off, such as The Purple Books study materials, two sets of student software, gift baskets, wireless keyboards, and much more. What's impressive is that each and every student was able to walk away from our picnic with a prize to take home, and I can only hope with more than just that. We have a very caring reporting community, and CalDRA would like to personally thank the following sponsors for their donations to make this Annual Student Picnic a memorable one.

Student Corner

CALDRA'S ANNUAL STUDENT PICNIC CONTINUES TO INSPIRE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

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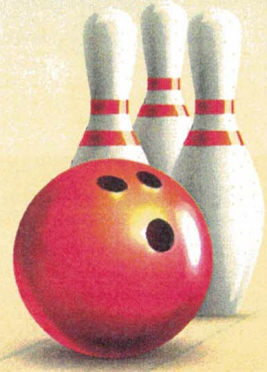

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THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD TAKES AN IMPORTANT VOTE: VOICE WRITERS TO BE TESTED AND LICENSED AS CALIFORNIA CSRs

At its September 17, 2018, meeting, the Court Reporters Board of California (CRB) voted unanimously to authorize staff to take the necessary steps to begin testing and licensing voice writers as early as March 2019. CalDRA President-Elect Diane Freeman attended the meeting on behalf of our members.

WHAT LED UP TO THIS?

Some time ago, the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) contacted the CRB with a proposal for testing and licensure of voice writers here in California. Tori Pittman and Donald Scott, both members of NVRA, appeared at the July 19, 2018, CRB meeting to present their request in person. Tori, a former stenographic reporter who switched to voice writing after contracting tendonitis in both arms, provided a realtime voice writing demonstration to the board and the audience, followed by a question-and-answer session about the discipline of voice writing.

Thereafter, the CRB sent out a survey to all current California licensees, polling members on whether they support licensure of voice writers and why. Approximately 1,400 responses were received, one third in support or neutral, two thirds opposed. Given the increasing shortage of licensees, coupled with the declining pass rates on CSR exams over the past several years, the CRB felt there was enough support demonstrated by this poll to move forward with the licensure of voice writers.

Voice writer CSR candidates must take the same test as their stenographic counterparts. They are expected, once licensed, to abide by the same backup best media practices as machine writers. Voice writers are able to provide realtime services, read back testimony, and to deliver expedites.

There is an unprecedented shortage of reporters in California. Other methods of capturing the record are being explored as a result. Still have questions or concerns? Then join us in Santa Barbara at **CalDRA's 23rd Annual Convention, February 22-24, 2019**, where CalDRA will proudly present voice writer Tori Pittman of North Carolina, who won first place in her age group at the Intersteno 2017 Berlin competition in the category of Shorthand/Speech Capturing -- Voice Writing. Tori will be on hand to answer

questions and dispel myths about this alternate method of capturing and transcribing the spoken word, and to explain how the implementation of voice writers in California can only help -- and not hurt -- our understaffed industry.

Working together with open minds to keep our profession strong and closely regulated is more important than ever. Join us in February as we carefully examine all options available to continue providing our consumers with high-quality transcripts.

Special bonus: CalDRA has reached out to both Tori Pittman and Yvonne Fenner, Executive Director of the Court Reporters Board of California, to arrange for a special video Q&A session with our members regarding this important change in licensure. Details to follow. Stay tuned for updates on date and time!

POP QUIZ!

INTERVIEW WITH KATIE BALDWIN: WHY SHE BECAME A CSR AND WHAT SHE THINKS A FEW MONTHS IN

Certification: CSR. NO. 14242

What month/year did you get your license?

I passed the July 2017 skills portion, but I had delayed one of my written legs until after the skills test; so I didn't get my final confirmation letter until September 2017.

In what city do you live?

I live in Diamond Bar

What led you to choose court reporting as a career?

When I was 15, I played soccer, and my dad would drive me to my practices and watch me train. One of my trainers had a fiancée who would watch him train me, and my dad would talk with her. On a drive home, I asked him what they talked about, and my dad told me her schooling. I asked him what she was studying and he said, "court reporting." I asked "What's that?" He explained it to me, and I thought it sounded interesting but didn't give it much thought at the time. Three years later, when I was graduating high school and everyone was asking me what colleges I was applying to, that conversation popped in my head, and I Googled it as a career possibility. I was always a good typist and had a passion for the English language. When I approached my parents about their input on the option, my mom told me my grandma was once a court reporter. Everything about this field has been providential for me. I still need to track down that first reporter who had the discussion with my dad and thank her for unknowingly exposing me to this wonderful field.

