

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

CONVENTION EDITION 2015

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FREELANCE DEPOSITION
REPORTER



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RICH ALOSSI, RPR, CCRR, CSR,
DRA PRESIDENT

Esteemed colleagues, we have a problem on our hands.

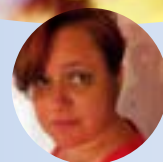
For generations, court reporters have cherished our singular role as guardians of the record, even in the face of a sometimes tremendously difficult task. We've taken pride in our skills, our products, and our service to the legal community. In return, many of us have been rewarded with a highly respected career and a good income.

But we've all seen the challenges facing our industry. No longer simply lurking in the shadows, discussions at networking events and on social media make it plain to see that court reporting is facing a serious identity crisis.

Complacency has allowed biased pricing structures and low-quality product to show up at the door. Much like unwelcome houseguests, they've brought their bags with them and appear to be settling in for the long haul.

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WHY I ATTEND



HEATHERLYNN GONZALEZ, CSR

The bags are unpacked. The Friday night mixer, Saturday afternoon lunch, and Sunday goodbyes are all pleasant memories. Another DRA annual convention has passed. And as I take a break from editing to write this article, I think about all of the conventions I've attended and, more importantly, why I attend them.

My first was Concord, California. I had no idea what I, as a student, was walking into. I didn't know what a court reporting convention could possibly be like. I assumed it would be a very staid, sedate group of professional men and women discussing the future of the court

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ladies and gentlemen, it's time to take back our industry.

DRA's bill to address contracting, AB 1197 (Bonilla), supported by a coalition including Consumer Watchdog and our colleagues at the California Official Court Reporters Association (COCRA), is the culmination of our grassroots "There Oughta Be a Law" sessions in every corner of the state. This bill sheds light on the practices that cause the appearance of impartiality in our industry.

We listened to you when, with alarming frequency, you spoke of seeing free services being doled out to one side in litigation and not the other and of outrageous fees being charged for certified copies in a practice known as cost-shifting. Worse still, the working reporter or small-firm owner rarely, if ever, benefits from the practices designed to harvest as much money as quickly as possible from the industry, causing lasting harm to our image and to our livelihoods.

Make no mistake: If we don't act now, the consumers of our services will act for us. The time is right to address this issue on our own terms.

In the coming months, you will be called upon to do your part to help get this bill passed and to send a message that our ethics are not for sale. Your DRA, the nation's largest trade association dedicated to freelance deposition reporters, is fighting for you. Only by standing together, with your membership and your support, can we secure the future of this noble profession.



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SMILES FOR DRA



Thank you, DRA, for a great first convention as a working reporter, and for the chance to catch up with friends from school, new colleagues, FB friends, and meet some of the great reporters and soon-to-be great reporters. I am heading home renewed, revived, and with an overflowing brain.

– Aimee Edwards-Altadonna

Thank you for an amazing [convention] weekend. I learned so much and met so many wonderful people... and I'm an Official! Awesome job to all those that put this event together.

– Teresa Maciel

DRA has been doing fabulous work, and I'm grateful and honored to be a member.

– Sarah Foss

I do appreciate everything that DRA has done and continues to do for the freelance court reporting community. This is why I have renewed my membership.

– Martha Raygoza

Thanks to DRA for all your work that you do. I really value my membership in this organization.

– Sherryl Dobson

WHY I ATTEND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reporting industry, latest technological innovations, and perhaps some polite socializing over a glass or two of wine. But I was feeling stuck in school. I felt stalled in my speed. And I needed to find someone -- anyone! -- who could give me some encouragement.

Cut to my first Friday night reception where Past President and Founding Member Karen Klein is whooping me at Wii bowling. I left that convention with a renewed sense of purpose, a mock CSR under my belt, and a greatly enlarged network of working reporters that I felt I could call and ask questions of. I've been to every convention since.

Each convention has its own flavor. Napa had wine tasting and golf; Palm Springs had the lovely outdoor reception in the balmy 78-degree February evening; Disneyland had -- well, Disneyland. But few places are as lovely as Monterey. Listening to the waves crashing, the seals calling, the creak and snap of the boats.

And every convention has something in common, which is the opportunity to discuss, learn, network, vent, and bond with some of the best, most professional CSRs this state has to offer. I have never attended a convention where I didn't have at least one moment where I said to myself, "Ah! That was worth the price of the whole convention." I have never left a convention without at least one new networking contact.

This was my second Monterey convention. The first one that I attended in Monterey was my first as a professional member. I was so proud of not having the "Student" ribbon on the bottom of my nametag. I was so proud of having all



the men and women who had mentored me throughout my schooling congratulating me on being a working reporter. Somehow that seemed almost as exciting as getting that letter from the CRB and taking my first job. This was my reporting family. These are the people who get what I do in a way that absolutely no one else can.

With this convention, I've been working for a couple of years. I could afford to actually stay at the hotel that the convention was at. And now there are students talking to me about what it's like to be a working reporter. I'm the one giving the encouragement. And I don't think I could be prouder of the people I see coming up through the student ranks.

So yes, the bags are unpacked, the smell of salty sea air is fading into memory, but the renewed sense of family, of being part of a larger group that stands up for me, of having people that I can vent with, question, and who get what I do, will carry me for a long, long time. It's given me the courage to try things that I wouldn't have otherwise, because I know there are people I can talk to and get information from in DRA. I take trials, I jumped into Realtime, and I push myself because of the people I meet during these conventions. These are the people I want to emulate. And I would never have known them if not for the conventions.

So when I ask myself why I go to the conventions, all the usual reasons of excellent seminars, fun events, and great weekends away in beautiful places spring to mind. But the true reason I go is the people. The people who inspire me -- both with words and with their actions -- to be the best reporter I can possibly be; the people whose infinite knowledge and drive in our field reminds me to never become complacent; the people who remind me that the best way we can survive and excel in this incredibly solitary field is by sticking together.



