



# DEPOSITION REPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

• 1900 Point West Way, Suite 146, Sacramento, CA 95815-4706 • 888.867.2074 • Fax: 916.487.7105 •

## Student Newsletter • November 2012

Lorrie L. Marchant, Editor – [studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org](mailto:studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org)

### ***Reporter and Student Events***

#### **The Deposition Reporters Association Board of Directors Meeting**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be in Los Angeles on January 12, 2013. Do you have anything you'd like us to discuss? Your district rep is your voice. Send them an e-mail with your questions or concerns. All DRA members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board meetings.

**District 1** – Lorrie L. Marchant – [district1@caldra.org](mailto:district1@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma

**District 2** - Robin Riviello – [district2@caldra.org](mailto:district2@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: Monterey, San Benito, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz

**District 3** - Diana Sasseen – [district3@caldra.org](mailto:district3@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba

**District 4** - Rich Alossi – [district4@caldra.org](mailto:district4@caldra.org)

County Represented: Los Angeles

**District 5** - Kristi Johnson – [district5@caldra.org](mailto:district5@caldra.org)

County Represented: Orange

**District 6** - Linda Nelson – [district6@caldra.org](mailto:district6@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: San Bernardino and Riverside

**District 7** - Vanessa Caparas – [district7@caldra.org](mailto:district7@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: San Diego and Imperial

**District 8** - Monyeen Black – [district8@caldra.org](mailto:district8@caldra.org)

Counties Represented: Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare and Ventura and all Professional Members residing in counties or states other than California or the USA.

### **Join us at our DRA 2013 Convention!**

**Date:** Friday, February 22, 2013 through Sunday, February 24, 2013

**Start Time:** 1:00 p.m. on 2/22 **End Time:** 5:00 p.m. on 2/24

**Location:** Fairmont Newport Beach, Newport Beach, CA



Is there an issue you would like to know about? Have a question or a story to share?  
Write to [studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org](mailto:studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org)

## **APPLY TODAY FOR OUR 2012 SCHOLARSHIP! WIN \$1000!**

The Deposition Reporters Association is offering the chance to win a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to a deserving court reporting student, currently enrolled in an approved court reporting program, who is in the 180-and-above speed classes, in qualifier classes, or sitting for the California CSR exam. An applicant sitting for the CSR must continue to be enrolled in school and maintain excellent attendance. The scholarship is intended to be used for school-related and court reporting-related expenses and may be used at the discretion of the recipient. To be eligible, you must be a student member of DRA. (Join at [www.caldra.org](http://www.caldra.org)) In addition to the completed application, an official school transcript, and a personal statement, each applicant must provide two (2) letters of recommendation (from teachers, counselors, community or religious leaders, employers, or other nonfamily members) to be sent directly to the Scholarship Committee. **All information will be kept in strictest confidence within DRA's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors.**

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1, 2012 - APPLY ONLINE: [www.caldra.org](http://www.caldra.org)**



***DID YOU KNOW?  
THE NEUTRINO GROUP IS DONATING \$100  
TO THE DRA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR  
EACH COURT REPORTING MACHINE SOLD TO  
A DRA MEMBER!!***

<http://www.infinitytraditional.com/Default.aspx>

### ***Don't Forget About DRA's Mentor Program***

DRA is committed to ensuring that the shorthand reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system. To this end, we have designed a Mentor Program that will meld the enthusiasm of new reporters and students with the maturity of the more seasoned reporter. Reporters (must be a student at or above 160-level speed or a new reporter within the first year of reporting and a member in good standing with DRA) and students will be matched up with experienced reporters in the state of California in order to provide them with relevant guidance, support and encouragement during the beginning stages of their new careers.

Do you need some extra help, personal attention, or have questions regarding reporting? If so, then sign up for our mentoring program and receive guidance or help from a professional working court reporter. Working reporters understand what difficulties you face as students and new reporters. We are willing to volunteer our time to get to know you, praise you for your achievements and lend encouragement for those tough times when you take the CSR, attend your first deposition, or are making the switch from being an official to freelance reporter.

If you are a current student at the 160-speed level and above or any reporter that wishes to be mentored, and you are interested in participating, please go to <http://www.caldra.org/get-mentored>. If you have further questions, we can be reached at 925.905.2611 or email the Mentor Program coordinator, Rich Alossi, [district4@caldra.org](mailto:district4@caldra.org). Once we receive your application, we will endeavor to make the best match possible for both mentor and mentee. Thank you!





