



Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, July 26

- 9–10 a.m.** **National Speed Contest**
Engage in friendly competition with some of the best writers in the country. During the National Speed Contest, contestants write and transcribe three legs, each five minutes in length – 220 wpm literary, 230 wpm legal opinion, and 280 wpm testimony – and qualify for each with an accuracy score of 95 percent or better. The best combined score wins the championship. To enter, you must hold at least the RMR certification and be an NCRA member in good standing. Speed Contest results will be announced at Saturday’s Awards Luncheon. The deadline for registering is July 7 or 50 contestants, whichever comes first. On-site registration is not permitted. Qualifiers can earn 0.25 PDC per leg.
- 9 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.** **NCRA Board of Directors Private Presentation/Lunch**
- 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** **National Speed Contest Lunch**
- 2–5 p.m.** **NCRA Board of Directors Meeting**
- 2–5 p.m.** **Exhibitor Registration and Expo Hall Move-in**
- 5:30–7 p.m.** **National Congress of State Associations (NCSA) Reception**
By invitation only

Thursday, July 27

- 7 a.m.–6 p.m.** **Registration Open**
- 8:30–11 a.m.** **NCRA Annual Business Meeting**
Take an active role in your Association. The Annual Business Meeting of the Association provides each member with the opportunity to directly participate in the governance of NCRA. Hear reports from NCRA leaders, discuss bylaws amendments and other important issues, and contribute to vital Association business. You do not have to be registered for the Conference to attend. Eligible voting members will check in and receive a ballot and information starting at 8 a.m.

8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Vendor Training Workshop

Stenograph

Presenter: Cindi Lynch, Training Program Manager, Stenograph, LLC

The most accurate translation results aren't just due to clean writing; they're also achieved by knowing how to use the features and options available to you in CATalyst. Similarly, it's the little things you forget that you can do that can make the most significant difference in terms of how many more pages you can produce per hour! In this class, you'll not only learn about the latest features and enhancements in the current version of CATalyst; you'll renew your acquaintance with features, options, and shortcuts to improve your translation results and significantly reduce your editing time.

Separate registration required. 0.4 CEU

8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Vendor Training Workshop

Advantage Software

Presenter: Jeremy Thorne, Director of Research & Development, Advantage Software/Eclipse

Eclipse Version 11 contains the most powerful feature ever added to the software: Plugins. This session will show how to install, configure and use existing plugins in order to extend the functionality of Eclipse, including speech-based editing assistance (Boost Edit), exhibit labeling, statistical transcript analysis tools, fully automated job dictionary creation, custom translation and editing templates for complex number/letter combinations such as case numbers, and many more preparation, translation, editing and production tools, including samples of customized items for individual users' requests. Bring ideas for features you want and we'll make it happen faster than ever before. *Separate registration required. 0.4 CEU*

9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Expo Hall Move-in

9:45 a.m.–4:45 p.m.

Firm Owners Focus

This business-focused event features opportunities for attendees to connect, learn, and energize as they network and join in stimulating and inspiring sessions. 0.5 CEU

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Advertising and Marketing – Getting the Best Bang for Your Buck. When to Hire a Salesperson

Presenter: Craig D. Saunders, LiveLitigation

Many people will tell you that you will know when to hire a salesperson, but the truth is, before you hire you should know that there are many factors to consider before making this decision. In this session, we will explore the why, when, and how to decide when the right time to hire a salesperson works best for your business.

0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Position Your Firm for Acquisition (Even if You Never Plan to Sell)

Presenter: Mark Phillips – M&A Investment Banker

Large firms are once again on the hunt for acquisitions and activity is picking up. In this session, firm owners will learn:

- *How buyers value acquisition targets and which factors make some firms more attractive than others;*
- *How to prepare for a possible sale to a national firm and the benefits to current owner even if they do not plan to sell;*
- *What to expect if you engage in discussion with a buyer and how to maximize the outcome; and*
- *How recent changes in the industry might impact positioning for a sale in the future.*

0.1 CEU

12–1:30 p.m.

Lunch Provided

1:30–3:30 p.m.

Business Skills for Firm Owners

Presenter: Dr. Erika Jacobi – Director of LC Global

The past years have been marked by unparalleled volatility and uncertainty. Companies that do not only want to survive but also thrive under these circumstances must be prepared to promptly and at times radically change the way they do business. This hands-on interactive program is designed to help stenographic agency owners develop crucial business skills to optimally position their services and flexibly conduct them whenever and wherever needed. Learn how to understand why business skills matter for agency owners, stand out in the market and attract the right clients, projects, or work, discover authentic business values, and use them for marketing, communication, and negotiations and much more. 0.2 CEU

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Discover Career Launcher for Firm Owners and Educators

Presenters: Debra A. Dibble, RDR, CRR, CRC; Michael E. Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR; and Merilee Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC.

“Give me but a firm spot on which to stand, and I shall move the earth” — Archimedes

Give your reporters a firm spot on which to stand and protect your firm's reputation by providing new recruits with fundamental and comprehensive training on how to manage client interactions in the field. In this enlightening and informative session, you will learn how incorporating this innovative educational program into your onboarding process for new professionals will give your new hires the foundational training, polish, and real-world exposure to ensure your clients receive the high-level service your agency's hard-earned reputation requires. 0.1 CEU

1–2:30 p.m.

National Realtime Contest

Test your realtime skills against some of the best in the industry. The National Realtime Contest consists of two legs, each five minutes in length – straight matter at 220 wpm and a two-voice dictation at 225 wpm. To qualify for a leg, contestants must have an accuracy score of 95 percent or better; the best combined score wins the championship. To enter, you must hold at least either the RMR or the CRR certification and be an NCRA member in good standing. Realtime Contest results will be revealed at Saturday's Awards Luncheon. The deadline for registering is July 7 or 50 contestants, whichever comes first. On-site registration is not permitted. Qualifiers can earn 0.25 PDC per leg.

2–5 p.m.

National Congress of State Associations (NCSA) Meeting

NCSA serves as the liaison between NCRA and its affiliated associations. NCSA delegates and alternates will discuss the legislative and other critical issues affecting court reporters, captioners, scopists, legal videographers, and associated professionals across the nation. Registration will open at 1:15 p.m. for NCSA delegates and alternates.

