

The Deposition Reporter

Deposition Reporters Association
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.



in this issue:

Hold on to your USB ports!

Shorthand Gallery

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President's Message

by Lisa Michaels

Hold on to your USB ports! Something big has come to your screen!



The Deposition Reporter's Association now presents our new online, web-based, fully searchable and full-color newsletter!

Just when you thought you'd seen it all, DRA has changed the way you can instantly stay updated and informed about the court reporting world around you. In 2008, DRA went "green," reduced our imprint on the environment and saved thousands of trees by e-mailing our Adobe version, which was well received and applauded as being ahead of its time.

Today, DRA has again broken out ahead of the pack with a newsletter that can be read on your home computer, laptop, smart phone, iPad or Kindle, and printing is as quick as a click of the mouse.

DRA's first thought is always "What do the deposition reporters in America need to know?" Being the only association in the country that is fully dedicated to freelance reporting, we have so much to share with you and we want you to share back. Post a link on your Facebook, your website or Twitter account. Know a reporter or client who still doesn't know about DRA? Wait until they get a look at this. Open their eyes to the pride DRA feels about you and the great work you do every single day.

Go ahead, browse around and enjoy!



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February Convention Schedule Voyage to the Caribbean

"A Reporter's Life for me!"

3 Days of Reporting, Reggae & Rum!!

*February 18-20,
2011
Disneyland Hotel
Anaheim,
California*



CHECK OUT THIS LINE-UP! YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS CONVENTION, ONE OF DRA'S BEST EVER ...

ON-LINE REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS AND/OR SERVICES AS A

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CONVENTION VENDOR, ACT NOW TO SECURE YOUR BOOTH, AS SPACE IS LIMITED AND DOES GO FAST! EMAIL CAL_DRA@YAHOO.COM TO PLACE YOUR REQUEST AHEAD OF THE CROWD!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

12:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Registration

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. WEB TOUR GUIDE

Carbonite, Transcript Repository, 4Shared, Snapfish, You Tube..... Always hear people talking about websites but clueless how to use them? Let DRA's webmaster Todd Olivas guide you through a tour of the most popular websites. Get detailed instruction on how to upload wav files, use transcript repositories, online backup, and more.

2:45 P.M. - 4:15 P.M. RUN-AWAY TRAIN

Taxes and Retirement: You can run but you can't hide. Most often, independent contractors and small business owners don't recognize their retirement plan options, and the IRS codes, rules and regulations that permit for much more tax-advantage planning options that can better maximize tax efficiency – in the present and in saving for retirement. Additionally, and equally vital, Victoria will reveal how re-engineering your business retirement savings plan now can result in a tax-free retirement later. A panel discussion of technical experts will address issues that small business owners need to be advised of to secure the most tax-advantage business and retirement planning.

4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. HAVE BRIEFcase, WILL TRAVEL

Looking for a brief for that one ever-troublesome word? Do you have a terrific brief you want to share with your fellow reporters? Monyeen Black and Sue Campana will share some of their favorite briefs and host a "brief exchange" among attendees. And don't miss adding your favorite brief to the "What's in your BRIEFcase?" board in the Exhibitor room.

6:30. P.M. – 9:30 P.M. OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

7:30 A.M. REGISTRATION BEGINS

**8:30 a.m. – 10:00 A.M. LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT –
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

DRA is proud to present our Keynote Speaker Peter Greenberg, the Travel Editor for CBS News, with appearances on The Evening News with Katie Couric, and across many CBS broadcast platforms. He is the nation's preeminent expert on travel — while other travel experts focus on the destination, Peter offers something different, something truly unique. His focus is on the journey, providing insider tips and recommendations to an increasingly savvy and demanding traveler. Peter's keen investigative journalist skills enable him to go beyond the mundane and everyday to reveal unique perspectives, timely travel information and valuable insights.

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. MORNING BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

10:30 A.M. – 12:00 NOON MAP IT OUT

Travel to your depositions feeling confident and well-informed. Join Toni Pulone, and our legislative representative Ed Howard, for an informative question-and-answer session. This is an opportunity to ask the experts the sometimes-puzzling questions reporters are faced with on a day-to-day basis. Karen Klein will also demonstrate DepoMap, DRA's exclusive code section software.

12:00 NOON – 1:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

1:45 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. REPORTING ABROAD

Are you ready to take that job offer to do a depo in Japan? Sweden? Fiji? Mexico? Rosalie Kramm and Laura Brewer will tell of their travels for work and international speed contests and will inform you of what you need to go international.

3:30 PM. – 4:00 P.M. AFTERNOON BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. THE PATH TO ENLIGHTENMENT

Ever hear attorneys or secretaries say, "I use XYZ Reporting because I get to use their condo in Hawaii" or "We use XYZ Reporting because we earn points towards gifts"? Holly Moose will help you to educate attorneys and secretaries on how these practices and others are improper, unethical, and could have serious tax implications to their law firm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011

7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. CCRR EXAM

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M. GLOBAL INTRODUCTION TO CART & CAPTIONING

Captioning and CART pique your interest? Learn detailed information about exactly what these writers do and how the industry operates. Learn from leaders in the field how to make the transition in writing styles, what training and certifications are needed, and what potential employers are looking for.