Where did you go to CR school?

Tri-Community Adult School

How long did it take you to finish CR school?

Just under four years. I worked full-time the first two years and am sure I could have completed it sooner had I devoted all my time to school. However, in my own situation, with the contacts I made through school in my last year and opportunities I was given, I wouldn't trade my timeline at all, to be honest. I know I am a stronger reporter today because of the path I took.

What was the hardest assignment you've had thus far?

Probably a video job I took involving loans.

What made it so difficult?

The case involved many various loan exchanges, each with a different moniker, and it was highly contentious with nearly every party in the case present in the room. The witness was also extremely nervous and thus spoke very quickly. I had to interrupt more often than I'm accustomed to.

When did you join DRA?

I joined DRA just in May of 2017.

How did you learn of DRA?

I joined because my favorite teacher, Melinda Nelson, sponsored me to go to the student picnic along with my first year's membership in DRA. I probably would not have even showed up at the picnic not knowing anyone because I am quite shy and awkward, but knowing that she had paid my way, I felt obligated to go. I had SUCH a blast at the picnic with the contacts I made and felt so encouraged. I remember I wrote Melinda an e-mail right after the picnic thanking her and telling her all the sweet reporters I met; and, of course, she knew all of them. I felt like I had just joined a tight-knit community, and it gave me just the encouragement I needed going into the July CSR. I owe it all to Melinda Nelson!

What was your experience at your first DRA convention as a CSR?

I absolutely loved the convention. This was my first court reporting convention, not just as a professional, and it did NOT disappoint. I absolutely loved all of the seminars. I learned so much and became better-educated in procedures with the SoCal Stip seminar; along with a practical guide to freelancing in court, which is a goal of mine; all the way to actual writing tips from the legend, Ed Varallo.

While I learned so much at the convention and will be forever pouring over my notes from that single weekend, I honestly think my favorite part was the networking. Everyone at DRA is so incredibly friendly and encouraging. From my first event as a student, my favorite part of DRA has been the people. I made so many new friends at this convention and met so many reporters. You just can't help

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POP QUIZ!

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but be inspired after speaking with them. I can't wait for the next convention!

Favorite DRA seminar so far? Why was it useful?

That's a very difficult question because I have gained so much from each seminar I've attended with DRA. I would say that the most useful seminar for the purpose of my still-young career has been the GAP 2.0 Seminar I attended in July after the CSR. It made me feel much less nervous about my first job, knowing that I had been exposed to a wide variety of situations through this seminar, even though most of it had gone over my head at the time. I felt more prepared walking into my first job, as I was aware of the situations that might be thrown at me. The greatest thing about that seminar, though, and the main reason it is my favorite so far, is the GAP book that was given to attendees. I could barely read it when I first opened it because all the words were foreign to me, but I now consult it daily with each new question I am faced with. I cannot imagine how many errors I would be making on my transcripts if I didn't have all my DRA members to consult, along with the GAP book.

What is your 5-year goal as a CSR? 10-year goal?

I've always told people that these first years, I truly care most about growing both in my writing and my reputation in the court reporting community. I hope to have a long future in this career and plenty of time to make money, but I really believe in efficiency and the importance of a good reputation. My 5-year goal is to really hone my writing. I hope to complete my RPR certification, as well as achieve my RMR and CCRR certifications. My 10-year goal is to get my CRR and maybe begin freelancing in court. I also aspire to become a mentor to students or new professionals to give back as countless reporters are doing for me at this time.

Do you have a court reporting idol? What is it that makes them so?

I honestly have a ton of them, from everyone I've met through DRA and those who I've met on my journey. But my biggest "idol" would probably be the one who has impacted my career the most thus far, Celeste Poppe. From the day I first met her at the student picnic, she has been a fountain of information for me. I always credit her to my passing the CSR on my first try. She was within her first months of reporting and would answer my novel-length emails with novel-length solutions and strategies to feel prepared for the test. Now she's my "production guru" and helps me with whatever questions I have, not to mention that half of my jobs these days are with agencies she has set me up with. Then, of course, she's a celebrity in my mind because she got her RPR so early in her career and passed the January retest CSR, which had only a 6% pass rate. Together with her volunteerism through DRA and her willingness to tackle any obstacle, she is the reporter who I most of all want to emulate.