2–5 p.m.

Captioning Boot Camp Workshop

Presenter: Anissa R. Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI

From beginning to advanced, calling all current and wannabe CART and broadcast captioners. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to be perfect to be a captioner. Becoming a top-notch captioner starts with taking intentional baby steps. Nierenberger will walk you through this transition step by step. She will talk about becoming your best realtime self while broadening your dictionary vocabulary to handle what can/will come your way. Complimentary instructional materials are provided to help you begin your journey! (Highly Recommended:

Please bring your computer and writer). *Separate registration required.* 0.3 CEU

2–5 p.m.

Realtime Boot Camp Workshop

Presenter: Kathryn R. Sweeney, FAPR, RMR, CRR

Think you're ready to take the Certified Realtime Reporter exam? Want to make sure? Want to do a test run *and* get some insider advice on how to pass this dreaded test? Kathryn Sweeney was the Chief Examiner for the CRR exam for 18 years. She has seen it all and has some great insight into why this test is so easy to fail. All her advice comes from seeing candidates make mistakes and knowing that one or two simple changes could help them pass. Among other things, she will give you guidance on dictionary management, software settings, equipment requirements, updated NCRA online testing procedures, test file submission, "What Is An Error?," and, most importantly, what to worry about when taking this exam. Registrants are strongly encouraged to bring their steno machines and laptops to provide realtime for themselves, as well as all cables and adapters (extension cords and power strips are a plus!). There will be two practice exams given, so you will want to take full advantage of this opportunity. 0.3 CEU

5:30–7 p.m.

Welcome Reception in Expo Hall

Welcome to Houston! Join your fellow attendees, meeting old and new colleagues from around the country, while you see what all our exhibitors have to offer. Drinks and appetizers will be served.

Friday, July 28

7:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Registration Open

7:30–8:30 a.m.

Breakfast in Expo Hall

Exclusive benefit for those booked within the discounted NCRA room block at the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown and registered for a Conference package or workshop.

7:30–8:30 a.m.

Student Breakfast and Welcome

8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Expo Hall Open

8:30–10 a.m.

NCRA Premier Session: Installation of Officers and Directors

NCRA will install the 2023-2024 President, Officers, and Board of Directors.

Keynote Presentation with Dennis M. Holmgren

This session is open to the following registration packages: Full, Networking, Students, and Friday. For an additional fee, this session is available for Saturday/Sunday package. 0.1 CEU

10–11 a.m.

Coffee Break in Expo Hall

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Tips for Teaching and Learning Online (including accessibility)

Presenters: Cathy L. Penniston, RPR, CRI, Mary Beth Johnson, Grecia Ramierz, and Catalina Chiang Yuri

Court reporting instructors and students will offer their perspectives for teaching court reporting classes online, including accessibility tips. What strategies work best for court reporting instructors? What strategies work best for students? There will be time for audience members to share their favorite strategies. 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

The Next Generation of Steno

Presenters: Chandler Alvino, RPR, and Alex M. Lederer, RPR

A new era of stenographers is on the rise. Unlike the professionals who came before us, we have attended online programs, tested virtually for certifications, and have taken our first depositions via Zoom from our makeshift home offices. As you make the transition from student to reporter, we understand more than most that your journey will be anything but conventional. You are about to be propelled into the amazing new age of court reporting, and we'd like to help you! Our unique perspective has prepared us to give you all the tools you will need to successfully navigate your first year of reporting. As we discuss the lessons learned, mistakes made, triumphs reached along the way, and how we plan to move forward to advance ourselves and the industry alike, we hope you leave our seminar feeling confident and inspired with a gameplan of how you'd like to take this profession by storm. This seminar is a must for students and newbie reporters of all ages! Whether you're a Gen X or a Gen Z, we are all united as the next generation of steno. 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

S.A.N.F.A.N. Techno (See a Need, Fill a Need)

Presenter: Mike Hensley, RDR

We're taking a new approach to the evergreen topic of technology at this year's Conference. The best way to innovate is to follow the principle of "See a need, fill a need." At this engaging session, you'll hear from self-proclaimed tech guru Mike Hensley as he discusses obstacles and difficulties we face in our personal and professional lives as stenographers and how to use technological solutions to overcome them. 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Multidistrict Litigation

Presenters: Katherine Cornell, Tom Pirtle, and Erin Copeland

We will discuss the science, challenges, and interplay between lawyers and court reporters in multidistrict litigations. Look forward to an opportunity for an interactive discussion and to air your grievances! 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Unmasking Your Realtime Superpowers; You're More Powerful than You Think!

Presenter: Anissa R. Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI

Tweaking a lot of little things adds up to BIG superpowers in your realtime! If it's one syllable, we write it in one stroke! Tired of doing the same work twice (or more)? Flex your muscles with superpower efficiency! Find out your invisible strengths and how to become bulletproof (PWRAOF) in this ever-changing industry! Grab your super cape and get ready to become extraordinary! 0.1 CEU

12–1:30 p.m.

Lunch on your own

12:00–1:15 p.m.

NCRF Angel Thank You Luncheon

By Invitation Only

12:00-1:15 p.m.

Student Lunch

Sponsored by Nell McCallum & Associates

1:30–2:30 p.m.

From Student to Steno Reporter: Tips and Insights from Recent Graduates

Presenters: Amie First, RDR, CRR, CRC, CPE; Erica Wofford, RPR; and Marina Garcia, RPR

Students, join our panel of recent graduates as they share practical tips and insights to get you up to speed and into the workforce. Learn practice techniques, speedbuilding tips, and how to best utilize a mentor. Hear from our panel how they prepared for certification tests and

navigated their first court reporting experiences. Bring your questions for this interactive session. 0.0 CEU

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Beyond 225: What You Need to Know When Entering the Captioning Field

Presenters: Patricia K. Graves, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC; Carol Studenmund, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC; and Becky Tallarico, RPR, CRR, CRC

Learn how to translate your steno skills from the judicial setting to speech-to-text accessibility in the CART captioning and Broadcast captioning industry. Hear from those who make hiring decisions and the best practices that will separate you from other applicants. 0.1 CEU

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Stenography in Nigeria: Bringing American Stenography Standards to Africa

