

# The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION  
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2022

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS, CALDRA MEMBERS!

JAMIE L. ASBURY, CSR 13308, CCRR 206, CLR, PRESIDENT

Halfway into my presidency, with Thanksgiving upon us, I can't help but reflect with thanks on how honored and humbled I am to lead this wonderful organization. I am deeply inspired and grateful for the work Mary Pierce, my predecessor, had accomplished during her term -- firm registration, a wildly successful Daily Journal article, and collaboration with title protection, to name just a few of her many achievements. As I roll up my sleeves to pick up where she has left off, I only hope to continue the important work that she started here at CalDRA, along with the help of my amazing Board of Directors.

In the spirit of expressing thanks, I am so grateful for my hard-working board. With their spirit of volunteerism and enthusiastic energy, they have supported the execution of back-to-back legislative wins, two well-attended in-person seminars, our annual student picnic, plus several career fairs and appearances at California CR schools in the past year alone. I am confident that well beyond my term as president that they will continue to achieve great things for our industry.



THE NATION'S LARGEST TRADE  
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THE FREELANCE  
DEPOSITION REPORTER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS, CALDRA MEMBERS!

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But the fight to protect our profession never stops. Only recently have we learned at CalDRA about the struggle of our official brothers and sisters at LA Superior Court, fighting to re-implement their stalwart official reporter colleagues in probate and family law courts. As deposition reporters, it is easy to tell ourselves that their crisis is not our problem. But as we have learned time and time again, any affront to the profession -- whether it be in court, in captioning, or in the depo arena -- affects us all. I highly encourage you to continue supporting our friends at LA Superior in their fight to provide their sorely needed services in these now unstaffed courtrooms. A win for them is a win for us all.

Although I am already halfway through my term as your CalDRA President, and in some ways I feel like I've been at it for a lifetime, I know that in a blink of an eye the year will be over, and I am cognizant that I have a limited time to achieve all we have set out to accomplish. However, I know that with the help of not only my amazing board, but also with the support of our loyal membership, we will finish this board year leaving the profession in a much better place than we found it.

I give thanks for this profession during this season of reflection, and I look forward to continue protecting it -- for you, for me, and for all who will come after us for many years to come. Thank you all for your continued support of CalDRA. I am grateful for you all!

**JAMIE L. ASBURY**  
*President*

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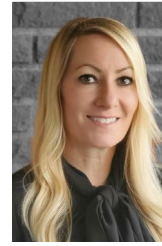
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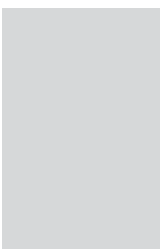
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# CALDRA OCTOBER 15 FALL SEMINAR RECAP

Hats off to the DRA board members and staff for pulling off yet another successful event! As you might expect, the lineup was chock-full of fantastically popular seminars and speakers, such as *Depo Dilemmas* and a legislative update on firm registration/ title protection, with Evelyn Mah, Cheryl Haab and Mary Pierce; *Upping Your Steno Game*, with Cindy Vega and Mary Bardellini; *Nothing Beats Steno*, with Stephanie Leslie; a panel discussion with Lindsay Pinkham, a San Diego judge and a local attorney, featuring topics such as how reporters can make their exhibit descriptions useful to those who rely upon them.

Vendors from Stenograph and ProCat joined us for the day. **KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR THE NEXT DYNAMIC CaLDRA EVENT!** You won't want to miss it.







## **October 15, 2022 CGRR Exam in Long Beach, CA**

CalDRA's California Certificate in Realtime Reporting exam was held in conjunction with our fall seminar at the Hilton Hotel in Long Beach, CA. The exam consists of six minutes of literary dictation at 200 words per minute. The first minute lead-in is not graded. Eleven candidates sat for this exam and THREE of them passed! Congratulations to the newest reporters to earn the coveted California Certificate in Realtime Reporting!!

Yay, ladies!

**Debra Bollman-Farfan**

**Melissa Watanabe**

**Teresa Reese**

# ANOTHER HOME RUN FOR CALDRA AT ITS ANNUAL STUDENT PICNIC!

BY MOLLY COOPER, CALDRA DISTRICT 4 REP

CalDRA's annual student picnic was a smash hit ... one for the books! The turnout was great on Saturday, October 22nd, in Cerritos, CA, despite the threat of a little rain. A big thanks to all of the CalDRA members who generously donated prizes for the students and who came to the picnic to help encourage and support them. We played educational games full of information to prepare the students for the CSR and RPR tests as well as for the working world. The highlight for me was the 'speed dating' and getting the chance to chat with so many curious, intelligent, and determined students. What a great group of future court reporters!