DRA PRESENTS 2015 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT HOLLY MOOSE

"It is kindness and empathy and selflessness and treating people as ends, not means to your own happiness that are the hallmarks of truly strong people like Holly Moose." – Ed Howard, DRA Lobbyist

It is the Deposition Reporters Association's great honor to present its 2015 Distinguished Service Award to Holly Moose, CSR, RDR, CRR, CCRR, CLR.

After obtaining her B.A. in English from UC Berkeley in 1981, Holly completed a Bay Area court reporting program and has been a successful deposition reporter since 1984. She loves her career and has dedicated an enormous amount of time to promoting the reporting profession. Holly began serving on the Board of the Deposition Reporters Association of California (DRA) in 2002. She was president in 2006 and continues to serve on the board in several capacities, including as chair of the committee that oversees administration of the California Certificate in Realtime Reporting certification test.

Holly is currently serving on the National Court Reporters Association's Committee on Professional Ethics and is a member of its Ethics First program. She has attained the NCRA certifications of Registered Professional Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Registered Diplomate Reporter, and Certified Realtime Reporter as well as the California Certificate in Realtime Reporting.

In August of 2013, Holly was inducted as a Fellow into the NCRA Academy of Professional Reporters. Fellowship in the Academy of Professional Reporters is a professional distinction conferred upon a person of outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting. Candidates for Fellow are required to have been in the active practice of reporting for at least 10 years and to have attained distinction as measured by performance, which includes publication of important papers, creative contributions, service on committees or boards, teaching, and so on. Candidates are nominated for fellowship by their peers.



Holly has been a National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) Angel Donor continuously since 2010. NCRF Angels are individuals or firms who commit to donate at least \$1,000 to NCRF in a 12-month time frame. These individuals demonstrate a true commitment to the foundation and the court reporting profession.

We are pleased to present this Distinguished Service Award to you, Holly. Thank you for everything you do for DRA!

ED HOWARD'S INTRODUCTION OF HOLLY MOOSE

It is my singular honor to present, on your behalf, Holly Moose, DRA's 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipient. So let's get the résumé stuff over with first. Nimble up your fingers; I'm gonna go fast.

Holly Moose: 30-year depo reporter, DRA member since the beginning, DRA secretary, district rep, vice president, president, newsletter editor. She's served on every committee and currently chairs two. RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, E-I-E-I-O. 2013, admitted as a Fellow to the elite and prestigious Academy of Professional Reporters. Responsible for NCRA's policy of banning kickbacks nationally.

Single-handedly responsible, more than anybody else, for introducing more people to the benefits of DRA, its importance to your profession and your way of life than, like, any person, sort of like, ever.

And weirdly enough, these are almost none of the reasons why I am so honored to be standing up here to introduce her. I am honored to be standing up here to introduce her simply because Holly is one of the most remarkable people I have ever met.

I am overly fond of thinking about our lives as works of art and that when we are born, we each get a canvas upon which to paint. And the colors or shapes that end up on the canvas are the irrevocable consequences our choices have had on other people. And just as a painter's choice of color or line reveals the artist's ambition and strengths and weaknesses, more than anything else, it is the choices we make when those choices affect other people that reveal who we really are. Words can lie and memories can twist, but choices never do. They endure.

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2015 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD: HOLLY MOOSE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

And, Holly, on this exquisite day, on this beautiful day, looking out at all these people who would not be here but for you, and at an organization that would not be what it is but for you, look at what your choices have painted. Like you, it is simply gorgeous.

Holly's painting is so beautiful because Holly is one of the strongest people I have ever met. Too often strength is associated with stereotypically masculine traits like bellicosity, vehemence, superficial confidence or a deep voice. But it is kindness and empathy and selflessness and treating other people as ends, not as means, to your own happiness and simply behaving correctly toward other people, that are the hallmarks of truly strong people like Holly.

What does she weigh? Like, 90 pounds? It is no exaggeration therefore to say that with one arm and little effort I could pick Holly up and carry her around this room while having a conversation and sipping a full glass of chardonnay, barely spilling a drop. But that's not strength. That's nothing. Because for 30 years this wisp of a woman has, with grace, the small smile that you see right now, a quiet voice never raised, carried with true strength all of you to better places and carried you there with the determination and relentlessness of an East German weightlifter but with the delicate and sweet elegance of a prima ballerina.

Holly, inaptly on behalf of your professional colleagues, thank you for making their lives better. And aptly, on behalf of me, thank you for the privilege of letting me know you.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my high honor to present to you DRA's 2015 Distinguished Service Award recipient, Ms. Holly Moose.

HOLLY MOOSE'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

I've watched a number of very impressive people stand up here and receive this award, and I'm always amazed at how many of them say "But I haven't done anything." And I always think, "How can you say that? It's just not true."

Well, it occurs to me that maybe what they mean is they haven't done anything they haven't wanted to do. That's certainly true for me. I haven't done anything I haven't wanted to, that I haven't LOVED doing. I love this profession. I love being a reporter, even after all this time. How fortunate am I to be able to say that?

I've had a lot of support along the way. My dear family and friends have been subjected time and again to my many, many diatribes. They listen patiently and encourage me. My husband has been extremely supportive. Poor thing's been married to me and to DRA for longer than he'd care to reflect upon, I'm sure. He graciously supports all my crusading. He knows how important it is. And then there's DRA, without whom this career would be just a job. But it's not ... because being able to work side by side with this amazing group of leaders is such a privilege. They care. They care about ethics. They care about righting wrongs. And they put so darn much time into making things better for all of us.

