

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

APRIL 2022

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ASSOCIATION DEDICATED TO
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DEPOSITION REPORTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARY E. PIERCE, CSR NO. 6143 *CalDRA* PRESIDENT

With the election underway for CalDRA's new board of directors, this will be my last newsletter message as your President. In light of that, I'd like to say that it has been my humble pleasure to serve in the role of President of CalDRA for these past 18 months, despite some trying stretches along the way. I am personally incredibly proud of our association and many of its members individually, especially so in the last few years.

I felt particularly fulfilled down in San Diego last September, after so much solitude, to be able to have our annual convention and to have it be in-person. Under the circumstances, I would say it was a huge success. On a different measuring standard than past conventions perhaps, but a success it was.

While we went with a slightly scaled-down schedule and with a good number of people remaining cautious about public gatherings, we managed to celebrate our profession, our association, and a few of our treasured members. It was so wonderful to be with friends and colleagues once again after the very painful loss of two of our dear DRA leaders, Monyeen Black and Toni Pulone. We said our collective goodbyes as we watched the heartfelt and touching video tributes composed by David Manzo, with some valuable assistance from Linda Mass Nelson. Thank you both for generously donating your time and your talent. And while our hearts were with Steve Walwyn, Toni Pulone's husband, from afar, we were truly blessed to have Monyeen's husband, Keith Black, in our arms.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the luncheon, we announced the establishment of the Toni Pulone Fair Competition War Chest Fund with a very generous opening contribution of more than \$12,000 from BAGRA (Bay Area General Court Reporters). Founding member Stephanie Grossman could not be with us, but we were fortunate to have Josie Amant, who served as treasurer, presenting the check to DRA on behalf of BAGRA. Heartfelt thanks to the BAGRA leadership for this thoughtful and incredibly generous contribution that honors Toni, our most treasured member of all time, and helps to etch her name permanently into CalDRA's foundation.

While in San Diego, we were finally able to celebrate a long sought-after achievement -- the passage of SB 241, aka the firm registration bill -- a step that we expect will end many of the unfair practices being engaged in by the national non-CSR-owned entities, particularly the law that states licensees may neither directly or indirectly give nor receive any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to or from any person or entity associated with a proceeding being reported. I only wish that Toni had still been with us when this longtime goal came to fruition. As July approaches and we closely watch the rollout and implementation of this new law, her institutional knowledge and sage reasoning will be sorely missed.

I am incredibly grateful that I had the good sense to attend every seminar over the years that I could when Toni was up on the dais because we must now collectively step into her shoes, as well as those of Monyeen Black, Lisa Michaels and John Squires, our former leaders who have passed away, and continue the journey. We must keep up the fight. Cheryl Haab and I will be your new legislative committee co-chairs. Many thanks, Cheryl, for always stepping up and giving all that you do for CalDRA. You are no less than amazing, and we all benefit from your continued contributions to the association.

Our Zoom seminar on February 26, 2022, with the CRB was very informative and well attended. We clarified its role and explored myriad scenarios, unusual and common, and gained some insight into the thought process of enforcement officers when they receive a complaint from a consumer. We have a one-day Spring Seminar in Walnut Creek on May 21st and more projects and seminars coming your way throughout the year, so stay tuned!

The board election is open until March 30th, so be sure to vote. I am excited about the incredibly bright, dedicated, and talented members that will be serving CalDRA in the coming years. My successor, Jamie Asbury, and I joined the DRA board the exact same day, and I know her well. She is thoughtful, disciplined and incredibly capable. And the talent stacked behind her is immense. We are all in good hands, but we'd love for you to put yours in closer. I hope you all realize and appreciate how hard the board members – and other consistent volunteers – work on behalf of DRA, on behalf of their friends and colleagues, students, and the profession itself.

I was at first reluctant to serve on the board and never had any ambition to do so -- the whole "my life is already full managing my small agency and still taking a full load of deposition work" diatribe. But in the 12 years I have been a member of CalDRA, I have come to realize how crucial the knowledge I have gained here is to my success. And now, through my years of board service, I have learned just how essential it is to have an association in a state as large as California that is primarily focused on the issues that impact freelance deposition reporters. Yes, sometimes there's a lot of work involved with being a board member, often in flurries, but I have been so enriched by the experience that I know it could not have been gained elsewhere. And I wouldn't trade it...for anything.