## What DRA's Annual Scholarship Means to Me

By: Mikey McMorran, CSR No. 13735

When I reflect upon being one of the lucky recipients of the 2011 DRA Scholarship, there are many things that stand out in my mind: The generosity of DRA members all over the state who made a contribution to the scholarship; the notion that the scholarship committee, comprised of successful reporters and firm owners, felt so confident in my abilities as a high speed student that they bestowed such a generous monetary investment in my future as a court reporter and representing DRA and the profession, and finally to have my name associated with all of the past and future scholarship recipients who have achieved so much from a scholastic standpoint, and who will go on to accomplish great things from a professional standpoint.

When I arrived to the 2012 DRA Annual Convention in Monterey, one of the first people who was there to greet me was then DRA President, Lisa Michaels, who was also the one who initially informed me of my selection as one of the scholarship recipients. Lisa notified me that I would be presented the scholarship at the annual Board of Directors Induction Luncheon and asked if I wanted to follow up being awarded the scholarship with any words of my own. Perhaps not thinking how many people would be in attendance and have their eyes locked in on me, I told her that I would love to spend a few moments upon receiving the scholarship to thank all of those generous members who made the scholarship possible.

After finding a seat at the Induction Luncheon, I looked around the ballroom in awe at the number of professionals and students in attendance. "What have I gotten myself into?" I thought to myself. I was so anxiously nervous at being called up before so many people who I had the utmost amount of respect for that I couldn't even touch my lunch. As the Luncheon went on and guest speaker after guest speaker presented and spoke to the hundreds in attendance, minutes began to feel like hours.

After inducting the 2012 DRA Board of Directors, Lisa proceeded to announce the three lucky recipients of the 2011 DRA Scholarship. After having my name announced, I proceeded to walk from my seat way in the back of the ballroom to the podium with cameras flashing to capture my nervous smile every step of the way. Upon receiving the scholarship envelope, I was unsure of what I was going to say beyond thanking the generous members of DRA who made the scholarship possible. I looked out towards the hundreds of individuals present and asked how many in attendance were students? Unsure of how many hands would go up, I was amazed by the high volume of hands that shot up in the air, and all of a sudden, I knew exactly what I wanted to say. I proceeded to congratulate all of the students who were in attendance because out of the thousands of court reporting students in the state of California, these 40 or 50 students were the ones who took the initiative upon themselves to explore what this profession had to offer them beyond the walls of their school.

I remembered being in their exact shoes a year earlier attending my first DRA convention as a high speed student. How much had I learned over that one-year period of time? Clearly, enough for the scholarship committee to feel that I was the right student to receive such an amazing honor.

How much will those students who attended DRA's convention last year have learned about this profession between then and the 2013 convention in Newport Beach? How much more advanced as a student, both from a speed standpoint and a professional knowledge standpoint, will they be? What about me? How much will I have changed?

For starters, I won't be attending the convention as a student any longer. Let's re-examine that for a second. I won't be attending the 2013 convention as a student any longer. In 2011, I attended my first DRA convention as a student who knew very little about this profession beyond what I had learned in school. In 2012, I attended my second DRA convention as a DRA scholarship recipient. In 2013, I will be attending my third DRA convention as a Certified Shorthand Reporter.

What will 2014 have in store for me? Will I be a Realtime Reporter or a Merit Reporter? Only time will tell, but what I do know for certain is that I'll have the opportunity to grow within this profession with all of those who choose to attend DRA's events and learn about how to better themselves in this wonderful field that we have all chosen.

**Do you have a student article that you would like to submit? If so, please e-mail it to:**

[studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org](mailto:studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org)

## GOVERNOR BROWN SIGNS DRA BILL!



Reporters come January 2013 will have another tool available to them in their effort to collect overdue bills from attorneys, thanks to the DRA-sponsored bill Governor Jerry Brown signed into law on July 13th.

Assembly Bill 2372 by Assembly Member Jerry Hill will make it easier for reporters to collect from attorneys against whom they have obtained a judgment.

Too often judgments against attorneys aren't worth the paper they are printed on because the attorneys cleverly avoid efforts to attach their assets. To attach the assets of a delinquent attorney after a reporter obtains a final judgment, current law says you have to serve the proper papers - called an Order of Examination - personally. But some lawyers dodge this by using only a PO Box.

This bill places delinquent attorneys who ambitiously seek to avoid paying their reporters between a rock and a hard place. The new law says that an attorney has to provide a reporter an address that can be used to serve the Order of Examination personally. No more hiding behind PO Boxes. If the attorney breaks this law and doesn't provide the reporter the address, the reporter can seek discipline from the State Bar, which because of DRA's successful effort last year, will consider discipline against attorneys who break collection-related laws such as AB 2372 just signed by the Governor.