I think it's their determination to see things through that I most admire. They don't look at the end zone and say "How are we going to get this ball down there? Forget it. It's too hard." No. They say "This is what we need to do first, and we'll go from there." And they get it done. Not overnight. But...drop by drop is the water pot filled. Drop by drop. And they don't stop there. They never stop having goals. And that is SO inspiring. It is because of DRA that this career is not just a job; to me, it is a joy.

So even as I stand up here and accept this award, which means the world to me, I have to say it is I who have benefited. Personally and professionally, I have gained...so much. Thank you DRA. Thank you ALL for this tremendous honor.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS RAFFLE DONORS!

DRA has the best members! The 2015 DRA raffle at the Monterey convention was a complete success because of you, our DRA members. The thrill and excitement of winning a prize was certainly in the air. We raffled off an iPad Air, iPad Mini, 1911 Stenotype machine, Dymo label printer, realtime router, numerous gift cards, gift baskets, purses, and steno supplies, just to name a few. Our raffle would not be possible without all the generous donations you, our members, provide. Thank you!

(Due to the sheer volume of donations received on site, please accept our sincerest apologies if we have somehow neglected to include you on this list. Please know that DRA truly appreciates you!)

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DRA Student Corner

HOW DRA BROUGHT ME OUT OF MY SHELL

CELESTE POPPE

This past fall, I received an email that made me grin from ear to ear, but at the same time made my stomach do some cartwheels with nerves.

Jessie Waack, convention chair for the recent 2015 Deposition Reporters Association (DRA) convention in Monterey, asked me if I wanted to be a speaker for a student seminar at the convention. I don't remember exactly how I reacted after I read that email, but I'm sure it was some embarrassing dance move that I will only ever do again with no one else around. I have always admired and looked up to all of the speakers I have seen at past conventions, and I've always been so in awe of them and grateful for the insight they provide. I always tell other reporters and students, "I always learn something at a DRA convention. Always." Now I was about to be one of those inspirational speakers that people look forward to listening to in a seminar? I was completely overwhelmed with



honor, but, at the same time, envisioning myself making a complete fool of myself stumbling over every word.

Shortly after receiving that email, I received a phone call from Past President Sue Campana on New Year's Eve, just before midnight struck, informing me that I was one of the winners of the DRA Scholarship. I think I busted out another one of my embarrassing dance moves. Once again, I was overwhelmed with honor and just pure happiness. As if things could get any better!

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DRA Student Corner

HOW DRA BROUGHT ME OUT OF MY SHELL

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With the convention fast approaching, I struggled with what to talk about in my seminar, "Marketing Yourself to Agencies." Luckily, I had the best partner in crime, Monyeen Black, to help guide me on how we should conduct our seminar together. Monyeen has been a speaker dozens of times, so I felt extremely relieved to have her as a partner for her input and guidance on how to make our seminar perfect. I can't even describe how nervous I was. Even though all of the seminar slides were completed on my flight to Monterey, I still went over them probably three more times to make sure I was going to cover all of the important points I wanted to address (and, of course, making sure there were no punctuation errors Monyeen and I might have overlooked.) Monyeen and I actually did a practice run in our hotel room on Saturday night because I was that nervous! I really wanted students to walk away feeling like I do after every seminar, having learned at least one thing and been motivated to get back on my writer.

As soon as I arrived in Monterey and stepped foot into the hotel, I felt as if I was home, even though this was the first time ever coming to this hotel and being many, many miles away from my real home. Being surrounded by court reporters who know exactly what struggles you are going through almost gives you a sense of ease, knowing you already have something in common with someone and could talk for hours. You see someone with a badge walking around with their name on it. They know your struggle. They've been there before. I always have someone new I meet at a convention give me wonderful words of encouragement that I can do it. I CAN graduate court reporting school. The entire atmosphere just makes you feel comfortable. Everyone is so happy, cheerful, happy to meet you, glad you are a part of DRA, and sometimes maybe a little tipsy!

Sunday approached, and Monyeen and I took the podium. It all seemed to just fly by. Every attendee had great questions, and answering their questions felt like I was not only was actually teaching them something, but I actually KNEW what I was talking about! It felt like I was just having a normal conversation with a friend when they asked me a certain question. What the heck was I so nervous for? It flew by so quickly, we had probably ten or more slides left to cover. I met so many new reporters and students, as I always do at conventions. I'm sure many will become fast friends just because I talked to them for a brief moment, or we went out to dinner in the same group where not everyone knew each other!

Before DRA, I was working as a clerk at a law firm in Downtown Los Angeles, when a familiar face walked by my little corner of an office -- Vicki Saber, who is now my current boss and a past president of DRA. I had done gymnastics with Vicki's daughter when we were younger. Vicki was at the law firm to take a deposition. At that time, I wasn't really familiar with what a deposition was. I had only seen a few transcripts come across my desk, but I had no idea what Vicki's role was in them. I told her I was in school to be a paralegal; although, in all honesty, I wasn't really 100 percent sure about my decision. She responded, "You don't want to be a paralegal, trust me." She told me to research everything and anything about the court reporting profession. I did my homework as she instructed me to, as I was very intrigued.

"Hmmm... I can type pretty fast on a keyboard. This seems like something I could do with a breeze -- get out of school in only two years and make a lot of money." Ha. I think that's what we all thought coming into this career; right? So in May of 2011, I became a Bryan University online student, and I quickly fell in love. For some reason, steno just made perfect sense to me.

Fast forward to January of 2013. I was in my 140's. I receive an email from Vicki offering me the opportunity to be her office manager at her court reporting agency. I thought to myself, "What?! I'm only a student! I have no idea what this entails!" But I knew that this was the best decision I could make for myself. I would have an insider's perspective while still being in school. I accepted the job thinking that I was going to just be putting transcripts together and answering three agency's phones. Little did I realize at the time, there was WAY more to the job than I first imagined.