Thank you for your continued membership. Thank you for your dedication to your profession. And thank you for your dedication to one another. We are all busy, but we are all immensely talented. I hope that if DRA ever asks you to serve, you'll consider the possibility that it may bless you too in unexpected ways.

MARY E. PIERCE

CalDRA PRESIDENT

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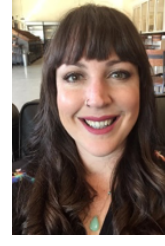
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The DRA 2021 San Diego Convention



The DRA 2021 San Diego Convention



INTRODUCTION OF THE CALDRA 2021 DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT, SUSAN CAMPANA

BY VICKI SABER

Hello, Awesome DRA Members. Thank you for being here. My name is Vicki Saber, and I have the privilege of introducing this year's Distinguished Service Award recipient, my DRA BFF, Susan Campana.

I have to start out by saying that as exciting and as fun as it was to be on the call with the distinguished Holly Moose to inform Sue she was the recipient of this year's Distinguished Service Award, I was afraid telling her in advance may trigger a sudden reason for her not to be able to attend this year's convention. And I say that with the utmost respect and because I know how much she shies away from the limelight. I know you're dying right now, Sue, knowing you have to come up here, so I'll be your wingman and try to drag this out and leave you a little time.

Sue has been an integral part of the DRA Board since 2008. That's 13 straight years of dedication. But her DRA service was not her first rodeo. Although she does not look old enough, Sue served on the board of RASCAL, the Reporters Association of Southern California, an association that went dormant many years ago.

In 1996, when DRA was established, Sue was among the first members to join, and when she received a call in 2008 to please accept a position on the Board, she didn't hesitate. Well, maybe she hesitated, but she would never say "no." And that sums up Sue. She's our "Never say No, Sue." And that is also why eight years post her

presidency she is still consulted by board members and continues to have an active role in one way or another. I once joked that DRA is like Hotel California. You can check out, but you can never leave. For Sue, however, she just keeps voluntarily asking for a late checkout.

Within DRA, Sue has served in every position, beginning with Secretary, followed by District Representative, then Vice President, culminating in holding the highest office of President during the 2012-2013 board year.

Sue's list of contributions to the profession ranges from student advocacy, participating in everything from school site visits to student BBQs to mentorship and scholarship committees, all the way to being the one at the DRA helm when the court official layoffs took place. Every depo freelancer in this room who is making those big per diems reporting 15-minute hearings has Sue to thank for getting freelancers educated in how to work in court. And I know she would want me to thank Anne Torreano and Tim McCoy and the rest of the team for their involvement in that as well and would even say it was all them, because, once again, Sue is always deflecting praise away from herself.

Sue's list of professional and personal accomplishments are vast; her laughter is contagious, and her friendship is treasured by all who have had the privilege to know and work with her. Now, before she looks in her purse for the fifth time to make sure she has her speech, please join me in presenting the 2021 Distinguished Service Award to Ms. Susan Campana.



DISTINGUISHED AWARD RECIPIENT, SUSAN CAMPANA

SPEECH BY SUSAN CAMPANA

How exciting is it to be back with everyone this weekend, learning, networking, making new friends, and catching up with friends we have missed seeing over the past year and a half.

I'm truly honored to be designated as the 2021 DSA recipient. I have enjoyed every minute of my involvement with DRA. Well, let me restate that. Maybe not quite every minute. There have been a few minutes (hours perhaps ??? weeks???) that I would rather not relive and would prefer to put in the deep recesses of my mind. But seriously, it's been life-changing in many ways.

I've met the best of friends and have learned so much from serving on the board and continuing to volunteer afterwards. It's true, I think, what they say about volunteering. The volunteer receives as much or more as those whom they are helping. Maybe not in any tangible way, but in a way that can't be physically measured.

In my incoming President speech many years ago, I read a quote by Margaret Mead: Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

I love this. It just resonates with me. Let's be that "small" group. If we all work together and each commit to even one task, imagine the huge impact we could have on our profession! Look around. This room is filled with talent!

