

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Can You Really Teach An Old Dog New Tricks?.....	4
A Capitol Fall	7
The Court Reporting Parent	7
DRA Student Corner	10
Here's What This Year's Attendees Are Saying About GAP.....	10
Bryan University Commencement Address	12
Scenes From Student Picnic	14
Ask DRA	15
Bill Watch.....	16
Breaking Down The Mystery of Realtime	17
Puzzle Me This	19
Court Reporters For a Cure	20
Briefology.....	21
Pop Quiz	22
New Members	23



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE THE ROUGH DRAFT CHALLENGE

RICH ALOSSI, RPR, CCRR, CSR,
DRA PRESIDENT

We're living in an age of Internet challenges. I'm not talking about struggles with Time Warner or Verizon; I'm referring to social media campaigns to raise awareness of specific causes, to show off, or just to have fun. You've probably heard of the made-for-YouTube Ice Bucket Challenge (for a good cause), the Cinnamon Challenge (for a bizarre badge of honor), or even the Baby Food Challenge. I'm still not too sure what the last one accomplishes.

So while it's not as YouTube-friendly as the challenges mentioned above, today I am starting **the Rough Draft Challenge**, and I am challenging you to join me in offering a rough draft to all parties at the end of each and every job you take from now until the end of the year. Yes, even on those bad days with the foreign doctor. Write like your livelihood depends on it!

I'm a firm believer in the ability of realtime and rough drafts to improve our incomes. Clean, readable information flowing to the devices of paying clients both onsite and offsite is a high-value service that only you and I can provide. That information assists litigants and attorneys in formulating strategies, it cements our place in the legal industry for the long haul, and most importantly, it improves the bottom lines of the skilled, professional reporters who provide these services.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

You don't need to be a speed writer to provide realtime or same-day rough drafts. We were all awed by the performances of the speed champions at this year's DRA, Intersteno, and NCRA conventions, but I'm not afraid to say that that is not what I do. Simply put, what makes a great writer is preparation, commitment, and accuracy in real-world conditions.

You may be saying to yourself, "My clients never request rough drafts." While that may be true, market demand isn't created without first exposing consumers to the service. After offering a rough draft to counsel, I've often been told that they were unaware this service was available. Some had been told by other reporters that they can get a rough draft in a week. There's no value to the client in that.

Nearly all my jobs these days involve same-day rough drafts, if not within four hours or less of completing the deposition. Though it requires a huge commitment of mental energy during the day -- as well as logistics and preparation ahead of time similar to providing live realtime -- the payoff is equally rewarding. Your editing time will be cut dramatically, and your bank account will thank you.

The role of the reporter has expanded. We are managers of information. How many of us have gotten a frantic phone call from an attorney who forgot to order the rough draft and needs it right away? Just a couple decades ago, such a service simply was not available. But now, many of our clients can't live without it. That bears repeating: Our clients cannot do their jobs without the services that we provide.

It's past time to get over our fears and start becoming ambassadors for the future of our industry by providing realtime as well as clean, readable same-day rough drafts. Starting today, I'm challenging you to write every job like a same-day rough draft will be required. Then go out there and actively market that service.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Debra Codiga

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Deborah Taggart

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CAN YOU REALLY TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS?

CONTEMPLATIONS ON DRA'S "A REALTIME SUMMER" SEMINAR

ANDREA RINKER, CSR, RPR, CLR, CCRR

I've been a reporter for six and a half years now, and I've been providing realtime for about four years to attorneys and judges (and as a side note, I have always been an overachiever, so please take that into consideration if you're questioning why you didn't start sooner than me).

Realtime, however, did NOT come as easily. I was incredibly nervous that attorneys would be able to see my mistakes and drops when they would start arguing and would question my realtime the moment they read "could you" instead of "would you."

"Excuse me, Madam Reporter.... that's supposed to be 'would.'"

Sigh.

So when I heard DRA was going to be holding a realtime-focused seminar, I jumped at the opportunity to attend. I consider myself to be a pretty decent realtime writer. My untranslate rate is always under 1 percent, and I can crank out a rough draft extremely quickly after my depositions. But there were always those trouble spots that were simply a product of my theory, and I had no idea how to fix them. Theory, after all, is the basis of one's entire career! And if you're a graduate of South Coast College like myself, you know that your theory is drilled into your brain from the very beginning. I am very grateful to have the theory that I have because I can stroke out the syllables, and 99% of the time, they will translate the way they should. But no system is infallible, and I knew there were tweaks to make to resolve some of my more common misstrokes.



When Anissa Nierenberger began the day with her presentation at DRA's "A Realtime Summer" Seminar this past July, I was amazed to learn all her accomplishments in our profession as a captioner. Her own program, Dictionary Jumpstart, is an amazing tool that can only serve to benefit us as realtime writers. At the beginning of her presentation, when she asked if we had experienced certain common occurrences and misstrokes in our writing, I quickly raised my hand. Why, yes, I do stack "today" and "ed to"! Yes, I do stack "would you" and "you would," or "did you" and "you did." I thought I was the only one!