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DRA Student Corner

HOW DRA BROUGHT ME OUT OF MY SHELL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Vicki told me it would be really good for me to join DRA, attend the upcoming DRA convention of 2013 to meet my other bosses, Monyeen Black and Kristi Johnson, and attend seminars to learn about things that would help me in my schooling. I had never been a part of an association before; so, once again, I was intrigued. I was extremely nervous to go to the convention in Newport Beach because the ONLY person I knew was Vicki. Yes, I was meeting my other two new bosses, but this was going to be only my first time meeting them. The only people I ever “knew” from my online school were the fellow classmates who had their webcams turned on during class, and didn’t know if anyone from my class would be attending, let alone if they knew anything about DRA.

I arrived at the convention, nervous as ever, and attended my very first seminar. Mary Bardellini, a founding member of DRA, came running through the seminar sporting an oversized T-shirt with a skinny girl’s body in a bikini on it, carrying a surfboard, and wearing a snorkel, yelling, “Ride the wave! Ride the wave!” “Ride the wave” was the theme for that year’s seminar. I think everyone in that room was crying from laughter.

That’s the moment I knew I was going to have a great weekend at this convention, even if I was by myself. However, that weekend I met a lot of working reporters who actually approached ME to have a conversation with, simply because I was just standing at the cocktail party by myself with my DRA badge on. They wanted to know about my journey thus far.

I drove home that weekend feeling amazing, comfortable, happy, thrilled, and overwhelmed with joy. Not only did I come into the right career for me, but I had met a great association of people who made me feel like I was also important as a student and who understood my struggles.

Since my first seminar, I have been trying to be actively part of DRA, working full time for Vicki, Kristi, and Monyeen, taking audio transcription jobs every now and then, and still a court reporting student. If you had known me before my very first DRA convention, you would have

SMILES FOR DRA’s STUDENT PICNIC

There was a time in my student career when I knew virtually nothing about the variety of career opportunities that would be available to me as a skilled stenographer. I went to school because it was what I was supposed to do, not because I enjoyed it or because I was determined to start my career. Practice always felt like a chore, and I thought about quitting several times each week. My limited motivation had somehow pushed me to around 100 wpm before I attended my first student event.

The 2013 DRA Student Picnic was a life-altering experience for me. I met reporters who shared with me the incredible places and things they had seen throughout their careers. I’d previously had no idea how vast and fascinating this line of work could be. I also met other court reporting students and learned that I was not alone in my effort to embrace constant “failure.”

After having a great time at the picnic, I left feeling totally inspired to start my own journey as a deposition reporter. In the year since then, I’ve had a very focused approach to my education and have been much more social in the court reporting community. Having the opportunity to hang out with real-world reporters and fellow students at the picnic is what made all the difference for me.

– Andy Rodriguez

The first court reporting event I attended was the 2013 DRA Student Picnic. Since then I have attended many other events, but that one will always be the most significant because of how it changed the course of my career as a student and, consequently, how it will impact my career as a professional. Prior to the picnic, my focus throughout school had been to pass the next test when it came to me. I had gotten to 120 wpm that way, but my progression through the speeds up to that point was very passive. The picnic is what gave me the positive motivation I needed to begin applying myself to my full potential. Less than a year later, I was at 200 wpm!

At the picnic I met working reporters who told me about how much they loved their jobs and about all the interesting depositions they had taken. I played balloon toss, ate delicious food, and even won a flash drive. I discovered that students from different schools, as well as reporters who hadn’t been students for decades, understood the struggle I was going through. I left feeling incredibly supported and completely reenergized. While saying goodbye to a particularly inspiring reporter I had met earlier that day, she said, “Hurry and get your license so that you can join us on the other side!” That is when I realized that I was no longer just a steno student. I was a future court reporter.

– Melissa Murray

probably seen a completely different person. I was actually a very shy person when I first met people. I can’t even believe that I put my big girl pants on and went to a convention all by my lonesome. I have definitely broken out of my shy shell and have really found who I truly am, thanks to DRA.

DRA has not only provided me with the right tools to be a successful reporter, but it has brought me great memories, many laughs, new knowledge, and some of my best friends. Despite what little free time I may have, this past year was probably one of the better years I’ve had in my life all because of DRA.

Students: I highly encourage you to be a part of DRA. Attend a convention, a one-day seminar, a student picnic, a board meeting. I promise you, you will walk out of there feeling like you made the right choice in your career path and with a new group of people you will call your friends.



Come join the fun at DRA's

Annual Student Picnic

**FOOD!
GAMES!
RAFFLE!
NETWORK!**

**Saturday, May 2, 2015
Cerritos Regional Park
Lakeside Location**

**19800 Bloomfield Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703**

**11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
\$5 members/\$15 nonmembers**

DRA Student Members:

Bring 3 friends and be entered
for a drawing for a \$50 Target gift card!

-OR-

Recruit 3 members to sign up for DRA memberships and be entered
for a drawing to win an admission into our GAP seminar on June 6th!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CONTACT

SECRETARYTREASURER@CALDRA.ORG OR

AMRINKERCSR@GMAIL.COM

Registration opens April 1st – claim your spot now!



DRA Student Corner

SHE BELIEVED SHE COULD... SO SHE DID

KATHERINE SCHILLING

When it comes to court reporting school, we all need a big dose of motivation wherever we can find it to keep going. See what inspirational quotes your fellow steno students turn to when they need that extra boost of encouragement.

From Tri-Community Adult Education's Audrey Blumber:

"Be strong,
be brave,
be true.
Endure."

– Dave Eggers

When she hasn't passed a test, Shaunise Day of West Valley College reminds herself of this affirmation:

"In my appointed time I will pass all of my speed tests. Timing is everything. Be anxious for nothing, there's a reason God hasn't given it to you. It's coming, your time is coming, keep smiling, keep believing, keep working hard towards your goals. It's going to happen at the right time not one minute late."