Are you interested in legislation? Are you available to mentor a student or a new CSR? Do you have a great topic for a seminar? Do you want to write an article for the newsletter? Whatever it may be, let DRA know how you would like to help.

We've suffered some very painful losses over the past few years – past presidents and amazing colleagues, mentors, and, most of all, true friends whom I know we all dearly



miss - John, Lisa, Mo, Toni, Kelli Rinaudo. I envision them all together, cheering us on. They were – and still are – my inspiration, as I know they are for so many in this room. Let's do this for them! Let's make them proud!

When I was growing up, we took family camping trips every summer. My dad had all six of us kids – I know, I know, big family – out there cleaning up the campsite forever, it seemed like; you know, in kid time, where a few minutes equates to eons. We'd all be moaning, "But, Dad, it's clean. We've done everything." And he would always reply, "Well, we have to leave the campsite better than we found it." I hope I have done the same for DRA.

And no DSA speech would be complete without a couple shoutouts!

Vicki and Kristi – there's no one else on earth with whom I would rather eat French onion soup in a drought.

Cheryl (aka Thelma) – I hope you have worked on getting someone to secure the perimeter for the upcoming student picnic! If needed, I have a Segway they can use.

Toni – Can you please make sure my garage door is closed?

Thanks again, DRA! I am honored! Now go take on the world!

BAY AREA GENERAL REPORTERS ASSOCIATION HONORS CALDRA FOUNDING MEMBER ANTONIA PULONE

On Saturday, September 25, 2021, at the CalDRA fall convention luncheon in San Diego, California, the Toni Pulone Fair Competition War Chest Fund was established with a very generous opening contribution of more than \$12,000 from Bay Area General Reporting of the War Chest Fund dedicated to legislative Association (BAGRA). Josie Amant, who served as treasurer for BAGRA throughout its existence, presented the check in person. DRA is humbled and thrilled to be able to honor its beloved Toni

by creating a special branch of the War Chest dedicated to efforts to level the playing field and protect the interests of stenographic reporters in California, among Toni's most passionate causes to which she devoted herself tirelessly. Heartfelt thanks to the BAGRA leadership for this thoughtful and incredibly generous contribution honoring Toni by etching her name permanently into CalDRA's foundation. BAGRA founding member Stephanie Grossman wanted to be present but was not able to attend.

Note From Josie Amant

BAGRA was established in 1990 by freelance court reporters as an organization committed to mentoring and supporting San Francisco Bay Area general (freelance) reporters. Toni, of course, was a founding member, along with friends Stephanie Grossman, Anne Torreano, Marcia Hunter, Christine Niccoli, Barbara Sunseri, Karen Hensche and myself. This donation consists of BAGRA dues and profits from successful and well-attended dinner seminar meetings held all across the Bay Area during those years. Anyone who attended one of these events surely remembers the camaraderie and enjoyment felt. No longer active, BAGRA is pleased and honored to assist in the establishment of the Toni Pulone Fair Competition War Chest Fund.



Student Feedback on the 2021 San Diego Convention

I had an absolutely wonderful time, and I'd love to share a little bit:

My mentor urged me to attend, and I'm so grateful she did! I learned exciting information at the software presentation, and I got a much better idea of what to expect from the at-home setup of a freelancer. I met so many encouraging reporters and contacts at the social events. The bodybuilding convention happening at the same hotel was an amusing diversion, and I had fun with my mentor seeing the sights in San Diego. I will definitely attend next year (hopefully as a new professional reporter)!

Becca Hook

I went to the DRA Convention for networking reasons, which was great! I got to see Jeri Kusar and meet her daughter and see some other people that I recognized when I did the A to Z program at their office in Long Beach. In terms of the courses, I personally did not get much out of it, having just come back from the NCRA Convention in late July and getting a wealth of information there. It would have been nice to have a student networking session, like NCRA had; they had a roundtable where students could meet with professional working reporters and ask any questions they had, which was really cool and useful.

