

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

JULY 2022

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CALDRA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jamie L. Asbury
President

CSR 13308, CCRR 206, CLR
Chino, CA

Thank you, CalDRA nominating committee and membership, for allowing me the opportunity to serve as President of our dedicated Board of Directors. These last few years have been really trying for all of us, as we endured the loss of cherished DRA friends and valuable contributors to the association, all while navigating the monumental changes brought about by COVID-19. Still, the friendships and partnerships I have gained through our advocacy work have been special gifts at a time of heightened need.

During my presidency, I will work closely with our lobbyist, Ed Howard, and the Court Reporters Board to aid in the rollout of the SB 241 Enforcement Project, receiving hotline tips and gathering information, with the aim of creating a level playing field by ensuring that all court reporting entities follow the same rules. I will also spearhead the effort to update and continue the education of our client base about the pitfalls of digital recording while highlighting the gold standard, the stenographic reporter.

I have been a CalDRA member longer than I have been a court reporter. Even as a student back in 2007, I could see the many benefits of belonging to such a strong, close-knit association – a dedicated organization that fights hard to get needed legislation passed into law, a savvy organization that brainstorms and creates valuable and interesting content for its members, a harmonized organization to strengthen and embolden the individual and isolated stenographer. I love CalDRA, and I am honored to continue to represent our membership.



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

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CALDRA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Stephanie Leslie
President-Elect

CSR No. 12893, RPR, CRR, CCRR
Orange County, CA

My name is Stephanie Leslie, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCRR, and I am a graduate of South Coast College. I have been reporting full time for 17 years. I founded Regal Court Reporting with my husband, Isaiah, located in Orange County, California. We have two big kids (12 and 9), who are such a joy.

I have been providing realtime to clients for most of my career, have taken some big cases, arbitrations, and international work in Colombia and Nigeria. Recently, out of necessity, I have taken more trials, which has been a fun new aspect of reporting that I have enjoyed getting more familiar with. I also greatly enjoy mentoring students and new licensees, doing my best to pay forward what my mentor gave to me when I was first starting out, a solid foundation that set me on the right path as a reliable professional producing a great product.

I have enjoyed my last couple of years on the CalDRA board as District 4 director. I am proud of what our team has accomplished and look forward to making even more positive changes legislatively for our industry to ensure it continues for many years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.



Sarah MacDevitt
Vice President and Treasurer

RPR, CA CSR No. 14175
WA CSR No. 20107126
Pittsburg, CA

I am extremely honored and excited to be nominated for the position of Vice President/Treasurer of the CalDRA board of directors. I served as Secretary and then District 1 Director over the past few years, and I am excited to continue on in this new capacity.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a freelance realtime reporter, covering the Bay Area. I have been reporting since 2017. I am constantly improving my skills on the machine and learning new tips and tricks to take advantage of the technology available to us as stenographers. One of my favorite things about this career is that the learning and improving never stops; there is always something to work towards. I take great pride in my professionalism and my ability to turn in a beautiful, readable transcript. I was mentored by one of the greats, Mrs. Monyeen Black, and will continue to use the wisdom she instilled in me to represent CalDRA and do everything I can to help protect our wonderful profession.

On a personal level, I live in Pittsburg, California, with my husband, our infant daughter, our dog daughter, and our cat son. When I am not reporting, I love to spend time with my family, just enjoying their company, maybe going on an adventure to a new trail or watching a good movie, although there have been significantly fewer movies watched since my daughter was born in July 2021. I love sushi and love trying new sushi restaurants. My favorite hobby, though, is reading.

Thank you all for supporting CalDRA year after year and helping us fight for freelance stenographers!

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Paige Hutchinson Secretary

California CSR No. 13459
Texas CSR No. 11222, Washington No. 3336
Murieta, California

After many years of volunteering for various CalDRA events, I'm very excited to start this journey as a member of its board of directors. I attended my first convention as a student in February of 2009, and it was the boost I needed to qualify and pass the June CSR exam that year.

I've gained invaluable experience and knowledge from being involved in CalDRA events, and I've met amazing mentors and friends along the way. I'm looking forward to learning the ins and outs of this amazing association and to a prosperous 2022!

