

The Deposition Reporter

DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA

SUMMER 2014

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KRISTI JOHNSON, CSR, CCRR, CLR,
DRA PRESIDENT

"Why did you become a court reporter?"

As I talk with other working court reporters or court reporting students, I am often asked, "Why did you become a court reporter?" Well, the truth is I had always been intrigued by the court reporting profession since I was in elementary school.

As a young child, sitting in church after summer break, my youth leader would always ask us to share what we did over the summer. My stories were usually boring, "I went to the beach, spent a day at Disneyland," typical family summer activities. My neighbor would come back with these exotic stories of where he went. I'd hear of adventures to Egypt, going on archeological digs, riding camels through the desert, travelling to Greece, Israel, Jordan. It was always someplace amazing and each adventure was better than the last.

I walked past their house every afternoon. Their house was not a mansion, nor was it small. To me, it was perfect. It was big enough for family holidays, but not so big you would need a map to find the bathrooms.

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MY EXPERIENCE AT THE DRA SPRING SEMINAR

DIANE FREEMAN,
CSR, RPR

Saturday, May 31, I got up early for the hour-and-a-half drive from Novato to San Jose. Ugh! I had a list of at least 100 things I shoulda/coulda (I need a grammar seminar) been doing.

I found my way to valet parking. I walked into the lobby and was so happy to see two friendly faces – colleagues from my early reporting days.

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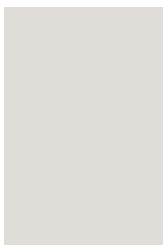
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Their mom was always around our school campus. If her son had a basketball game or her daughter was in a play, there was their mother, front and center, cheering her kids on.

My mother went to work as the office manager for my neighbor's court reporting agency. I spent many afternoons after school sitting in her office, watching court reporters come and go, dropping off transcripts on their way to the gym or shopping at the mall. It all seemed so glamorous to me.

My personal journey through court reporting school was a long one. However, several years after I became a court reporter, I had a conversation with that neighbor of mine and told her what an influence she had in my decision to look into this profession. To say she was surprised at what an influence she had on me is an understatement. My neighbor didn't do anything special. In fact, other than a quick demo of that mysterious machine, we never discussed her career. You see, it wasn't just the career I was looking for, it was the lifestyle, the ability to have the best of both worlds, that of a professional and of a mother. I have fallen in love with my career and enjoy the challenges I'm faced with on a daily basis. So thank you, Judy, for introducing me to court reporting!

As I always say, "I have the job that I can work around my life. I don't have to work my life around my job." Well, that's true most days.

I wanted to tell this story to simply demonstrate you never know who is watching you, whom you're influencing, who wants to grow up and be just like you. Our profession is one that's not heavily promoted. Most people discover court reporting as a career choice by word of mouth or knowing a court

SMILES FOR DRA



As a student, I decided to go to one of the DRA conventions, and it's one of the best choices I ever made.

As a SoCal student going to a NorCal conference, there were no other students from my school present. However, on my first day there, everyone was so welcoming and helpful that I never felt alone or out of place. Past-President Valerie Eames invited me to sit with her and her friends for lunch, and encouraged me to ask as many questions as I had. I made connections and friendships at that conference that have supported and benefited me throughout my schooling and my career. Having been to every February conference since then, I've learned valuable information from seasoned reporters, information integral to allowing me to continue to do my job proficiently and within the occasionally complex confines of the law.

I can honestly say that DRA was a major component in me sticking out school and never feeling overwhelmed entering the workforce.

– Heatherlynn Gonzalez

reporter like I did. We need more people enrolling in our schools, discovering what it is we do and developing that passion and desire to complete a court reporting program. Without new reporters coming into this profession, we will eventually become obsolete.

If you have the opportunity, attend a career day at your child's school. Take your machine and show those children what it is we do and talk about the different fields they can go into with this skill. If you hear of a career day but don't have the time to attend, pass the information along to your DRA district representative. Their email address can be found on CalDRA.org under "About DRA," "Board of Directors."

If you meet a court reporting student, be open to talking with them, encourage them. We all know what an emotional roller coaster it is to get through school. If they are not a member of DRA, make sure they know about us and know what a great support system they can develop by being a part of DRA.

Let's get out there and inspire the next generation of court reporters. You never know, that quiet person in the back of the pack that you've inspired could become the next Mark Kislingbury.

I asked this same question – *Why did you become a court reporter?* – on our Facebook page. The responses we got were so different, so interesting. I thought you might enjoy reading about the different journeys.

CARINA VALLES

"My uncle was an OC sheriff (now retired) and was working in the courthouse at the time and suggested it to me.....and here I am and absolutely love my job!"

VESNA WALTER

"Sitting next to a fellow interviewee on a flight to Atlanta for Eastern Airlines to become a 'stewardess' back in 1975, I said to her, 'What if you don't get it?'"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

DRA IS GOING TO DISNEYLAND!