How has being a DRA member had the biggest impact on your career so far?

I tell everyone that I wouldn't have made it through my first year of reporting without this association, and I'm really not exaggerating. From providing me with more contacts than I can count, to whom I can reach out with questions, to all the worksheets and templates available online, to creating networking events and seminars where I get to meet fellow reporters, I can't imagine enjoying this field without DRA. My disdain for being a "lone wolf" out on my own each day coupled with only my sole passion for writing on my machine and perfectionist mentality would drive me to burn out in this career fast. Having a community of encouraging reporters who are much further along in their skills than I am is exactly the thing that excites me most about this career. DRA provides me with the inspiration and role models that leave me excited for my future in this field.

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AskDRA

BY ANTONIA PULONE, DEPO DIPLOMAT

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

I reported a depo for a Michigan case. The depo was being networked through a California agency. The Michigan network agency will be producing the transcript. I have seen their format, and they are not the California standards. I will be turning the depo in to the California agency using the California format standards. Can I get in trouble with the CSR Board if the Michigan agency changed the formatting when they produce the job once it is sent to them?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

If the Michigan agency does reformat your transcript in keeping with their usual format, it's very unlikely that you would get into any trouble with our Court Reporters Board. First of all, the CRB would only initiate disciplinary action against you if they received a complaint regarding the formatting, and the attorneys involved would have no reason to do that, since the Michigan format would appear appropriate to them and what they're probably accustomed to. Secondly, in the unlikely event of a complaint being filed, you and your local agency would have a copy of your original transcript file, prepared in accordance with our required Minimum Transcript Format Standards ("MTFS"), and you could provide that to the Board to prove that your transcript was formatted correctly when prepared by you and then later altered by the Michigan agency. That proof would clear you, so no action would then be taken against you by the CRB.

I hope this relieves any concern that you have about this situation, but if I can help or provide any other information for you, please don't hesitate to email me directly or contact DRA again.

Best to you, and thank you for your support of DRA.

Xpression by: ProCAT

DRA BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

The second year of a two-year session at the Capitol ended with a flurry of lobbying activity as all the bills introduced in this session had to complete the path through policy committees and passage by the Assembly and Senate by August 31st in order to reach the Governor's desk. DRA's skilled team of legislative advocates, led by our remarkable Ed Howard, worked something of a miracle to move two bills, AB 2664 (Holden), which we co-sponsored, and AB 2084 (Kalra), which we very actively supported, through all the necessary stages of the legislature and to passage in both houses within a few short days after amendments to the bills made that necessary.

Both bills went to the Governor's desk on September 12th, and we weren't held in suspense very long, as Governor Brown approved and signed one on the 18th and the second on the 21st of the month. He had until midnight, September 30th, to sign or veto all the bills passed this session, so we now know the outcome of all the bills under consideration that the DRA Board and legislative committee have been following for you. All the bills below that have been signed will go into effect January 1 of 2019.

Your DRA team screens all new legislation as it's introduced so that we may monitor any bill that could potentially impact the reporting profession and immediately act to support or oppose bills for the long-term benefit of our members working in both the deposition and court setting. The following is our report on the final status of the bills, as of September 30th, that we have been carefully watching for you this session.

SB 766 (MONNING)

Summary: The bill allows an attorney licensed in another state or a foreign jurisdiction to provide legal services here in California in a commercial arbitration or a related proceeding, providing certain conditions are met.

The author's intent was that this change in law will lead to an increase in international commercial arbitrations taking place in California.

Status: Passed; approved and signed by the Governor on 07/18/18.

AB 2084 (KALRA)

Summary: Sponsored by the Court Reporters Board and supported by CalDRA and CCRA, this bill was originally introduced as a redo of AB1660, which required registration with the CRB by any individual, firm or entity providing reporting services in California. But recognizing the Governor's disapproval of registration requirements, the bill was entirely redrafted shortly before the close of this session.

In its final rewritten and passed form, this bill levels the reporting playing field by requiring that all entities providing shorthand reporting services in California must observe and be bound by certain codes and regulations related to reporting to the same extent as a CSR. The CRB, the Attorney General, a DA or city attorney will be authorized to bring a civil action for a violation of certain code provisions, which could result in a civil fine up to $10,000. This does not apply to an individual holding a valid CA CSR or a shorthand reporting corporation in compliance with Business and Professions Code 8044.