Presenters: Rachel Artis and Anthony Akinbolaji

This session aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of stenography and its current applications in Nigeria and the diaspora. The session will cover the basics of American stenography and how it differs from stenography in Nigeria. In addition, participants will learn about the challenges and opportunities of adapting American stenography standards to suit the needs of Nigerian stenographers. They will explore the role of stenographers in different judicial systems and their respective language challenges. By the end of the session, participants will have a solid understanding of stenography in Nigeria, and the skills court reporters use to be proficient in the valuable skill of stenography. They will also be inspired by their international colleagues to continue spreading the word about the wonderful world of steno, how they can support each other, and how inspired Nigerian reporters are about their American colleagues. 0.1 CEU

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Work Efficiently; Enjoy Life More Fully

Presenters: Kensie Beniot and Kayla Lotstein, RPR, CRR, CRC

We will cover: Job prep (realtime or not), setting expectations/communicating boundaries to agencies, attorneys, and deponents to help things run more smoothly – while staying in your lane, building your calendar for your benefit, scopist and proofer file transfers and deadlines, worksheet/job submission, and invoicing. Learning Outcomes: How communicating boundaries/expectations and asking for the details you need to perform your duties at the highest level will result in efficiently doing your job, from calendaring jobs, communicating with support staff, to job submission. We will also cover ways to improve efficiency in each step of the process. 0.1 CEU

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Properly Grounded Connection

Presenter: Joel McCray

In light of making every connection count, this session will focus on properly grounded connections. This is alluding to the three-pronged electrical plug which is safer than the two-pronged electrical plug. This session will focus on three effective connections that will empower your career with skill, excellence, and fulfillment. The three connection areas of focus will be: Connection with Self, Connection with Others, and Connection with the Industry. Diving into these areas of focus will help reduce the challenges of burnout and feeling stuck and imbalanced. The goal is to return to a healthy, strategic, and effective space in our careers of choice. 0.1 CEU

2–5 p.m.

NCRF Board of Trustees Meeting
Closed meeting

2:30–3 p.m.

Coffee Break in Expo Hall

3–4 p.m.

Test Prep in Court Reporting School and Beyond

Presenters: Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI, and Amy Davidson, BS

Are you wondering how to properly prepare for the RPR Written Knowledge Exam (WKT) or struggling to pass it? Come and hear from a leading instructor and an NCRA staff member on best practices to prepare and learn about resources you should utilize to help you better prepare to pass the RPR WKT examination. 0.1 CEU

3–4 p.m.

“Words with Friends”: Researching the Impact of Stenographer Practice Groups

Presenter: Kathryn A. Thomas, RDR, CRR, CRC

If it even existed at all, academic research about working certified stenographers' skill improvement has been sparse ... until now. Thomas shares her study of how active participation in a practice group affects stenographers' skill levels after becoming initially certified. Find out exactly how — or if — starting or joining a practice group would supercharge your skills. 0.1 CEU

3–4 p.m.

It Takes You!

Presenters: Gail Fiasco and Margary Rogers, RPR, CRI

It takes YOU to make things go right. Given the state of emergency affecting our profession, serving on your association's board or committee is not only vital, but it can also be rewarding. Margary Rogers, President of the Maryland Court Reporters Association, and Gale Fiasco, President of Texas Court Reporters Association, through their leadership experience, will inspire you to identify your talents in giving back to your profession. They will break down the various roles and opportunities that NCRA and state associations offer. In addition, you will learn about leadership skills, teamwork, managing your time commitments, and the ultimate goals and mission of a board or an association. It takes YOU! 0.1 CEU

3–4 p.m.

NCRF's Veteran's Oral Histories Program

Presenter: Kerry Ward

The Library of Congress wants to hear from you! Join the Library's Kerry Ward to learn about how you can make history with the Veterans History Project. You can learn how to participate and contribute through transcriptions, oral history interviews, photographs, letters, memoirs, and other materials. With as little as 30 minutes, one can etch a veteran's own words in history, to enshrine their narrative in the Library of Congress so that generations to come will learn from and possibly be inspired by their service. In doing so, we make our country stronger, just like veterans always have. Visit www.loc.gov/vets today. 0.1 CEU

3–4 p.m.

Successfully Managing Your Time and Stress

Presenters: Cindy R. Bowden, RDR, and Roberta Turner, RPR

There are only 24 hours in a day. Come learn how to prioritize your 24 hours. Learn how to balance work, life, family, and steno. Do you feel overwhelmed, like you're being pulled in all directions and there are not enough hours in the day? If so, this session is for you. We will go over tips on how to manage your time and ways to relieve stress. 0.1 CEU

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Steno Student Speed Dating

Presenters: Deborah Kriegshauser FAPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, CLVS; Melanie L. Humphrey-Sonntag, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC; Kathryn A. Thomas, RDR, CRR, CRC; Cathy Penniston, RPR, CRI; and Erin Blair, RPR

This seminar is a chance for the students to “date” a professional in the field for a 15-minute session each, including a recent student graduate newly practicing as a professional court reporter. The student will gain LOTS of wisdom from these presenters, that also include a renowned teacher, as well as a couple of court reporters with many years of experience in the freelance and official arenas. You will fall in love with this dating experience. 0.0 CEU

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Mouse Free in '23

Presenter: Merilee S. Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC

As steno reporters, we know speed counts. And while we're fast on our machines, how many of us are optimizing our time on our QWERTY keyboards? Research has shown that using common keyboard shortcuts can save about 134 hours - or 17 workdays - every year versus using the mouse! This seminar will unleash a few hidden tricks and apps right under your fingertips. Discover quick commands to help you browse the internet faster, navigate everyday programs in Windows 11, and other Windows applications hiding within. Whether you're new to keyboard commands or a keyboard shortcut pro, you're sure to discover at least one new trick to reduce your time on the "other" keyboard. 0.1 CEU

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Grammar, "Word Crimes," and Idioms

Presenter: Donna Urlaub, RMR, CRR

Are you a real trooper or trouper? Discussion and examples of "word crimes" that are committed every day (not everyday). Attendees will emerge armed with answers! Idioms and their origins - another part of the English language with some surprising and interesting backstories. 0.1 CEU

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Social Security Administration – Retirement Benefits

Presenters: Shonbay Jones and Anna Lambert-Short

This SSA presentation will cover the basics of Social Security retirement, spousal/survivor benefits, and Medicare. 0.1 CEU

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Ethics: Staying Up on the Latest Changes

Presenter: Dannielle Copeland, RDR, CRR

Presentation with an open discussion on the latest changes in the industry and how they apply to our ethical guidelines. 0.1 CEU

5:30–6:30 p.m.