By way of background, I got my BA in philosophy from UC Riverside and then decided not to go to law school, so I went to court reporting school instead. I've been a freelance deposition reporter and pro-tem in court since 2009 and had a part-time officialship for a year.

I enjoy the freedom of freelancing and before COVID traveled all around the country to take work. I like the challenge of multi-day, multi-party proceedings and the pressure that comes with daily roughs or expedites. I definitely believe in work hard, play hard, so I work to play.

I'm a Southern Californian through and through, cowgirl raised on a ranch but also a beach bum. When I'm not working, I love to throw parties, shop, cook, travel, camp in our tiny glamping trailer, and spend time with my husband and dog.



Sarah Maksim

CSR No. 14053
Pleasant Hill, CA

I can't tell you how jazzed I am to have been nominated to serve as District 1's rep. What a huge honor! There are so many people I'm looking forward to collaborating with and so many nuances I can't wait to learn. Needless to say, I am excited to be of help to CalDRA and especially to those in District 1. With Sarah MacDevitt moving up and leaving this position vacant, I certainly have some big shoes to fill, but I consider it a privilege to serve on the board of such a professional and influential association. I hope my hard work and desire to protect our great profession will be of help to every one of you.

I have been reporting for six years, mainly in the San Francisco area. My independence and my unbridled curiosity have led me to some crazy situations and locations in my short time reporting, and I have loved every minute of it! I have many Cal DRA members to thank for ushering me into this new chapter of my life. I hope to serve my first year as your District 1 rep by helping more reporters join our illustrious association. I am also devoted and dedicated to the important task of helping students and first-year reporters acquire the skills needed to thrive in our profession. One of my main goals is to make it easier for students to be eligible to sit in for the CSR exams.

When I'm not working, I like to spend time with my boyfriend and my two dogs and tend to my balcony orchid garden. I also like to bake and go kayaking.

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District 2 - Vacant

Counties Representing: 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

***This position was originally to be filled by the previous District 2 Director, Veronica Guerrero; however, Veronica has accepted an officialship with Sacramento County effective immediately and therefore is no longer eligible to serve in this position. We at CalDRA are thrilled for Veronica and wish her all the best!**

CalDRA is now in search of an eligible professional member to fill this vacancy. If you are interested in the position or would like more information, please contact us at memberservices@caldra.org.



Lindsay Pinkham

CSR No. 3716, CCRR
Los Angeles, CA

I am pleased and honored to be a part of DRA. I joined this organization in 1995, the year it was founded. I have been reporting depositions full time in Los Angeles since 1977. My experience with the court reporting industry goes back to eighth grade, when my mother, a transcriber, taught me how to transcribe, proofread my work, and turned it in as her own. I graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in German, then got a teaching credential, then decided to attend court reporting school.

In the 1980s I was on the board of the Los Angeles General Shorthand Reporting Association, which regrettably is no more. I passed the NCRA's CRR and DRA's CCRR exams. I love to do realtime and try to keep up with the latest in my software and also changes in our industry and rules and regs. I'm also a punctuation nerd.

I have two grown children - my daughter is a film editor, and my son, who has Asperger's, works in a veterinary clinic. My husband is a regional sales manager for a German company that manufactures precision machine components.

I look forward to all reporters, no matter what their professional organization, banding together to educate legal professionals that stenography is the way to go for accurate and professional transcripts.

District 3

Counties Representing:
Los Angeles, Santa
Barbara, and Ventura



Molly Cooper

CSR No. 14313, RPR
Orange County, CA

I earned my CSR and RPR in 2019, and I work in the OC/LA areas. Last year, I enjoyed the privilege of serving as the secretary of CalDRA, and I'm excited to now have the opportunity to be the District 4 Representative. I look forward to getting to know my district members and being a resource for my fellow reporters. I'm excited to continue volunteering as chair of CalDRA's Mentorship Committee in order to help inspire students and welcome new professionals.

Some of my goals include increasing my knowledge of our state's legislative processes and sharpening my shorthand skills on the road to realtime certification.