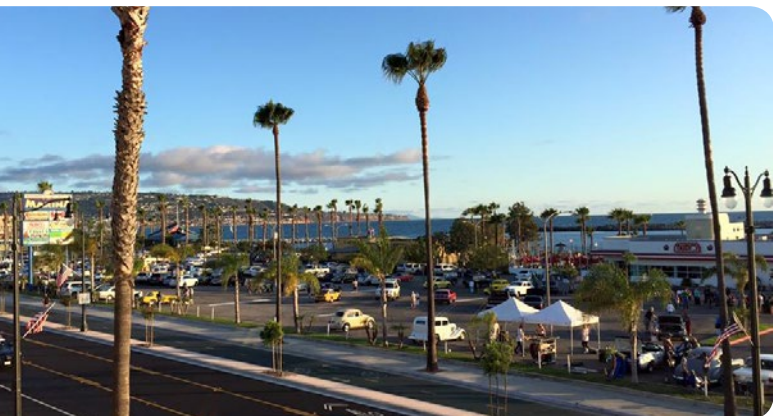
But then she said something mind-blowing: "Just change it."

WHAT?!?

CHANGE IT?!? I can't change it! That would be crazy! I've been writing "today" as TOD from the very beginning! There's no way I can.... wait. That's not THAT big of a change. I... I can do that. Anissa's suggestion of recording a few silly sentences and practicing them over and over didn't seem too tall of an order.

So fast forward to the Monday after our seminar. And let me tell you, I was struggling. My new tricks had completely escaped my brain. I was getting extremely frustrated. Is this really the best way to fix this problem? Isn't there another way? But then I realized that no, there wasn't, unless I wanted conflicts in my dictionary. Any great realtime writer will tell you that a conflict-free dictionary is the best tool in your realtime arsenal, and it doesn't come without a little bit of hard work.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



CAN YOU REALLY TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

So now I was stuck with a dilemma. Go back to my old style and be frustrated with my stacking, or keep practicing the new style and say goodbye to those stacking issues. For me, the choice was simple.

I know many of you will stick with the first option. I heard you all groan during the seminar when Anissa suggested changing problem outlines. And I get it. I know it's hard to change. I'm experiencing that right now. And I don't know what your realtime goals are, but setting achievable objectives is an essential step into the world of realtime delivery. Personally, one of my goals is to be as great as some of the most accomplished realtime writers of our generation, like our very own DRA President, Rich Alossi, for example.

Many of you, I'm sure, recognize Rich's name as the incumbent president, but also as one of the presenters at the realtime seminar. The tips and tricks that I learned at Rich's session about realtime job prep have proved invaluable to me in the short time since I've attended

the summer event. And even more than the tricks I walked away with that day, the inspiration I garnered from Rich's impressive resume has stayed with me. Case in point: Rich's services are requested all over the world at deposition because of his ability to provide flawless realtime. His ability to bolster his income, reduce his editing time, and travel, all-expenses-paid, around the world is all the incentive I need to continue working towards my quest to deliver perfect realtime. If that means I have to "practice" as a working reporter, then so be it.

And I'm happy to report that in just a few weeks after the seminar, I can already see a difference in my writing. Yes, I'm still slipping on some of the changes, but Anissa's suggestion for defining word parts, not to mention the bevy of tips I gathered from the various other presenters, have been drastically improving my translation statistics.

So what are you waiting for? Open that dictionary and start honing in on your most common realtime mistakes. We're not old dogs, but we can still learn new tricks!



SMILES FOR DRA'S "A REALTIME SUMMER" SEMINAR



"Thank you, DRA, for putting on such an amazing seminar. It was A-W-E-S-O-M-E. You guys are the best." – Siew Ung

"Had a fantastic time seeing all my favorite familiar faces today! Margie Wakeman Wells's class was so informative. Thanks, DRA!!!" – Catie Siegner

"Thank you to everyone that gave of their time and energy in putting together the realtime seminar, from our president, Rich Alossi, the board members Cheryl Haab, Monyeen Black, Marla Sharp, etc., the speakers, Reagan Evans, Clay Frazier, to the volunteers. Job well done." – April McMillan

"Thank you, DRA, for an amazing seminar. It was so great to rekindle with so many great reporters and meet some of the familiar faces from Facebook." – Mikey McMorran

"THANK YOU to everyone at the DRA and organizing staff for a wonderful, informative, and incredibly useful seminar. I think each of us who attended walked away a much better reporter, with the tools to start our realtime careers." – Keren Guevara

"Thank you for another great seminar, DRA! I left feeling like realtime was not the scary unknown and is definitely attainable. I loved Rich's presentation with how to brief various proper names (and also the panel's handout with additional briefing ideas) and the terminology handout. Just what I needed to get the ball rolling!" – Kay Hamann Yeoman

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THE COURT REPORTING PARENT

In today's fast-paced world, many parents find themselves struggling to find a career that allows them to effectively navigate the waters of work and family life. Luckily, as a freelance court reporter, the luxury of self-employment has made finding this elusive balance possible -- and easier -- than with a traditional 9:00 to 5:00 job. Here are the stories of some DRA parent members and why court reporting has been the right choice for them:

ELIZABETH MESA, CSR

Being a deposition reporter has been the best choice I could have made for my life. I have two children, ages 6 and 9. As a parent, my dream was to be able to be there for my children whenever they need me, as well as still be a working parent to provide them the best life they could have. This career has allowed me the flexibility to be at school events, help out in their classrooms, take the day off and be home when my children are sick, and much



more. It provides a wonderful income that has allowed us to take trips and vacations we used to not be able to do. Being a reporter has allowed me to create the life I always wanted for my family.

REAGAN EVANS, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCRR, CLR

I would say this is what I learned about being a mother as a court reporter. You can decide if it served me well.