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: WHY DID YOU BECOME A COURT REPORTER?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

She said, 'Well, I'll finish court reporting school.' I then asked every question ever invented about court reporting and went down the next day to Bryan to take the admission test, started the next day after that."

LESLIE WHITE

"I actually read about it in Cosmopolitan magazine."

DEBORAH MCNALLY

"The brother's friend was a court reporter. He showed me his check. I was like, yeah, I think I might like that. Little did I know that when you're making good money you are working for it."

WENDY MOORE

"Pennysaver! The ad said make your own hours, weekends off. Now that's funny!!! But 24 years later, so glad I enrolled."

DRA'S VICE PRESIDENT RICH ALOSSI

"When I was 18, my mom saw me popping the keys off of my QWERTY keyboard so I could change it to the Dvorak layout to type faster. I wanted to be a computer programmer after getting dropped from my classes as a poli sci major in college due to forgetting to pay my registration fees. She had testified as an expert witness once in a pediatric nursing case and had even gone to school for it before. She said I'd be great at court reporting. Checked out an open house at Bryan College in the funky old building and was kind of intrigued. We even started Theory together. What I thought would be a job that I'd have until I figured out what I really wanted to do turned into a full-blown passion of mine."

CHASE FRAZIER

"After saying 'no' a thousand times to my mom when she would ask me if I wanted to become one, I realized one day that I didn't want to go to college and be another graduate without a job. My brother was doing really well with it, so sophomore year in high school, I started learning theory from my mom."

JESSIE FREY

"I had just gotten accepted into a grad school program at the University of Oregon when I had jury duty for three weeks.

The court reporter sat in front of me, and all I wanted to know was what they were talking about when they went to judge's chambers or sidebar. I started researching court reporting and have been hooked ever since. Sorry, Oregon!"

SUSAN BIARD

"My lifelong friend, now sister-in-law, told me she was going to be a court reporter when we were 18. I thought, Wow, that's soo boring. Over the years, we would meet up again, and she would tell me new things about her career like 'I'm opening my own agency,' and all I would think was, Wow, so sorry your life is a snooze-fest. Meanwhile, I was 'busy' earning a degree in fine art that I would never use. It wasn't until I was graduated with a BFA and no direction in life that I went to work for her agency and realized what an interesting job she really has and how much money she was making to boot! I only worked for her for six months before I decided to go back to school for court reporting! I've since become a court reporter, and now I'm kicking myself for ignoring her back when we were 18!"

SUE CAMPANA

"My high school business teachers all told me that court reporting would be a great job for me. I excelled in typing, Gregg shorthand (now you have an idea how old I am!), and English. I didn't want to hear any of it. I was going to be a newspaper reporter. After floating around two different colleges for a while, I dropped out, moved home, and enrolled in court reporting school. And here I am today, many years later. So thank you, Mr. Ferris, Mrs. Parker, and Mr. Parker. I doubt they even know how much that little suggestion changed the course of my life."

DEBORAH MEYERS

"I had been working in a bank for six years and was bored to tears. I got called for jury duty back in the day when you had to serve all ten days if your employer paid your wages. I was on three trials in those two weeks and kept watching the court reporters, thought it was very interesting. I contacted a few agencies to see if there was work out there, and every one of them said, 'Call me the minute you get out of school and I'll give you a job.' (This was in 1986 or '87.) Interviewed at Bryan and at Merit, and signed up with Mrs. P. Went part-time for seven months, then took out a second on my house, quit my bank job, and went full-time."

DRA SPRING SEMINAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After getting coffee, we headed upstairs to the registration table. The day was getting brighter by the minute especially after greeting the group of reporters attending. It's always great to catch up with fellow reporters and a pleasure to meet other reporters.

Now it's 9:00, time for the first of two seminars entitled "Grammar and Punctuation"! Kudos to Margie Wakeman-Wells for her entertaining and informative presentation; yet, I don't abide by all the rules! Sorry, Margie.

I was so engrossed that I was surprised lunch time came so soon; which, unfortunately, was right next to the CRR testing room. We were told we had to be quiet – no talking – for five minutes. Seriously? That was the most difficult five minutes of the day. We were good, and the test was fine.

At 1:00 we headed back in for another four hours. All the seminars were beyond my expectations. I mean, five out of five stars: The reporters attending were able to make a list of issues for Ed, our awesome lobbyist, to bring to the legislature. Monyeen Black provided an amazing array of forms, among them is a universal worksheet available for all DRA members to download. Karen Hensche always has so many fun gadgets it makes me dizzy trying to keep up with technology.

At 5:30 it was time to go home. We were given a voucher for parking. Did I mention I valet parked? The vouchers are only for self-parkers. I had to pay \$30.00 – lesson learned.



On my long drive home, my heart was filled with all the good energy, information, and the extra bonus of networking with a wonderful group of the best reporters. I have even had calls to cover jobs from reporters I met.

It is so great after 32 years of reporting I can still learn new things and still love this profession.