Status: Passed; approved and signed by the Governor on 09/21/18

To review the language of the bill in detail, click here.

AB 2354 (RUBIO)

Summary: Would require the court to provide a CSR at every family-law hearing relating to child custody or a proceeding under the Domestic Violence Prevention Act. The bill was sponsored by CCRA and the Family Violence Appellate Project.

Status: Referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee 08/06/18; in suspense file, held under submission. Died in committee.

AB 2531 (GALLAGHER)

Summary: As originally introduced, the bill required a CART reporter, called for at court proceedings with hearing-impaired participants, to be certified by a state or national association approved by the Court Reporters Board. As amended, the bill now would require anyone needing CART services to provide advance notice to the court, and every court would be required to post information regarding the availability of CART. The CRB would be required to develop standards regarding the certification of CART operators by January of 2020. The bill was sponsored by CCRA.

Status: Passed and to the Governor on 08/29/18. Vetoed by the Governor on 09/29/18

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DRA BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

AB 2664 (HOLDEN)

Summary: Would require that where an official reporter is not provided by the court, the court shall appoint a Certified Shorthand Reporter, arranged for by a party at the party's expense and present in the courtroom, to serve as the official reporter pro tempore if the parties cannot agree to stipulate to a reporter, and so would ensure that an official record could be available. The bill was co-sponsored by DRA and the Conference of California Bar Associations.

Status: Passed and to the Governor on 9/12/18. Approved and signed by the Governor on 09/18/18.

To read the language of the bill in detail, click here.

AB 2757 (REYES)

Summary: Would increase the rates to be charged for court transcripts incrementally from January 2019 to 2023.

From January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020, original rates would increase from .85/folio to .93; the rate for a copy purchased at the same time would increase from .15/folio to .16; for the first copy purchased by another party, the rate would increase from .20/folio to .21.

Further rate increases would go into effect January 1, 2021, and again on January 1, 2023.

On or before January of 2023, the Judicial Council would report their recommendations to the legislature to increase uniformity in transcript rate expenditures, not meant to reduce the overall compensation to official reporters. The bill was sponsored by CCRA.

Status: Passed from the Assembly; Amended in the Senate, referred to Appropriations Committee, where it was held under submission. Died in committee.

Puzzle Me This:
Briefing Fun with Mark Kislingbury!

Want a $25 credit applied towards your next CalDRA event? Then play along with us at Puzzle Me This! The participant with the most correct answers will receive $25 towards registration at the next CalDRA event of their choice. Deadline for submission is by release of the next newsletter. For more information, read contest rules below.

Briefs! They are oftentimes our friends, occasionally our saviors, and sometimes even our nemeses. The victory of using a new brief correctly is a supremely satisfying experience that only another steno writer will understand; likewise, the inability to memorize a shortcut for a particularly onerous word can be doubly frustrating.

When it comes to briefs, most would agree that there is no one more skilled than the legendary Mark Kislingbury, Guinness World Record holder for fastest steno writer alive. Below are real outlines from Mark's Bible of briefing, Magnum Steno. Can you guess the English equivalent to Mark's mind-blowing briefs? (**note = some briefs may represent outlines for a multi-word phrase and are denoted as such.)

1. K*EBGT =
2. SPWAOUZ (2 words) =
3. KWRO*EPBG (4 words) =
4. PHRAEURBL =
5. TPHAFRPLS (4 words) =
6. WREULGDZ =
7. PHAEURPBLD =
8. TPHASD (3 words) =
9. KREUPLZ =
10. SKAFP =

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.