There are many days I question if it really has served me well, to be honest. Because it's flexible and I love what I do, I have probably always worked more than I really had to. But the work was easy for me. The pay was incentivizing. And there was always an interest to challenge myself to the next whatever: certification, agency, tool, position, et cetera. Our girls are eight years apart. One has completed court reporting school and waiting for her first state exam. One is a junior in high school. I truly regret not taking the opportunity to stay home more with them over the years, and I would encourage the young working mothers out there now as reporters to have a better balance -- be a mother first and foremost. Set your schedule for work, whether it's Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday to Friday, or whatever makes sense for your family life, and don't miss the bonding time while they are babies and little ones.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

THE COURT REPORTING PARENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

I have loved working from home to be able to start dinner, start the laundry, run lunch money when it was forgotten, or make the game, while fitting in transcripts and exhibits in between. Granted, it has meant late nights and early mornings to keep up with deadlines, but that's what flexibility is; right?

When I owned an agency, going to the office every day was one of the hardest parts of it, truly. I hated not being home, hearing what was going on with the girls, even if it was arguing!

I would definitely choose court reporting again if I was trying to figure out what to do in life. I would just tame "the monster" I allowed it to become to be a better mother, in my opinion.

By the way, the daughter awaiting her state exam once said that she would NEVER be a court reporter because they work too hard. And I told her that was NO problem! She would never have to be that. You can imagine I was shocked to receive the text to go with her on a tour of a court reporting school – S.H.O.C.K.E.D.! Whatever you least expect! Maybe it wasn't as bad as I see it.

DEBORAH LUNDGREN, CSR, RPR

Being a deposition reporter has given me amazing opportunities as a parent. It's given me the flexibility in being able to be there for all of the important events in my children's lives. I have three kids. My youngest one starts college in the fall and has chosen to go out of state. I will miss her tremendously. The small school they attended up through high school always needed drivers/chaperones for their field trips; so, because of my flexibility, I was able to help out and be at every field trip for each of the kids, although I have to admit I did ditch a couple trips that I got tired of doing, such as the Santa Barbara Zoo. Court reporting provided funds and flexibility for me to go as a chaperone on each of their four multi-day trips across the country and throughout California. I was thankful that they actually wanted me there.

Chaperoning also gave me an opportunity to really get to know their schoolmates, and to this day I have students saying "Hi, Mrs. Lundgren!" when I run into them around town. It gives me a good feeling, and I wouldn't have had that otherwise.

I was also able to work my scoping around their schedule



so that I could be at their weekend soccer games no matter where they were, as well as many of their games during the week, or be there to help with homework. I am so thankful that I persevered through court reporting school to become a court reporter so that I could be the hands-on parent that I wanted to be. It allowed me to be there for their ups and downs throughout their young lives. It's been a wonderful journey, and I wouldn't have traded it for anything.

I point out all these things not to be pretentious but to show that it is possible as long as you work hard when you can and always live below your means. It also doesn't mean that there aren't times where you have to bring work with you on vacation or times when the night before a vacation you get an expedite, or even times that you miss an event because you didn't want to take the day off but thought for sure you'd be done in time, but it's been a great career for me, and I am thankful and blessed to be a court reporter.

DIANE FREEMAN, CSR, RPR

I started reporting in 1982 as a freelance reporter when my daughter was nine years old. This is a demanding job, but I love it, and my daughter learned good work ethics by actually being able to observe me working at home. I always thought she resented how much I worked, but now that she's grown and has her own children -- three! -- she has respect for me, and we have a good time when we're together.

I have made mistakes, but what parent doesn't? We all do the best we can with love. I wasn't as strict as I would be today, because I felt "work guilt." My life has turned out so differently than I planned when I played with my dolls and planned my life. I feel blessed still having fun reporting, being a mom, and a grandma!

JESSIE LOVE, CSR

For years I watched my friends dread the end of their maternity leave because it meant having to leave their newborn for 8-10 hours a day while they worked to provide for their family. Sacrificing time with your family in order to provide for them is one of the most bittersweet acts you perform as a parent. Luckily, because I'm a mom who makes her own schedule, it means less



CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

THE COURT REPORTING PARENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

sacrifices and more life moments with my sweet boy -- and even more luckily, that schedule can evolve as I need it to. In the beginning, you don't want to leave the sweet, sleeping newborn and you want to take advantage of all the cuddles you can get. Then, as they get older, they start to want to play outside in the dirt. They start to have opinions. They start to throw "passionate outbursts" when they want something they can't have. And at that point, taking depositions and putting on clothes that don't have mashed banana on them and sitting in an air-conditioned room with a latte in hand that isn't at risk of being spilled feels like a vacation. And that's when I thank my lucky stars I chose a career that evolves with me, that works with me, and complements parenthood rather than clashes with it.

AIMEE EDWARDS-ALTADONNA, CSR

Becoming a court reporter last year has allowed me the financial freedom to be able to take the whole family for a weekend of "yes" in San Francisco. We told the kids that for one whole weekend in SF the answer to everything they wanted to do -- within reason -- was "yes!" It was the best little family weekend away ever, and it really was the moment that the entire family got to experience the rewards for all the sacrifices we made in the last six years. In all of my 15 years of marriage and 8 years as a mom, we have never been able to do whatever we wanted without worrying about the cost. It was so freeing to be able to do that and to just enjoy every single moment with a mind that was free from tabulating every dollar we spent and how that impacted the bills waiting to be paid. For once it didn't matter because we had more than enough.



LORRIE MARCHANT, CSR, RMR, CRR, CCRR, CLR

School wasn't a strong point for me. When I graduated high school, I didn't know what I wanted to do as far as a career. Neither one of my parents went to college, so there wasn't any push from them to do so, and there were no college funds set aside either. I decided to attend Santa Rosa Junior College on a small scholarship and the money that I was making from my part-time job as a bank teller. I plugged along at the JC, and I think, honestly, that I partied with my friends more than anything else.