# RECAP OF CALDRA'S ANNUAL PICNIC FROM ONE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

BY SUSAN LEE-CHO

Last year was the first time I was able to attend a DRA convention, and I watched a roomful of reporters cry in sorrow, mourning the passing of two great court icons: Monyeen Black and Antonia Pulone. I unfortunately missed the chance to meet both of these legends in our field, but seeing how much they had affected each and every one of the court reporters at the convention, and still do, was very powerful. The student picnic is an extension of that. Each reporter was once a student, and they are honoring their mentors' legacies by helping struggling students. They know how it feels because they were once in our shoes. As I sit here at my desk, I see not one, but two different keyboards, a laptop stand, a cellphone stand, chair backrest, massage gun, finger exercise crunch, set of Sharpie highlighters, and more. These are just a few of the many items that DRA has so generously gifted me at these picnics over the years. There is no association that comes close to caring for us steno students as much as DRA does. Know this, CalDRA: We students see those of you who each year take precious time out of your busy lives to plan the picnic, raise funds, offer support, give inspiration and mentorship, come early to set up and stay late to clean up. Even your family members come out yearly to help with this event! When our family members and friends don't understand why school is taking us so long and when failing so often creates a trove of doubts, just being with a group of people who totally understand that the struggle and process of constant failure before reaching the final goal will likely save students from giving up altogether. DRA saves steno students' lives with love, encouragement, and inspiration.

Thank you!



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2022: FIRM REGISTRATION AND TITLE PROTECTION

BY MARY PIERCE, CALDRA IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT/LEGISLATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Thanks to your state associations, 2022 has been a banner year for court reporting in California! The rollout of firm registration, SB 241, which passed last year and was originally scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2022, was delayed by several weeks due to last-minute obstacles in Sacramento. In late July, the application process opened, and the CRB began accepting those.

At this time, there are 189 registered entities on the CRB website. This list includes agencies that are wholly owned by licensees and those that are not. Some are duplicative, meaning the same entity has more than one business operating in the court reporting industry. Still, it adds up to a sizeable number of registered firms. When you need to confirm that an entity for whom you work is in compliance with all laws, you can verify their registration by going to the CRB's website, clicking on "license verification," selecting "court reporting firm" under "license type" and clicking on "search." All registered firms appear there in alphabetical order.

Of course, since licensee-owned agencies are not required to register, there may be some agencies for whom you'd like to work that are not registered. As long as you can reasonably confirm that they are indeed wholly owned by licensees, with no exceptions, then you are not at risk. Just be certain that whatever method you are using to confirm this is unassailable.

Remember, you may only work for registered firms; otherwise, you are putting yourself at risk of fines and/or citations, potentially even putting your license at risk.

Networking arrangements under this new law will also need to change drastically if the firm asking you to network is not registered. You can still cover the job, but you will have to alter the typical process. The CRB states that an unregistered firm may not participate in any acts considered to be "course and scope of practice"; these include production and billing. You will be placing at risk both your agency and the reporter who covers the job for you unless you perform those functions yourself. Therefore, you might consider offering a referral fee to the nonregistered entity as compensation and covering the job under your registered firm's name.

And now let's talk about a game-changing development, the signing of AB 156, a bill that provides us five newly protected titles, as well as permits voice stenographers to sit for the California CSR exam. If these candidates can pass the same test that machine stenographers must pass to become licensed, why shouldn't they join our ranks? Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Let's explore the title protection aspects a little bit.

The following titles can now be used in California only by holders of a valid CSR license: court reporter, deposition reporter, digital reporter, stenographer and reporter. This applies to anyone using such title at a proceeding, in a transcript, and even in a promotion, advertisement or other similar environment.

This means that digital recorders can no longer call themselves any of these terms. We don't know what new titles will be invented by non-CSRs who appear at depositions; therefore, we must continue to educate attorneys, legal support staff, judges, clerks and other consumers that rely on our automatically admissible transcripts to be aware of who serves as the guardian of their record.

Let's all be vigilant going forward and continue to fight for our profession so that it remains the gold standard and first choice of legal professionals, our consumers. Complaints should be filed whenever a violation is apparent. And, yes, a CSR can file a consumer complaint for a title protection or any other violation under the jurisdiction of the CRB. The complaint form can be downloaded from the CRB website or filled out online. And, of course, you can always ask any DRA Board member for assistance in this endeavor.

Thanks to SB 241, now it's not just a licensee who is exposed to disciplinary actions; any registered firm can also be cited and/or fined for a violation of laws and codes in California when the act is committed by someone working for them. **And ...** title protection is now the law.

These two new laws are a great development in the continued quest to protect our future and preserve the record with the gold standard!