10:45 A.M. – 12:15 P.M. HOME AND AWAY

Healthy Tips for the Sedentary Professional

Do you sit, stand, walk and perform everyday movements in a way that promotes health and well-being? Eva Nemeth's motivational presentations show you how to move through your day using healthy movements that strengthen your body and make you feel good. Eva's approach to synchronizing mind and body will give you the confidence that you are doing everything you can to avoid common ailments such as hip pain, back pain, and stress-related injuries. You'll learn how to sit, stand, walk, and perform everyday actions in a way that corrects a lifetime of bad habits and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

12:15 P.M. – 1:15 P.M. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:15 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. SAILING THE HIGH C'S

CAN YOU GRADE HIGHER THAN A 5TH GRADER?

Are you brave enough to go up against our panel of actual 5th graders? Do you think you have what it takes? Mary Bardellini, emcee extraordinaire, hosts DRA's version of the popular television show focusing on questions dealing with spelling, grammar, history, science, and mathematics.

2:45 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS

3:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. VENDOR TRAINING

Bring your laptop and take advantage of vendor training at no additional charge. Choose from Case Catalyst, Eclipse, ??

STUDENT SEMINAR TRACK

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2011

**8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. LET YOUR DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT –
KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

DRA is proud to present our Keynote Speaker Peter Greenberg, the Travel Editor for CBS News, with appearances on The Evening News with Katie Couric, and across many CBS broadcast platforms. He is the nation's preeminent expert on travel — while other travel experts focus on the destination, Peter offers something different, something truly unique. His focus is on the journey, providing insider tips and recommendations to an increasingly savvy and demanding traveler. Peter's keen investigative journalist skills enable him to go beyond the mundane and everyday to reveal unique perspectives, timely travel information and valuable insights.

10:30 A.M. – 12:00 NOON MARY GALLAGHER

Mary Gallagher is back by popular demand to help motivate and encourage you to achieve your goal of becoming a working court reporter.

12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. LUNCH

1:45 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. OPEN QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PANEL

"How long should I practice each day?" "I'm stuck at this speed. What should I do?" "I freeze up whenever I take a test. Help!" Get the answers to these questions, and many more, when you join us for this lively discussion.

3:30 P.M. – 4:45 P.M. THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DEPOS

Everyone is sure to walk away with a better working knowledge of depositions after participating in this fun, interactive, and informative team challenge dealing with everyone's favorite topic – DEPOS!

5:00 P.M. MOCK CSR

All students are welcome to take DRA's mock CSR presented by Dixie King and Carolee Freer.



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Fall Seminars

by Vicki Saber

Southern California Fall Seminar

DRA's Southern California fall seminar held on September 25th at the Sheraton Hotel downtown was educational, informative, and as much fun as ever. Reporters don't often get to sit down with each other and trade war stories, funny stories, good attorney/bad attorney stories, family stories; in other words, just spend good quality time with our friends and colleagues. I like to make the analogy of seminars and conventions being like "Ladies Night Out." You think it sounds good but you will probably be too tired and/or too busy to go – but every time you put those thoughts aside and decide to attend, you have the absolute best time, so glad you participated, and look forward to seeing everyone again next time!



Anastasia Swinkles, April Heveroh, Robin Riviello

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Each seminar -- from the keynote speaker teaching us the optimum Feng Shui way to get the most out of our working environment, to DRA's lobbyist, Ed Howard, discussing and updating the audience on the widespread impact of Lisa Michaels' video to the governor, to Karen Klein's amazing Depo Map demonstration -- was enlightening and well presented. Karen Hensche's reporting on the latest and greatest technological gadgets to help reporters work smarter, not harder, is always appreciated. Thanks, Karen, for doing all the legwork for us! Appreciation as well goes out to our fabulous Depo Diplomat, Toni Pulone, who was there to answer all those nagging reporter questions with her wealth of knowledge and experience. An additional expression of gratitude to Anastasia Swinkles and Val Eames for the wonderful realtime seminar they put on just before the California Certificate in Realtime Reporting exam was administered. I'm sure their realtime tips were invaluable to those who took the exam, and hopefully encouraged others to sign up next time! The seminar closed with some vendor training from both Stenograph's Michelle McLaughlin and Eclipse's Anastasia Swinkles. Thank you for expanding our software knowledge base!

The California Certificate in Realtime Reporting exam was again administered, read this time by Ned Branch and Nancy Patterson. Twenty-five people registered for the exam and eight people passed. DRA is pleased to welcome Kelly Roberts, Lisa Augustine, Stacie Skotarczyk, Kristi Johnson, Rochelle Holmes, Pearl Richardson, Marla Sharp and Clay Frazier as new CCRRs! Congratulations!

*To all who
attended, I
trust you found
the day worthy
of your time,
and to those who
chose to skip
it, think twice
before you
" delete " that
Ladies Night Out
invitation or
that DRA
Convention
announcement.
You ' ll never
know what great
memories you are
letting slip by.*



