

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEPHANIE LESLIE, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCRR, PRESIDENT

Hello, CalDRA members!

I am still buzzing from another successful and uplifting convention in May. As usual, I learned several new things, met and reacquainted with many fantastic reporters and students, but this time was a unique experience for me. I officially accepted the role as president of this fantastic organization. I feel incredibly supported by so many and most importantly by you, our members, so I would like to thank you sincerely for your faith in me. I realize the magnitude of the work that is at hand, and I intend to do everything in my power to leave this organization better than it was the day it was entrusted to me.

I won't be doing it alone, of course. No one could. I am blessed to have the most amazing board who have stepped up to serve you as well. They are all busy working reporters just as you all are. They all have their own personal lives to navigate. Yet they realize the importance of DRA's important mission – to preserve and enhance our profession, ensure its integrity, and ensure that it remains a viable and integral part of the legal system. I hope you are passionate about our mission as well and will join me in getting involved, even a little more than you have in the past.



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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Every year for DRA brings its own challenges to overcome. Those challenges from years past have been incredibly important fights, successfully paving the way for us today. However, we are at a critical crossroads in our industry, so this next year will be crucial to the vitality of our profession. We will need to remain unified and each do what we can to keep the steno industry alive and an integral part of the legal process. Each of us has our own strengths to contribute, whether it be spreading the word about stenography at career fairs or among friends and family or calling up our local senators to express opposition to bad legislation. There is much to do, and relying on our board of 10 volunteers to do it all won't be enough. We need you ALL and your other colleagues as well who have yet to join our ranks, so we first ask that you start spreading the word. There are countless California CSRs who aren't even aware of the fights your DRA undertakes behind the scenes to ensure their jobs remain relevant. If we all commit to recruit one new member this month to join our ranks, the impact that would have for our association would be exponential and could be just the boost we need to keep the threats that loom at bay. We are all in this together, and while I am doing my very best to lead with passion and action over this next year, I need your help as well. Can I count on you to commit to one new member this month?

STEPHANIE LESLIE
2023-2024 President

Meet CalDRA's 2023-2024 Board of Directors



PRESIDENT

Stephanie Leslie

CSR No. 12893, RPR, CRR, CCRR
President of
Regal Court Reporting
Orange, California

I have been reporting full time since 2004. I have worked as a freelance reporter, covering depositions and arbitrations for most of my career, but more recently have had more experience covering court hearings and trials. My husband, Isaiah, and I founded Regal Court Reporting, located in Orange County, California, and are proud to be one of California's remaining 100% reporter-owned, steno-only firms.

I have been providing realtime to clients for most of my career and have had the opportunity to travel abroad several times to report. I have always had a passion for mentoring students and new licensees, doing my best to pay forward the guidance that my mentor provided to me when I was newly licensed.

I have served on the CalDRA board as a District 4 representative for several years and most recently as President Elect. I have enjoyed helping in the legislative process as CalDRA has advocated for our profession regarding important initiatives.

I have several goals for my upcoming term in leading our fabulous association, the primary objective being to amass more licensed stenographers in our state by promoting the field and reminding the legal world of the significance of what we do and that we will not be easily replaced. It will be a considerable undertaking, but one that is necessary if we want our beloved careers to remain relevant and indispensable, so I implore each and every member of CalDRA to join us in our efforts to fortify our incredible profession and have some fun with us along the way!



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Cindy Vega

CSR No. 6640, RDR, CCRR, NV
CCR 559, WA GSR 1436
Carlsbad, CA

I am pleased to be nominated as DRA's President-Elect after having served a two-year term as the District 5 representative.

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 WCRA. I believe association membership is important on all levels. I have attended numerous seminars and conventions over the past 37 years and will continue to do so.

I currently work primarily in San Diego and Orange Counties, occasionally reporting remote jobs. I have reported everything from personal injury and medical malpractice to high-end complex patent infringement, intellectual property, some trials, and many court hearings. I have been reporting realtime for attorneys since 1997.

My goal is to recruit more court reporters to become members of DRA and also help reporters attain their goal of writing realtime for attorneys. Educating the legal profession on our high standards of being a stenographer is important, from paralegals to attorneys to arbitrators and judges.

I currently live in Carlsbad with my two children, Catherine, 23, and Adam, 19. My main outside interest is attending concerts and listening to local live music. I also love to travel any chance I get.