Counties Representing:
Orange, plus all Professional
Members residing in
counties or states other
than California or the USA

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District 5

Counties Representing:
Imperial, Riverside,
San Bernardino, and
San Diego

Cynthia J. Vega

CA CSR No. 6640, RPR, RMR, RDR
CCRR 95, NV CCR 559, WA CSR 1436,
Carlsbad, CA

I am pleased to be nominated as the DRA representative for District 5.

I have been a freelance court reporter since February 1985, passing the CSR and RPR one week apart in November of 1984. I have been a member of NCRA since then, and subsequently have been a member of CCRA, CalDRA, NVCRA, and TexDRA. I believe association membership is important on all levels. I have attended numerous seminars and conventions over the past 35 years and will continue to do so.

Prepandemic, I took work in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. I have reported everything from personal injury and medical malpractice to high-end complex patent infringement, some trials and many court hearings. I have reported realtime for attorneys since 1997. I am currently doing remote depositions and loving it. I currently live in Carlsbad with my two children, Catherine, 22, and Adam, 18.

I plan on recruiting more court reporters to become members of DRA and also helping reporters attain their goal of writing realtime for attorneys. I also plan to have local networking events to get to know more of you in District 5.

I look forward to my second year as a board member and meeting more members at a future seminar, networking event, or convention.

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CALDRA



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FIRM REGISTRATION LAW (SB 241) BEGINS ITS ROLLOUT

BY MARY PIERCE

SB 241, the statewide firm registration law, was scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2022, but due to some minor language concerns and the time required to achieve a proper remedy, the application process was opened up only late last week, making it impossible to begin enforcement on the scheduled date.

Applications are now available online for both firm registration with an RIC (Reporter In Charge), as well as the option to register for listing as an agency wholly owned by a licensee or licensees. This second category was not originally planned for, but DRA and its members, and possibly others, made multiple entreaties to the CRB that licensee-owned firms should also be listed, and we thank them for hearing us out and making it happen. The first application, for entities not wholly owned by licensees, includes application fees, while the latter is free.

To be abundantly clear, if there is even a 1 percent owner of the business who is not a licensee, you must go through the firm registration application process. Wholly owned means just what it says. There are no exceptions if you are an agency who intends to do business in California. There is no grandfather clause for relatives of a former licensee who now run the agency and no exception for anyone else who has come to own and operate an agency of any size if they are not a current and validly licensed California CSR.

For those of you who head up an agency that is wholly owned by a licensee or licensees, I would strongly encourage you to register – again, for free – with the CRB as such. Going forward, CSRs will begin to consult the CRB website’s list of registered firms and rely on the information therein when choosing for whom they will work. Let there be no doubt that you meet all the requirements under the law and that anyone can work for you without fear of violating it. It’s a very short form.

After submitting my application, I received a reply email from the CRB the same day advising me that they had received my application and that approval should take around 10 days. The review process for a non-licensee-owned agency has many more elements to it and is therefore likely to take much longer. I’ve heard up to 90 days. Certainly not for each one, but some applications may require more time than others to process.

Last week, the first list was posted. CalDRA was later advised by Yvonne Fenner, Executive Officer of the CRB, that the list will be updated daily until all applications have been processed, but that the CRB would not be sending out an email each time the list is expanded. So going forward, be sure to consult the list regularly for any new additions and read the law for yourself, which was embedded in our enote of July 22, 2022, that followed the first posting of registered firms. If you still are unclear about something, reach out to us (memberservices@caldra.org) for advice.

CalDRA, while partnering with CCRA, recently crafted an enote hoping to impart some guidance to CSRs in the state about the firms for whom you could work until the list was posted, and we received the blessing from the CRB to use the language in the enote, which included the position that CSRs may continue as they were doing before July 1, 2022, without concern of facing disciplinary action should they work for an unregistered, nonlicensee-owned firm. That’s only logical. The law stated that it was the responsibility of the CRB to post the list, so until they fulfill their duties, how could anyone possibly be disciplined for not consulting a list that was not available?

Now that the list has been posted there may be further confusion, as the CRB’s counsel stated at the July 15th meeting that each situation would be evaluated individually. I wish we could give you more solid guidance at this point, but all we can suggest is that you consult the list and make your own decision. While there was a delay in the application process being opened, which prevented applicants from registering by the July 1 scheduled date of implementation, nothing has been stated publicly one way or the other about whether there is any grace period until enforcement will begin.