Also, I was confused about the mask policy, which was very distracting. The hotel and the city/county didn't care if we were wearing masks, so I wasn't sure why DRA was

enforcing it during the seminars when nobody was wearing them during the luncheon, etc. I mean, is covid dangerous when we're sitting close together in a seminar but not while we're at a luncheon? I checked the city rules about masking/vaccination before signing up for the conference; had I known that we would be forced to wear masks during the seminars, I would not have gone. I know this issue is a bit of a hot-button, but I think it's a little misleading to say that DRA would be following city guidelines when in fact the city wasn't enforcing masks on people (I knew Las Vegas would be back to wearing masks before I went there for the NCRA Convention, so I didn't have a problem with that).

Anyhow, I loved seeing all the love and camaraderie between the reporters. The tribute to the reporters/friends that passed away was really touching. I really enjoyed Mike the Depo Man's talk; that was my favorite. He gave a lot of practical, commonsense advice that I found very useful for the future. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience.

Nancy Kim

I was able to attend the CalDRA convention only because Ms. Cheryl Haab graciously sponsored my attendance. I thank you, Cheryl, Molly, Trina (my mentor) for also graciously treating us students to a most wonderful lunch, the only request being that we keep at it and graduate! I promised you all that I would do that, and I am determined to finish now more than ever.

What I learned at the convention was that DRA is way too humble. I was so surprised to hear about everything that this organization, along with its attorney/lobbyist, Ed Howard, has accomplished (for instance, the ability to take depositions via Zoom) and what is in the pipeline.

When I hear reporters questioning the necessity of their state association and whether membership is worth it, it blows my mind. You all do not get enough recognition and praise. If

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Student Feedback on the 2021 San Diego Convention

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only they knew. If only they had attended the convention! I look forward to seeing what CalDRA and Mr. Howard can do in terms of getting title protection for the phrase “court reporter,” allowing it only to be used by a certified shorthand reporter, like how other people will get in trouble if they call themselves a lawyer, doctor, etc. without having the required education and professional certifications.

To me, CalDRA is run by a group of people whose lives were touched by a fellow court reporter, so they in turn give back by doing the same. I plan on always being a member and I cannot wait until I am a CSR so that I can give back to other students as you all have given back to me.

Susan Lee-Cho

Three of us (myself, Joy Wada and Emma Boule) were fortunate enough to have our attendance at the convention sponsored by Linda Nelson, owner of Chase Litigation. It was an amazing experience. The seminars were so interesting and informative. Ron Cook and Debbie Farman were very entertaining. We learned so much from all the seminars that we attended. I would not have been able to go at all had it not been for the generosity of Linda Nelson and the Lisa Michaels Scholarship Foundation. The experience was so inspiring. Being around so many court reporters who took the time to talk to me about the profession solidified the fact that I have made the right decision for my future. Meeting Mary Pierce was amazing. She is an awesome president. Ron Cook’s seminar was terrific. Thanks to him, I now write AND as SKP, which has been a game changer for me! Thank you CalDRA for all you do for the freelance stenographic reporting profession, true to your mission.

Tera Walker



The main reason I attended this event is because the COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much for us. Students like me who were once attending a brick-and-mortar school are now permanently online, and it has been somewhat of a challenge navigating our new territory. One of the main challenges for me is that the support and connection that we once had with our peers has diminished greatly. The loneliness on our journey has intensified, and the feeling of disconnection has increased since May 2020. Forced to be isolated and feeling unmotivated, I knew I had to fight to maintain my stamina.

When the opportunity came to be able to be around my peers and learn from each other, I jumped at it! I needed that human interaction again and to be reminded that despite the hurdles we may face, we are not alone, and I will succeed. I felt so rejuvenated and focused afterwards, and I will absolutely attend in the future.

Thank you, CalDRA!

Turquoise Trotter

CalDRA Honors the 2021 Monyeen Black Scholarship Winner

During our beloved Mo's time with us, she mentored and supported more students than all of us put together. She compiled the invaluable GAP manual and presented the first GAP seminar, all the while serving as our tech guru, in addition to volunteering for the Court Reporters Board's many training workshops and performing many more tasks than we can possibly enumerate here. There is not enough paper in the world to set forth her contributions to this profession and her beautiful personal attributes. She will be missed by all, always and forever. Last year, her husband, Keith Black, created the Monyeen Black Scholarship as a way to continue her legacy and spirit by helping young reporters reach their goals and dreams in the profession that she loved. CalDRA is proud to announce Brianna Figueras as the recipient of the 2021 Monyeen Black Scholarship. Congratulations and best wishes for a long successful career in the court reporting world, Brianna!