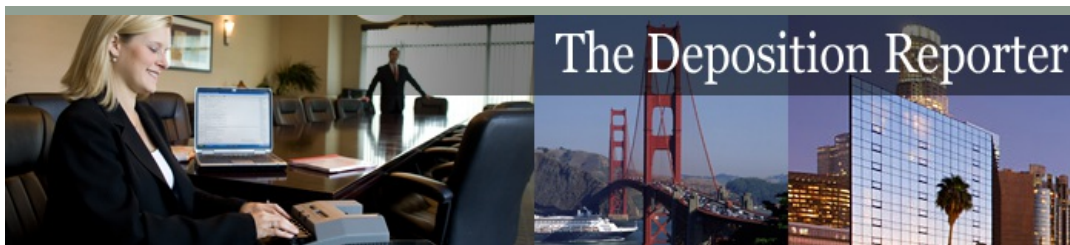
Karen Hensche aka Gadget Girl

Northern California Fall Seminar

by John Squires

The Deposition Reporters Association held its northern California fall seminar at the Hyatt Regency in Sacramento on Saturday, September 11, 2010. After President Michaels' welcoming speech, the day proceeded with one hit seminar after another. John Squires and Lorrie Marchant began with an informative realtime seminar called "Face Your Fears – Be Prepared for Realtime." It was a huge success. Anastasia Swinkles, April Heveroh and Robin Riviello hosted another every-popular StenoSwap/Brief Encounters, always a hit. Following that, DRA's lobbyist Ed Howard and Depo Diplomat Toni Pulone cohosted a legislative update and provided great information to the attendees about how to handle those pesky depo dilemmas. Karen Hensche, our favorite Gadget Girl, went on to wow the crowd with the latest and greatest must-have toys and technology. Excellent CAT training was provided by Sharon Vartanian for Stenograph and Anastasia Swinkles for Eclipse. Once again, the California Certificate in Realtime Reporting exam was administered, read by Nancy Patterson and John Squires. Eleven people registered for the exam and one person passed. DRA is pleased to welcome Betty Waldron as a new CCRR! Congratulations!

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S h o r t h a n d G a l l e r y

September 30, 2010 – Gallery of Shorthand Grand Opening

Alphonse D'Amato Federal Courthouse, Central Islip, Long Island, NY

NCRA President Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag's comments about the event:

Attending the Gallery's opening was one of the proudest moments of my career. To see the love and attention that Dom Tursi, Gallery Director, put into the display was stirring and to see the response by the bench and bar and the respect garnered – for all of our magic – was amazing and inspiring. Displays ranged from the Egyptians to the Romans, to the various methods, to dozens of steno machines, to the Nuremburg trials, to speed contests, to luminaries, to realtime.

I am truly honored to be living in the evolution of a timeless profession.

This is the first permanent display of this magnitude in a courthouse and is worth several hours of your time when you are near Long Island. NCRA's annual convention is in the Big Apple in 2015, and I expect at least one field trip to our Gallery of Shorthand. It is truly a work of art and something to behold. Breathtaking.

I appreciate the many, many reporters who turned out for the grand opening ... we are the guardians of the record, past, present, and future.

Melanie L. Humphrey-Sonntag
CSR, RDR, CRR, FAPR
NCRA President, 2010-2011



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Student BBQs

Northern California Student BBQ

by John Squires

On October 2, 2010, DRA put on its first northern California student barbecue on the campus of Humphreys College in Stockton. DRA has been hosting a student barbecue in southern California for several years and it is an extremely popular event, one that is all about the students, a day just for them, a day of food, prizes, networking and information. We took advantage of Humphreys' beautiful mock courtroom to put on a demonstration of realtime reporting.



Thank you so much, Holly Moose, for bringing your reporting equipment and being our realtime reporter. It was obvious how much the students enjoyed this presentation. The turnout was lower than we would have liked, although understandable since it was our first attempt at holding this function in northern California. We are sure that after the word gets spread by those students who attended, we will have many more attendees next year. It was impressive that approximately half the attendees, after hearing what DRA does for the profession, decided to join! Of course, some of the others were already members. Thank you, and welcome, new members! A special thanks to Kay Reindl, the court reporting department chair, for the use of your facility and for spending the day with us.

DRA truly appreciates the generosity and support of the following people who donated money, gifts and/or time: Lori Stokes, Karla Shallenberger, Diana Sasseen, Helen McPherson, Kim Kuziora, Dennis Peyton, Barbara Peyton, Carol Nygard, Tom Lange, Sue Campana, Dina Marcus, Sheila Chase, Kim Schroeder, Sandy Manzoni, Sandra Lehane-Hockin, Holly Moose, April Heveroh, John Squires.



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Southern California Student BBQ

by Vicki Saber

On October 2, 2010, a drizzly morning turned gorgeous sunny day, DRA held its annual Student BBQ at Cerritos Regional Park. The landscaping of expansive green grass, trees, fountains and bodies of water made for a picture-perfect setting. We had games orchestrated by Charlotte Dunn with help from Virginia Kling, great raffle prizes donated by many generous vendors, reporters and reporting agencies, all the while feasting on phenomenal food catered by Absolutely Gourmet, making this year's student event a rousing success. Over 80 students plus teachers attended, with many taking the time to approach the volunteers to express their gratitude to DRA for their guidance and support. We were also very fortunate to have Reagan Evans, newly appointed to the Court Reporters Board, attend and give an inspiring and informative speech to the students, as well as comprehensively explaining to them the vital role of the CRB to our profession. DRA President Lisa Michaels gave an encouraging speech as well and discussed the important role the Deposition Reporters Association plays in the court reporting profession, as well as all it has to offer court reporting students. DRA district director Todd Olivas and Anastasia Swinkles were also in attendance and shared insightful information with the students. Many thanks to all those who came out to share the fun, the sun, the games, the food and the camaraderie! We hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we did!