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



**VICE PRESIDENT
AND TREASURER**

Sarah MacDevitt

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

I am looking forward to continuing on in the position of Vice President/Treasurer of the CalDRA board of directors for another term. I have previously served as Secretary and District 1 Director. I am a freelance realtime reporter, covering the Bay Area. I am just starting to venture back out into the world of in-person depositions. I absolutely love remote reporting, but there is something nice about putting on my big girl clothes and leaving the house sometimes.

I live in Pittsburg, California, with my husband, daughter, dog, and cat. When I am not working, reading has always been one of my favorite things to do, and I am happy to be passing on the love of books for my daughter.

I am very proud of the work that CalDRA has done and excited to be a part of what is coming next. Nothing we do would be possible without the support of all of our members. Thank you all for continuing to support CalDRA year after year.



SECRETARY

Deborah Fuqua

CSR No. 12948
San Rafael, CA

First, I am deeply honored to be nominated to serve CalDRA. I have long admired our dedicated colleagues who have worked so hard in building and growing our distinguished organization.

I have been a reporter for 23 years now, and I've loved every second of it. Before finally getting licensed, I was a scopist, a CAT software trainer, and an instructor at Bryan College SF. I have been privileged to do pro tem official work in a criminal setting, and early in my career, I was lucky enough to do some international work in Taiwan. Mostly, though, I've enjoyed reporting depositions and arbitrations here in the San Francisco Bay Area.

A major shift in my personal life this past year brings me an opportunity to participate robustly in our organization. My number one passion lies with the ever-changing legislation around our profession. Additionally, I am interested promoting steno education and expanding our base with new, excited CSRs.

My personal passions are music, art, and film. I also spend a bit of time doing makeup art -- at one time, on a professional level. My late husband was a musician and teacher. Our son lives with me in Marin County, where our entire family grew up. He is pursuing a degree in filmmaking.

Throughout all of it, I have cherished the camaraderie of my colleagues -- those who came before me and after me. They have enriched my career and continue to be my mentors, always sharing their wisdom, fresh perspectives, and support. I look forward to this phase of giving back in whatever form it takes.



DISTRICT 1

Sarah Maksim

CSR No. 14053
Pleasant Hill, CA

It's already been a year, and I must say time truly does fly when you're having fun! It has been a dream to work with everyone on the DRA board last year, and as we move seamlessly into 2023, I can't wait to collaborate with the new members that are joining us. 2022 was a year of many big changes to the profession: voice writers, firm registration, and the ever-waging war on digital reporting, but I have no doubt that DRA will be an unstoppable force protecting the written record now and for many years to come.

I have been reporting since 2016, mainly in the San Francisco area. My unbridled curiosity has led me to some crazy situations and locations in my short time reporting (from hospitals to prisons), and I have loved every minute of it! I have many DRA members to thank for ushering me into this new chapter of my life, and I hope to serve my second year as your District 1 rep by helping more reporters join our illustrious association. I am also devoted 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 I am fighting for is to simplify the process for students to become 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, play video games, and go kayaking.

Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano and Sonoma



DISTRICT 2

Shivanees Sujata Prasad

CSR No. 13983
Redwood City, CA

I graduated with my A.S. and B.S. degree in Court Reporting from Humphreys. I was honored as the overall outstanding student of the year for the years 2014 and 2016.

I received my CSR license in December 2014 and have been a freelance court reporter since. I became a partner at a small court reporting firm, Kelty & Scott, in October 2017.

I love this profession. I am eager to spread awareness on court reporting and mentoring students. I also look forward to learning more ways I can serve in this profession.

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

I began my career in CART where I quickly learned this job is not just about getting the words, but it is about having the knowledge to act on the fly because every day, every job, every case is different. Some of my most exciting assignments as a CART provider were for large audiences at venues such as TED conventions, in a cadaver lab with four cadavers for a whole semester, and even an art class with nude models, and many, many more. I'd love to share these funny, yet nail-biting stories with you.



DISTRICT 3
Jennifer Porto

CSR No. 14098
Long Beach, CA

I settled in at Cal State University, Long Beach providing CART. Soon my leadership skills were recognized by the Disabled Students Services director, and he appointed me as the pro tem director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing department. In this role I paired over 20-plus interpreters and CART providers with students, as well as advocating, mentoring, and helping students in their college path. Mentoring and advocating have always been a passion that I have put first in my life.

Los Angeles,
Santa Barbara,
and Ventura

CART was rewarding and never felt like “work,” but CART wasn’t my dream job. Depos were my dream, and it had been since the days of watching Perry Mason with my dad, so I left CART for the depo world.