The DRA Fall Seminar is September 27 at the Disneyland Hotel. Check out the agenda.

Thank you DRA for all your amazing hard work. It was a huge success, in my opinion.

I must have a last word: Please encourage your colleagues to participate in DRA. If you have any ideas/topics for future seminars, let DRA know. Your input is valued.

Finally, I have to say, I didn't experience the CCRR, but need to soon. I so appreciate the daunting work Holly Moose and her team do!



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POP QUIZ



VANESSA CAPARAS

CSR, RPR
DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR,
DEPOSITION REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A COURT REPORTER?

I've been a reporter now for 15 years. I can't believe it!

WHERE IS THE MOST EXOTIC PLACE YOU HAVE EVER TAKEN A DEPOSITION?

I've been fortunate to travel outside of the U.S. for depositions. Pago Pago, American Samoa is definitely the most exotic. Just a quick 11-hour flight from Southern California. Luckily, Hawaii is in between, so it's a good excuse to have an extra layover day on the way back!

WHAT IS YOUR STARBUCKS DRINK ORDER?

Grande raspberry Americano with an add shot and extra room. When I add creamer to it, the drink turns pink from the raspberry syrup. It's so girly – I love it.

WHAT SONG DO YOU ALWAYS CRANK UP AND SING ALONG TO WHEN IT COMES ON YOUR CAR RADIO?

I don't usually listen to the radio in my car. I listen to a lot of EDM, club, trance, dub step music. Not a lot of lyrics there.

IF YOU WEREN'T A COURT REPORTER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE?

Probably a burnt-out cocktail waitress in Vegas or a racecar driver.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

Catching up with my girlfriends at brunch preferably sitting outside. Or just enjoy doing nothing.

WHAT SECRET TALENT DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE?

I can cure hiccups.

WHAT IS BEST THING ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I'd say the best thing is listening to people's testimony and hearing about their experiences and knowledge, expertise. The dynamics in a deposition are always fascinating to me.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING

SHANNA GRAY, CSR

Court Reporting School. What was your first thought when you read that? If you tell me fond memories, I'm not sure that I'll believe you. We all have our war stories, but however you feel about your school experience, you can be thankful that school helped you to where you are today: a working reporter in our great profession.

But one of the many things my school lacked – and I'm sure it's the same for many others – is a means of teaching you what it's like in the real world of reporting. Don't get me wrong. I believe they try their very best to do so, but honestly, how can they? They are in the business of preparing you for the state exam and trying to get you as prepared as they can for the fundamentals of the profession.

But there is a whole lot more to this profession than just the fundamentals. There is professional decorum, how to interact with varying personalities and demanding attorneys. How do you interact with agencies? What are the general practices for your region? What is workers' comp really like? What are the standard practices that happen in that part of our work area? There is so much out there that there is just not enough time in school to teach. It takes long enough as it is, right?

Well, for all these questions above is why I think it's so important to get a mentor as you are transitioning out of school and why it is tantamount in our profession for reporting professionals to also be a mentor. As I was telling a colleague that I had to meet up with my mentee, she asked me, "Why are you doing that? You don't have time for that!" I told her I'm doing it because I feel like it is my professional duty. Sounds corny, right? But I don't think so.

This can be a lonely profession, even with the advent of Facebook and many groups online that offer help to the new and not-so-new reporters out there. Those things are great, but not everyone is into social media and some people find

those groups intimidating. And, after all, there is nothing like having a go-to person that you can call, text, or e-mail to get the answer to a quick question that you feel others may think you should already know. With the right mentor you can rest assured that you won't feel judged for asking your questions.

On the reporters' side of things, we are rapidly approaching a time when many of our reporters will be retiring. We need to make sure that our new reporters entering the profession are as prepared as possible so that they can love the profession as much as we do.

Let's face it, if you have a hard time when you first start out and you feel isolated, you may not feel so good about the profession. I have heard of some reporters who have worked extremely hard to get through school and obtain certification only to start working and become sorely disappointed with their reporting experience. Although only they know their motives as to why, could it be that they didn't feel they had any kind of support system?

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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HARDLY TRIVIAL

FOR THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER CONTEST, DRA IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE ITS FIRST-EVER CSR TRIVIA QUIZ. THE RULES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Correctly answer all ten questions listed below.
2. Submit your answers to newslettereditor@caldra.org with the subject line "Hardly Trivial answers"
3. If you are the first person to submit your answers correctly, you will receive a \$25 credit towards a future DRA event in 2014 or 2015.
4. Sorry, but DRA Board members are not eligible to participate in this contest.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND WIN!

1. This woman served as DRA's third president.
2. The Court Reporters Board is headquartered in which California city?
3. "Caveat emptor" translates into this English phrase.
4. Currently, _____ district representatives serve on DRA's Board of Directors.
5. When a deposition is not transcribed, a CSR is required to maintain his/her steno notes for this many years.
6. The California CSR skills exam is required to be passed at _____% accuracy.
7. DRA's upcoming fall seminar will be held in _____ at the _____ Hotel.
8. True or False: A California CSR is required to use audio recording during deposition proceedings.
9. DRA's annual convention is traditionally held in this month.
10. This is the longest bone in the human body.