The Deposition Reporters Association would very much like to thank the following for their generous donations of money, gifts and/or time, all of which made this important event possible:

Stenograph Corporation, Steno Doctor, Gigatron, ProCat, Advantage Software, Cindy Grafton, Sue Campana, Lisa Michaels, Vicki Saber, Anastasia Swinkles, Evelyn Mah, Candace Kahn, Heather Imber, Karen Kay, Ron Fernicola & Associates, Kathleen O'Neill, Jeffrey Mannis, Tom Golding, Charlotte Dunn, Rosalie Kramm, Althea Miller, Elizabeth Eggli, Reagan Evans, Christine Marivon, Lori McCarthy, Cheryl Parrish, Vicki Imhof, Kathy Fedor, Sandra Jo Roberts, Karen Sussman, (Cory Barrett, Karen Davis, Joanne Hokyo, Dixie King, Marsha Sawa, Marla Sharp, Katherine Kaplanek, Valerie Eames, Barbara Demery-Gillam.

More BBQ photos













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Welcome New Members

***DRA welcomes
these very smart
new members who
spent their
money wisely on
supporting their
profession:***

Clori Andrade, CSR
Charlene Babilus
Tammy Benson
Lori Brown, CSR
Eryn Bryan, CSR
Kristen Busse
Mia Camera
Krisanne Caciola, CSR
Nancy Cappos
Lacy Chelette
Maia Colucci
Kay Davidson-McCully
Kimberly Edwards, CSR
Gabby Fogle
Honey Gale
Reyna Gillie
Diane Glaess, CSR
Sandra Geco
Fay Goldman, CSR
Shanna Gray
Jenny Griffin, CSR
Jessica Guardado
Barrie Hart, CSR
Caroline Hoyt
Matt Hanneman
Sharone Hendrickson
Robin Herrera
Evelyn Jaimez
Arleen Jimenez, CSR
Shawn Johnston
Maurice King
Karen Long-Harper, CSR
Rosalina Luna
Shirley Lynn
Judy McDermott
Tara Muckenfuss

| | |
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| DRA Congratulates Stephanie Grossman | Maronda Powell Kelly Pruitt Vincent Ramos Linda Robinson Allen Rose |
| Jerry Brown and the Transcript Reimbursement Fund | Keith Rowan II, CSR Linda Rowberg Natalie Servin Yvonne Speck Jason Stacy Julienne Tayao Claudia Terry |
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Core Curriculum

by Jeri Cain

CORE CURRICULUM MODULES I – III UPDATE

A warm fall morning greeted those of us who arrived at the University of California Santa Barbara campus where we held Core Curriculum Modules I-III. The glimmering ocean views and the university staff who greeted us provided a perfect backdrop for casual academic learning. Our knowledgeable instructors were Lois Ludwig, Karen Klein, Valerie Eames and Anastasia Swinkles.

*One of the frequent questions asked was:
" What exactly is the Core Curriculum series?"*

Here are explanations from the trainers themselves:

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Lois Ludwig: No matter how much experience we reporters have, we don't know everything.

One of the tips covered: Don't put exhibit stickers on original photographs unless specifically instructed that it will be all right to do so from counsel. So what happened? A reporter appeared at our office one day very concerned because she did put stickers on original photographs, and the witness has now filed a complaint in Small Claims court against her for \$5,000 on the basis that the exhibit stickers have ruined his only photographs. Sharing information from other reporters is always very beneficial, and that is exactly what the Core Curriculum modules are all about!





Karen Klein: "DRA CORE = Practical and up-to-date reporting tips; group learning (reporters helping reporters); time well spent with a good return on investment."

Valerie Eames: "A day of networking with fellow reporters. What could be more fun? The classes are small and target issues that affect not only deposition reporters, but valuable information to be gained for officials, CART providers, and captioners. Realtiming is the future, and being prepared gives you that competitive edge. Writing tips on resolving conflicts, word boundary issues, incorporating smart prefixes and suffixes is the first step towards your journey to streamlining your realtime writing. Being prepared is the key to lowering realtime anxiety!"



Anastasia Swinkles: It's always so much fun to share writing tips with reporters. Not only do I give them new concepts and ideas, I often get great suggestions back.

*Susanne Cerda
and Sharon Best
were winners of*

*a free DepoMap
donated by
developer and
past DRA
President, Karen
Klein.*





A special "thank you" to those who joined us for the day, for the instructors who gave of their valuable time and expertise, and to facilitators Jeri Cain, Valerie Eames and Vicki Squires, as well as helpers Maria Rabatin, Derek Hoagland, and University staff members Whitney, Jeff, Justin and Jade (videographer) whose assistance made October 9, 2010 a day to remember. Even the most experienced reporter went away with priceless handouts and having learned something new.



Core Curriculum IV Sneak Preview

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West Valley Update

If you attended the Deposition Reporters Association's February 2010 Convention, you might remember that DRA publicly vowed to save the court reporting program at West Valley College in Silicon Valley. The college's policy-making Academic Senate had already slated the program for elimination. Those opposed to closure had just weeks to get the Senate to reverse itself and save the program.

In that few short weeks, DRA accomplished the following:

- Mobilized three area Assembly members to help, all three of whom submitted letters of support, two of whom sent representatives to speak at the critical Senate hearing on the decision whether to close or retain the program.
- Submitted a [petition with well over 100 CSR signatories](#) asking that the program be retained.
- Did the organizing required to pack the hearing room with vocal DRA members opposed to closure of the program.

Working together with our membership, we won! The Senate reversed itself and voted to save the program. The West Valley College court reporting department is now celebrating the honor of having been successful in its application for a U.S. Department of Education grant for \$262,838!!! The title of the grant is "Training For Realtime Writers."

A big thank-you to all those who joined DRA in playing a role in this success story!