# TEUPZ /TPR /T/ TPROPBT /LAOEUPB

BY LINDSAY PINKHAM, CSR 3716,  
CRR, CCRR - CALDRA DISTRICT 3 REP

## WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF EXHIBIT DESCRIPTIONS?

At our recent CalDRA fall seminar on October 15, we had a panel discussion with a local attorney, a San Diego County Superior Court judge, and a trial paralegal. Some of the questions asked of the paralegal involved their use of our deposition transcripts in preparing for trial.

We've probably all seen trial transcripts wherein every exhibit description in the trial transcript index is "document," whereas usually deposition exhibit indexes are detailed. There's a reason for that. By the time the parties come to trial, they have already submitted a detailed, numbered list of all the exhibits they hope to have admitted, which is also sent to opposing counsel. So there really is no need for the reporter to duplicate it.

But paralegals sometimes depend on our exhibit descriptions in depo transcripts when they're preparing those lists for trial. So I feel it's important to make our transcripts useful and include the information a paralegal would need. I'm going to change the way I describe exhibits based on what I learned in this seminar.

For example, say an exhibit is an email chain. In the past, I would describe it as "Email chain, top one 1 3 22 from John Smith to Dave Jones, 01324-01326, 3 pages." But from now on I will put, "Email chain, top one 1 3 22, 10:33 a.m., subject 'Upcoming Meeting,' John Smith to Dave Jones, 3 pages."

The paralegal said the time of the email can be very important when she's looking for a certain document, as are the Bates numbers. Number of pages is not so important if you state the Bates numbers, but I kind of am in the habit to put that, especially with non-Bates-numbered exhibits, since I don't mark every page and it's not indicated on the label.

I know the above description is a real mouthful, but there are tricks in your software to make it go faster. In Case Catalyst, for example, we have EZ Text, which contains 20 customizable entries you can create (e.g. "John Smith") so you can plug them into your exhibit description with two keystrokes.

Lastly, none of the advice above is required by any code or regulation, so it's your choice whether to use these suggestions or not. For me personally, besides being accurate and timely, I want my transcripts to be as useful as possible to the client.

## NOTE IT!

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Watch for DRA Online  
CCRR registration dates! Coming Soon!

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December 14  
Board Meeting REMOTE

January 13-14, 2023  
Item Review Workshop

January 27-28, 2023  
Occupational Analysis Workshop

February 10-11, 2023  
Passing Score Workshop

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## **Kudos to Humphreys University Instructor & Grads!**

Celeste Poppe (left) graduated with her bachelor's degree, and Chantra Siggard (right) received her associate's degree.

Celeste is an official reporter in Los Angeles Superior Court and finished the Humphreys bachelor completion program for working reporters. Chantra has passed her qualifier and the PPE portion of the CSR exam and is waiting to take the English and skills exams.

They are both proud members of CalDRA. In the center is Pam Closs, who has been an instructor at the Humphreys University court reporting program for 18 years. Congratulations to all three of you!



## Court Reporters Board Dictation Examination Statistics - Jul 2022

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Charles A. Jones (CLOSED)	2	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	3	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Cypress	3	2	66.7%	3	2	66.7%
Downey	10	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
Humphreys University	4	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%
South Coast	11	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Taft	7	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Tri-Community	4	1	25.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
<b>School Total</b>	44	3	6.8%	14	2	14.3%
Five Plus	13	1	7.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of State	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	18	14	78%	16	14	87.5%
Working Reporter	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
<b>TOTAL</b>	76	18	23.7%	30	16	53.3%



## New Members

Lyn Aaker	Deanna Keppel
Clori Andrade	Isaiah Leslie
Ashley Baba	Amy Neyhart
Lorraine Bacon	Valerie Nunemacher
Sarah Baker	Stephanie Porter
Lauren Benge	Theresa Reese
Heather Bonds	Cristin Relyea
Tylene Borjon	Noemi Sandoval
Channae Cheung	Jessica Savnik
Melissa Crawford	Penny Segundo
Johmar Gasphar	Rachel Streger
Shatise Godoy	Kate Thomas
Teresa Ju	Elizabeth Watson