About two years into college and three classes shy of obtaining my associate's degree, I left school and took a full-time job as a receptionist at an agricultural lender. I moved my way from a receptionist to an administrative assistant. It was a fantastic company to work for, but I realized that there were no more rungs in the ladder for me to climb because I did not hold a bachelor's degree.

What to do?! I knew for certain that I wanted to be my own boss, and I knew that I did not want the monotony of a full-time, nine-to-five, five-days-a-week job. I was nowhere near even contemplating starting a family, but I did know that I wanted a couple of beloved kiddos at some point in life, and I knew that I wanted to be able to be a significant part of their everyday lives. I liked law, but I knew that I was so NOT lawyer material. I started taking real estate courses and investigating court-reporting schools. Thankfully, I discovered the court reporting program at College of Marin, Indian Valley Campus. I ceased attending my real estate courses and dove head-on into court reporting.

It took me three and a half years to complete the program, passing the May 1994 California CSR exam. I have been a freelance deposition reporter in the San Francisco Bay Area ever since. I started my family with the birth of Sophia in January of 2003. Cooper came along in August of 2005. While there are many pros and cons to being a freelance deposition reporter, one HUGE pro is that I can take days off whenever I want. I have been a huge part of my kids' life at school, for field trips and just plain old play days. I've been able to work in their classrooms and attend most all of their field trips and significant school events, all while being the sole breadwinner of the household. I can't even begin to overstate the importance, both to me and them, of being there for them for their milestones in life and school.

Next I am contemplating venturing into remote captioning. I would love to work from home in my bunny slippers while keeping abreast of current events and giving back to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. I have found this to be an ever-challenging, ever-learning, lucrative and rewarding career.

DRA Student Corner

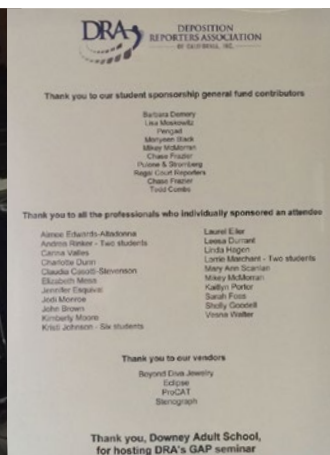
HERE'S WHAT THIS YEAR'S ATTENDEES ARE SAYING ABOUT GAP:

"The DRA GAP Training seminar was honestly the most informative court reporting seminar I've ever attended. It was a focused and intensive workshop that highlighted the real-world elements that a depo reporter may encounter in the state of California. It was extremely thorough and was like a boot camp for those about to enter into the profession. The book that came along with the seminar was clearly a labor of love and quite possibly the most useful book that I now have in my arsenal! In addition to the knowledge I attained, it was also an incredible opportunity to meet fellow students, future colleagues, and future employers. It is a great place to start networking if you're serious about starting your career off on the right foot!" -Rob Leifer

"GAP was incredible! I learned so much! I walked away feeling ready to take on the depo world. As a student getting ready to take the CSR, I was a little terrified at the thought of getting my license and having to go out into the real world with no real sense of direction, but GAP gave that to me. After feeling mentally tired from school, I left the seminar gaining a second wind of motivation to finish school, pass my CSR, and get out there without any question of 'Can I really do this?'

The GAP manual is PRICELESS. I don't think any reporter should be without it! I feel so blessed to have been a part of GAP, and it wouldn't have been possible without my amazing sponsor, Andrea Rinker."
- Stacey Ampudia

"I attended the GAP seminar to update myself on transcript formatting. I also obtained the GAP formatting reference manual, which I think is a must for students/new reporters. The seminar was informative, and I'm glad I attended. I try to keep apprised of what's going on in DRA. Yes, it was a positive experience. I've been a freelance reporter for 33 years and still going." - Sylvia Liebscher



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DRA Student Corner

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPT FROM THE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS GIVEN BY DRA'S CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT, CHERYL HAAB, TO THE BRYAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015 THIS PAST JUNE:

Good morning, esteemed Bryan University graduating class of 2015, family, friends, and faculty. It is my utmost pleasure to be celebrating this momentous occasion with you today, and I thank you for having me. It is truly an honor.

So... wow! June!

June has crept up on us yet again like the stealthy ninja that time often is, the year already half gone. And along with the promise of the sweltering summer ahead comes the myriad traditions of the ubiquitous graduation ceremony.

Invitations and announcements, dinners, parties, tassels and leis, dresses and suits – these are the hallmarks of the season.

And, of course, the vanity-driven agony that accompanies the donning of hopelessly uncomfortable shoes. Ladies, you know exactly what I'm talking about. And I feel your pain. Literally.

These things -- as much a part of the hoopla as the diplomas themselves -- are all inextricably tied to the pomp and circumstance of the traditional commencement ceremony.

But amidst the giddy excitement of a new life, of adventure - even before the reams of colorful crepe paper are removed from their careful perch on gymnasium walls; before the helium balloons have been deflated and the delicate flower arrangements wilted, there is another, less savory tradition that has continued to plague university graduates all across this nation like a bad odor.

It is the air of uncertainty - a vague uneasiness about the future, and whether there is enough room in it for yet another starry-eyed alumnus with a dearth of practical experience.

The fear is tangible because it is real. By some accounts, 56% of traditional college graduates in this country under the age of 25 cannot find a job in their chosen field. 42% of these same graduates feel that their course of study in school did not adequately prepare them for employment, and over 100,000 newly minted college graduates in this country every year find themselves using their hard-earned bachelor's degrees to work in hospitality and



service-industry jobs rather than the lofty careers they had intended to move into after the completion of their studies.