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As many of you are aware by now, a few months ago Governor Schwarzenegger was quoted as suggesting that court reporters should be replaced by machines. His quotes demonstrated such a complete misunderstanding of our profession that DRA felt a more personal and direct response was appropriate and in fact overdue. President Lisa Michaels composed a video with a point-by-point rebuttal and response to the Governor's comments. It has had well over 13,000 hits! It can be viewed at <http://www.caldra.org>.

On October 7, 2010, the Deposition Reporters Association asked you in an e-note to vote in the on-line Orange County Register poll asking whether court reporters could be replaced by machines. Your response has been nothing short of remarkable. Currently in excess of 750 votes have been cast, with 95% against the idea that reporters can be replaced by machines, and the numbers continue to rise every day. The individual comments that have been posted are very entertaining and enlightening. This comment sparked a barrage of responses: "Gee, another shocker. Court reporters who make a living at court reporting think that modern technology cannot replace their services and consequently take away their source of income. I once knew a guy who used to repair rotary dials on telephones. He thought he was irreplaceable too."

Vote results and comments can be viewed at: [http://totalbuzz.ocregister.com/2010/10/01/oc-womans-jab-at-arnold-makes-her-a-court-reporting-](http://totalbuzz.ocregister.com/2010/10/01/oc-womans-jab-at-arnold-makes-her-a-court-reporting-star/41576/)

[star/41576/](http://totalbuzz.ocregister.com/2010/10/01/oc-womans-jab-at-arnold-makes-her-a-court-reporting-star/41576/).

**FORTUNATELY, DUE
IN LARGE PART TO
DRA'S EFFORTS TO
EDUCATE THOSE
INVOLVED, THE
LEGISLATURE HAS
COME UP WITH A
BUDGET THAT DOES
NOT INCLUDE
REPLACING COURT
REPORTERS WITH
MACHINES.**

But the issue is sure to persist into the next administration. We cannot afford to let up on our education efforts. We must take advantage of every opportunity to point out the benefits of live reporters and the fallibility of machines. DRA has compiled an entire library of historical and anecdotal data on the failings of digital recording in the judicial arena, available to anyone who would like to access it, for the small price of membership. Your support allows us to continue our

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ongoing efforts to protect and preserve this profession: [DRA Document Library](#)

[DRA Congratulates
Stephanie Grossman](#)

We appreciate the vigilance of two very proactive DRA members for writing the following letters in an effort to educate those who make decisions which affect our profession:

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Reimbursement Fund](#)

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Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I am a Republican and I am a strong supporter and admirer of yours. I have been a California Certified Shorthand Reporter since 1981. I have worked as a deposition reporter, a hearing reporter, a captioner, CART reporter (for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people), and as a conference reporter. I know my business well, and I have had many occasions to transcribe tapes that clients have provided me. Transcribing tapes of live proceedings is an arduous process that can take easily up to eight hours for every hour of tape. Beyond that, anything that is inaudible on the tape is lost forever. A certified reporter is required on site not only to provide the most efficient means possible of producing a transcript, but also to ensure that everything is captured, something that is not possible when a mindless tape is set on "record" with no human present in charge of preserving the record.

Unfortunately, people who have not had occasion to transcribe tapes do not realize the time-consuming nature of this process. I make my living off those who have tried to do this and realized the enormity of the task.

I know that you are an ethical and well-intentioned person who is only looking for solutions to our budget problems. The appropriate place to cut reporters is only in courts or venues where there is no need for transcripts. As soon as there is the possibility of a need for a transcript, any savings are lost.

Thank you for your service to me and to our state. I hope that this message will serve to assist you in your efforts to provide the best services to the state of California.

Laura P. Brewer
California CSR No. 5651

August 26, 2010

Senator Mark DeSaulnier
State Capitol, Room 2054
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator:

I have been a court reporter in California for over 40 years. I am currently Immediate Past President of the Deposition Reporters Association of California. Our current governor would do away with court reporters. His latest release on the issue:

"We have court reporters. That's old fashioned. We don't need a court reporter anymore that is typing away. We have now the cameras, we have the recording devices, we have everything. But because labor insists on keeping them even though we don't need them, it costs us hundreds of millions of dollars every year extra."

It is unfortunate our governor is so uninformed on this issue. It is unfortunate that those of us in the profession do not have access to educate him as to other states that have replaced the human court reporter with a machine and had such a poor result that they have gone back to the human court reporter. It is unfortunate that he either does not know about or does not care about the eight-month trial that is being retried because it was recorded by a nonhuman and was found to have over 10,000 errors in the transcript. It is unfortunate that he is either unaware of or does not care about the dozens and dozens of retrials that have been necessitated by either malfunctioning or deficient recording devices.

We have proven time and time again that the human stenotype reporter is the best means of making, protecting and preserving the record. Yet our governor would put thousands of reporters out of work, potentially losing their homes, thus taking away any property taxes they pay, and certainly taking away millions of dollars in state taxes that they currently pay.

I know many individuals who vote with one issue in mind: Will this candidate raise my taxes? Well, I vote with one issue in mind: Will this candidate eliminate jobs?

I would like to know where you stand on this issue.
Thank you for your time and response.