I am so grateful for the mentors and friends who have helped me on my journey. It is an honor to have the privilege of being DRA’s District 3 representative. This is my opportunity to pay it forward. My favorite saying is, “You don’t know, what you don’t know, until you know.” As the District 3 representative, I will endeavor to be an advocate, a mentor, a fact-finder, and also a friend. If you have questions, comments, worries, need a voice, I am here to stand by your side. Bonded by steno, we are here for each other.



DISTRICT 4
Molly Cooper

CSR No. 14313, RPR
Fullerton, CA

I’m Molly Cooper, and I’m continuing as the District 4 Representative for DRA this year. I couldn’t be happier to have this opportunity to connect with, learn from, and assist however I can my fellow members and colleagues.

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

I earned both my CSR and RPR certifications in 2019, and I joined the DRA board of directors two years after that. I have a bachelor’s degree in linguistics from UC Santa Cruz, home of the banana slugs, and before finding the world of steno, I traveled the world and taught English as a second language (ESL).

I’m enthusiastic about language, community, and our profession because being a stenographer and being involved with the DRA board have allowed me to fully embrace my passions.



DISTRICT 5

Stephanie Bryant

CSR No. 13160, RPR
San Diego, CA

I am honored to be nominated as the DRA representative for District 5, and I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the mission of DRA. I began my amazing journey as a court reporter in January 2007. I started out freelancing for various firms in San Diego County, and shortly thereafter I began working as a pro tempore reporter in San Diego Superior Court. When court work slowed in 2014, I took on the long but beautiful commute to Imperial County for work until court work picked up again in San Diego.

Presently, most of my work involves freelance courtroom reporting, which I absolutely love. I have a passion for helping others succeed, and my goal is to work together with other reporters to advance our profession.

Apart from my work, I am married with four adult children and two adorable grandbabies. Over the past 30 years, I have served on school site councils, PTA foundations, and various youth organizations. Although it has been a while since I have had the opportunity to serve on any boards, I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to serving DRA to the best of my ability.

Imperial, Riverside,
San Bernardino,
and San Diego

CONVENTION RECAP

BY EVELYN MAH

I attended my first court reporters' convention over four decades ago. It was a motivational experience. I enjoyed all the seminars, but the best part was to listen to what the experienced reporters had to say. I hung on to their every word.

Thereafter, even as a young mother who was reporting full time, I made it a point to attend at least one seminar a year, whether it was state or national. Not only did I go for educational purposes and to keep abreast of issues impacting our profession, but it was to socialize with all the reporters. We work in a field where all too often the only time we get to see colleagues is at a holiday party. Once you get reporters together, we never run out of things to talk about.

This year, I sponsored a student. She was impressed with all the reporters who took time out to greet her and share stories with her. She was so enthusiastic that she decided to sign up at the convention to become a student member of DRA, whereupon she had a pleasant surprise. The association offered to sponsor her membership. She couldn't believe it!

Though some of the seminars might have been a bit advanced for students, such as the discussion of SB662 and some of the CAT training, they still offered students a chance to pick up useful information and pointers. I always say that my goal is to learn at least one thing at every convention.

There was so much valuable data and strategies shared at this convention about how to overcome obstacles that we reporters face. A recurring message was that the best way to address the threat of digital recorders is to produce more stenographic reporters. The students could see that there is a demand for reporters and the role they can play in being part of the solution. They could see that our conventions are a great place for reporters to raise questions, share experiences and have their voices heard. They were all so anxious to become part of the court reporting family.

This convention stirred memories of feelings I had at my first convention. I saw that same excitement in these students. It made me think that, as a long-time reporter, I have an obligation to mentor these young students and reporters, the same way that I was mentored as a new reporter. This is a wonderful way to give back to our profession by preparing these new students to be great reporters.

CONVENTION FEEDBACK

BY JESSICA ANDRADE

I honestly had the most amazing weekend at the CalDRA Convention. I'm a student at West Valley College, currently in the 80-100wpm speed goal class. I just started in September 2022 and have been so determined to succeed in school. When I was given the opportunity to be sponsored to go to this convention, I really had no idea what to expect. I'm a stay-at-home mom and have never been to anything like this before. I was nervous and so intimidated, but every single person I met was so encouraging and welcoming. I received so much advice and warm wishes, all my nerves were gone immediately. I was also given so many raffle tickets and put them all in the raffle for the Margie Wakeman Wells books and I won them! This alone meant so much to me. I need these books for school, but they have not been in my budget.