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Could it be that in their first month in reporting they got a deposition or two from hell that usually only happens one or two times a year and it soured their taste for reporting? If they have no one experienced to turn to, they may think that that is what a reporting career will be like.

My purpose here is to encourage my fellow reporters to reach back and support a high-speed student or a new reporter. Your wisdom will help them so much in their early years and hopefully that person will do the same thing as they gain more experience.

You can do this in many ways, such as reaching out right here through DRA and joining their mentor program. I have done it, and I have found it very rewarding. I will continue to do it as I go through my career. My mentees have become friends.

But even outside of the association, if you see a reporter or student on Facebook or another group that seems like they could use a hand and some advice, I encourage you to reach out and go that extra mile.

Let them know that you are available if they ever have random questions or just need someone to talk to.

There are many things I love about reporting, but one of the top ones has to be the community of reporters. I feel very lucky to have met some very professional and helpful colleagues out in the field. I encourage all reporters to pay it forward and "adopt" a student or new reporter so we can keep our profession healthy and happy.

“THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING ATTORNEY”

ANTONIA PULONE, CSR

Dear Depo Diplomat:

I'm not quite sure what to do with this situation.

We have a case where one of the defendants has elected “not to participate” in the case, didn't answer the summons, etc. Long story. We have taken three volumes of this defendant's depo – months apart. Each time he has showed up with the same attorney, which is where the witness says he wants to be contacted. No home address given; contact is to be through his attorney. First two volumes of the dep, no problem. The original transcript of the third volume, taken two weeks ago, was sent to his attorney and was returned. Apparently the attorney moved his office. No forwarding address, and didn't say a word about it to anyone in the case. We've left messages on the attorney's cell phone, the only phone he uses. I've texted the attorney. I've told my office to leave a message every day this week to try and get a correct address. No response to anything so far. I am going to write a letter to the old address in the hope that it will be forwarded and that maybe it was just packages that weren't being forwarded, but I really don't anticipate that working. I've spoken to my client, who took the dep, who says that this witness's attorney is a known flake. Doesn't return their phone calls, etc., etc. They have the same contact info I have.

I do have the original notice of the depo from last year with a mailing address for the witness's business, but I am not sure, one, that it is still a valid address, or, two, whether I can – or should – go “off stipulation” and send the original transcript there. I suppose I can send a letter there, letting him know the original is available for signature and to contact us.

So my question is, assuming (and this is highly likely) I cannot get a valid address for this attorney, and no response from the witness's former work address, can I just send the original transcript back to the deposing attorney with a letter copying all parties, explaining the situation? Not sure what obligations I have when someone refuses to cooperate or “participate” and the attorney doesn't give his current address.



DEAR DRA MEMBER:

This is an unusual situation, and I'm just depending on common sense here, because the Code of Civil Procedure (“CCP”) doesn't provide any help, since it assumes you will always have a means of contacting the witness – or in this case, his representative/attorney. Also, since the parties went by the Southern California stipulation, they were already operating outside the CCP instructions regarding witness notification for reading and signing. Per the stip, the original is to be shipped to the witness's attorney, who now cannot be found or reached anywhere by anyone.

If your client has no suggestion on where you might be able to reach this man, then there probably isn't any reliable means of doing so. Since the witness has made it clear that

he only wants to be contacted through his attorney, who has now disappeared, I also wouldn't try to reach him at his last known employer.

You may have already tried this, but could this attorney have an email address listed on the State Bar site? I'm guessing, based on his performance so far, that he wouldn't have given them one, though I think attorneys are expected to do so these days.

I'd be tempted to call the State Bar and ask if they have any new address, email or phone number for this man. I'll bet you they won't, but at least you'll be pointing out to them that this attorney isn't obeying their rules, which is to notify them of an address change within 30 days.

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THE DISAPPEARING ATTORNEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Assuming that none of the above attempts yields a good contact point for the missing attorney, I would send a witness notification letter, re the deponent's right to review/correct his depo transcript, to the only address you have for the attorney. Maybe by now the post office has a forwarding address for him; if not, it will be returned to you, like the original transcript was. But you'll have proof that you've tried to contact the witness in the only way made available to you, per the witness' request. You can't do much more than that.

Then I think what I'd do is hold the original for the statutory 30 days post notification and then send it to the noticing attorney.

If the attorney to whom the original was stipulated away has really dropped off the face of the earth, I think that the best approach is at least to keep the original in the safe custody of your client rather than sending it to this nomadic attorney and possibly risk losing it. And if this man does surface somewhere, your client would likely

learn about that before you do, so he can then decide whether to forward it on to him.

It's just a shame that you have to spend your time, money and energy trying to chase down this man. That shouldn't be necessary; this attorney should have made his new address known as required.