School/Teacher Administrators Reception

Saturday, July 29

7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Registration Open

7:30–8:30 a.m.

Breakfast in Expo Hall

Exclusive benefit for those booked within the discounted NCRA room block at the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown and registered for a Conference package or workshop.

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Expo Hall Open

8:30–9:30 a.m.

In Kahoots with Technology

Presenters: Debbie Kriegshauser, FAPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, CLVS; Suzanne Trimble, RPR, CRR; and Merilee Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC (tech support)

The Technology Committee will be presenting a trivia game show with what you need to know about your system, your computer, your phone, and even your video settings! Come and answer the questions and see how you stack up against the Tech Committee's responses. (Bring your phones – we will be playing with the Kahoot.it app.) 0.1 CEU

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Artificial Justice! Small Errors, Big Consequences

Presenters: Mary Pierce, Stacey Raikes, RMR, CRR; Jo Ann Holmgren; and Sue Terry, FAPR, RPR, CRR. CRC

Join us for a thought-provoking session exploring the tension between the democratization and monetization of America's court records. As outsourcing justice is occurring on the down-low, the accuracy, accessibility, and privacy of our court records is at risk. This seminar will delve into the potential consequences of this intrusion and examine the implications for our judicial system and for society. Don't miss this interactive discussion designed to shed light on the challenges facing our nation and the harms that defunding justice will unleash. Knowledge is power, and this session will arm you with all the information and materials you need to defend stenographers from those who seek to undermine us. 0.1 CEU

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Speaking Up! Judges' Do's and Don'ts of Reporting in the Courtroom

Presenters: The Hon. Michael "Mike" Engelhart, Hon. Janice Berg, and Hon. Audrie Lawton-Evans

Have you ever wondered what judges want in a court reporter? How can you best support the judge in the courtroom? What can you do to better communicate your needs to the judge? Come learn from our panel of esteemed Texas judges as they share their take on the importance of the judge/court reporter dynamic in the courtroom. 0.1 CEU

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Grassroots Advocacy: Mobilizing Your Membership for Maximum Success

Presenters: Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC, and Jocelynn A. Moore, Esq.

Incorporating grassroots advocacy into your state association's overall strategy is necessary to create change and have maximum impact. Learn how to construct a full-scale grassroots campaign to galvanize court reporters in your state to act as advocates for the profession. 0.1 CEU

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Tech Tools That Make Your Day

Presenters: Andrea Kreutz, CLVS, and Hector Cordova, CLVS

Enhance your service offerings and speed up your workflows with cool tools and gadgets. In this presentation, Kreutz and Cordova share some of their favorite technologies to help you upgrade your legal videography business. 0.1 CEU

9:30–10 a.m.

Coffee Break in Expo Hall

10–11 a.m.

The Business Side of Freelancing: What Freelancers Should Know

Presenters: Sandy Eisenberg and Tom Brown

What does it mean to be an independent contractor? It is so much more than just getting to work and collecting a check. Many people don't understand the implications of being self-employed, what they may need to do, or how to do it. This presentation is to inform and educate you about how being a freelancer means that you are running your own business and the issues that you need to consider and attend to. This seminar is appropriate for both captioners and court or deposition reporters who wish to work for themselves. 0.1 CEU

10–11 a.m.

International Videography — What You Need to Know for Legal Video Depos Abroad

Presenter: Randell J. Buckler, CLVS

In this presentation, RJ Buckler will share his tips and insights into a range of matters a legal videographer, and also a reporter, may wish to consider when recording testimony abroad. By the end of the presentation, attendees will be familiar with best practices for traveling with

excess equipment, considerations in translated depositions, and technology that can reduce some of the pressure. 0.1 CEU

10–11 a.m.

Learn, Connect, and Celebrate with Realtime Coach!

Presenter: Marybeth Everhart, MA, RPR, CRI, CPE, CLR

Think you know RTC? Think again! Now, power up with thousands more exercises, up to 360 wpm, plus the highly anticipated upgrade to StenEd G7 for all reporters and captioners. This session will show how Realtime Coach can help you improve your skills and enhance your daily steno performance; connect with realtime analysis, feedback, and tailored strategies to improve your skills; and celebrate new certifications and improved skills on a daily basis. Come for the door prizes. Stay to make your life more fun. Don't miss it! 0.1 CEU

10–11 a.m.

Speaking Up! Judges' Do's and Don'ts of Reporting in the Courtroom

Presenters: The Hon. Michael "Mike" Engelhart, Hon. Janice Berg, and Hon. Audrie Lawton-Evans

Have you ever wondered what judges want in a court reporter? How can you best support the judge in the courtroom? What can you do to better communicate your needs to the judge? Come learn from our panel of esteemed Texas judges as they share their take on the importance of the judge/court reporter dynamic in the courtroom. 0.1 CEU

10–11 a.m.

How to Prepare for a Background Check

Presenter: Angela Denmark, RPR

Background checks can be very intrusive, but you can do a few things to prepare: For instance, keep a log of your employment history and conduct yearly maintenance on important documents like your notary status, business certifications, even your driver's license. Conflicts happen to everyone, just try to resolve them civilly. During this time certain things may seem embarrassing to you and threaten your confidence; just be prepared with the truth. It's okay to convey your disappointment but keep it short and honest. All or any of these things can take center stage in a background check. Be prepared, not shocked. 0.1 CEU

11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Awards Luncheon

Ticketed event

1:15–2:15 p.m.

Unconscious Bias

Presenter: Yvonne N. Harris, SPHR, SHRM-SCP

In this session, participants will cultivate a greater awareness and understanding of unconscious bias, reconcile the difference between how they see others and how they see themselves, and learn how to utilize strategies to embrace the diversity of others and be more inclusive. 0.1 CEU

1:15–2:15 p.m.