And on that somber note, aren't you glad you invited me here today? I'm just a bundle of joy!

Anyway.

With alarming statistics like these, it's a small wonder that any enthusiasm for one's graduation day really can be mustered at all. If the task of completing university can, at times, painfully drag on like a strenuous uphill battle, then the effort of procuring work after graduation can only be likened to summiting Mount Everest in the face of raging storms.

But, my friends, I have news for you, and it is good. There is light at the end of this tunnel. And it shines upon you all here today with the rays of good fortune. This hopeful beacon, this radiant glow, is the wonderful world of court reporting. And today, you are finally in its midst.

You have made an exceptional choice.

It has been a long journey for most of you. Interminable practice sessions, sleepless nights, tired fingers. A litany of 96 percent scores in a twisted world where 98 percent barely makes the grade. And when you weren't feeling beat up and dejected enough about your near-pass on your latest speed test, there was always a host of seemingly impossible briefs, English, and Medical Terminology to hammer into your overworked brain.

And don't get me started on the CSR test, or we'll be here for pretty much, like, ever.

The stress of school has been constant and unrelenting, oblivious to the fact that for most of you, school has been a delicate balancing act of study and work, family, relationships, and all the other pesky and complicated stuff of life that doesn't go away just because you haven't finished your latest transcription credit.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

And then, there's my favorite – the well-meaning inquiries from family and friends, supportive but clueless, always wondering – “When will you be finished with school again?”

And how do I know these things? Because, I too, have walked the same, difficult road, not so very many moons ago. A single mom with a full-time job and little family to speak of, there were many times along my way when the destination seemed all but unattainable, impending failure all but certain.

So, suffice to say, my own journey to this point has not been easy. But I promise you: it has been worth it.

According to statistics gathered by the Court Reporters Board of California, the number of reporters in the state went from a high of 8,000 in the year 2000 to only 6,800 today. Meanwhile, the number of attorneys in California has gone up nearly 30% in that same time to 182,000.

This disparity, more closely examined by the National Court Reporters Association's Industry Outlook Report released last year, concludes that in California alone, over 2,300 reporting jobs will be available and unfilled in our profession by 2018.

But the opportunities do not stop there.

With the ever-burgeoning fields of closed captioning and CART, Communication Access Realtime Translation for the hard of hearing, our options are expanding into areas where voice recognition **just can't keep up**. The human element in these invaluable services promises that work in our field will continue to be plentiful.



Throw in the expanding technology of wireless realtime delivery, the instantaneous translation of our steno outlines into English in court and deposition proceedings, and our importance in the legal arena only elevates to a near-impossible quality standard that electronic recording cannot, and will not, match.

And that's not all.

Organizations across the state, such as the Deposition Reporters Association, the association in which I serve as your current Vice President, are continually fighting legislatively to protect your profession from the well-intentioned but ill-informed members of our government who seek to replace court reporting services in a misguided effort to balance the budget. Through education and the dissemination of information, DRA ensures that you, the working reporter, will remain a relevant part of our justice system for many years to come.

So yes, your job is safe, Bryan Graduates. Breathe easy.

Let me tell you a little bit about my career.

I am a court reporter, and I love what I do.

Every day, a new face, a new place, and a different story.

With my ten little fingers, I elegantly depress the keys of my steno machine with dizzying speed, every stroke preserving the interests of justice in its purest form, the spoken word.

When I preside over a deposition, I am the most valuable person in the room. I am a ministerial officer of the court, an extension of Lady Justice herself, and I ensure impartiality at all costs. By virtue of my licensure, the signed certification I place at the end of each of my carefully crafted transcripts solemnly swears, under the penalty of perjury of the State of California, that the series of words I have bound together are a true and accurate representation of a most solemn proceeding – a legal exchange of questions and answers that oftentimes leave livelihoods and reputations hanging in the balance.

I am the first to arrive and the last to leave at my deposition each day. And when I leave, my job is hardly done. I burn the midnight oil more often than not - scoping, proofing, exhibit marking, researching. The client wants their transcript, and they want it, like, yesterday. And it is my job to deliver, whether I am sick, or tired, or simply want to take the night off and watch Game of Thrones.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

But this is just the tip of the iceberg.

I must decipher the voices of two, four, ten, or even twenty people speaking in turn, all while writing in what is essentially a foreign language.

I must instantaneously listen to, understand, spell, and transcribe dense technical, medical, and legal terminology, delivered at upwards of 225 words a minute.

I must seamlessly deliver the latest technology into the eager fingertips of my exacting clients, some of the most intelligent – and demanding – legal minds across the country, without ever missing a beat.

AND... I must ensure at all costs that every single utterance in each proceeding I report is captured by both my ears and my fingers, no matter how softly spoken, quickly articulated, or heavily accented.

Sounds impossible, doesn't it? But yes, I can do all of these things. And yes, Bryan University graduating class of 2015,

after your long and arduous journey, you have shown the world that you can do all of these things too.

And for that very reason, your future is oh-so bright. Because your career, unlike the jobs of so many, is recession proof.

On behalf of the Deposition Reporters Association, my dear colleagues, I would like to cordially welcome you all to the first day of the rest of your life as a court reporter.

Today, the sky is the limit. Congratulations to you all.



SCENES FROM OUR ANNUAL STUDENT PICNIC



Ask DRA

DEAR DEPO DIPLOMAT:

My question is: Is it a new guideline or rule to not have blank lines in a transcript, like when the “BY” line is moved to the next page and the /// marks are left on the last line of the previous page? I sent a reporting student to the DRA GAP Training, and she thought that this was mentioned there, that there are no longer to be blank lines in the body of the transcript. If this is a new rule, is it required or recommended?