Even though I'm a student, I learned so much from the seminars I attended. I have new goals of learning realtime as I gain speed, and implementing meditation into my day to help me now as a student and when I'm a working reporter.



This convention motivated me so much. I feel like all of my goals and dreams will happen as long as I keep practicing. I can't wait till the day I can go as a working reporter and sponsor a student myself!

2023 CONVENTION PHOTOS

May 19-21, 2023, Costa Mesa, CA











THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

THE FUTURE OF STENO LIES IN RECRUITING

BY ANDREW TAEJIN HA, DOWNEY ADULT SCHOOL, 225 WPM, QUALIFIED STUDENT

Steno to the Future 2023 was my first DRA convention, and what I got out of it was a simultaneous feeling of hope and worry. On the one hand, the camaraderie and organizational efforts of its members revealed to me the backbone that keeps this industry going strong. On the other, the rising swell of SB662 puts peril on the horizon, a conflict that I feel relates to my origin as a court reporting student.

I first learned about court reporting as a profession in 2019 from a reddit AMA, which stands for “Ask Me Anything”. In this social media post, a court reporter of their own accord volunteered their time and knowledge to any reddit user who had a question about their experiences. From there, I searched for court reporting schools within driving distance, found Downey Adult School, and signed up. To sum it up, I discovered this career out of pure luck, and I think that is no good. I venture to consider insufficient recruiting to lie at the heart of SB662. For a career as illustrious as this, it’s shocking to learn that having too few members is threatening its future.

For those of you who did not attend Friday’s 11:00 AM seminar, “Legislative Update, New Laws, and CRB Q & A,” SB662 is a bill in the California Senate that would allow digital recording devices to take the place of a licensed court reporter in any civil proceeding, as opposed to a narrow number of civil proceedings as is the law at present. Normally, bills like this have been quashed in the past without much difficulty, as they have had very little support. After all, the accuracy and discernment of a licensed reporter over a digital recording device is beyond a reasonable doubt. However, SB662 now has the support of a broad coalition of virtually every labor and legal group in California – except court reporters. But why?

Well, for those of you who did not attend Saturday’s 3:30 PM seminar, “How can you help us to build our future steno ranks,” you may be as surprised as I was to learn that the average number of new court reporters dropped from around

400 per year in past decades to just 60 per year within the last eight years. People are flocking to support SB662 because they have a desperate need for transcripts but lack the licensed reporters to provide them. There is no doubt in my mind that there needs to be a reformation in recruitment.

So how should we engage recruitment? Social media sounds obvious, as it’s everywhere, and that is what brought me. But while awareness is important, I think access and demographics should be considered, too. After all, what’s the point of learning about court reporting if there is no accessible school? Who can most spare the time and expense than the newly christened adult with unspent federal student aid? Furthermore, social media relies on going viral, and the ephemeral nature of internet popularity is beyond the scope of my direct expertise.

I believe reaching out to college-bound kids is the key. They need to know that this career is not only a real option, like I never knew at their age, but that it can guarantee financial security and independence sooner than any science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medical, or other legal education would. I believe that financial independence and the hope for a healthy work/life balance is the most prescient concern on the minds of young adults today.

I think we can make progress by increasing engagement with schools beyond the occasional lukewarm career day booth. We can organize direct court reporter visitation presentations to classrooms. More loftily, we can team up with other officers of the court to organize entire school assemblies to both educate students about the legal system and spread awareness about our profession.

At the DRA convention, I watched *My Cousin Vinny* for the first time with a few other attendees. I recall so much excitement over how the movie portrays a court reporter. That reporter, while definitely present, had no speaking lines. Suffice to say, we cannot rely on Hollywood to drive recruitment for us. We must take action. When the first court reporters cross the threshold of the classroom doorway, I hope to be among their number.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON SB 662

MARY PIERCE, CALDRA LEGISLATIVE CHAIR

So there's good news and bad news on SB 662, the bill proposed by State Senator Elena Rubio that would have expanded the use of electronic recording in civil courtrooms. While it did not progress to the Senate floor for a vote prior to the May 19th deadline, it also did not die in the suspense file. This proposal may be brought back to the California legislature as early as January 2024.

As you are likely aware, this bill came about because some attorneys were having a difficult time securing a Certified Shorthand Reporter to report proceedings in court, whether it be a hearing or a trial. Further, they take the position that many litigants cannot afford the rates charged for a privately hired CSR.