Alisa Church of the College of Court Reporting is stirred by the pithy affirmation:

"She believed she could...so she did."



From West Valley College's Alison McGann:

"Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan 'Press on' has solved, and always will solve, the problems of the human race."

– Calvin Coolidge

Monica Epps from West Valley College reminds us that even theory students need motivation to keep going with:

"STUDY while others are sleeping; WORK while others are loafing; PREPARE while others are playing; and DREAM while others are wishing."

– William Arthur Ward



NEW MEMBERS

Monica Aceves
Stacie Antonio
Claudia Badano
Michele Balmer
Candee Banman
Aja Carmona

Cynthia Chan
Sheba Cohen
Hailey Douglas
Jade Elliott
Rhonda Fung
Shawntae Gibson
Josiane Goldman
Angela Gonzalez
Shelly Goodell
Monica Granato
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Catie Siegner
Victoria Taber
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Samantha Vogt
Michele Wagner
Kathryn Wiggins
Tracy Williams
April Wood
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BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

TAWNY LABRUM

Part 1 of 6: Ways to Fight the Fear of Realtime

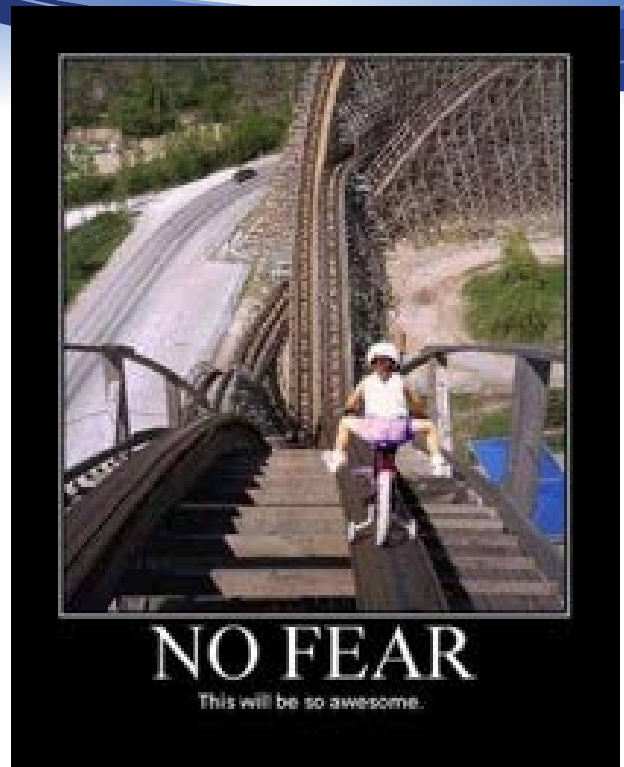
Realtime – For some court reporters, realtime is a component of everyday life. For others, realtime is eerie and just thinking about it brings on panic. From taking the realtime plunge to breaking down the mysteries of realtime technology and its benefits to reporters, this four-part series will discuss how, as a court reporter in the 21st century, realtime is not only your future, it is a must for career advancement.

Do you remember learning how to ride a bicycle, or even learning how to swim? The first time you ever jumped on a two-wheel bike without training wheels, your heart was probably racing, and you most likely had butterflies in your stomach. As a child we are fearless and learning something new is second nature, but as we grow older we are set in our ways and often times we let fear hold us back from trying new things. This is especially true when it comes to our careers.

Over the last few years the court reporting industry has grown tremendously, and recent reports show that trend continuing upwards for many, many years to come. As a large number of court reporters reach retirement age, they are being replaced with a workforce accustomed to innovation - reporters that are not afraid to use realtime or technology to broaden their careers. So what does this mean for all the court reporters out there who have yet to embrace realtime? Well, this means it's time to step outside your comfort level and take the realtime plunge or else face the possibility of being phased out by those who will.

When I started writing this series, I reached out to a number of reporters on social media to find out their fears when it comes to writing realtime. I had discussions with both reporters who already write realtime as well as reporters who have yet to make the jump into realtime. The overwhelming reason why reporters had not yet made the leap to realtime was fear of imperfection, fear of failure, and fear of not being good enough. Although many realized realtime is an invaluable tool and necessary to stay relevant in this rapidly growing industry, they are letting their fears hold them back from moving forward.

Before I go into realtime technology, I want to go over a few ways you as a court reporter can overcome your fear of writing realtime, so just like riding a bike or swimming, it, too, will become second nature.



1. IDENTIFY YOUR FEARS

As with solving any problem, the first step in finding a solution is identifying what is holding you back. Are you like the many court reporters I spoke with, scared of imperfection, failure, or not being good enough? Or is there something else? Does having to learn a new technology and knowing that you will be responsible for making sure your clients can properly view your realtime intimidate you? Identifying your fears allows you to set goals and create actionable plans.

2. ASK QUESTIONS

Talk to other reporters who are already writing realtime and ask questions. Ask them what their greatest fear was when they started and what steps they took to overcome them. Learn from their experiences, find out how they have benefitted from writing realtime, and ask for suggestions on how to begin. There are hundreds of court reporting groups on Facebook and LinkedIn, where group members are more than happy to share their knowledge. Join them, read through the questions posted by others, and ask your own.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

3. FIND A MENTOR, WATCH AND LEARN

Although the Court Reporting Industry is highly competitive, there is no shortage of reporters willing to mentor you and help you achieve your goal of becoming realtime ready. Once you find a mentor, go on a few jobs with them and watch. Watch them set up their equipment, watch how they interact with their clients, watch as they write. You can pick up a lot by just sitting back and taking in what is going on around you.

4. TAKE ACTION

One way to fight your fear of writing realtime is to take action and just jump in. Research the different options of realtime technology in terms of CAT Software and Realtime Delivery Software. Decide on a solution that best fits your needs and invest in it. By taking this step and making the investment, it will push you to start using it, even if you don't feel quite ready to use it in a real world environment.