DEAR DRA MEMBER:

I don't believe there is any rule prohibiting blank lines in depo transcripts, but I wanted to speak with one of the panelists from the GAP seminar before getting back to you to find out what might have been said at the seminar that would have left this student with the impression that no blank lines are allowed. I've just spoken with one of the reporter panelists, and I believe I have some clarifying information for you.

Apparently what was shared at the seminar was information provided at a previous DRA seminar by Yvonne Fenner, the Executive Officer of the Court Reporters Board (“CRB”), where she spoke in detail regarding the Minimum Transcript Format Standards (“MTFS”). Ms. Fenner explained that there should be no blank lines left in a transcript, meaning there should be something on each of the minimum 25 lines. This wasn't meant to be a new rule or directive but simply a clarification of the MTFS language. It's required that at least a symbol needs to appear, if no text, on each line, but that would allow for the slash marks, ///, as you referenced in your question, to be used to indicate that, for instance, the 25th line on a page was being intentionally left without text so that a “BY” line and the question that followed could be kept together on the first lines of the following page.

In fact, that setup is even recommended as preferable in a video that Ms. Fenner has recorded on the MTFS for the CRB, and you might find it helpful to view that for even more clarification. That can be found by visiting the CRB's website, but the link to the YouTube video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xAZB0uEcqNE>. Similar symbols indicating a line left intentionally without text, such as -o0o-, are also permitted when, for instance, you may want to set up a change in examination and not do that on the last line of a page. But some character, symbol or paren blurb must appear on each line if no text appears.



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BILL WATCH

ANTONIA PULONE, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

We are now approaching the close of the first year of the current two-year session in California's legislature for 2015-2016, and September 11th will be the last day for bills to pass from the floor in both the Assembly and the Senate.

This Bill Watch article updates our readers on the bills that are still under consideration by the legislature that have direct bearing and impact on the freelance and official reporters of our state. All these bills continue to 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 parentheses 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 August 15, 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: CA Court Reporters Association (Sponsor), Deposition Reporters Association of CA Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Registered Opposition: None received

Status: Amended; heard and passed by the Assembly Committee on Judiciary, 4/14/15 (7-3); re-referred to Assembly Committee on Appropriations, suspense file; held under submission

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, and would require the CRB to establish a procedure for approving providers of CE courses. 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 American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

Registered Opposition: None received

Status: Passed by the Assembly, 4/23/15 (76-0); to the Senate. Heard and passed by Senate Committee on Business, Professions & Economic Development, 6/8/15, (7-2) and Senate Committee on Appropriations, 6/22/15, (5-1). Read second time on Senate floor.

AB 1197 (BONILLA)

Sponsor: DRA

Summary: Would require a deposition notice to include a statement disclosing the existence of a contractual relationship, if any is known to the noticing party, 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.

Registered Support: Deposition Reporters Association of CA (Sponsor), CA Official Court Reporters Association (COCRA), Consumer Attorneys of CA, Consumer Watchdog, Court Reporters Board of CA

Registered Opposition: Esquire Deposition Services, LLC, Magna Legal Services, U.S. Legal Support, Inc., Veritext Corporation

Status: Passed by the Assembly 4/23/15 (78-0). Passed by the Senate 8/24/15 (39-0). Passed again as amended by the Assembly 8/27/15 (78-0). To the Governor's desk.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

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 in CA. Would require the court to impose monetary penalties against a person or corporation rendering services without a license or authorization.

Registered Support: CA Court Reporters Association (Sponsor), Deposition Reporters Association of CA, Orange County Superior Court Reporters Association, Six individuals

Registered Opposition: Esquire Deposition Services, LLC, Magna Legal Services, U.S. Legal Support, Inc., Veritext Corporation

Status: Heard and passed by the Senate 5/22/15 (29-9); to the Assembly. Amended; heard by Assembly Committee on Business and Professions, 6/30/15; failed passage, reconsideration granted. Second hearing for reconsideration scheduled for 7/7 postponed.

BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

TAWNY LABRUM

Part 2 – Realtime Technology – It’s Not as Scary as it Sounds

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.

Today’s lawyers want flexibility, whether it be having the option to attend depositions and courtroom proceedings remotely or being able to walk into a conference room with their laptop, smartphone, or tablet and instantly be connected to a realtime transcript. In the first part of this series, I discussed six different techniques you can use to fight the fear of writing realtime and the importance of stepping outside your comfort level to take the “realtime plunge.” In Part 2, I will discuss why realtime technology is not as scary as it sounds.

Each one of us has a different outlook when it comes to using technology in our careers. For some of us, technology sparks curiosity, and learning it comes naturally, which allows us to constantly adapt to cutting-edge trends. For the rest of us, just the word “technology” is intimidating, and



because finding the time to learn and implement something new seems impossible, we stick to what we know, however archaic it may be. As a court reporter, when it comes to depositions and courtroom proceedings, staying on top of the latest technologies is extremely important, no matter how scary it may sound.

In the past, realtime technology was a nightmare. It was expensive, adapters and cables cluttered the conference room table, clients were limited as to which device realtime could be viewed on, and you were expected to be the court reporter while offering realtime tech support at the same time. I can see why so many reporters shied away from offering realtime.