This type of bill has certainly been proposed in the past, but with the exception of the failed program that used ER in the courtrooms in the early 2000s, previous proposals never gained much traction. But the coverage issue presents a new dilemma that seemingly gives more credence to simply audio recording proceedings. Their argument is that it's either an audio recording, which may later be transcribed, or nothing. And that seems to make sense to a lot of legislators who may not understand well enough how we do our jobs and the training and experience that make us indispensable.

One of the best things we can do immediately to push back on this effort to replace us in courtrooms with a seriously inferior process is to better manage the human resources currently available to us by, whenever possible, hiring an official for every courtroom in the state. These efforts are underway, but they are not likely to solve the problem in the near future. Secondly, the courts should require all parties to any court proceeding, be it trial or hearing, to meet and confer to prevent more than one court reporter being hired

to report the same proceeding. In fact, if they could staff all law-and-motion proceedings in every courtroom with a single reporter, the numbers of reporters that would become available on a given day would be significant.

Next we need to call on all of you to participate in recruiting efforts in any way that you can. Remember, court reporting is the best career that most people have never heard of. While recent efforts to promote the profession have resulted in many court reporting schools experiencing significant increases in enrollment, it will take a year or two for enough students to complete the program and pass the state exam to make the first dent in the coverage issue, and closer to five or ten years to get enough new licensees to offset what will surely be the retirement of many reporters that are approaching the end of their careers.

The proposal for electronic recording will not be going away anytime soon. We must rally together to educate the general public, the legal community, and the legislators in Sacramento who will be voting on the bill if and when it returns to their desks.

More than ever, it is important that you remain members of your state and national associations and actively participate in their advocacy. Continue to sharpen your professional skills and be The Gold Standard. Attend career fairs and community colleges to recruit new students to the profession. Reach out to your local high school and ask if you can speak to a class or two about court reporting, or alert them to the Project Steno program and educate them as to how it can be brought to their campus.

Together we can fortify our position and demonstrate why a licensed Certified Shorthand Reporter remains the gold standard, that we're here to stay, and that the proper administration of justice would never be the same without us.

TIPS/TPR/T/TPROPBT/LAOEUPB

BY LINDSAY PINKHAM, CSR 3716, CRR, CCRR

CONFIDENTIAL DEPOSITION TRANSCRIPTS

What do you do if one attorney wants to designate a portion confidential and the other side does not? Here is a summary of what I found on the CR Board website, plus my own 2 cents' worth.

A deposition (or portion of such) may be designated confidential in two ways:

- (1) By court order (i.e., protective order)
- (2) By stipulation

If there is a protective order in place, ask them to send it to you in case there are special instructions. Always ask if they want the confidential portion(s) bound separately in hard copy and split into a separate electronic file, or if it can remain together with the confidential portions indicated on the cover and index (I learned this the hard way).

Also, if exhibits were marked during the confidential portion, ask if it's all right to show their descriptions in the index of the nonconfidential portion.

Absent one of the above, if there is a disagreement about whether a portion may be designated confidential, the reporter has no authority to so designate a transcript. If counsel states he/she intends to seek a court order, give him/her a date by which he/she must transmit the order to you, or you will have no choice but to send it out as nonconfidential.

Now, if it's an expedite or a daily and counsel doesn't have enough time to get a court order, I don't have an answer for that! It's never happened to me in 45 years of reporting, so I think that would be a rare instance.



CSR STATISTICS MARCH 2023

Court Reporters Board Dictation Examination Statistics - Mar 2023

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Charles A. Jones (CLOSED)	4	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
College of Marin	3	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Cypress	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
Downey	12	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Humphreys University	4	2	50.0%	0	0	n/a
South Coast	14	3	21.4%	2	1	50.0%
Taft	5	1	20.0%	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	1	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
School Total	44	6	13.6%	4	1	25.0%
Five Plus	15	1	6.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of State	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	20	15	75.0%	13	11	84.6%
CVR	4	2	50.0%	3	2	66.7%
Working Reporter	4	1	25%	4	1	25.0%
TOTAL	87	25	28.7%	24	15	62.5%

**CALDRA EXTENDS ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO
OUR 2023 CONVENTION VENDORS, BUT FOR WHOM
WE WOULD NOT HAVE HAD NEARLY
AS SUCCESSFUL AN EVENT!**

Stenograph

YesLaw

Cover Crow

ProCAT

Reporters Connection

Tocara

**CALDRA WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY ITS SINCERE
GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS, WITHOUT
WHOM WE COULD NEVER HAVE THE LEVEL OF SUCCESS
WE HAVE EACH YEAR AT OUR CONVENTION.
YOUR GENEROSITY IS NOT LOST ON US.
THANK YOU!**