Take the Plunge! A Comprehensive Guide to Switching Careers

Presenters: Linda Maddox, RMR, CRR; Tammy McGhee, RMR, CRR, CRC; and Heather Maloy Collins, RPR, CRR

Thinking about taking the plunge? If you're feeling stuck and dreaming about what it might feel like to switch careers, come hear from three reporters who did just that. Whether you're thinking of changing from official to freelance, freelance to CART, or freelance to captioning, we're here to help guide you and give you the encouragement you need to get the most out of your professional career so you can have the work-life balance you've been yearning to achieve. 0.1 CEU

- 1:15–2:15 p.m. The Ultimate Guide to a Successful Attorney/Court Reporter Relationship**
Presenters: Dan Linebaugh, Michael Dority, Ron Estefan, Kevin Tompkins, and Scott C. Lannie
 Come join a panel of attorneys as they share what they look for and need from court reporters. Start to build a better attorney/court reporter relationship by hearing these lawyers' keen insights on the court reporting profession. 0.1 CEU
- 1:15–2:15 p.m. Breaking into Trial Presentation**
Presenters: Hector Cordova, CLVS, and Robert Butcher, CLVS
 Future-proof yourself by taking your unique skills as a legal videographer to the next level with trial support. In this presentation, Cordova and Butcher will show you the professional trial support skills you already have, what trial support services you can offer today, and give you a road map to becoming a top industry trial presentation expert. 0.1 CEU
- 1:15–2:15 p.m. Considerations for Choosing Your Next Laptop for Depositions**
Presenter: Tim Falk, CLVS
 Do you wonder if you're being ripped off when you make that new laptop investment? What is a fair price based on the components of the system? And what do all of those components even mean? What is their function, and what should you be paying attention to? Learn the basic purpose of the components in a laptop, as well as the essentials you'll want to include when making that next purchase. You'll also be able to determine if you're getting a fair deal based on the laptop's specifications. 0.1 CEU
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. The Superpower of Steno Machines: Opportunities Abound**
Presenters: Carol Studenmund, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC; Lindsay Stoker, RPR, CRR; Toni Christy, RPR, CRR, CRC; and Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC
 There are no limits to the opportunities of steno! Hear experiences and good writing habits from experts who have taken their steno machines out of the courthouse and deposition suite. 0.1 CEU
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. The Ultimate Guide to a Successful Attorney/Court Reporter Relationship**
Presenters: Dan Linebaugh, Michael Dority, Ron Estefan, Kevin Tompkins, and Scott C. Lannie
 Come join a panel of attorneys as they share what they look for and need from court reporters. Start to build a better attorney/court reporter relationship by hearing these lawyers' keen insights on the court reporting profession. 0.1 CEU
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. The Mirror Method: One Concept, 1000+ Briefs**
Presenter: Ron Cook, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC
 Learn and understand the concept of the Mirror Method and open yourself to more than 1,000 briefs that will require no memorization. 0.1 CEU
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. Short Writing!**
Presenter: Allison Hall, RDR, CRR
 Phrasing and tucking are the key to short writing. This session will teach you how to tuck those endings and a system of phrasing that is easy to understand, possible to implement, and will leave you writing much shorter, with an overall cleaner file come editing time. 0.1 CEU
- 2:30–3:30 p.m. Improve Your Financial Literacy and Why It's So Critical Now**
Presenter: Brian Altounian, MBA

This is an educational session on the way money works, along with ways to grow it, keep it, reduce taxes, and build generational wealth. Learning outcomes will include understanding basic financial concepts like how interest is calculated, what to do about growing debt, understanding alternatives to traditional banking, and alternative paths to compound the value and growth of your hard-earned money. 0.1 CEU

3:30–4 p.m.

Coffee Break in Expo Hall

4–5 P.M.

Steno, Social Media, and Self-Care

Presenter: Denee Vadell, RPR

Spreading steno on social media has proven to be an effective way of spreading awareness and shining a light on the national stenographer shortage. In this session you will learn different ways to promote steno on social media, how to brand yourself, and how to take care of yourself physically and mentally while spending time on social media. 0.1 CEU

4–5 P.M.

Let's Improve Our Writing Skills

Presenters: Michael E. Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR, and Alan Peacock, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Join "Depoman" Mike Miller and Alan Peacock for a fast-paced, hourlong deep dive into steno tricks and tips. Learn to think of briefs on the fly, handle phrases like a champ, and how to keep up when the speed gets high. This session will begin with Miller and Peacock sharing their own struggles and successes and tidbits for all. Then participants are encouraged to share their tips and briefs as well. So if you have words or phrases that stump you, take note and bring them and we will come up with resolutions together. 0.1 CEU

4–5 P.M.

Interpreters and Court Reporters Working Closely Together

Presenters: Karina De La Cruz and Jill Wells, RMR, CRR

Join a federal court reporter and an interpreter sharing best practices and scenarios to assist one another in the deposition/courtroom setting. 0.1 CEU

4–5 P.M.

Getting Your Legal/Financial Affairs in Order

Presenter: Eric Bean, JD

This seminar will explain the "why" and "how" of putting together a comprehensive estate plan, provide a general overview of the probate process, and address considerations for transcribing records in the event of the reporter's death or incapacity. 0.1 CEU

4–5 P.M.

Bridging the Gap: Real-World Advice for Easing the Transition from Graduation to Freelancing

Presenter: Bethany Morse, RSR, CRR

You've reached your high speeds and graduation is so close you can taste it. Now what? All at once you're faced with becoming certified, choosing and learning a professional software, navigating how to work for firms and what to watch out for when approaching them, buying the necessary technology for in-person and remote jobs, balancing a workload with transcript deadlines, learning the ins and outs of invoicing, collaborating with proofreaders and scopists, and more. It can be extremely overwhelming! In this session, you will gain valuable knowledge to help prepare you for beginning your freelance career so that your post-graduation transition period is less stressful and more successful. 0.1 CEU

7–10 p.m.

Member Recognition Gala

Ticketed event

Dress in your favorite country outfit and dance the night away to country at the Saturday night "Boot Scootin' in Houston" *Member Recognition Gala*. Enjoy dinner, drinks, fun, and more!

Sunday, July 30

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Myth Busting: Captioning, Transcripts, Verbatim, and More!