5. PRACTICE

If imperfection and fear of not being good enough intimidate you, practice. No one is asking you to jump in with your eyes closed. Practice makes perfect. Practice setting up and taking down your realtime equipment. While you are sitting at home watching television every night, pretend you are at a deposition and transcribe what the actors are saying. Have your realtime equipment set up to deliver to an extra laptop or iPad and watch the feed. The more you do it, the better you will get and the sooner you will become comfortable using your new skills in a legal environment.

6. SURRENDER/RELEASE CONTROL

Once you have identified your fears, spoken to other reporters, purchased realtime equipment, and have practiced to the point where you feel comfortable, it is time to surrender and release control, in other words...Just Do It!

Being able to write realtime is an invaluable tool and will open the door to many new opportunities. You will be able to charge more, get placed on larger cases, and most importantly, you will have given yourself a skill that is irreplaceable, creating job security in the future.

WHAT'S COMING NEXT...

Realtime Technology – It's Not as Scary as It Sounds

About the Author

Tawny Labrum is the Marketing Director for LiveDeposition, a provider of universal onsite and web-based remote realtime delivery solutions. For more information on LiveDeposition, please visit their website at www.livedeposition.com or give them a call at (888) 337-6411.



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ABOUT YOUR
FUTURE AS A CCRR**

BRIEFOLOGY

MARLA SHARP, CSR, RPR, CCRR, CLR

“Briefology”: The study of briefs to allow for shorter, cleaner, faster writing and less editing.

With the ever-increasing speed of speakers today, the best way to keep up and minimize fatigue is to write as short as possible. It really is an ongoing, career-long effort. Memorization techniques must be used. Post-its, lists on your phone, spreadsheet with categories, voice recorder – whatever works. Make a note of them whenever you think of them wherever you are, but work on only a handful at a time until committed to memory.

When you come across a section that you dropped or messed up, take a minute to figure out how you could have survived that better, how you could write any of it shorter to prevent future problems and mistakes. Look for frequent phrases, groups of words that are often said together, and try to get all your endings tucked into one stroke. If you see a brief that you are having trouble remembering but you know you need, think of your own. Spend time in your dictionary figuring out what's available to you and what fits within your theory or way of thinking.

Trust me, the effort is worth it. Briefs WILL make your life easier.

DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

Here are some great brief families that you can drill to get your fingers moving.

SO*UFRS so you first
SOURS source
SOUFRS source of
SOUFRT source of the
SOUFRPBLG source of this
SOUFRP source of that

KHOUT check out
KHOUTS checks out
KHOUTD checked out
KHOUTG checking out
KHO*UT check-out
FOPLG following me
FOULG following you
FOLGS following us



GENS against
GUNS against you
GEMS against me
GEFMS against them
GENT against the

SDOENT doesn't
OEFNT he doesn't
SHOEFNT she doesn't
KHOEFNT which doesn't
TOEFNT it doesn't
THOEFNT this doesn't
THAEFNT that doesn't

SWR somewhere
SWREURPBLG somewhere in there
SWRAEURPBLG somewhere around there
SWRARN somewhere around

SKRAEUN constrain
SKRAEUNZ constrains
SKRAEUND constrained
SKRAEUNG constraining
SKRAEUNT constraint
SKRAEUNTS constraints

STRAEN restrain
STRAENZ restrains
STRAEND restrained
STRAENG restraining
STRAENT restraint
STRAENTS restraints
STRAERD restraining order
TRAERD temporary restraining order

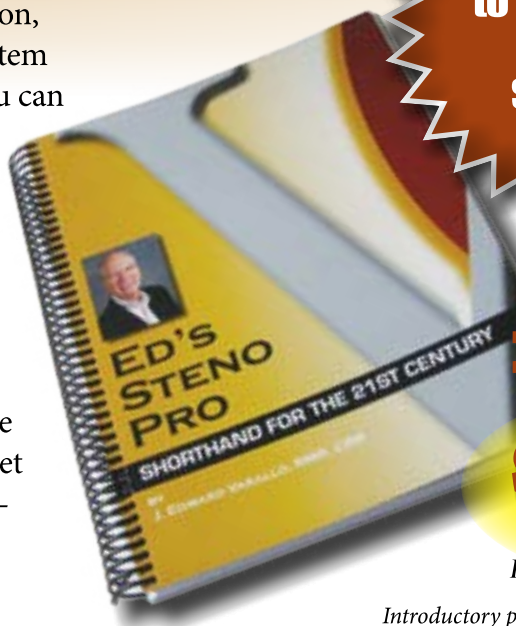
Introducing



ED'S STENO PRO

SHORTHAND FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Ed's Steno Pro, a new book by Ed Varallo, six-time NCRA Speed Contest Champion, teaches you how to shorten up your system and become the best realtime writer you can be. How you go about designing briefs is the key, and **Ed's Three (simple) Rules for Briefing** teach you how to create easy-to-write briefs that you can actually remember! Writing shorter is important; it promotes clean writing. And clean writers are good realtime writers! Ed's Steno Pro will demonstrate the techniques you need to know to meet the realtime demands of today's marketplace!



Realtime tips and tricks to unleash the Realtime Superstar in you!

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This unique program will save you valuable time in preparing for your next realtime assignment — or any job where you want to be ready and armed with job-specific vocabulary. Let JobPrep quickly find the words, names, phrases, acronyms you need to know in advance. Sign up for our mailing list so you'll be the first to know when it's released!

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Ask DRA

SIGNING DECLARATIONS A NO-NO

ANTONIA PULONE, CSR

Dear Depo Diplomat:

I was asked if I heard comments made between an attorney and an independent witness prior to the beginning of a deposition; the comments were also overheard by a party. Then during the deposition a question was asked about that conversation to which it's alleged that the answer was untruthful, based on the comments before the deposition, and the questioning attorney after the depo asked me if I heard the same comments as his client did since we were both in the room.