**Scanlan Stone Reporters
Chase Litigation Services
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Vega Court Reporting
Behmke Reporting & Video Services
Kelty & Scott Court Reporters
Bay City Reporting
Regal Court Reporting
McDaniel Reporting
Seitz Reporting Services
Jonnell Agnew & Associates
Todd Olivas & Associates
Elite Court Reporting**

**Dianne Jones & Associates
Pantera Court Reporters
Peterson Reporting
The Steno Doctor
Carol Nygard & Associates
South Coast College
Bayside Reporting Company
Calloquy PBC
Freeman Reporting
Jean Kim
Heather Logan
Laurie Willson**



New Members

Jessica Andrade	Kimberly Morrow
Ai Arias	Kerry Murphy
Debbie Benson	Lisa Palmer
Leah Chu	Adriana Patron
April Crites	Beatrice Quiggle
Celena Davis	Marianne Reid
Michelle Dawkins	Abigail Rodriguez
Jan Duiven	Suzanne Rodriguez
Monique Gentry	Denise Ross
Jeanette Gillick	Tia Sam
Natalie Gomez	Julia Schwarzbach
Andrew Ha	Marina Scott
Karen Kidwell	Linda Shaw
Jaclyn Kinsbursky	Alexis Sheehan
Chantell Lary	Aimee Skochko
Cody Le Mere	Jessica Smalley
Monique Leinow	Melinda Sylvester
Jessica Lopez	Peijhen Thoennes
Shayna Lutsky	Melissa Vargas
Louis Machuca	Jennifer Warren
Christina Magallanes	Lynn Ann Waters
Paulina Maldonado	Kamaren Williams
Kathy Mannlein	Jacqueline Yorba

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE

Student Sponsorships/Donations:

Lindsay Pinkham	Diane Freeman
Evelyn Mah	Althea Miller
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Christianne Fong	Devon Willard
Lucy Carrillo-Grubbs	Bridget Mastrobattista
Celeste Poppe	Sonia Renee Foreman
Marcella Sylvester	Cheryl Haab
Colleen Redamonti	Holly Moose
Kathy Mannlein	Molly Cooper
Cheryl Kamalski	Mary Pierce
Jonnell Agnew	Aptus Court Reporting
Lorrie Marchant	



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ONLY YOUR DRA TAKES THE FIGHT EVERYWHERE

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



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



Reporter Spotlight: EVELYN MAH

Rancho Palos Verdes

How long have you been reporting?

This is my 45th year of reporting

Where did you grow up?

We moved to Los Angeles from the Imperial Valley when I was 11 years old so I consider myself an Angeleno



Tell us about your family.

I grew up in a large family. I have four sisters and one brother. My dad immigrated here as a teenager and worked in a grocery store. He eventually owned several grocery stores. When he was of marriage age, he was arranged to be married to my mom. Although it was an arranged marriage, my mom said that it was okay to reject someone whom they picked for you.

My dad tells the story that he had his friends go spy on my mom to see if she was pretty. I guess he thought she was because they were married for a long time.

I have a much smaller family, one son and one daughter. I have a granddaughter and a grandson. My son is an artist and my daughter is an architect. They went the creative route. I could not convince either of them to be court reporters.

Do you have any pets?

Right now we don't have any pets. We are appreciating the time with no responsibility for kids or pets.

How did you first get involved with DRA?

I made life-long friends in court reporting school. We started attending conferences as brand-new reporters because they always had them in fun places. When we attended, it was always so motivating to hear stories of some of the more experienced reporters. I always picked up valuable information at every convention I've ever attended. Now that I've been reporting for a long time, I've become that experienced reporter that young reporters and students come to for advice. I think conventions are great places to learn while having fun.

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

When I'm not reporting, I like to hike and eat all over the world. I have a group of hiking friends who all live in my community. Every weekend, we hike all the local trails in Palos Verdes. They all love to eat as much as I do. We also like to experiment in cooking and have some pretty extravagant parties.

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

Nothing exotic, but I've traveled to every state to work. I own my agency and picked the short straw for a job that lasted two years in Paris and a three-month job in Shanghai.

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

I absolutely would. I was randomly attending college and have a degree in business administration. I really didn't know what I was going to do with that until I heard a teaser ad on the radio. I went to my college counselor and was directed to some private schools. I took a night theory class at Cerritos College which took two semesters. After I completed that, I quit college and my job and went full time. I have hand-picked some of the nicest clients, and they have made this profession so enjoyable.