John Squires, C.S.R. 2001

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FAX (916) 445-2527

DISTRICT OFFICE
1350 TREAT BOULEVARD
SUITE 240
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FAX (925) 942-6082
FAX (925) 942-6087

California State Senate

SENATOR
MARK DESAULNIER
SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4
ON STATE ADMINISTRATION,
GENERAL GOVERNMENT,
JUDICIAL, PUBLIC SAFETY
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM
SELECT COMMITTEE ON
GROWTH MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEES
ELECTIONS, REAPPORTIONMENT
& CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING

October 7, 2010

Mr. John P. Squires
7194 Lakemont Place
San Ramon, CA 94583

Dear Mr. Squires:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding your concerns over Governor Schwarzenegger's comments about court reporters. I understand that the Governor's comments reflect a serious lack of consideration to the vital role court reporters perform for California's economy and our justice system.

While I realize that our California budget needs to be balanced, we cannot do so by compromising our justice system and cutting imperative jobs. The suggestion to replace court reporters with machines has come before the California State Legislature twice, and has been rejected both times. Recently, the California Legislature reconfirmed the value of court reporting, and rejected the Governor's suggestion to change to digital recording.

As you mentioned, a court reporter's transcript is superior to a machine or digital recording in quality. There have been numerous issues with machine recordings, which have even led to many overturned court rulings and re-trials. Many of the states that switched over to machine recordings have since returned to court reporters due to quality issues. Cost analysis indicates very little to no cost savings for using machines over court reporters. For a superior transcript at virtually the same monetary costs as machine reporting, we are fortunate to have court reporters in our justice system and we should keep this skilled profession in our great state.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. If I can be of further service, please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at (925) 942-6082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Desaulnier".

MARK DESAULNIER

MD:es

100

280 mm



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Vendor Spotlight

The history of The Neutrino Group and the evolution of its very basic court reporting machine to the most advanced machine ever made is an interesting one. The Neutrino Group (TNG) was founded more than 12 years ago as a small- and medium-sized business technology consulting company by Mr. Jason Pardikes. If you had asked Mr. Pardikes back then where he thought he would be now, he never would have said "Manufacturing court reporting equipment." In fact, he had only the vaguest idea then what court reporting was, and an even lesser understanding of reporting equipment.

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In January of 2001 Mr. Pardikes joined Cheetah as head of software development, while TNG continued to function in a technology advisory capacity. Through the summer of 2003 Mr. Pardikes worked with hundreds of court reporters through training, fact-gathering or testing of various software technologies. Along this path he learned some very interesting things.

Steno machine writers as a whole seemed to suffer an abnormal amount of pain and muscle fatigue associated with their profession, and there seemed to be limited answers to these problems. However, Mr. Pardikes did not put two and two together until his wife Angela (not a court reporter) suffered her own ergonomic issue. Through the process of learning and understanding her issue, it became abundantly clear what the problem was with current reporting equipment designs. Ironically enough, almost at the exact same time, the original

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Gemini, the only machine ever designed with ergonomics, came up for sale. Mr. Pardikes was quick to acquire this technology and set TNG on a new course.

In 2004 the Gemini2 was created, adding battery backup and a single external-notes backup system to the original Gemini. In 2005 TNG introduced the Gemini Piper, then the only machine to incorporate internal Bluetooth. This writer also moved the batteries on board, giving the Gemini family of products stand-alone capability. TNG introduced 21 color options for the Gemini Piper. In October of 2008, the Revolution Grand became available. This machine introduced the first articulated ergonomic design, giving completely silent operation and full adjustability to depth, force, and sensitivity. The Revolution incorporated the most powerful and reliable Bluetooth ever created and, with the external UMPC, offered multiple backups and the ability to run CAT software directly on the machine itself.

Starting in January of 2011, which will mark TNG's seventh year of manufacturing court reporting equipment, it will unleash the newest and most powerful family of writers ever created, the Infinity Traditional and Infinity Ergonomic, in five different models. These new machines offer every feature you can find on other machines, such as on-board backups, audio recording, audio amplification and on-board translation (court reporting models only), as well as never-before-seen technologies for an enhanced writing experience, from auto dimming and auto brightening of the LCD screen based on your lighting conditions, to organic Intelligence technology: PerfectWrite™, SimuWrite™, and AutoAdjust™.

These incredible new technologies have become possible thanks to a change in key tracking and recording methodology. In traditional machines, each key functioned as a traditional light switch, either on or off. But the Infinity family of products introduces PerfectWrite technology which can now track every key on a continuum of on/off, speed, direction of travel, length of stroke, time of stroke, and in fact nine different data points on every single key. In addition, those values are recorded 1000 times per second. With all of this data, we are no longer limited to the traditional issues that come with recording and sending strokes. We now can apply new intelligence to make a much more effective writer, one that maximizes your writing potential.

The **SimuWrite™** software is our patent-pending setup tool. No longer must reporters sit at their writer for hours fiddling, writing, and fiddling some more to figure out what the best settings are, only to realize that their writing is not the same as it would be at the job due to speed, stress or other external factors. With SimuWrite™ you write one file and then put the file through our SimuWrite™ software tool, which simulates the way you would have written with different settings. This allows you to see exactly what your translation rate, stacks, etc. would have been under a different machine setting. You make three decisions, and it's as though you wrote the same file 1000 different ways. The computer does the work of figuring out what settings would help make you be the most accurate writer. Of course, you can override, alter, or change any decision the software makes for you.

The **AutoAdjust™** feature monitors your writing over time and makes small incremental tweaks to your machine settings based on changes in your writer, whether due to electronics of the machine or changes in your writing style over time. The system auto-adapts and you rarely, if ever, have to make changes.