Protect yourself by staying on top of any further updates. At some point, there will be no doubt that the list is in full force and effect, and when that time comes, it’s going to be your responsibility to know who is on the list and who is not. We work in the legal industry. We all know that ignorance of the law is not a valid defense.

So I’ve got a few suggestions for you going forward to ensure you are promptly informed when there are new developments.

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FIRM REGISTRATION LAW (SB 241) BEGINS ITS ROLLOUT

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First, check your emails every day. Twice a day. Do not ignore anything that comes from the Court Reporters Board. While I wish they had been more communicative as the anticipated rollout date approached when they had to have known there would be a necessary delay, I am hopeful that they will provide notification that all applications have been processed. Yes, hope springs eternal.

But do not fear. CalDRA is monitoring this very closely, and we will be certain to publicize by both enote and social media postings any new information that comes to us. So check your inbox for something from CalDRA or CCRA, as well, to stay informed because, again, you don't want to leave yourself open to disciplinary action.

Lastly, monitor social media, but do not rely on it. In other words, trust but verify. I can guarantee you this will be addressed by multiple posts, and there may be conflicting information. Go to a reliable source – either send an email directly to the CRB or inquire of your state associations.

Now, once enforcement begins, you can be part of the process. If you see something, say something. For instance, perhaps you come across a transcript that was reported by an out-of-state court reporter who, although they are a stenographer, perhaps even licensed in another state, they are not licensed in California. This is a violation, and the firm that hired them to report that job can be held responsible for not following California law. It is not the Reporter-In-Charge alone that is held to account. Similar to points on your driver's license, repeated violations do accrue against the entity. This does not apply, however, to digitally recorded depositions. While that process is inferior to using a professionally trained and licensed stenographer, it is not illegal. And since only licensees – and now registered firms – fall under the purview of the CRB, there is no authority under this law to regulate or discipline digital

recorders who perform tasks as a deposition officer nor the entities that hire them to do so.

Finally, I want to speak to the agency owners out there who may be asked to network a deposition of a California witness with an agency that is not on the list, which is likely to be any agency that inquires about networking a job. After all, when networking with an out-of-state agency, for instance, we secure the reporter and collect all the necessary files for them from the reporter, which we then send to the out-of-state firm, who does the production. This scenario would result in the California reporter's name being on the cover of a transcript from a nonregistered entity. But if the local, registered entity hires the reporter, it's copacetic; right?

Well, we wanted to be sure, so an inquiry was sent to the CRB to ask their opinion, and although the language was not definitive, we were advised that even if the nonregistered entity only participated in production and billing, that those elements are within the scope of practice and may be deemed a violation. And if you did this, you may be unknowingly exposing the reporter that took the assignment to discipline. I would hope that we can all be creative in achieving a solution for this issue so that we can continue to cover as many California witnesses as possible with the gold standard, a licensed certified stenographer. You could perhaps take over the production and billing and negotiate a referral fee with the out-of-state agency.

As you can see, there are still some questions coming up, and more will surely follow as the law goes into effect and unusual situations arise. Please bring your questions to CalDRA so that we can help you find the right answer and then share all the collective knowledge with our members. We'd love to help you navigate this new landscape and learn right along with you in the process.

CALDRA ONLINE CCRR LAUNCH UPDATE

BY ANDREA CHAVEZ, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCRR

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many of us to go back to the drawing board and reinvent how we work and how we learn. When CalDRA was making the heartbreaking decision to cancel in-person seminars, in turn losing the opportunity to administer our coveted CCRR examination, we knew we too had to reinvent ourselves. The CCRR committee immediately got on the horn with MyRealtimeCoach and ProctorU to learn how we could start implementing a virtual CCRR, much like our own California CSR examination is conducted. NCRA had been paving this road for years, and CalDRA wanted to follow suit.

The committee, consisting of members Holly Moose, Andrea Chavez, and Heatherlynn Gonzalez, got to work writing an unprecedented 10 tests in the span of two months to start our “bank.” Writing a test can be just as challenging as taking it. Syllabic count and word count have to be carefully crafted so as not to make any 15-second section feel rushed or too wordy. It can sometimes take weeks to draft the perfect test! When we got the chance to beta test this spring, we were so proud to see all our hard work coming together.