BRIANNA FIGUERAS

After attending Bryan University for a while, I decided to self-teach, learning a new theory and speed building on my own, starting in 2019. In January of this year, I started attending classes with Allie Hall, and she helped me advance from 200 to 225. I'm now passing 225s and I'm working on my certification! I was lucky enough to meet Monyeen at the 2019 CalDRA convention. Being a member of Rich Germosen's 100-day practice group, I saw Mo's posts frequently and admired her undeniable determination despite her condition. She was an inspiration, and I am honored to be the recipient of this grant.

TEUPZ TPR T TPROPBT LAOEUPB

BY LINDSAY PINKHAM, CSR 3716, CCRR 17
CALDRA DISTRICT 3 REPRESENTATIVE

We should all be making it clear to attorneys when we show up to report a deposition that we are CSRs – Certified Shorthand Reporters – stenographers - not digital button-pushers.

Although it is especially easy for a digital person to be confused with a real court reporter in remote depositions because the participants cannot discern the absence of a steno machine, it's equally important to convey this information in an in-person deposition.

In addition, the following suggested language will serve to inform all participants that you, as the Certified Shorthand Reporter, will be following the applicable code regarding handling of the transcript.

Here is a suggested read-on:

“Good morning/afternoon. My name is _____, and I will be reporting today’s deposition remotely by stenographic means.”

(FOR CALIFORNIA CASES, ADD “which is the only method automatically admissible in California courts.”)

“I am a California Certified Shorthand Reporter, license number _____. The reading and signing of the deposition transcript will be handled pursuant to Section 2025 of the California Code of Civil Procedure” [or “pursuant to Rule 30 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure].”

If attorneys get used to hearing this before every deposition, they will begin questioning digital “recorders” or at least be aware of the lack of credentials of the person responsible for making their record (and I hate to say “responsible” in the case of digitals because since they are unlicensed, they have no real accountability).

LISTEN UP NOW:

In order for a transcript recorded by a digital person to be automatically admissible, a California CSR must listen to the audio recording, report it stenographically and then affix a certificate stating it was reported from a recording (CCP 2025.340(m)).

Digitals are free to – and often do - attach a “certificate” of sorts indicating that they recorded the proceeding. Transcribers (whether or not they are a CSR) can – and often do - certify that they accurately typed what they heard. **HOWEVER**, that **DOES NOT** make the transcript automatically admissible **UNLESS IT IS REPORTED STENOGRAPHICALLY**.

Regarding following the code pertaining to reading and signing, the Court Reporters Board of California recommends that you announce this on the record before the conclusion of the deposition. Therefore, if you choose not to do a read-on at the beginning of the deposition, you should make a statement to that effect before concluding for the day.



AskDRA

BY MARY PIERCE, CalDRA PRESIDENT

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

Good morning, could you please provide guidance how I can learn the codes that govern depositions? I want to make sure when I'm asked questions by counsel about procedure, that I provide an accurate response. Thank you.

DEAR DRA MEMBER,

I would suggest you go to our website and download the DRA Code Book. It is free for members. For CA Superior Court Cases, basically the 2025.510 through 2025.570 relate to how a reporter and/or agency should handle the original and all copies.

For federal depositions, go to the FRCP Section 30 (e) and (f).

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

I have questions on the procedures being used for an electronic original.

1. Is it just an electronic read and sign copy and the hard copy still remains the original?
2. The deponent still needs to complete by hand an errata and penalty of perjury?

DEAR DRA MEMBER,

Electronic read and sign is a convenience offered to witnesses so that they do not need to travel to a reporter's office. The original should always be a hard copy, for the most obvious reason that you cannot seal an electronic copy in the fashion described in the codes.

And yes, the deponent does need to complete paper copies of the errata and/or signature page. However, I have received erratas and signature pages with what are clearly electronic signatures that I suspect were not made by the witness's hand. But I don't feel that we have the authority to judge whether a signature is acceptable or not. I bind what comes back into the original, provide copies to all parties, seal the original and send it to the taking/noticing attorney. I believe it is up to counsel to challenge the validity of a signature.