.....
CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

Reporter Spotlight: EVELYN MAH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

What is one professional accomplishment you'd still like to achieve?

I would like to be the agency that does not sell out to the big boxes. I love this profession so much and it has been so good to me. It would be a betrayal if I did that.

What's your cocktail order?

Sorry, but I don't drink. If I did, if you put uni in it, I'd like it!

Do you still practice on your machine?

No, I have never practiced since getting out of school. I would write 500 to 1,000 pages every week for most of my career so it was "on-the-job practice." When I've taken off for a period of time, I would write in my head to the news. It works. I used to do that in school as well. Did you know you can still drop writing in your head?

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

Make a schedule for yourself and stick to it. Track your practice time. Make realistic goals.

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

A psychologist. After reporting for over 40 years, I finally know what I want to do when I grow up. Psychologist depositions are always so interesting.

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

Sushi.

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Gambling.

Why is DRA membership important to you?

You must support your state and national associations. You may not always agree with every action they take, but it's a place where your voice can be heard. It's a place where you will learn what is happening in the industry. In my long career, this is the first time I feel fearful. It's so crucial that we come together to strategize on how to keep this profession going. There are some very sophisticated people trying to take us down, and we all have to do our share to fight.



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Winners Of The Winter 2023 Newsletter Pop Quiz – It's A Tie!

Jess Munoz
CSR No. 9050
Anaheim, California

I was in Los Angeles taking a deposition. It was all men in the conference room. There were four attorneys and the male witness.

The witness was a Hispanic gentleman with that biker look - gold chain around his neck, tattoos and pony tail.

One of the injuries he was claiming was a scar he had on his groin area.

So near the end of the deposition, my attorney asked him how big the scar was on his groin.

And the witness looked at all of us and said, "We're all men in here," and he unzipped his pants and lowered his underwear and exposed his genitals.

The witness just stood there with his hands on his hips until my attorney finally told him, "Okay. You can put that away now."

And as I looked at his penis and looked at my machine, I said to myself, "How do I stroke that?"

Betty Salois
CSR No. 4768
Ben Lomond, California

A week or two ago, I had a deposition via Zoom with a very high profile egocentric business lawyer from San Jose who has been in business since I started reporting (43 years ago). Well, he let everyone know that he had a hard stop at 3:30 or something like that, and around 3:15 (he was defending the depo) he proceeded to get up from his chair and start walking around his office. His laptop had a full view of his office. Well, he proceeded to take his shirt off, and I was like okay, that's different, and he changed into a T shirt. I didn't think much of it. He kept walking around in circles. Then much to my disbelief he literally dropped his drawers right there down to his tighty whities! His T shirt only came to about couple inches below his belly button. I was speechless (of course I can't speak anyway as the reporter but still LOL). He walked around like that for a minute or two before bending down to grab a pair of sweatpants. When he bent over, I saw he had a big hole in his undies! I put myself on mute at that point because I couldn't help but laugh out loud!! I was laughing so incredibly hard, I couldn't believe it. Thankfully, for his sake, there was a document on the share screen. He was on the side in one of the boxes. I thought no one saw it except me. At the end of the depo, the deposing attorney made a joke about him appearing in criminal court, which he completely didn't get - and neither did I until I logged off. Then the lightbulb went on and I realized the deposing attorney saw him too. Haha. No videographer, unfortunately -- or fortunately, for his sake!