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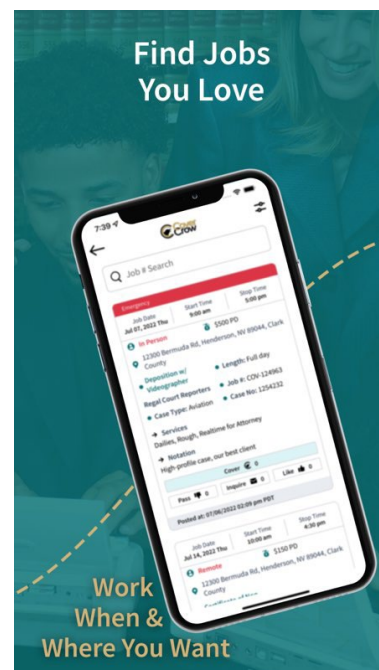
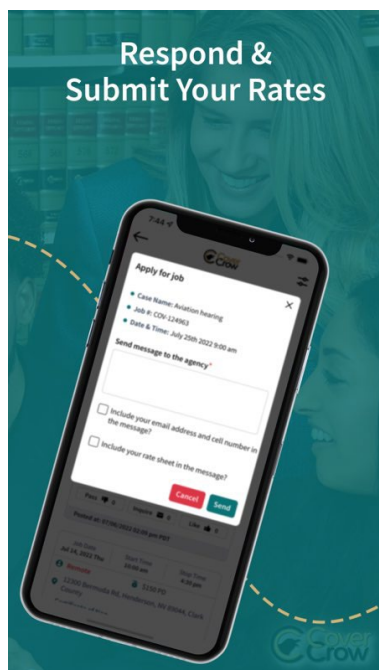
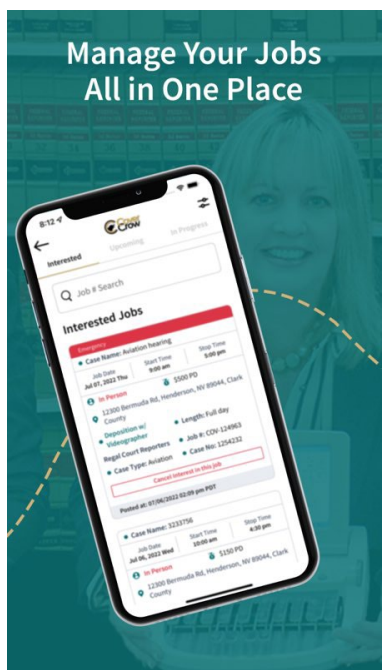
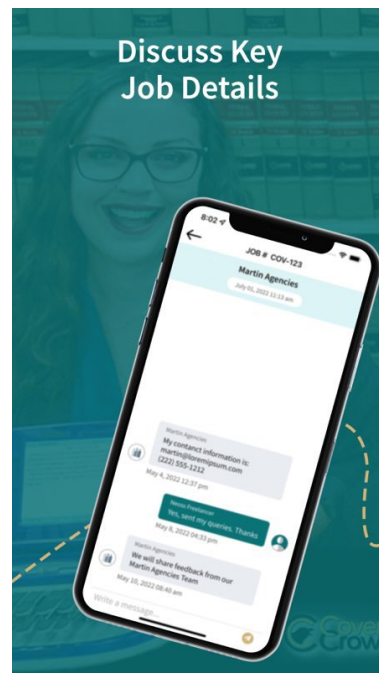
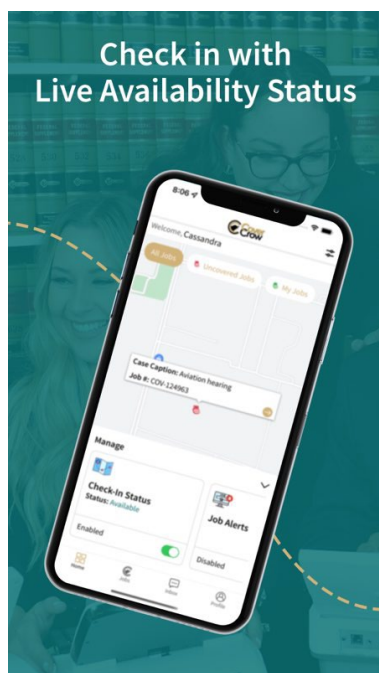
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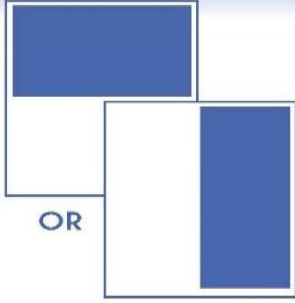
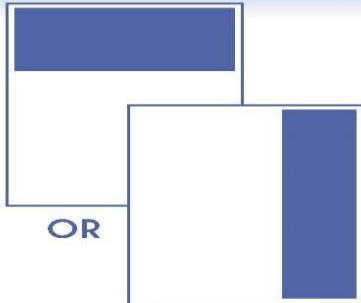
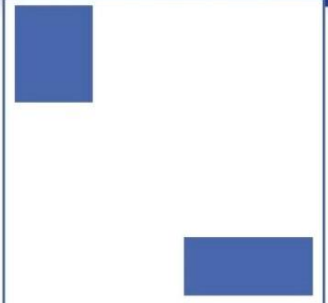
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