Do I have to sign a declaration if asked to by the attorney that I heard the comments if I did hear them?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

No, you do not have to sign a declaration if you are asked to do so by the attorney involved here. In fact, the Court Reporters Board very strongly advises licensees to not draft or sign declarations of this kind, even though that may be requested or insisted upon by an attorney or a party to a case where you've appeared as the deposition officer.

Any such declaration or statement given could be seen as showing bias in favor of the requesting attorney or against opposing counsel or favoritism shown for or against one of the parties, which must always be avoided.

Also, any such statement or declaration could be in violation of CCP 2025.320(c), which says, in part, "(c) The deposition officer or the entity providing the services of the deposition officer shall not provide to any party or any party's attorney or third party who is financing all or part of the action any service or product consisting of the deposition officer's notations or comments regarding the demeanor of any witness, attorney, or party present at the deposition."

In addition to these concerns, we must always remember that we are there as depo officers, and we are present strictly to report and prepare the official record of the deposition, and it would be inappropriate for us to report or comment on anything we may hear or witness while present that is not part of that official record.

Any conversations that take place off the record that we overhear must be treated as private, should be considered confidential and should never be repeated, even under these circumstances where you may be asked to declare or testify as to what you overheard.



If you are asked to do so, your best reply would be to just say that you're sorry but you are advised by your licensing board that it is inappropriate for you to make any statements or comments about anything you happened to overhear that was not part of the deposition record, so you cannot provide a declaration. If that's not sufficient for the attorney and he keeps insisting and you need additional help, contact DRA again and we'll assist in any way we can.

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PUZZLE ME THIS



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW... YOUR MINIMUM TRANSCRIPT FORMAT STANDARDS?

All CSRs working in California must abide by the Minimum Format Transcript Standards when producing a transcript in a legal proceeding. How well do you know the rules?

1. A full line of text shall be no less than _____ characters unless timestamping is used, in which case no fewer than _____ characters shall be used on a full line of text.
2. Timestamping can be used in which of the following situations:
 - A. When requested by counsel on the record
 - B. When the deposition is less than 50 pages
 - C. In federal depositions only
 - D. None of the above
3. True or False? Text is to begin no more than 8 spaces from the left margin.
4. Parenthetical and exhibit markings of two lines or more shall be no less than how many characters per line?
5. True or False? In colloquy, text shall begin no more than two spaces after the colon following speaker "ID."
6. Failure to comply with these minimum standards, as noted above, constitutes grounds for:
 - A. Imprisonment
 - B. A monetary fine
 - C. Disciplinary action
 - D. Immediate loss of licensure

Be the first to submit your answers to newslettereditor@caldra.org for your chance to receive a \$25 credit towards your next DRA event!

Contest Rules and Regulations: 1) Only current DRA members are eligible to participate. 2) One win per member per calendar year. 3) \$25 Credit is nontransferable. 4) Credit may be used for a single DRA event registration totaling at least \$99 before the earned credit is applied. 5) Credit may not be used to pay membership dues. 6) Credit must be used within 24 months of the date of issue. 7) Multiple entries will not be accepted. 8) Sorry, but DRA Board of Directors members are not eligible to participate.

BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

This past January was the beginning of the current two-year legislative session in California's legislature for 2015-2016, and February 27th was the last day to introduce new bills in both the Assembly and the Senate. This Bill Watch article now introduces our readers to the bills that will be under consideration by the legislature that have direct bearing and impact on the freelance and official reporters of our state. All these bills will be carefully followed by your DRA lobbyist, Ed Howard, our Legislative Committee and your DRA Board of Directors.

While the bills listed here have been singled out as being most relevant to reporters, DRA additionally reviews every bill introduced in Sacramento that could potentially affect California CSRs, our profession or our livelihood.

To add some clarification regarding legislative terminology that you'll see here, "AB" stands for Assembly Bill, meaning a bill introduced by a member of the Assembly; "SB" stands for Senate Bill, legislation introduced by a Senator; "ACR" stands for Assembly Concurrent Resolution. The name in parens that follows each bill number is that of the author, the legislator who introduced and is carrying the bill. The status of each bill listed below is current as of April 9, 2015.



ACR 20 (MARK STONE)

Summary: Proclaimed the week of February 15, 2015 through February 21, 2015, as California Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

Registered Support: CA Court Reporters Association (CCRA), CA Official Court Reporters Association (COCRA), Deposition Reporters Association of CA (DRA)

Status: Chaptered, 3/24/15

AB 749 (BLOOM)

Summary: Would extend the requirement for an official reporter or official reporter pro tempore to report the testimony and proceedings to domestic violence cases and child custody proceedings.

Sponsor: CCRA

Support: CCRA (Sponsor); DRA

Status: Amended; referred to Assembly Committee on Judiciary; set for hearing 4/14/15

AB 804 (HERNANDEZ)

Sponsor: Co-sponsored by CCRA and DRA

Summary: Would require the Court Reporters Board ("CRB") on or before

7/1/16, to adopt regulations to establish minimum approved continuing-education ("CE") requirements for the annual renewal of a CSR's license. It would also authorize the CRB to establish a fee for approval of CE providers.