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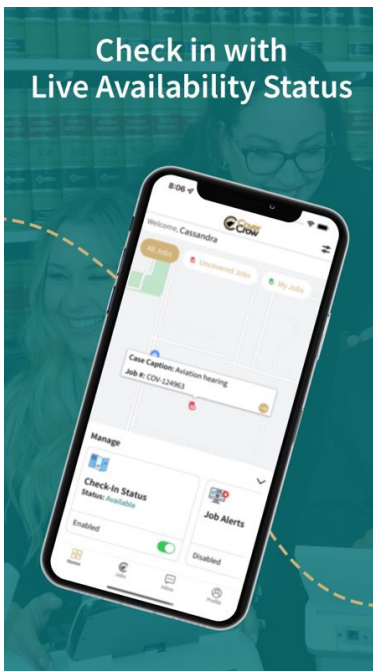
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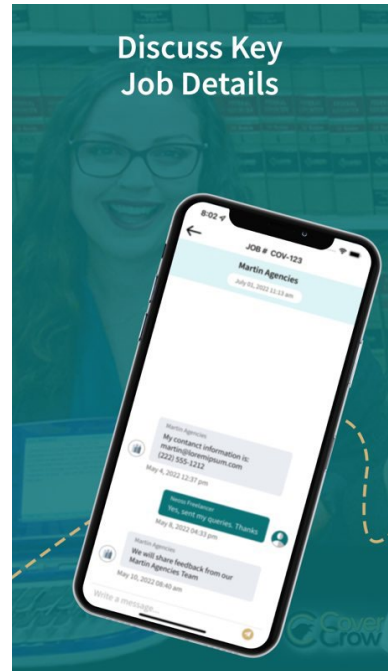
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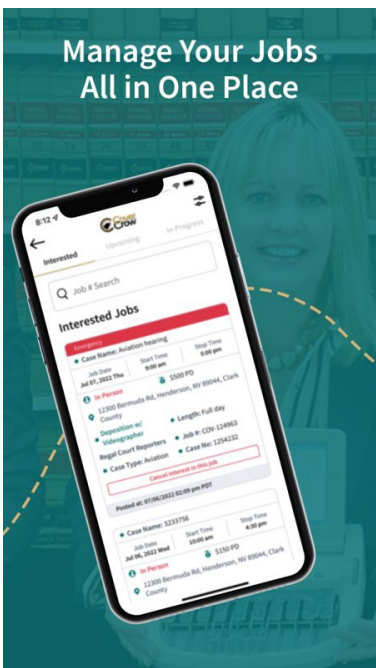
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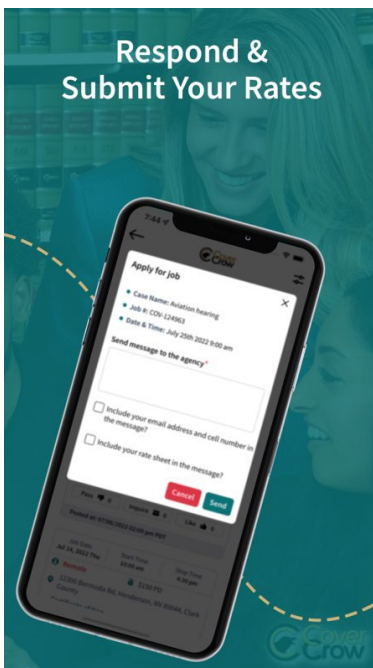
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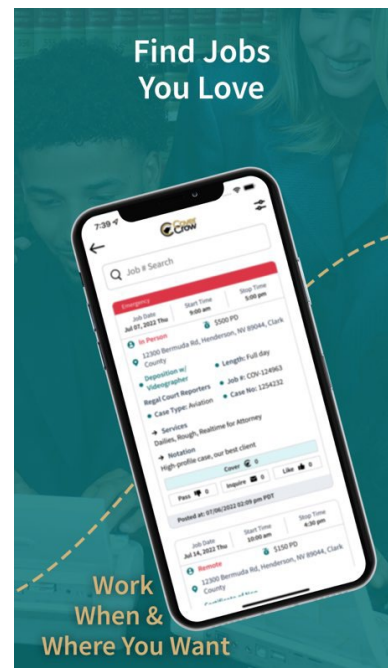
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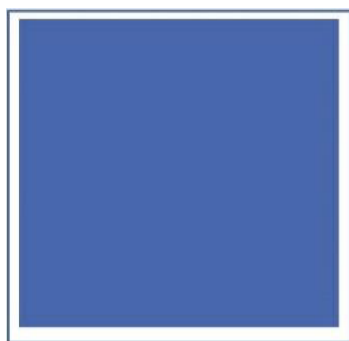
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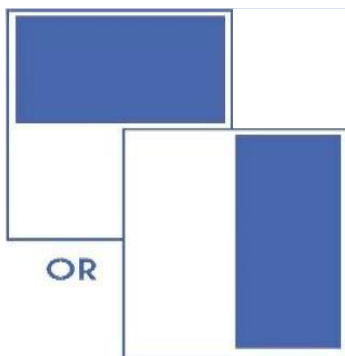
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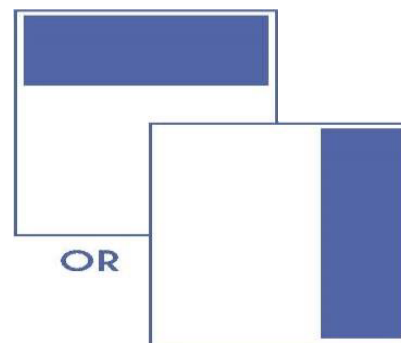
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