We do accept -- and even encourage -- copies to be emailed to us, as I find that more reliable and efficient than US mail delivery, and it also gives us the opportunity to confirm receipt.

If you still have questions or are unclear on anything, please inquire further. I would also encourage you to download the DRA Code Book from our website. It's a great resource to have at your fingertips, and it is a free download for CalDRA members.

New Members



Kellan Oveson
 Johanna Torres
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 Shannon Wilson
 Taylor Maldonado
 Lisa Ellers
 Kristen Kittscher
 Stephanie McKinney
 Carla Gregory
 Taylor Von Molt
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Nancy Sanders
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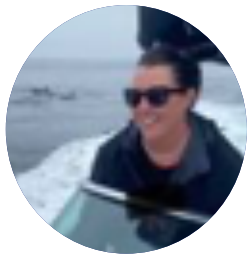
WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW FOR DRA'S WAR CHEST

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



WHEREUPON THE AUTHOR WROTE A CLEVER TITLE

BY LISA MARIE PARKER (DESAI), CSR 13441, RPR, CLR



Greetings, Fellow Stenographers, and Happy New Year! I'm Lisa Marie Parker (Desai), and I've been a California Certified Shorthand Reporter since 2009. Entering this career has been the

blessing of my life. It's been the cornerstone to my financial security, which has provided me the freedom to live my best life - my way!

The year I got my license, I also got married. We have two daughters, now 8 and 10 years old. As the girls have grown, I've been able to transition in and out of the workforce a few times, thanks in large part to the ongoing education and connections I've made at CalDRA. I joined DRA as a student at Bryan College. Many great connections and friendships formed there. During the last month of qualifiers, I transferred to Downey College of Court Reporting because they offered 12 more qualifiers that month, and I was absolutely DETERMINED to nail the March 2009 CSR and get married a couple weeks later. (It worked!)

I remember my first DRA convention. It was in Concord, California. I was nervous but excited. I didn't know what to expect. I remember being so impressed with this welcoming community of reporters who were so encouraging and available with connections and advice! I soon settled into my place in the working world of depositions and kept upping my game,

investing in new software, technology, training, and taking bigger and more lucrative work, gradually pivoting to freelance court work.

In March of 2020, life came to a screeching halt. Stores were emptied of canned goods and toilet paper, and schools went remote. Thanks to this career, I was able to take off my work hat and put on my mom hat to home-school my daughters.

In the fall of 2021, having worked zero jobs since the pandemic began. I went to the DRA convention in San Diego to reconnect with my professional side and summon the courage to jump back in. Once again, the DRA leaders gave me encouragement to crawl out from under my rock and get back to work. They offered to coach me through the changes that came with the pandemic and support me. My first job connecting via Zoom was scary, but I had my fancy Zoom background with my contact information that I'd learned from the best at the convention. And after that one job, it was easier. After the first experience with CourtConnect, things were even easier. And just a few months later, I was reporting a 3-week trial with 4 realtime hookups, rough drafts, and daily copy. (Ca-ching!)

In closing, I want to express my thanks to DRA – and all its volunteers -- for their service to this community through the years and for being such an important part of my journey. And in case anyone who is reading this is still hiding under a proverbial rock, come out and join us. It's nice and warm out here.

CalDRA member

Laura Brewer

Appointed to Serve on
Court Reporters Board of California



CalDRA extends its warmest congratulations to member Laura Brewer for her recent appointment to the California Court Reporters Board (CRB), the government entity that regulates court reporting practice and licensure in the state of California.

Laura P. Brewer, of Nevada City, CA, has been a California Certified Shorthand Reporter since 1981. She has worked as a freelance deposition reporter, a conference reporter, and a CART captioner (beginning in 1992) and has been working since that time as a realtime reporter. Ms. Brewer is a member of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the Deposition Reporters Association of California (CalDRA), and Intersteno. She has been recognized as a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (NCRA) and holds the highest level of certification available.

Laura has served on committees and in other volunteer roles for all three organizations and has competed in and won many steno competitions sponsored by each association. She will be a tremendous asset to the Court Reporters Board.

Congratulations, Laura!

CalDRA thanks you for your selfless dedication to the stenographic reporting profession and looks forward to all you will accomplish in your new position.