Presenter: Kelly Linkowski, RPR, CRR, CRC, CPE

No transcripts, they said, captioning is easier than depositions, less money and more job satisfaction True or False? End your NCRA weekend with a lively conversation on captioning and the opportunities our steno machines provide. 0.1 CEU

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Speak Up, Steno! Let's Communicate

Presenter: Kim Xavier, RDR, CRR, CRC, CMRS, CRI

Even the most introverted court reporter must perfect the art of public speaking. We've all noticed that 21st Century attorneys, judges, and even litigants have some different ideas about decorum, courtesy, and the responsibilities of the court reporter. So, it has never been more important to be able to command a room while on the job and to be prepared to advocate for yourself and the profession on the spot. Participants will leave this session with solutions they can use to immediately improve their written and verbal communication skills on and off the job. 0.1 CEU

9:45–10:45 a.m.

Interested in Federal Court Reporting? Ask a Federal Reporter

Presenters: Deborah Kriegshauser FAPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, CLVS; Melanie L. Humphrey-Sonntag, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC; and Paul Brandell, RPR, CRR

If you are curious about a federal court position, this panel of federal reporters is a great resource. This seminar will give you the opportunity to learn from a panel of federal reporters about a day in the life of the federal court, how to secure a position, and what the interviewers are looking for in a potential reporter. 0.1 CEU

9:45–10:45 a.m.

The Dynamic Duo

Presenters: Mike Hensley, RDR and Tori Schafer

An industry first! Join stenographer Mike Hensley and scopist Tori Schafer for a "Gabinar" wherein you'll hear how this pair has created a professional relationship that allows them to tackle whatever the industry throws their way. Learn what stenographers are looking for when searching for a scopist, how to streamline your team workflow, and become informed on what scopists need in order to perform at their prime. 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

The Complete Guide to Court Reporter Audio

Presenter: Mike Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR

Join Mike Miller, one of the foremost experts on reporting technology, as he educates you on the best way to capture and utilize audio backups. As Miller frequently says, "You can't write it if you can't hear it." So show up early, bring your questions, and learn from the best on how to make your audio work for you. 0.1 CEU

11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Court Security, Safety, and Awareness Course

Presenter: John Hazeslip, Emergency Management and Security Director Sweeny Community Hospital

Join John Hazeslip, Senior Director of Emergency Management at a Texas hospital, as he shares why judicial protection is so important. He will share suggested practices to enhance judicial security and personal protection information. 0.1 CEU

SPEAKER BIOS

A

Anthony Akinbolaji

Anthony Akinbolaji is a skilled and experienced court reporter from Nigeria who has been working in the Lagos State Judiciary for 12 years. Akinbolaji has a passion for stenography and an unwavering commitment to capturing every spoken word in the courtroom with accuracy and speed. In the wake of the End SARS protests in Nigeria, Akinbolaji took his skills to the next level by working with an American scoping agency. Through his collaboration with this agency, Akinbolaji has gained new insights into the world of stenography and has been able to share his expertise with others. His dedication and commitment to his craft have made him a respected figure in the legal community, both in Nigeria and abroad.

Brian Altounian, MBA

Brian Altounian has more than 34 years of experience in the entertainment and technology industries. He has served as a C-level executive for a number of companies and has had much success helping early-stage ventures raise capital and pursue exit strategies such as acquisitions and going-public initiatives. He built a brokerage in the financial services industry over eight years ago, educating and serving families about wealth maximization and financial independence. In November 2022, Altounian expanded his efforts by building Atlas Voyager Wealth Maximization Strategies to expand support to entrepreneurs and small businesses. He has focused on the special needs community and, as part of his service to that community, he is the co-creator/co-host of a weekly podcast “Just Two Dads.” He serves on the Board of Yes I Can Unity Through Music & Education. He is a proud father of three amazing children.

Chandler Alvino, RPR

Chandler Alvino is a freelance stenographer in California. After completing an online court reporting training program in the midst of a pandemic, she earned her RSR and Washington license, subsequently obtained her RPR and California CSR, and began working remotely in 2022.

Rachel Artis

Rachel Artis is a dynamic entrepreneur who's been making waves in the court reporting industry for more than a decade. Not only is she an expert scopist, but she's also been training other professionals since 2010 to help them achieve success in the field. Her proprietary methods are cutting-edge and have been proven to keep industry professionals profitable and competitive. Get ready to be inspired by her passion and expertise in the court reporting industry.

B

Eric Bean, JD

Eric Bean is a partner with Dinkins Kelly Lenox Lamb & Walker LLP, a boutique law firm focusing on all aspects of estate planning, probate, trust administrations, and guardianships, including litigation. Mr. Bean began his career as a briefing attorney to Justice Marc Brown on the Fourteenth Court of Appeals. He has been at Dinkins Kelly since 2016, and he was named partner in 2022. His practice focuses on estate planning and probate law with an emphasis on trust, estate, and guardianship administration and disputes. He has served as a court-appointed attorney ad litem and estate administrator. He occasionally writes about legal issues and developments in probate and trust law in his newsletter, It's Just Simple Probate Law.

Kensie K. Benoit

Kensie Benoit has been working as a certified shorthand reporter for 10 years. After graduating from Alvin Community College, in Alvin, Texas, she spent the first two years working as a freelancer before relocating to San Antonio, for an officialship. She is currently an official court reporter in the 290th Criminal District Court. Benoit has been a motivational force for students and new professionals through her Instagram, StenoStories, offering tips and tricks to simplify things. Benoit is a teacher and a strong advocate for the NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program. She previously served on the board of directors for the Texas Court Reporters Association and is the immediate past president of Bexar County Court Reporters Association. She believes all of this was possible through hard work, networking, and involvement with state and national associations.

The Hon. Janice Berg

The Hon. Janice Berg is a judge of the Two Hundred Forty-Seventh Family Court in Harris County, Texas. She assumed the judgeship in 2019. Berg earned her B.S. from Columbia University in 2003 and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center in 2008. For nearly nine years, Berg has represented Houston-area clients in family cases not only at the trial level but also in the Courts of Appeals and at the Texas Supreme Court. She eventually founded her own firm in 2012 and has represented clients in family cases. Berg has appeared at the trial level, the Courts of Appeals, and Texas Supreme Court. She is a member of the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute, Civil Rights Committee, and Associate Board.