"DRA wants to thank Governor Brown for signing this bill and especially thank Assembly Member Jerry Hill," said DRA President Susan Campana. "Assembly Member Hill has shown he is a devoted friend to reporters throughout the State."

AB 2372 and the State Bar action are both a part of DRA's Project Collect, started in 2007. Aside from this bill and the State Bar victory, the project also successfully spearheaded the drafting of the law that made attorneys clearly responsible to pay reporters/agencies for all reporting services requested, legislation DRA cosponsored with CCRA.

## DRA is Delighted to Welcome and Introduce Our New Executive Director Jenifer McDonald

Jenifer began her career in the California State Capitol in 1981 when she was hired by Assemblywoman Marian W. La Follette to serve in her Capitol office. During the 10 years that Assemblywoman La Follette served in the Legislature, Jenifer took responsibility for the overall operation of both the Capitol and District offices as Chief of Staff.

Following the Assemblywoman's retirement, Jenifer's career included 12 years as Assistant Vice President and Corporate Secretary for the Association of California Insurance Companies (ACIC) and a one-year assignment as Executive Director of the California Association of Collectors, where she was responsible for the complete reorganization of this association that represented 400 bill collection agencies.

In 2004, Jenifer opened a full-service association management company and since that time has provided management services to the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA), the California Professional Association of Specialty Contractors of Northern California (CALPASC) and Impact Teen Drivers. Current clients include the Combined Claims Conference, the California/Western States Chapter of the ESOP Association, the Association of California Healthcare Districts and now the Deposition Reporters Association of California. Jenifer's management company is located in Sacramento and she and her team are delighted to be working with the incredible team of dedicated DRA volunteer leaders.



## Court Reporting Documentary Now Filming

Filming has begun on the court reporting documentary, *On the Record - A Year in Stenography*. *On the Record* will follow several court reporters, CART providers and captioners, in an attempt to gain insight into a steno culture that often flies under the radar. At the film's core will be Mark Kislingbury's attempt to break his own speed record and write 400 words per minute at the 2013 NCRA convention in Memphis. When asked why he is making this documentary, Marc Greenberg, a court reporting instructor at SimplySteno, responded, "A good reporter - or anyone who takes down the spoken word - does the job with minimal human interaction. A big part of the job is to go unnoticed, to capture the record without being part of it. Because of that, I feel that the world of stenography has been partitioned off from the world in many ways. So this is my way of sharing this exciting profession with those outside our circle." In addition to filming at the 2012 (Pennsylvania) and 2013 (Tennessee) NCRA conventions, filmmakers have planned shooting schedules in New York, Texas, Washington, California, and Georgia. *On the Record* is still looking for good stories to tell, so if you have an interesting job, experience or story related to the steno machine, please contact Marc Greenberg at [Marc@CourtReportingMovie.com](mailto:Marc@CourtReportingMovie.com). You can follow the movie's progress at [www.CourtReportingMovie.com](http://www.CourtReportingMovie.com) and on their [Facebook](#) page.

## Pengad DRA Member Discount

**Introducing: 10% off all Regularly Priced merchandise for DRA members!**

(See terms and conditions below.)

DRA has joined Pengad's Member 10 Buying Program for 2012.

Pengad is proud to support both your profession and your association. We have joined with DRA to make sure you, as a member, receive the best quality products and service at the best price. Effective March 1, 2012, members of DRA are eligible for a 10% off discount on all regularly priced merchandise purchased at Pengad. To take advantage of this offer, just mention your Coupon Code every time you order. If you are ordering at [www.pengad.com](http://www.pengad.com), enter your coupon code in the coupon section of the shopping cart. Please join our mailing list so that we can continue providing you with email communications regarding special deals and exclusive coupons. As an added bonus, you will receive a coupon code worth \$5.00 off your next Pengad order. The Member 10 Buying Program terms and conditions are as follows:

- 10% off merchandise only
- Minimum order is \$15.00
- Account must be in good credit standing
- Coupon may not be transferred
- Coupon may not be applied to orders already invoiced
- Coupon may not be combined with other discounts, sales, or special offers
- Coupon may be used for multiple purchases
- Coupon effective March 5, 2012 – December 31, 2012

**McMahon & Associates, LLC**



Worldwide Videography  
[www.mcmahonvideo.com](http://www.mcmahonvideo.com)  
408.298.6686

### ***The Deposition Reporters Association of California's Mission Statement***

**DRA strives to preserve and enhance the freelance stenographic reporting profession, ensure its integrity, and maintain its high standards and impartiality wherever stenographic services are required. DRA is committed to ensuring that the freelance stenographic reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system.**