And there you have it. The Neutrino Group now brings you the first organically intelligent machine in both a fully ergonomic version and in a traditional design, allowing you to pick what works for you. For the full text of this article and for more information please go to [www.](http://www.infinitytraditional.com)

infinitytraditional.com or call (303)453-0384

(303)453-0384 .



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Anagrams

ASTRONOMER

When you rearrange the letters: MOON STARER

DESPERATION

When you rearrange the letters: A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES

When you rearrange the letters: THEY SEE

GEORGE BUSH

When you rearrange the letters: HE BUGS GORE

THE MORSE CODE

When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY

When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

ELECTION RESULTS

When you rearrange the letters: LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

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SNOOZE ALARMS

When you rearrange the letters: ALAS NO MORE Zs

ELEVEN PLUS TWO

When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

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Ethics First

by Lisa Migliore Black, Certified Court Reporter-KY

I'm proud to announce that I've been appointed to the **NCRA Ethics First** committee this year. The first meeting of the committee was held recently, and one of the tasks on the committee's very long to-do list is encouraging court reporters and firms to sign up for the program. The committee will be hard at work this year promoting and encouraging involvement among our colleagues and educating on the importance of the Ethics First program to members of the bar.

More detailed information on the purpose and intent of **Ethics First** can be found by visiting: <http://ncraonline.org/ethicsfirst/logo/>. After signing on and agreeing to the terms of the

program, participants are able to download the logo and are encouraged advertise their participation. NCRA membership is not a requirement to sign up and participation is FREE.

Currently, I estimate that only one percent of NCRA membership has signed up for **Ethics First**; that percentage is much lower if non-NCRA members are taken into account. The problems caused by unethical gifting practices in our industry exists because of the acts of a very few, and I'd like to see the numbers of Ethics First participants reflect that they are the minority. It is my hope that all reporters will become members. Each of us must do our part in upholding the integrity of our profession, and this is a great way to demonstrate that commitment to the public at large.

*Proudly display
that you uphold
the highest
degree of
professionalism
when it comes to
your gift-giving
practices.*

Let's show the country that California reporters and firms are leading the way in ethics. Join today!



D e p o L a w s a n d R e g s - U p d a t e

In our September newsletter, the Deposition Reporters Association printed the following update on the Court Reporter's Board's position regarding compliance with the Minimum Transcript Format Standards:

Updates to the Code of Civil Procedure 2029.500, effective January 1, 2010, have resulted in a change to the Court Reporters Board's position on when Minimum Transcript Format Standards (MTFS) apply. Under the new rule, any deposition taken in California must comply with California's MTFS, as well as California's read and sign requirements, regardless of where the case is venued. The CRB states, "The only exception to this new rule is in regard to federal depositions, as federal law supersedes state law."

However, since federal laws do not specify format standards for depositions, it is unclear whether that exception refers only to the read and sign requirements or also to the MTFS. DRA is attempting to seek clarification on this point.

DRA has obtained the clarification we told you we would continue to seek. We asked the CRB the following question: "Can the CRB confirm that we must follow CAMTFS even for federal, since federal has no format standards," to which the CRB replied "Yes."

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DepoMap 2010©

Electronic California and Federal Code map for Deposition Reporters and firm owners/staff

DepoMap 2010 contains relevant section(s) from:

California Code of Civil Procedure
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
California Business & Professions Code
California Rules of Court
California Labor Code
Government Code
California Code of Regulations

Get rid of the paper - GO GREEN!

No more "Where did I put that code thingie?"

Reporters need answers NOW!

Reporters can no longer rely on agencies - it's **your CSR license!**

Firm owners - depo dilemma answers at your staff's fingertips!

Hyperlinked, bookmarked, indexed, searchable
and on your computer for easy 24/7 access

Instant Bookmark Samples:

"Go off the record"; "Attorney pays if client does not";

"Submitting Corrections by Mail"; and "Go by the Code"

Click on a bookmark, go to the code section, get answers!!!

Also attached to DepoMap 2010 are the **full versions** of (1) California's Minimum Transcript Format Standards, (2) California Professional Standards of Practice, (3) Best Audio Media Practices, (4) Legal Opinion on Backup Audio Media, and (5) Legal opinion re Request for reporter's audio file

DRA Members: \$35

DRA Nonmembers: \$75

Purchase and download at www.caldra.org

**DepoMap 2010 is a pdf file - use Adobe Reader 8 or higher

DepoMap 2010 allows for copying/pasting/printing of excerpts for purchaser's use only (i.e. emailing to clients, reporters, etc.). Any unauthorized use or sharing of the full version of DepoMap will be **prosecuted to the full extent of copyright violation law - every dollar from the sale of DepoMap goes to support the working deposition reporter!!**



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DSA Nominations

DRA is now accepting nominations for its Distinguished Service Award. If there is someone in the profession whom you believe has made significant contributions for the betterment of our profession and is deserving of recognition, please submit their name and the rationale for the nomination to cal_dra@yahoo.com by December 15th. We look forward to considering nominees from across the country.

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DRA Congratulates Stephanie Grossman

The Deposition Reporters Association congratulates Stephanie Grossman for earning the opportunity to attend a reception for Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom by raising funds and for her years of political action representing the interests of stenographic Reporters.



Gavin

Newsom, Jerry Brown, Stephanie Grossman, Bill Clinton



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Jerry Brown and the Transcript Reimbursement Fund

by Toni Pulone

Did you know that recently-elected and soon-to-be-governor-again Jerry Brown was instrumental in the creation of the Transcript Reimbursement Fund (TRF)?