Within the last five years the realtime software market has drastically changed. Vendors have developed solutions that are easy to operate and more manageable for all parties involved. Some of the most drastic changes in realtime technology include:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

BREAKING DOWN THE MYSTERY OF REALTIME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

- **The elimination of USB to Serial Cables:** Today's realtime technology allows you to literally go wireless. You now have a choice as to how you offer your realtime output to clients, such as delivering it through Bluetooth, using an internet connection, or even wirelessly through a router and a local area connection.
- **No more restrictions on viewing devices:** With the elimination of USB to serial cables, the doors have opened to the type of devices that can be used to view realtime. Many vendors offer mobile apps so your clients can use their iPad, Android tablet, smartphone, and even the Kindle Fire to connect and view your realtime.
- **Universal instant connections:** Most realtime software on the market provides instant universal connections. You no longer need to be afraid of changing settings in your Device Manager or changing the COM settings of your computer for the realtime delivery software to communicate with your CAT software each time you have a deposition. Solutions on the market today will automatically detect those settings and have you up and running in minutes.

From web-based remote realtime text and video streaming products to universal local onsite wireless realtime delivery, the solutions are out there, easier to use than ever and ready to be taken advantage of. Realtime technology is really not as scary as it sounds. I challenge you today to get out there, do your research, and find a solution that best meets your needs so you can take advantage of the growing demand for realtime!

WHAT'S COMING NEXT...

Why You Should Embrace Realtime Technology

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tawny Labrum is the Marketing Director for LiveDeposition, a provider of universal onsite and web-based local as well as remote realtime delivery and electronic exhibit 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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ATTORNEYS

BLUETOOTH

CABLES

CASEVIEWNET

CONNECTION

HOOKUPS

INTERNET

INTRANET

IPAD

LIVEDEPOSITION

LIVENOTE

REALTIME

SCREEN

SMARTPHONE

TABLET

TECHNOLOGY

TRANSLATE

USB

WIRELESS

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

COURT REPORTERS FOR A CURE

BY CASSANDRA CALDARELLA

The brand new South Coast College Alumni Association has put together its first-ever fundraiser/networking event to benefit court reporting students. On September 27th, 2015, thousands of Race for the Cure participants and breast cancer survivors will meet at Fashion Island, Newport Beach to Walk/Run in the Susan G. Komen's Race for the Cure to benefit breast cancer. Race participants can fundraise to save lives and end breast cancer forever. The alumni association designed a race t-shirt, and proceeds from the t-shirt sale will help to cater breakfast for our "Court Reporters for a Cure" race team.



This is an opportunity for working reporters and court reporting students to come together, meet, mingle, network, and have fun doing it, all for a worthwhile cause. It's an opportunity for reporters to inspire the next generation of students and encourage them and motivate them to get through school to become working reporters. We get to go outside for some fresh air and exercise in beautiful Newport Beach, walk 5K, meet other reporters and students, enjoy breakfast together, and have lots of fun wearing pink while doing something worthwhile.

It's also an opportunity to promote our profession to the outside world. South Coast College staff will be there representing our profession with packets of materials on our profession, hoping to recruit new court reporting students and talk up our thriving profession. With the looming shortage of court reporters (predicted shortage of 5,000 reporters by 2018), we all need to do our part to promote the profession and recruit new students to the field.

We've seen an overwhelmingly positive response so far, and the students are very excited about the networking event. 62 students have asked to be part of the "Court Reporters for a Cure" race team. We are looking for sponsorships for students to help pay for their registrations and t-shirts so they can participate in our race team. We're asking for a donation of only \$50 to sponsor a student. If you can't make it for the race, we'd ask that you consider sponsoring a student so they can be a part of it. But we'd love for reporters to sign up on our team and be a part of this wonderful event.

You can sign up for the race at www.ockomen.org. To order your t-shirt, e-mail cassarella11@hotmail.com. To sponsor a student, e-mail kgenevay@southcoastcollege.com.

We look forward to a fun morning and a successful event. Hope to see you there!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA?

"The mission of the Court Reporters Board is to protect the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring the integrity of judicial records through oversight of the court reporting profession. The CRB carries out this mission by testing, licensing and disciplining court reporters, and by recognizing the schools of court reporting that meet state curriculum standards."

Minimum Transcript Format Standards

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Did you know you can get on the list to get instant CRB news right to your inbox? Just click on the link below.

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BRIEFOLOGY

MARLA SHARP, CSR, RPR, CCRR, CLR

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

“ALL-IN-ONE” BRIEFS

Getting most of the common words down to one stroke will save you so much time that you’ll be begging them to speak faster. Well, maybe not, but it will definitely help you write more accurately (saving editing time later) and will most definitely alleviate stress on your body. You just have to put effort into remembering briefs. Things that help me are Post-its, keeping a brief spreadsheet, sticking my nose in my dictionary frequently, and stopping on words that I need a brief for and creating one right then and there. There’s no time like the present to give yourself a present!

Once you really start trying to write things in one stroke, you’ll retrain your mind, and you’ll start wanting everything in one stroke. You’ll be able to survive much better those words that you do have to stroke out because you’ll be on top of them more, not lagging behind, struggling to keep up.

Verbs are an easy place to start. You can tuck the –D for “ed” endings, –G for “ing,” –R in for “er” endings, –F for “ive.” For example:

adopt DOPT

adopted DOPTD

adopting DOPGT

adopter DORPT

adoptive DOFPT

I’ve compiled a list that isn’t exhaustive but will help you get started (or pick up some new briefs). Hope you enjoy them. And please feel free to share your briefs with me (marlavour@me.com).

Brief on, Briefers!

For access to Marla’s incredible list of all-in-one briefs, [click here](#).



POP QUIZ

CATCHING UP WITH TWO GREAT MEMBERS AND LONGTIME REPORTERS, LESLIE WHITE AND SHARI STELLHORN. WE ♥ OUR MEMBERS!