I hope my suggestions help somewhat. No answer is perfect here, but this might be the most practical solution.

BILL WATCH

TONI PULONE, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The California legislature is now in the second year of a two-year session. Some of the following bills were introduced last year but did not pass and are now two-year bills, and some have been introduced during this legislative year, but all will have to clear both houses and be signed by the Governor by September 30 in order to become law.

They are all being carefully watched by your DRA lobbyist, Ed Howard, and your DRA Board of Directors. DRA carefully reviews and follows every bill introduced in Sacramento that could potentially have an impact on California CSRs, our profession or our livelihood.

A note of explanation, if you're not familiar with legislative terminology: The name in parens which follows the bill number is that of the author, the legislator who introduced and is carrying the bill. The status of each bill below is current as of July 15, 2014. To follow the progress of these or any bills, go to www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov, and click on the "Bill Information" tab, then search for any bill by number, author or keyword. Click on the bill you're interested in, and you'll go to the information page for that bill. Once there you can choose "Track Bill," provide your email address and enter a password to create your account, and you can select various types of notification to receive regarding the progress of any given bill. You can then return to this site, click on "My Subscription" to review and print your list of tracked bills. Also, a "Guide for Accessing California Legislative Information" can be found at www.leginfo.ca.gov/guide.html, which contains a thorough glossary of legislative terms and a great deal of helpful material.



SENATE BILL 1313 (NEILSEN)

Sponsor: Judicial Council

Summary: Would repeal the provisions of the Trial Court Employment Protection and Governance Act that prescribe the compensation and conditions of employment of official reporters in 14 counties. (15 counties were originally included, but Shasta

County has been amended out of the bill.)

Status: Amended on 4/21. Heard in Senate Judiciary Committee; failed passage. Reconsideration granted. .

ASSEMBLY BILL 186

(Maienschein; Principal Coauthor: Hagman, plus 11 Coauthors and 2 Senate Coauthors)

Sponsor: Author-sponsored

Summary: As amended, would require

boards (some boards have been excluded by amendment) within the Department of Consumer Affairs to establish a temporary licensure process, under given conditions, for a person holding a current license in another jurisdiction who is married to, or in a domestic partnership with, an active-duty member of the Armed Forces who is stationed in California.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

BILL WATCH

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE: ASSEMBLY BILL 186

Status: Passed by Senate committees. Ready for third reading and vote on Senate floor.

ASSEMBLY BILL 365 (MULLIN)

Sponsor: Deposition Reporters Association of California (Original Language Only)

Summary/Status: This bill, as originally introduced, was sponsored by DRA to ensure that only transcripts prepared by licensed official court reporters and official reporters pro tempore could be considered as prima facie evidence of testimony and proceedings. On June 12, 2014, this bill was amended, and all the original language was stricken and replaced by language unrelated to reporters, so it will no longer be included in our Bill Watch reports.

ASSEMBLY BILL 655 (QUIRK-SILVA)

Sponsor: California Court Reporters Association

Summary: Would allow, but not require, trial courts to establish the Reporters' Salary Fund, as currently exists in L.A. County, from which the salaries and benefits of official reporters would be paid. The fund would be replenished each month to ensure a balance is maintained to provide for reporters' pay. No amount is currently specified as to the size of the fund, but it's expected that an amount will be amended into the bill before being heard by the Appropriations Committee.

Status: Passed the Assembly; now in Senate. Passed in Senate Judiciary Committee. Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee; hearing cancelled at the request of author.

(No change in status since our last Bill Watch report.)

ASSEMBLY BILL 788 (WAGNER)

Sponsor: Conference of California Bar Associations

Summary: Would amend Section 69954 of the Government Code to allow for copies of non-computer-readable court transcripts, once purchased from the reporter, to be reproduced for internal use or in response to a request for discovery, court order, rule, statute or subpoena, without paying a further fee to the reporter.

Status: Passed the Assembly; now in Senate. Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Assemblymember Wagner has agreed to not pursue this bill.

(No change in status since our last Bill Watch report.)

ASSEMBLY BILL 2006 (WAGNER)

Sponsor: California Bar Examiners

Summary: Would allow for a video recording of a deposition or the deposition transcript to be used at a trial or hearing.

Status: Set for hearing by Assembly

Judiciary Committee on 05/06; hearing cancelled at request of author following author's meeting with DRA's President, Legislative Advocate and Legislative Chair. Assemblymember Wagner has agreed to not pursue this bill.

ASSEMBLY BILL 2332 (WIECKOWSKI)

Sponsor: SEIU and AFSCME

Summary: Would establish specified standards to be met if a trial court intends to enter into a contract for any services currently or customarily performed by trial court employees or for court reporting services. These standards would apply to any contract entered into on or after Jan. 1, 2015. This is very similar to the language introduced last year as AB 566 by Assemblymember Wieckowski, which passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor.

