



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **MEET SARAH GOEKLER!**



Sarah Goekler is a freelance court reporter. Sarah enjoys complex litigation, construction defect, patent infringement, realtime, court hearings and trials.

Sarah is available for work in the greater San Francisco Bay Area - San Francisco, Oakland, Walnut Creek, San Jose, Palo Alto, and surrounding cities.

[View Sarah's Profile and Contact Information](#)

Name: Sarah Goekler

Job Title/Field of Expertise: Freelance Court Reporter

Certifications: CA CSR, RPR, RMR, CRR, CCRR

How long have you been reporting? Eight years as of January 2017.

What is your favorite thing about your career? The flexibility, diversity, and opportunity for growth and knowledge.

What sparked your interest in choosing court reporting as a profession? It was suggested by my friend's mom, Kathy Wyatt, who worked in the federal court in San Francisco at the time. I was attending a community college in Redding, CA, with my goal set to be a paralegal. I took a quick trip to the Bay Area a few weeks later, played on a Stenograph, and thought it was interesting. Within a few months, I dropped my classes at Shasta College and moved down to the Bay Area to join Golden State College in Dublin, CA.

Any advice for apprentice reporters? Don't burn yourself out. It's very easy to get overwhelmed and overworked, and you might miss out on the fun and enjoyable opportunities this job has to offer. Meet other reporters! Socialize, commiserate, get ideas.

The most challenging thing about your career? Finding a parking spot. Ha! One of the things I love about this career is that it's always a challenge. It's a very difficult job! Even on the easiest of jobs, you can still challenge yourself to get the lowest untran rate or write the longest phrase or word in one stroke. There's always a challenge!

What do you feel is the most valuable service you provide and why? I'll answer by saying some traits/qualities I feel are important are responsiveness and communication, both with your calendar managers and with the clients at the job location. We live in a world where yesterday is the new now, so responding in a timely manner is valuable and appreciated. I also believe that being candid about expedite requests and the ability to achieve deadlines and those ASAP demands is important.

Biggest witness pet peeve? Long-winded answers and quiet speakers.

What is your passion outside of reporting? Hiking, camping/backpacking, hanging out with my dog, travelling.

What is your favorite thing about your DRA membership? The members and the community it has to offer. I enjoy being a part of an organization that works hard to support our industry.

What is your favorite tool that you use for work? I'm a minimalist when it comes to what I take on the job, so my gadget game is pretty weak. Wireless realtime connections are wonderful, such as Bridge Mobile and LiveLitigation. I do have a Dymo LabelWriter, but I have yet to bring it to a job.

Anything else you would like to share? I look forward to seeing many of you in Napa!