SPOOKY STUDENT PICNIC

BY STEPHANIE LESLIE, CALDRA PRESIDENT ELECT

On October 23rd, 2021, the DRA hosted a Halloween-themed picnic for 41 energetic students to mingle with teachers, working reporters, and each other, many of whom were meeting their fellow classmates for the very first time due to the recent COVID restrictions! The day started off with some dreary, damp weather, but we were determined to have a great time, and we did! We had a Halloween costume contest, ghoulish games, and our unique “Depoardy” game where we sharpened our knowledge of depo rules and codes.

One of the highlights for the students who attended was the large selection of raffle prizes generously donated by so many professionals, agencies, and vendors. Every student left with at least one prize, ranging from decorative keypads to shiatsu massagers and document scanners! We want to thank everyone who donated so liberally, particularly Abrams, Mah & Kahn and Kusar Court Reporters. Another way that so many helped was by sponsoring students to come. Mirabella Hernandez, Ai Arias, and Jocelyn Epperson from Downey Adult School collectively sponsored 18 students, and we are so grateful for their fabulous encouragement and support for all our future CSRs!

We had a great time and are confident that it was a beneficial experience for all who came. We look forward to another successful event next year!



Save the Date for CalDRA's Spring In-Person Seminar!



Spring Into Success

Saturday, May 21, 2022

Walnut Creek

Embassy Suites by Hilton

Mark your calendars! CalDRA's next in-person event is just around the corner. Take a break from Zoom land and join us in person on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Walnut Creek for a full day of education and networking, as well as an opportunity to sit for the CCRR exam during the lunch break.

Stay tuned for our impressive lineup! Details soon.

2022 Student Scholarship Winners

HALEEMA SALEH

After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in psychology, I started teaching English overseas. My original goal was to get my master's and become a therapist. I wanted to help people. However, during my detour abroad I got distracted and started a family. Coming back home to California, I began to realize there weren't many options for people with a degree in psychology. There were very few well-paying options that would help support my growing family. At a loss for what to do, I began to dabble in different fields. My desire to work with computers led me to try a few coding classes. I quickly learned that wasn't for me. I began fantasizing about owning my own business. Perhaps a chic café with a warm, inviting atmosphere, a fun alternative to the Starbucks around every corner. However, that was a bit risky. I found myself browsing the Internet for careers that have plenty of opportunities, good salaries, and flexibility. I happened to see a video explaining court reporting, and I joined a free introductory course. The rest is history.

I honestly fell in love with this skill. Two years in and I am still in love with the magic of writing on the steno machine. Creating briefs and always learning new tricks is amazing. I feel like I learn something new every day. Every person in this field that I have had the pleasure of speaking with seems to love their job. I can't imagine the job ever getting boring. I will forever be hearing different stories and learning from experts that normally I would never have had the opportunity to listen to.

This field offers so much diversity in opportunities. Do I want a stable well-paying job? Sure, courts will provide that. Do I want a job where I can decide what days of the week I want off to spend with family? No problem, freelancing is available. Do I want to make a difference in a student's life? CART services are an option. Would I be able to travel and work abroad again? Yes, there are plenty of opportunities.

I believe I am a great candidate for this scholarship because of my determination to achieve this dream. I have been juggling court reporting school and raising my family of four kids, ages 8, 6, and a set of 4-year-old twins. I am so determined to get through school that I have managed to care for them and pass my 180 speed tests in just under 2 years of school. I have love for this amazing skill, passion for the world that it opens doors to, ambition to succeed no matter what obstacles I must overcome, and a drive to help support my family. Collectively, these attributes make me a qualified candidate to receive this scholarship. It would be a great help in achieving my goals.

I am so excited that I can start looking forward to all the opportunities court reporting has to offer. A reporter's role is so essential to our justice system. It is an awesome responsibility to take on. I know that with this skill so much can be achieved. I am motivated and excited to continue on this path. Although my school journey is not over yet, I can see a future for myself in this field.



2022 Student Scholarship Winners

TERA WALKER

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL, 225 BEFORE NEXT FALL!!!

My court reporting dreams began in the late 1980s. I was well on my way to achieving that goal when life suddenly took a detour and I found myself in Paris flying for TWA and United Airlines. Twenty-five years later, I'm proud to once again be on the trajectory to realizing a dream. Chapter 2 of my life began August 17, 2020 when I enrolled in school again. I am currently a 180 student at SimplySteno.