LESLIE L. WHITE

CSR NO. 4148

How long have you been reporting?

I got my license in 1977 (which is before some of you were born). The entire profession has changed dramatically from having to dictate notes and use a typewriter to transcribe. The advent of the computer was a life changer. It has made the job a lot more productive to be able to work on the transcript as the job is in progress and immediately improve the translate rate as you add dictionary entries on the job.

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

School is the hard part.....okay, some days the job is the hard part, but getting through school is doable. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE! When you get close to reaching a speed, keep pushing. Consistency is the key. Set weekly goals for yourself. When you take tests, remember to breathe. Don't absorb other people's panic or negativity. Stay positive and believe in yourself.

What is your favorite brief that always saves the day?

A dear reporter friend (Valerie Rasmussen) passed along a brief that saves my life - "OIG"! And then on the job, you hit the beginning letter to make a job dictionary brief for long words or phrases that don't need to be in your permanent dictionary. For example, "DOIG" for Deposition Reporters Association. Saves so many strokes when the words are flying by.

What do you like to do when not reporting?

I love to cook and entertain. I love to take a recipe and add to it. Or garden. When I am doing either of those, my brain is involved with tasks that fill my soul and fuel my creativity, and I let go of the tension and deadlines that surround being a court reporter.

Do you have any pets?

The loves of my life, Curious George Clooney and Dexter. They ground me and remind me that a bad day of reporting can be easily replaced with love.



SHARI STELLHORN

CSR NO. 2807

How long have you been reporting?

I have been a reporter for 40 years. I passed the November CSR in 1974.

What is the most exotic place you have ever traveled for work?

I took depositions in Japan at the consulate in 1998.

What is the most important reporting-related technology investment you have made in your career thus far?

I use realtime every day and drag around four iPads with me. I used three of them yesterday! It's a great way to sell copies.

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

I could live on avocados.

Do you have any pets?

Two German shorthair pointers, Gus and Lulu.

What is your secret talent?

I sang backup at my church for many years!

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

If I couldn't be a court reporter anymore, I would play golf and babysit my soon-to-be-born granddaughter.



NEW MEMBERS

Shelly Goodell
Angela Gonzalez
Cynthia Chan
Ceceilia Villarreal
Heather Bautista
Maria Rivera
Anna Sacripanti
Amanda Mitchell
Nycole Kochendarfer
Sara Guadarrama
Catherine Buenaventura
Theresa Wolkoff
Kylie Shepherd
Leanne Nakanishi
Erin Ontiveros
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Holly Rollins
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Michelle Miller
Lisa Meinhardt
Jennifer Anderson
Joanie Alvarez
Jamie Molinar
Veronica Guerrero
Kelly Sickler

Amber Ibarra
Ardener Harmon
Aroosha Andelibi
Bianca Torres
Sarah Chun
Rebeca Ramirez
Sahira Hernandez
Lisa Rangel
Lisa Ryder
Jennifer Minch
Rhiannon Souza
Jessica Minch
Rosana O'Rear
Norma De La Torre
Carole L. Frazier Hughes
Janice Badasci
Irene Kwon
Patricia Frase
Donna St. Clair
Laural Bergenholtz
Irene Kidder
Nicole Goodloe
Felicia Howe
Marianne Marra
Dorothy Simpson
Natalie Hoy
Lillia Luna
Silvia Goldsztajn
Daniel Byun
Renee Rodriguez
Heidi Fuehrer
Dalauna Cardoza
Elizabeth Charnesky
Stacy Molina
Kathleen Alona
Maritza Castro
Norma Mota

Sarah Carter
Misty Bohack
Cynthia Bentley
Jennifer Fraser
Vivian Tristan
Evelyn Garcia
Carlos Hicho
Bobbie Lota
Sachi Shaw
Christina Rodriguez
Nicola Frye
Kasidy Pighini
Gina De Luca
Ligia Dorame
Victoria Slattery
Crystal Garcia
Lisa McGarry
Denise Jones
Eve Burton
Jennifer Yi
Judy Bergman
PoSai Li
Valetta Leonardo
Elizabeth Corona
Shawndrae Johnston
Mia Camera
Tamara Willat
Stephanie Cohen
Eileen O'Toole
Lisa Ollar
Laura Rutherford
Marie Martinez
Lisa Rouly
Michelle Lott-Meyerhofer
Angelica DePompa
Shawnda Dorn
Tami Lynch

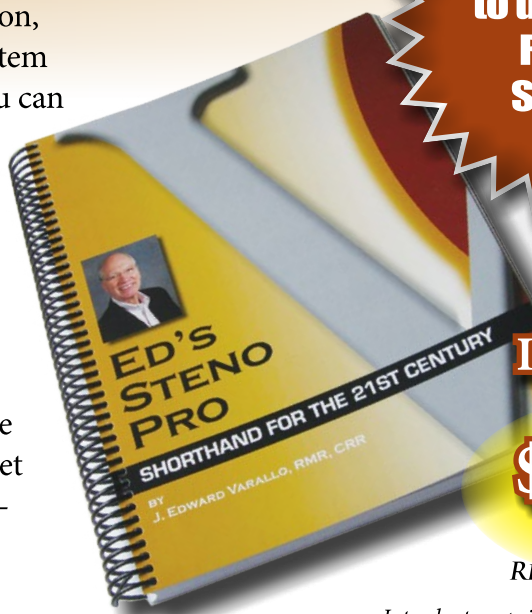
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ED'S STENO PRO

SHORTHAND FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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