Erin Blair, RPR

Erin Blair is an RPR residing in Des Moines, Iowa. She has been a freelance reporter for nearly a year, taking depositions in the areas of medical malpractice, arbitrations, workers comp, doctor depositions, insurance depositions, and technical expert depositions. She started court reporting school at the Des Moines Area Community College in Newton, Iowa, in August 2020, and transferred to and graduated from SimplySteno in March 2022. She got her RSR that same month and began taking remote depositions for the state of Washington.

Cindy R. Bowden, RDR

Cindy Rochelle Bowden is currently a freelance reporter licensed in California, Nevada, Texas, and Utah. She obtained her BS and MA after court reporting school and has been licensed as a reporter for 19 years. She previously worked as an official for a little more than 10 years at Kern County Superior Court in California, and recently retired two years ago. She is currently living in Bakersfield, Calif. Bowden has two adult daughters, ages 36 and 34, and two grandchildren, ages 17 and 14. She recently became a widow on March 20, 2023, after being together for 36 years. Her personal and professional goals are to become a CRR in 2023 and to work internationally at least once. In her spare time, she loves travel, spa days, shopping, movies, and most important to her is spending time with family and friends. It is her hope that you gain some time management skills and ways to relieve stress after completing this seminar.

Paul G. Brandell, RPR, CRR

Paul Brandell attended Lansing Community College and has been reporting for 33 years. He freelanced for nine years with Spaniolo & Lundquist, then worked for 20 years with the Hon. William Collette in the Ingham County Circuit Court, Michigan. He started in the U. S. Federal Courts with the Western District of Michigan and his current assignment is with the Hon. Robert J. Yonkers. He and his wife Carrie have been married for 28 years and have three beautiful children, Megan, 26, and Mollie and Matthew, 22. He has always felt fortunate to have followed in the footsteps of his sister and sister-in-law into this great career that has given so much to his family.

Tom Brown

Tom Brown is part owner of eCaptions, a San Diego, Calif.,-based captioning agency. Brown works to raise awareness and improve the quality of captioning, as well as to increase the respect for, and visibility of captioners. Brown is the moderator of the groups.io Captioners forum.

Randell J. Buckler, CLVS

RJ Buckler, a legal videographer and occasional filmmaker, has traveled the world as a CLVS since 2011 and shot depositions for many of the world's largest patent disputes. Originally from Illinois, he moved to Osaka, Japan, for a total of seven years and he now resides in Dublin, Ireland, covering depositions both remotely and throughout Europe.

Nicole A. Bulldis, RPR

Nicole A. Bulldis, RPR, started her career as an official and is now freelancing out of Phoenix, Ariz. She holds licenses in Arizona, California, and Washington. She has volunteered for both her state and national associations and is now focused on mentoring students transitioning into the working world.

Robert Butcher, CLVS

Robert Butcher is a 10-year legal video and trial presentation veteran from Lakewood, Colo., and is owner of Professional Legal Video. As the chief operations officer, he cultivates his passion for the process by providing top quality services in litigation support from discovery through trial. Utilizing the latest equipment and software, Butcher and the PLV team offer innovation and cutting-edge services to the legal community.

C

Toni Christy, RPR, CRR, CRC

As a writer with 35 years of experience in the reporting profession and 18 of those in the specific field of captioning/CART services, sports writing and stadium captioning, Toni Christy has enjoyed improving her craft while traveling to many venues and arenas across the country, along with a coal mine and a nuclear plant to boot. Christy graduated from AIB in Des Moines, Iowa, with an Associate of Arts in Court Reporting. She has covered pregame and postgame press conferences for MLB, NBA, WNBA, PGA, LPGA, NCAA DI Men's & Women's Basketball, the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials and learned the "art" of walking, listening, and writing all at the same time while captioning for a college student on a Literary Walking Tour in the U.K. In her spare time, Christy loves to cook, garden, and spend time with her newly retired husband, Kevin.

Ronald R. Cook, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Ron Cook has been reporting for more than 45 years, and is certified in California, Washington, and Nevada. He was unofficially recognized as the guru of realtime reporting in the Pacific Northwest and was one of nine reporters to pass the first-ever CRR in 1992. He routinely competes in the NCRA Speed and Realtime Contests and has won the Q&A portion of the Realtime Contest twice, in 2012 and 2016. He also competes in the California Deposition Reporters Association realtime contest, winning it all in 2018 and placing in the top three regularly. As a bucket list item, in 2019 Cook was able to travel to Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy, and compete in the Intersteno competition, finishing 7th in both the speed and realtime competitions. Cook has given numerous seminars on miscellaneous topics, including how to be the best reporter you can be, both on the state and national level, and has been an officer of the Washington Court Reporters Association for a number of years, in addition to being a member of the NCRA since 1976.

Heather Maloy Collins, RPR, CRR

Heather Maloy Collins lives in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband, Kevin, and is mom to three boys, Liam (21), Colman (19), and Rowan (13). She has been a court reporter for the last 28 years and loves all the variety court reporting has to offer.

Dannielle Copeland, RDR, CRR

Dannielle Copeland has been a freelance reporter for 16 years. She is passionate about the industry and enjoys connecting with colleagues. When not working, Dannielle likes to be creative through DIY and art projects.

Erin Copeland

Erin Copeland currently serves as the court-appointed Co-Lead of the Paragard (birth control) MDL pending in the Northern District of Georgia. She was also recently appointed to the leadership committee of the Hair Relaxer MDL pending in the Northern District of Illinois. Previously, from 2017 – 2022, Erin served on the Executive Committee for the Essure consolidated state litigation in California, where she and her team oversaw the claims of thousands of women who suffered severe and permanent injuries as a result of the Essure permanent sterilization birth control device. In August 2020, she helped to negotiate a \$1.6 billion settlement with Bayer to resolve the Essure litigation. Copeland also served on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for the various female pelvic mesh MDLs pending in the Southern District of West Virginia as well as the Pradaxa litigation. In the Pradaxa litigation, Copeland served as State-Federal Liaison Counsel to the cases pending in St. Clair County, Ill.