My dedication to this profession was solidified when I attended the NCRA and the DRA conventions. The support and positive reinforcement from working reporters was truly overwhelming. I look forward to one day being a CSR and serving on the student advocate board so that I may give back what I have been given by the people in this profession. Any financial assistance would be greatly appreciated, and I thank you for your consideration.

TESSA FARIAS

I think a lot about the time in Home Economics class when my teacher told me I had "lovely working hands." It was such a bizarre yet meaningful compliment that I really took to heart. I have always loved working with my hands. I love to knit, write, play piano, do puzzles. I even have an old typewriter that I journal on every morning because of how much I love the activity of pushing buttons. It continues to be important to me to put my "lovely working hands" to good use. Court reporting has given me that and then some.

I started studying court reporting in August 2020. My intention is to attain my state certification by August 2022. As soon as I receive my certification, I will start working immediately wherever and however I can. I want to continue learning, building speed, and finding shorter, smarter ways to write. I hope to be so quick and so clever on the machine that my name replaces Mark Kislingbury's. Okay. Fine. I will settle for my name being alongside his.

Being a student court reporter has pushed me to my limits. I love the passion I have for court reporting. I am wholeheartedly certain this is what I am meant to do. Court reporting is what I am good at, and that is because it has become the greatest passion of my life. I scream this passion in every way I can; so much so that my director nominated me to be featured in the CRB Today's Summer 2021 Student Spotlight.

There had been hiccups this last year that should have easily thrown me off my path. In January I was hospitalized with pancreatitis and, as a result, was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. My life was flipped upside down. My definition of "normal" changed forever. From both my hospital bed and home bed I continued going to school as much as I could and made up hours that I had missed. I genuinely believe my education and being in school helped me to survive what was the scariest time of my life.

The CalDRA John Zandonella Scholarship will help towards academic classes and all the expenses that come along with it, membership fees to more steno-focused learning and associations like DRA, and to lower my loan amount for my machine. Every cent will be used for resources to ensure my time in school is as short as possible. I want to start working so I can be a mentor and give back, not only in steno communities but all types of communities.

Of course, there is always a bigger picture; I want to start working to help my parents reach retirement. I would love to get my 10-year-old brother the wheelchair he needs. I want to write screenplays that help encourage and inspire others. I am confident court reporting can help me attain these dreams.

My heart is in this, and my heart is good. The world needs good at any and every given moment, and I have always lived life looking to spread that good. What keeps me working hard in this journey are my aspirations to help the world around me.

I believe I deserve this scholarship. I work harder than anyone in this program. My love for court reporting is stronger than most. I am thrilled to admit that I have become a total steno-nerd. It is all I ever talk about and the excitement in knowing I am in the right place contributes to my confidence.

My name is Tessa Farias, and I am applying for the John Zandonella Scholarship to further my education. This scholarship will aid in my current, primary focus which is to spend all the time I can on my machine. It would be an extremely useful piece to my success. I want to continue in school the way I am right now: full force. This scholarship will assist me to my finish. My "lovely working hands" and I would be honored to receive it.


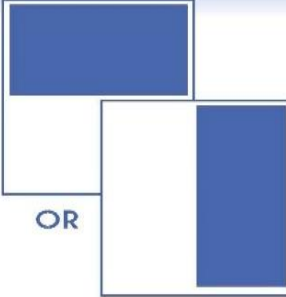
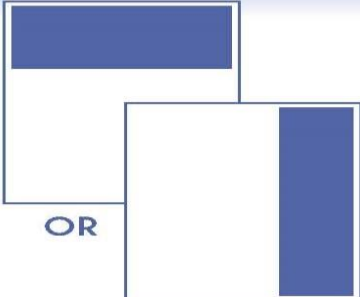
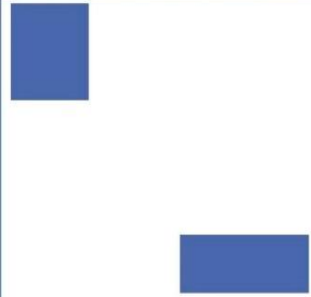
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