Status: Passed by Assembly as amended; in Senate. Heard in Senate Judiciary Committee and passed. Referred to Senate Committee on Appropriations.



Photo by Allie Caulfield on Flickr



WHY VOLUNTEER?

CHERYL HAAB, CSR, RPR, CLR

“Gosh, you’re always so busy!”

“How do you balance it all?”

“Why don’t you step down from the board so that you have more free time?”

These are just a few of the many comments and suggestions I receive on an ongoing basis from well-intentioned friends and family. In my capacity as a district director for the Deposition Reporters Association, those who know me best are well aware of the position’s demands on my time. Along with being a full-time court reporter and single mother, serving on the board of directors for DRA is definitely one of the largest responsibilities to which I dedicate my life. However, the three terms of board service that I have undertaken with DRA have proven to be some of the most fulfilling years of my life, both professionally and personally. And to those who suggest otherwise, I will tell you why.

It is no secret that over a great many decades, the ill-informed have made numerous attempts to find more “cost-effective” ways to produce verbatim transcripts of legal proceedings. Yet time and time again, these money-saving methods have proven to be no more than inefficient substitutes for the skill and human element of the shorthand reporter. Serving on the board of directors, however, has given me a front seat to some of the most difficult work our association does – speaking out against, and alternately, the crafting of, legislation that has the potential of affecting our esteemed profession. Watching this all unfold in front of me as an active participant on the board fills me with a sense of purpose and allows me to feel invested in my work as a court reporter. With every positive change that DRA effects, I feel in some small way connected to the outcome. There is also an

immeasurable satisfaction to be reaped from knowing that a whole host of future CSRs will benefit from our continual protection of this great career.

Along with board service comes many, many hours of volunteer efforts to coordinate seminars, conventions, and other events that benefit the general reporting population. So it’s no surprise that, in the course my volunteerism, I have met a lot of amazing people. I feel so fortunate to rub shoulders on an ongoing basis with brilliant reporters who I also happen to call friends. Some people ask me whether our regularly scheduled meetings are boring. I can assure you that they’re anything but.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

Local & Cloud-based Realtime Delivery



Works
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The **ONLY** Universal Wireless
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WHY VOLUNTEER?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Along with the mountain of tasks accomplished at each gathering, there is also a sense of camaraderie in the room that makes the day go by quickly. Every meeting starts with hugs, handshakes, and a general air of excitement to be reunited after some time. On the other side of the coin, meetings generally conclude with dinner and drinks at the hotel bar, allowing us to catch up with each other's busy lives. ~

Lastly, the level of professional satisfaction that I've achieved from my board service has benefited my career in ways I would never have anticipated. Not only does my visibility as a district director provide a great many networking opportunities from agencies all over Los Angeles, but the intimate knowledge that I have of this profession allows me to perform my work as a court reporter more efficiently. There is no greater feeling at a deposition than being able to cite an obscure portion of the Code of Civil Procedure or elucidate on the brand-new seven-hour rule. Happy attorneys will inevitably become repeat clients, and each agency that I choose to work with also benefits from this superior level of customer service.

Unfortunately, as our board consists solely of unpaid volunteers, we aren't able to perform the entirety of these tasks alone. Each board member leads a rich and fulfilling life outside of the DRA and can only devote so many hours to fulfilling the mission of our great association. That is where you, the DRA member, comes in. So many of our committees, from the mentoring program to convention organization and membership, only run efficiently with the assistance of its



dedicated members. With as little as a few hours of your time each month, you can give back to the organization that protects your career by helping it to continue to run as a well-oiled machine. Without great associations like DRA, the profession of court reporting as we know it may have ceased to exist. Isn't it time to give back to the organization that protects your livelihood?



NEW MEMBERS

Sharece Atkins
Donna Badger Cramin
Kathy Bates
Laurie Birt
Callie Black
Linda Brown
Lani Cabuco

Trina Cox
Audra Cramer
RoseMary Davis
Patrick Delaney
Ann Delgado
Dulcemaria Duarte
Tami Frazier
Laurie Gower
Ermelinda Hernandez
Jeanette Hill
Kim Krueger
Whitney Kumar
Lisa Lawson
Darlene May

Rubi Michaca
Kimberly Myers
Mary Parker
Lisa Peters
Maronda Powell
Valerie Ransom
Danielle Reading
Elizabeth Schmidt
Dana Shelley
Nicholas Steckel
Lorena Tassi
Christopher Tobin
Jia-Wen Wang
Forrest Zoslocki



DID YOU KNOW ...
YOU CAN ATTEND THE NEXT DRA CONVENTION FOR FREE?
HOW?
GET 3 AND GO FREE!

It's easy! Sponsor three new professional members to DRA, and we'll pay your convention registration to either the 2014 or 2015 Annual Convention. Firm owner? You can go free, too! Just sponsor five new members. Or, sponsor three and pay the difference in firm owner registration.

How do you find reporters to join?