The California Certificate in Realtime Reporting examination has been a longstanding tradition of CalDRA, dating all the way back to February of 1997. The test is a prerecorded Q&A dictation at 200 words per minute ... with absolutely no editing allowed. Candidates, under the watchful eye of a proctor, must place their test on a thumb drive and hand it over without ever getting to lay eyes on the file. The CCRR is an achievement few have mastered, due in part to our more difficult passing percentage score of 96%, compared to NCRA's 95% on its Certified Realtime Reporter examination.

So what makes our new partnership with MyRealtimeCoach and ProctorU different from in-person tests? The luxury of scheduling the test around you! No more blocking off a random Saturday, flying or driving to locations up and down the coast. Do you write better in the mornings when you're fresh? Snag the 7:00 a.m. spot! Feel like it takes you a few hours to get into your groove? Try 4:00 p.m.! YOU are in control!

We will be formally opening our online CCRR exam this August, with testing windows set for September. Stay tuned for an enote announcing when registration officially opens, and be among the first to grab this new opportunity to call yourself a CCRR!

NOTE IT!

DEPOSITION REPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA
August-September Online CCRR
Realtime Coach (Online Exam Vendor)

October 15, 2022 Fall Seminar
– Southern California

COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

July 5, 2022 - July 26, 2022
Dictation/Skills Exam
Realtime Coach (Online Exam Vendor)

July 15, 2022 Board Meeting Teleconference

July 29-30, 2022 Occupational Analysis Workshop REMOTE

September 9-10, 2022 Occupational Analysis Workshop REMOTE

September 16-17, 2022 Passing Score Workshop OPES

October 14-15, 2022 Item Writing Workshop REMOTE

November 1-22, 2022 Dictation/Skills Exam
Realtime Coach (Online vendor)

December 9-10 Occupational Analysis Workshop REMOTE

NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
<https://www.ncra.org/home/events>

CALDRA MAY 2022 WALNUT CREEK SEMINAR RECAP

BY SARAH MAKSIM, CALDRA DISTRICT 1 REP

If you were unable to attend our Spring seminar in Walnut Creek, we are sorry we missed you! Our keynote speaker, Allison Hall, CSR-RDR-CRR, gave some incredible advice for working reporters as well as students. Her ideas of shortening one's writing not only helped seasoned reporters, but her methods have dramatically improved the number of students progressing through the program. All court reporting schools should implement her teaching style!

Our past presidents, Mary Pierce, CSR, and Cheryl Haab, CSR-RDR-CRR-CCRR, along with Evelyn Mah, CSR, gave

us an in-depth look at the governing codes and how to interpret them in real-life scenarios.

Last, but not least, longtime CalDRA member Lucy Carrillo, CSR-RMR-CRR-CCRR, along with Sarah Maksim, CSR, CalDRA District 1 rep, enlightened members on the do's and don'ts of hiring a scopist. We hope our horror stories shed some light on what to look out for when making the decision to hire on a scoping/proofing team.

Hope you all can join us next time for more valuable information!

CALDRA 2022 GAP RECAP

BY MOLLY COOPER, DISTRICT 4 REP

The CalDRA July 9, 2022, remote GAP Seminar was a great success. In order to help bridge the gap from student to professional, a wide range of topics were covered, including how to make cover pages for a deposition transcript, best practices for producing a rough draft, and necessary steps to becoming a business. It was hosted this year by CALDRA past president Cheryl Haab, CalDRA Vice President Stephanie Leslie, and

CalDRA District 4 Representative Molly Cooper. There were 28 attendees, ranging from high-speed students to brand-new working CSRs to even some experienced CSRs returning to the field. One lucky attendee won an Amazon gift card in the raffle. CalDRA has received a lot of positive feedback from participants, as it does for every GAP. Be sure not to miss the next one!