Registered Support: CA Court Reporters Association (Co-Sponsor), Deposition Reporters Association of CA (Co-Sponsor), Northern CA Court Reporters Association, Sacramento Official Court Reporters Association, San Diego Superior Court Reporters Association, Service Employees International Union

Status: Heard by Assembly Committee on Business & Professions, 4/7/2015, and passed (14-0). Referred to Assembly Committee on Appropriations

AB 1197 (BONILLA)

Sponsor: DRA

Summary: Would require a deposition notice to include a statement disclosing the existence of a contractual relationship between the deposition officer or entity providing the services of the deposition officer and the party noticing the deposition or a third party who is financing all or part of the action. Would also require the notice to contain a statement disclosing that the party noticing the deposition directed his or her attorney

to use a particular officer or entity to provide services for the deposition, if applicable. If either such disclosure is made, any other party may object to the use of that deposition officer or entity in writing at least three calendar days before the deposition date.

Status: Amended 4/06/15. Referred to Assembly Committee on Judiciary; set for hearing 4/14/15

SB 270 (MENDOZA)

Sponsor: CCRA

Summary: Would authorize the CRB to bring a civil action to enjoin any person, CA corporation or corporation organized in another state from rendering court reporting services in CA without holding a license issued by the CRB or without authorization to render CSR services by satisfying certain requirements. Would also make it a misdemeanor to render court reporting services without a license.

Status: Amended 04/06/15; referred to Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development; set for hearing 4/13/15

POP QUIZ

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF DRA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MELINDA NELSON

CSR, CRI
DISTRICT 3 DIRECTOR, DRA

What is your Starbucks order?

I love ice cream, but we don't have a Baskin Robbins near; so I turn to Starbucks. My favorite drink is a Java Chip Frappuccino with caramel. Yum.

What is your favorite movie?

My favorite movie is "Superstar." I love Molly Shannon. The nerdy Catholic schoolgirl is hilarious.

What is your favorite life-saving brief?

This probably won't make sense, but because I was on a case that lasted three months I had to think of something for, "Have you ever had your deposition taken?" as it ripped out of the attorney's mouth five days a week. Ready? HUBGS. Told you. No rhyme or reason, just an easy outline.

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

What a decision. It would have to be Italian food. At the moment I'm thinking pizza, but that could easily change to lasagna.

Who do you turn to when you need inspiration?

This one is easy. I always turn to my husband. He is my best friend and has always been there to support me. I tell my students that court reporting school is the hardest thing I've ever done; it's true. I came home many days - too many to think about - having failed speed tests. My husband was always there to pick me up and keep me going. His favorite saying to me was, "No wine before its time." He wanted me to realize that when my fingers were ready to attain the speed, it would happen. He was right!



MARLA SHARP

CSR, CCRR, RPR, CLR
DISTRICT 4 DIRECTOR, DRA

How long have you been reporting?

21 years.

Where did you grow up?

Columbus, Ohio. Go Bucks! I really don't care about football, but we're all brainwashed Buckeyes.

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

It would be a tie between pepperoni pizza and filet mignon.

Who is your celebrity crush?

Though he's not a celebrity, he has been a successful commercial actor for almost 20 years (my husband, Jeff Sharp). Outside of that, Thor is pretty dreamy (do NOT tell my husband!).

What's your cocktail order?

Either some kind of fancy French champagne or Chopin vodka with Frangelico over ice.

What advice would you give to a CR student who is in need of motivation?

Don't give up. Practice harder, faster, and more. It's worth it. It's one of the very few careers where you can make six figures without a degree (or with an associate degree).

What is your favorite part about your job?

I like the creative/artistic aspect of briefing. Keeps me interested and enables me to keep up with people who talk entirely too fast.

POP QUIZ

MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF DRA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS.



VESNA WALTER

CSR, CCRR, RPR, CLR
DISTRICT 6 DIRECTOR, DRA

What is your favorite food?

Crab legs!

Do you have any pets?

Two labs and two hermit crabs (bought the hermit crabs in Monterey after the convention as a gift for the kids)

Who is your celebrity crush?

Tom Hardy.

What is your favorite life-saving brief?

KRA*P always makes me want to smile (custom and practice)

What's your cocktail order?

A nice IPA is my favorite (beer), but if it has to be a cocktail, I love a good Bloody Mary.

What is your favorite part about your job?

Being my own boss and going to different locations every day.



ANDREA RINKER

CSR, RPR, CCRR, CLR
SECRETARY-TREASURER, DRA

How long have you been reporting?

6 years - time flies!

Do you have any pets?

2 dogs - Penny Lane and Eleanor Rigby (Ellie for short)

What is the best reporting-related technology investment that you have made thus far?

iPads for real time. And my label maker.

Why did you want to serve on DRA's Board of Directors?

DRA was so instrumental in my becoming a successful freelance reporter that the only way I could ever repay the organization was by serving.

What advice would you give to a CR student who is in need of motivation?

This career is unbelievable. Put in that time in school and it will pay off seven-fold.

If you weren't a court reporter, what kind of career would you want?

A Broadway star!

What is your favorite guilty pleasure?

Singing Broadway show tunes (did we notice a pattern here? I'm a nerd!)

DRA EXTENDS ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE

To its members, without whom it would not be what it is today: a powerful and effective advocate for the court reporting profession. Thanks to your continued loyalty and support, DRA has amassed a long track record of improvements to the reporting environment in California.

Click here to see what it has been able to accomplish, with your help: <http://bit.ly/dra-fights>.

Special thanks to the members listed below, who have been with DRA since its inception 19 years ago.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED

Thomas Golding, *Founding Member*
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Dominique Isabeau
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JIM BARKER 1946 – 2015

We at DRA extend our deepest condolences to the Barker family following the loss of Jim, beloved husband to Lynda. Jim Barker was the founder of the ever-popular SearchMaster program and a pillar of the reporting community. Jim, you will truly be missed.

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GAP TRAINING

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2015
9:00 A.M.
DOWNEY ADULT SCHOOL

DRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015
EMBASSY SUITES LAX NORTH,
LOS ANGELES
10:00 A.M.

CCRR EXAMINATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015
11:00 AM
SOUTH COAST COLLEGE
Q&A • 5 MINUTES • 200 WPM
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