- Go through your Facebook friends. How many of your reporter friends are not members?
- Ever meet other reporters on the job? Ask them if they belong to DRA.
- Think of all the reporters you know. Do you know three who aren't DRA members?

3 = FREE



WHY I FINALLY DUMPED MY PC – AND YOU SHOULD TOO

RICH ALOSSI, CSR, RPR, CCRR, CLR, RSA

I finally did it. After spending most of my life on the PC upgrade treadmill, this reporter is now the proud owner of a sleek aluminum MacBook Air.

This hasn't been an easy decision for me. I've been a PC user since my mother brought home a green-text-on-black-screen "word processor" back in 1992, complete with a nine-inch floppy disk drive and dot-matrix printer. The next year, despite our extremely modest blue-collar means, my parents paid over \$4,000 for our first 90-mHz beige box running Windows 3.11. Imagine our heartbreak when we learned that a 100-mHz version was released only weeks later.

Since those early days of personal computing, eight generations of Windows have followed, and I've used each new version faithfully, from the era of Blue Screens of Death to the now-familiar Windows 8 Start Screen. Upgrading every year and a half just seemed normal to me as each unit started to experience degradation, slow-downs, busted keyboards, failing pixels in the display and the inevitable hard drive crash.

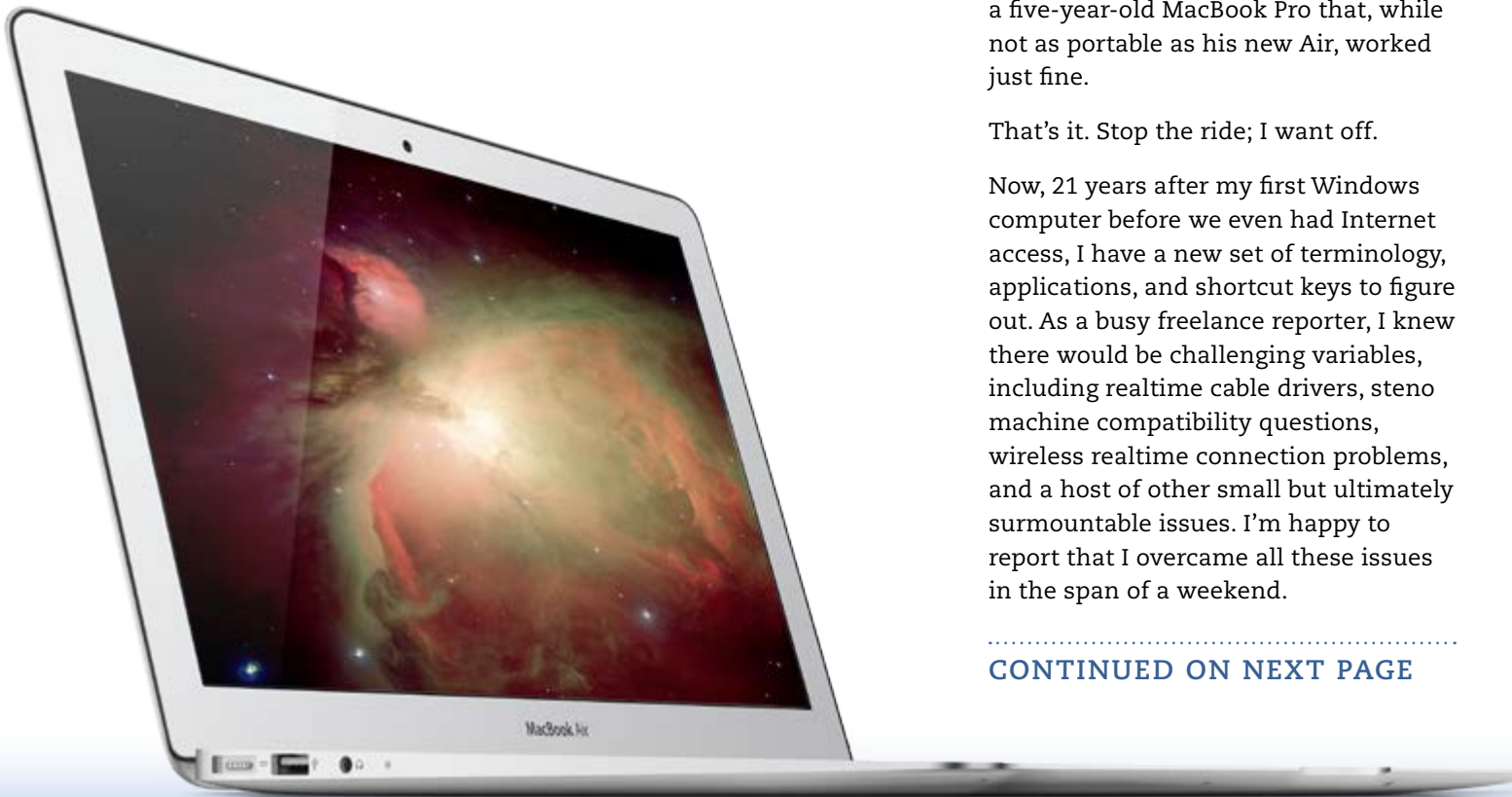
Many others before me have said these wise words: Don't skimp on the tools of your trade. Several times, a hard drive crash or totally fried motherboard the night before a job would cause me to hastily purchase a preconfigured piece of junk at Best Buy, a decision I'd have to live with for the next year and a half until the next major crash. Sure, I'd get the best machine I possibly could, but it never fit the bill perfectly.