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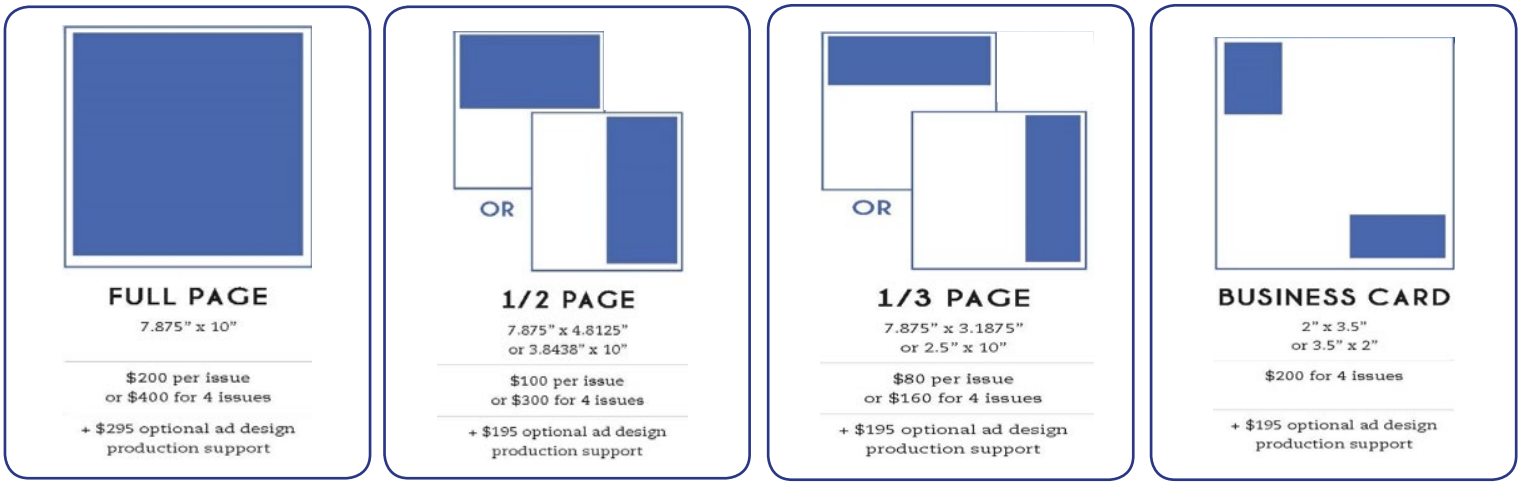

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JOHN SQUIRES

CSR No. 2001

It is with deep regret and a heavy heart that CalDRA shares a difficult announcement: On June 19th, 2018, CalDRA member and Past President John Squires was involved in a tragic rafting accident in the Alaskan wilderness and, despite extensive search and rescue operations, has yet to be located.

As those who knew and loved John best are struggling with the void his sudden absence has left behind, we too at CalDRA have been shaken by this devastating news. So, as we wait for word, united by a collective heartbreak, we would like to take a moment to pay tribute to a truly phenomenal man: Our good friend, John Squires.

John Squires, CSR No. 2001, served as CalDRA's President from 2009-2010. He was licensed as a California CSR in January of 1970, and subsequently worked both as an official reporter in the early years of his career, as well as in the private sector as a freelance reporter. He has been a member of CalDRA since its inception in 1995. As a member of CalDRA's Board of Directors, and ultimately serving as its President, John was devoted to the tireless advocacy of the profession at large. John was also a strong supporter of court reporting students, visiting schools and acting as a mentor.

Following his tenure on the board, John continued his volunteer work with CalDRA with regularity, offering his expertise, and his hilarious anecdotes, in numerous educational seminars at conventions and other association events. Perhaps one of the most poignant reminders of John's commitment to the profession and CalDRA itself is evidenced by one of his last acts before leaving on his fateful trip – penning a thoughtful opinion letter to CalDRA's Board to discuss a pressing issue at the forefront of the profession.

While his professional successes were many, John's commitment to his career was quite possibly the least interesting thing about him. A true renaissance man, John was not only a connoisseur of fine cigars and California wine, but a fearless adventurer/traveler, accomplished fly fisherman, and a fiercely opinionated political and environmental activist. When he wasn't entertaining a crowd with lively tales of his forays into the Alaskan wilderness, you could count on instead finding him vociferously advocating for his beliefs on practically any subject under the sun with his trademark candor and eloquence. John had the unfailing ability to make any listener do two very powerful things – laugh heartily and think twice about the status quo. Part of his unique charm, this memorable trait is quite possibly what his colleagues at CalDRA admired most about this brilliant man.

John was a devoted husband to his wife of over 31 years, Vicki, as well as a beloved father of five and grandfather to six grandchildren, whom he loved deeply.

John, your absence, while uniting us in grief, has made our collective world that much dimmer. Please know that your bright light is sorely missed by many within the profession and beyond. It has been our utmost privilege to know you, to laugh with you, and to be touched by your unique intelligence, hilarity, and kindness. Godspeed, friend. You are in our thoughts today.