Incomprehensible Witnesses/Audio Problem Suggestions

USEFUL PARENTHETICALS:

- (Audio distortion)
- (Audio malfunction)
- (Audio/video transmission failure)
- (Transmission interruption)
- (Indiscernible) - should ALWAYS be followed by
- (Reporter request for clarification)
- (Remote connection lost)
- (Simultaneous speakers)
- (Technical interference)
- (Zoom disruption)

How about something for technical discussion off the record relating to navigation in a shared document, participants giving each other suggestions re poor audio, etc.? I have seen (Technical discussion re exhibit sharing instructions), but that seems kind of overkill to me. But haven't we all had long back-and-forths when someone's having a technical problem, and

everybody, including the reporter, is throwing their two cents' worth in? Do attorneys really want to pay for that to be transcribed? On the one hand, I'm tempted to use my prerogative and leave it off with some kind of parenthetical so the videographer won't think I just decided to stop writing. On the other hand, I'm reminded of a story I heard where the taking attorney started chatting with the witness about vacations and got the witness talking about recent ski trips, and it turned out it was a clever ploy to demonstrate that the witness did not have the injuries he was claiming. Stories like that make me inclined to put EVERYTHING in. Use your own judgment.

I recently read a FB post from a reporter who was practically in tears from a very technical, scientific expert witness who not only had a very, very strong accent but was also double-masked and testifying remotely. One thing you may not do is "do the best you can," no matter what the attorneys advise you. You need to set the rules up front. I've said things like, "You are all going to hate me by the end of this deposition, but I will do what I need in order to give you a complete and accurate transcript of this witness's testimony, as I am bound to do by my California CSR license." I also apologize to the witness up front, "Sir/Ma'am, I apologize in advance, but I am having trouble comprehending you, so I will have to interrupt your answers numerous times and ask for repetitions." Alternately, you can turn to the attorneys and have THEM help you translate the witness for which they were too cheap to get an interpreter! Hopefully, when they see how slow-going it is, they will postpone the depo and get an interpreter. Remind them that you have absolutely no knowledge of this case, were not furnished any previous depositions, are not used to this accent because, unlike the taking attorney, you have not had previous conversations with this witness and thus have not had a chance to get used to the accent.

Reporter Spotlight: SUSAN MAGEE



Susan Magee

CSR 11661, RPR No. 838439,
CCRR No. 138
LiveNote Reporter Certification
Issued 2004
Newark, California

How long have you been reporting?

24 years

How did you first get involved with DRA?

DRA past president Holly Moose did a presentation about DRA at Bryan College of Court Reporting in San Francisco when I was a student there and inspired me to join.

Where did you grow up?

Born and raised in the Bay Area

Tell us about your family.

My husband, Bobby, and I will be celebrating our 25-year anniversary in September. We have two adult sons, Tony and Nick. Our lab/border collie mix, Gracie, rescued us. She's twelve and a half years old.

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

I love to work out – my leaderboard name on Peloton is TrueFunkSoldier - and you can find me at the concert (most likely in the front). I live for live music.

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

I would absolutely choose court reporting as a career again. I honestly couldn't imagine doing anything else. When my children were younger, I was able to enjoy being a room mom, attend the sports games/theater productions and still work a full-time job.

Now that my boys are grown, I love being able to take girls trips, make the weeknight show, go on vacay or just stay home and watch Real Housewives and true crime docs for three days straight if I want. I guess what I'm trying to say is I love the freelancer lifestyle and being able to set my own schedule.

All that aside, I really enjoy writing on my steno machine and am proud that I have a valuable skill that makes me an integral part of the proceedings. It can be challenging at times, but the pros far outweigh the cons.

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

I would like to obtain my RMR and CRR.

What is the most exotic place you have ever taken a deposition?

Taiwan.

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

Practice, practice, practice.

Don't listen to any negativity, especially the one in your head.

Once you get licensed, take all the certification tests available to you, even if you don't think you're ready. You are at your prime writing speed, so take advantage of it.

Find a reporter that will mentor you through the first year (or longer). There will be so many scenarios/questions that come up, and you'll need someone that can guide you through it all.

Find a proofer once you get licensed. Learn your software inside and out, then find a great scopist.

Stretch.

Why is DRA membership important to you?