After this happened over and over again, though, it got me to thinking. Friends and family who have purchased Macs have had them for years. My sister's MacBook has been plodding along for eight years now, if not longer. My husband's MacBook Air succeeded a five-year-old MacBook Pro that, while not as portable as his new Air, worked just fine.

That's it. Stop the ride; I want off.

Now, 21 years after my first Windows computer before we even had Internet access, I have a new set of terminology, applications, and shortcut keys to figure out. As a busy freelance reporter, I knew there would be challenging variables, including realtime cable drivers, steno machine compatibility questions, wireless realtime connection problems, and a host of other small but ultimately surmountable issues. I'm happy to report that I overcame all these issues in the span of a weekend.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



WHY I DUMPED MY PC - AND YOU SHOULD TOO

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Ordering a MacBook is a breeze. I walked into my friendly neighborhood Apple Store, and fifteen minutes later, I was out the door with a new, unfamiliar laptop computer and significantly less money in my bank account. The physical build quality of the MacBook Air is second to none; I have no doubt this can physically last for those bumpy rides over L.A.'s broken streets and sidewalks.

Most CAT software requires a program that will allow Windows to run side-by-side with OSX, the operating system running Mac computers. Options include the Big Three: Boot Camp, Parallels, and VMWare Fusion. From my research, I found that Fusion was the most straightforward option available. Indeed, it has been simple to install and run. No partitioning hard drives necessary.

Installing Fusion takes a few minutes and requires a Windows license key. Though I have an old copy of Windows 7 and an upgrade license for Windows 8, those licenses have reached their limits, requiring that I purchase a new Windows 8 license. After a 15-minute installation, my Windows 8 "lives" inside OSX and seamlessly runs CaseCATalyst, Microsoft Word, CrashPlan backup, and any other Windows program I decide to run. I'm starting to like this way of working, thinking of the Windows side as my CAT environment and the OSX side as everything else.

After I'm done editing my transcripts for the day, I shut down the Windows environment until the next morning when I open up Fusion, press the Start button, and I'm ready to rock that realtime, as much as one can rock anything in a dry legal proceeding, anyway.

Keep in mind that your ability to get support on your CAT software is limited to what can be accomplished on the Windows side of things. If there's an issue with the Mac side, you may be on your own. Luckily, there's a Facebook group for CaseCATalyst users ("Mac and Case CATalyst Users" group), and there may be user groups for other CAT softwares.

My new setup worked flawlessly in an all-day realtime depo the following Monday, with both cables for LiveNote and a wireless connection to multiple iPads. For once, I feel I have an extremely high-quality piece of equipment here at my disposal. I'm off the PC upgrade treadmill and couldn't be happier.



DRA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST & BONUS CHALLENGE!

GRAND PRIZE:
\$500 MARRIOTT HOTELS GIFT CARD

Contest runs through
September 20th

The Deposition Reporters Association is excited to announce that **Bayside Reporting Company** is sponsoring a **membership contest drawing** AND **issuing a bonus membership challenge!** Simply sign up for DRA's auto-renewal membership option, and you're automatically entered into the drawing.

IT'S SO EASY!

WHO'S ELIGIBLE TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE?

All professional and associate members that sign up for DRA's auto-renewal membership: **CURRENT MEMBERS, LAPSED MEMBERS AND NEW MEMBERS.** **

CalDRA.org/DRAcontest

WHAT'S THE BONUS CHALLENGE?

In addition to the Grand Prize, if DRA secures 200 new or lapsed members between now and September 20th, Bayside Reporting Company will donate \$500 to the DRA War Chest. There's never been a more important or opportune time to commit to your profession. Don't let us lose out on this challenge!

DRA volunteers spend hours of time fighting for you - do your share and contribute to the fight with your membership dollars. Challenge your colleagues to join DRA - Everyone Contributes; Everyone Benefits.

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!

Drawing will be held at the DRA fall seminar on September 27, 2014, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA. Winner need not be present.

*** Student memberships do not qualify for either the contest or the challenge.*

Your ad could be here

Contact DRA to
find out how
dra@caldra.org



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."

Download the Brochure

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DRA FALL SEMINAR

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
DISNEYLAND HOTEL,
ANAHEIM

DRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014
COURTYARD MARRIOTT
OAKLAND
10:00 AM

CCRR EXAMINATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014
DISNEYLAND HOTEL,
ANAHEIM
Q&A • 5 MINUTES • 200 WPM
LIVE DICTATION