And were you aware that prior to 1981, our deposition transcript rates were regulated by law, just as court transcript rates still are? Interestingly, these two seemingly unrelated facts of California reporter history are connected. Let me explain.

Deposition page rates were regulated by law until 1981, and we were allowed to charge a certain maximum rate per folio, or per 100 words. Periodically, California reporters would sponsor legislation to raise the folio rate and were generally successful. But during Jerry Brown's time as governor, the reporters' attempts to amend the law to raise those rates were thwarted by the governor's veto. He stated that the cost of litigation was already too high and so he wouldn't approve bills passed by the legislature to raise depo transcript rates. After being disappointed by such vetoes on rate raises, reporters decided instead to attempt to get legislation passed that would simply remove the rate language from the law and deregulate depo page rates. But that effort also met with disapproval from Governor Brown.

I should mention here that the City of Los Angeles was the only area of the state where deposition page rates had escaped regulation. The language in the law exempted from rate regulation any city with a population of one million or more, and only L.A. qualified with those numbers, so reporters there had not been prohibited from raising their rates gradually over the years, while rates elsewhere in California had been specifically limited by law.

The fact that L. A. depo reporters weren't regulated as other reporters were over the years plays a role in why rates there have generally been

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*higher than in
the rest of the
state ever
since.*

So, anxious to end rate regulation for the rest of depo reporters throughout the state, reporters geared up once again in 1980 to pass legislation to deregulate depo rates and again succeeded in getting the legislature's approval. Concerned about yet another veto by the governor, their representatives approached the administration to ask what could be done to encourage the governor to sign their bill. They learned that Governor Brown, in exchange for his approval of deregulation, wanted reporters to provide free transcripts for indigent litigants. So the reporters agreed to do this. The governor signed their bill. As a result, reporters worked with the Court Reporters Board (CRB) – at that time, known as the Certified Shorthand Reporters Board – to establish the TRF, which went into effect in January 1981, along with deregulation of deposition rates.

In order to generate the revenue necessary to fund the TRF, certified shorthand reporters' annual licensing fees were increased, and the CRB was required to set aside \$300,000 each fiscal year to supply the Fund. As created, the TRF provides transcript cost reimbursement for low-income litigants in civil cases, but only those litigants who qualified financially and who were represented by counsel were eligible to apply for fund reimbursement. That particular feature of the TRF has just been amended by Senate Bill 1181, introduced by Senator Cedillo and sponsored by CCRA. This bill, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Schwarzenegger this legislative session, now will authorize low-income litigants appearing in pro per, without representation by an attorney, to apply for TRF reimbursement. The amended language of SB 1181 goes into effect January 1, 2011.

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Membership Application

Join online: www.caldra.org

Mail Application to:
DRA
7172 Regional Street #111
Dublin, CA 94568
Fax to: 925-905-2611
E-mail to: cal_dra@yahoo.com

Name _____ CSR # _____ ☐ NCRA Member # _____

Firm/School _____ ☐ Firm Owner ☐ Instructor ☐ Student

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Website _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Office Phone _____ Fax _____

Referred by _____ OR ☐ Facebook ☐ Direct Mailing ☐ Internet search

Have you ever been a member of DRA before? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ List me on DRA's on-line database ☐ List me as available for freelance work

**** I certify that the contents of this application are accurate and complete and will advise the association of significant or material changes to the membership information. I agree to abide by the DRA Bylaws, the written policies of the association, and in the decisions of duly constituted DRA Committees. I agree that my membership may be terminated immediately if this application contains false or misleading statements. _____ Initial**

Membership Options

☐ **Professional** \$ 135 ☐ **Three-year professional membership** (\$405 – save \$25) \$ 380

(Any person whose primary reporting income is derived from the practice of deposition reporting or general reporting and who holds a current CSR license issued by the Court Reporters Board of California.)

☐ **Associate** \$ 125 ☐ **Three-year associate membership** (\$375 – save \$25) \$ 350

(Any person whose primary reporting income is derived from working as an Official Court Reporter, who holds a current CSR license issued by the Court Reporters Board of California; **OR** any non-CSR who has passed the National Court Reporters Association Registered Professional Reporter examination; **OR** any person wishing to establish a professional affiliation with DRA to assist in promoting the mission of the Association.)

☐ **Student** \$ 30
(Any student enrolled in a verbatim shorthand reporting school)

☐ **Instructor** \$ 50
(Instructors who are nonreporting CSRs or, if not CSRs, who teach at institutions recognized/certified by the CRBC.)

☐ **PAC (not tax deductible)** Amount \$ _____
(Used to support the passage or defeat of legislation that has an impact on our members and for the support of political candidates seeking elective office who share similar points of view on issues that are important to our membership.)

☐ **FRIEND OF DRA (tax deductible)** Amount \$ _____

☐ **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP** Amount \$ _____
(Currently three student scholarships awarded each year to help further student education)

Payment Information

☐ Check # _____ enclosed (payable to DRA) in the amount of \$ _____

☐ Charge \$ _____ to my: ☐ VISA ☐ M/C ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX ☐ Sign me up for automatic Renewal

Account Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ 3-digit pin _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

CC Billing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
(If different from above)

*(Membership is for one year from the date dues are received. A portion of your dues will be used for lobbying activities as defined by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993. For this year's dues it is estimated that the percentage used for such purposes will be 55%. This portion of your dues is not deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. **NOTE: Checks returned from the bank for any reason will be assessed a \$25 service fee.**)*