I believe it's important to continue to educate yourself on what is going on in our profession, attend conventions and seminars. I love the seminars that educate us about new features and tips about our software, and I also love learning from our peers on scenarios they encountered and how they dealt with them. And don't get me started on the vendor hall. Shopping is my favorite sport.

Reporter Spotlight: CHRISTINE NICCOLI



Christine M. Niccoli
CSR, RPR
Foster City, California

How long have you been reporting?

43 years

How did you first get involved with DRA?

I endorsed its formation 27 years ago after learning about it from a founding committee member (which I mistakenly thought I was), probably from fellow BAGRA board members Toni Pulone and Stephanie Grossman, in an invitation from Deposition Reporters Association of California to become a charter member.

Do you have any pets?

Always had cats, usually in pairs, now down to the last one, a ragdoll named Peekaboo, age 20, so that I may look forward to a vacation without worry for a pet's well-being.

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

Sing, read, cruise, visit out-of-town family members, and dine out.

What is the most exotic place you have ever taken a deposition?

Paris and Epernay, France. I had anticipated trouble with understanding French-accented English, but turned out I reported an interpreter from New York who filled the room with stifling cigarette smoke that open windows would only invite the noise pollution of vehicles driving by on the narrow cobblestone street sandwiched between the surrounding large buildings.

(Most unusual place was outside on the actual dirt racetrack before post time at Bay Meadows Racetrack in San Mateo, my steno paper flying out of its steno tray into the wind, following the judges and respondent walking away from me as I yelled at them asking if they want this on the record.)

What's your cocktail order?

Whiskey sour

Do you still practice on your machine?

Only if I haven't reported for more than three, four weeks.

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

After 43 years of reporting, maybe just scope on PC for reporters.

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

Salad.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Cheetos, country music (at which my opera-loving fellow choristers are shockingly appalled)

Why is DRA membership important to you?

Keeps me abreast of codes applicable to us and the opportunity to learn from seminars arranged by DRA, as well as the pleasure of visiting with colleagues and meeting new at same with a chance to talk shop.

New Members



Melissa Alwood
 Laurie Book
 Annette Caldera
 Jessica Cheng
 Laura Espinosa
 Jennifer Franklin
 Ana Gonzalez
 John Harmonson
 Jeanette Ireland
 Colleen Joyce
 Jennifer Jurkoic
 Kristen Kirby

Kathleen LaGrave
 Elyssa Lopez
 Alicia Lockett
 Kelly McCarthy
 Tanya Miaglia
 Megan Moon
 Marilyn Morgan
 Elena Murphy
 Renee Ogden
 Alyssa Olvera
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Save the Date for CalDRA FALL SEMINAR



October 15th

Proposed Location: Hilton Long Beach

PROPOSED SESSIONS:

#1 Digital and legislative update

#2 Legal panel

Judges, attorneys, paralegals/legal secretaries:
"Gaining and Sharing Perspectives"

#3 Reporting panel

Accomplished Realtime writers and high-achieving CSRs:
"Upping Your Game"

PROPOSED EVENT:

California Certified Realtime Reporter Onsite Exam


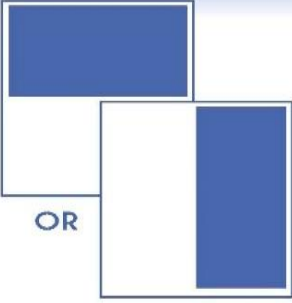
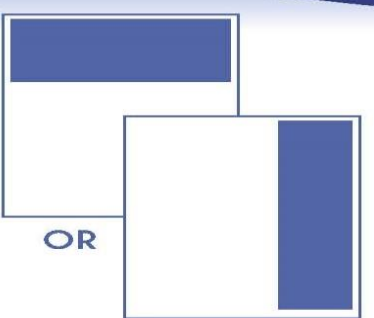
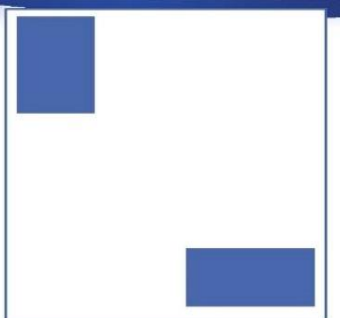
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