Hector Cordova, CLVS

Hector Cordova helps you make your technology work for you. Cordova lives at the intersection of art and technology, highlighted by his diverse work experiences such as his years at Apple and his years coaching performers all the way to Broadway. He brings his unique blend of technological prowess and performing arts expertise to his professional life as Managing Director for Alitigate, a legal media and tech firm based in Orlando, Fla. Between leading Alitigate to success, filming hundreds of videos, and presenting in hundreds of trials each year for some of the nation's largest firms, Cordova serves on two NCRA committees: the CLVS Council, and the Technology Committee. When he isn't behind the camera or in the hot seat (or teaching or speaking), he's probably playing guitar outdoors with his wife and two sons.

Katherine Cornell

Katherine Cornell is the owner of Cornell Law where she focuses on pharmaceutical and medical device cases nationwide. She was appointed by Hon. Judge Rodgers in the Northern District of Florida to serve as a member of the Plaintiff Steering Committee in the 3M Combat Arms Earplug Litigation and was on the trial team for five of the bellwether trials. She previously worked extensively in the transvaginal mesh litigation and served on the trial team against Mentor Worldwide and its parent company Johnson & Johnson, obtaining a \$4.4 million dollar verdict in 2016.

D

Amy Davidson

Amy Davidson is an experienced association professional with a background in membership and foundations and more than nine years of certification and testing experience. Davidson serves as NCRA's Director, Certification and Testing, and oversees seven national certifications (RSR, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CLVS). Amy enjoys seeing candidates be successful achieving their professional goals and proudly displaying their hard-earned achievements.

Karina I. De La Cruz

As President and Director of Horizon Legal Solutions and Language Pickup, LLC, Karina De La Cruz has a vast knowledge in the legal field. Her expertise in the legal arena allows her to understand the needs of both legal and medical professionals. Karina obtained an Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies from Cooper Career College. She then went on to obtain her bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in International Business from Northwood University in West Palm Beach, Fla. She attended Nova Southeastern University for her master's in business administration. As a legal assistant and paralegal for nearly 10 years, De La Cruz was employed by some of the most prominent law firms in South Florida. She saw the need for language services and in 2006 founded Horizon Legal Solutions, Inc.

Angela E. Denmark, RPR

Angela Denmark has more than a decade or courtroom experience in state and federal courts, giving her confidence, knowledge, and strength. She was thrilled to blaze a trail as the first court reporter to provide daily realtime technology in Hamilton County Municipal Court. She loves grammar, punctuation, and yes, sentence structure. In 2009, Denmark founded and became the CEO of Denmark Court Reporting Agency, LLC (DCR). Her passion for court reporting seemed to follow a natural progression from employee to employer. She believes leadership is a responsibility. While still pursuing

a bachelor's degree in business administration, she augmented her business acumen by taking seminars and workshops and participating in state and federal court reporting conventions. These conventions addressed specific industry issues and covered everything from technology to debt collection. On November 17, 2021, her hard work, perseverance, and determination paid off. DCR became Small Business Administration-certified as a HUB-ZONE small business concern. She is proud of the company she built and looks forward to tremendous growth in the future.

Debra A. Dibble, RDR, CRR, CRC

Debbie Dibble is 35-year freelance reporter and captioner from Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Immediate Past President of NCRA. She has qualified in the National Speed Competition and National Realtime Competition multiple times. Dibble has also worked as a reporter in Memphis, Tenn., and is also very experienced in reporting arbitrations and trials. At the national level, she has served as an NCRA Chief Examiner. She served as a delegate to the National Committee of State Associations from 2008 to 2012. She also has served a three-year term as a Director, a three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, President-Elect, and President on the NCRA Board of Directors. In 2010, the Utah Court Reporters Association (UCRA) honored her with its Distinguished Service Award. Debbie has been deeply involved in leading a team to design and develop Career Launcher, NCRF's mentorship program for new professionals.

Michael Dority

Michael Dority is a partner at Linebaugh Dority & Allen, LLP. Prior to joining the firm, Dority spent a decade defending some of the largest companies in the world in lawsuits brought by injured parties and their families. Using the collective knowledge he gained while working at some of the country's biggest law firms, Dority now zealously represents injured parties with unmatched vigor and determination. Dority graduated cum laude from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law in University Park, Texas, in 2011. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Texas and holds membership in the Academy of Truck Accident Attorneys, American Association for Justice, Houston Young Lawyers Association, and Houston Bar Association.

E

Sandy Eisenberg

Sandy Eisenberg, CEO of Total Recall Captioning, has been in the captioning profession since 1992 as a realtime captioner (retired), advocate, educator, and business owner. Eisenberg was one of the first captioners in California. She and Total Recall have worked with numerous organizations and individuals over the years, providing high-quality captioners, information, and resources. Early on Eisenberg was an advisor to NCRA's task force to update the "Realtime in the Educational Setting" manual. Eisenberg is a founding member of the California Court Reporters Association's CART/Captioning Committee, where she continues to work for captioners and captioning standards. She also helped found the lobbying group Language Access Professionals Association (LAPA) and has fought tirelessly for the rights of California captioners to work as independent contractors. Most recently, the standards organization ASTM International enlisted Eisenberg to help to develop an informational Guide to Captioning for providers, clients, and consumers.

The Hon. Mike Engelhart

Judge Mike Engelhart has been the Judge of the 151st Civil District Court since January 1, 2009, after being elected in Harris County, Texas, in November 2008. He was re-elected in 2012 and 2016 and 2020. A 1995 graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, he was an Associate Editor of the *Houston Law Review*. Before that, he earned a BA in Political Science and Spanish from the University of Michigan. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial law and speaks Spanish fluently. Judge Engelhart is on the Board of Directors of the Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists (TACTAS). He is also a Fellow of the College of the State Bar of Texas, a frequent CLE speaker, and a certified mediator. In 2016 he won the University of Houston Law Center Alumni Association "Public Sector Achievement Award" and the "Trial Judge of the Year" from TACTAS. In 2017, Judge Engelhart was awarded the Franklin Jones Best CLE Article prize by the College of the State Bar of Texas. In 2019 he received the President's Award from the Houston Bar Association for his work as co-chair of the 2019 Civil/Appellate Bench Bar Conference. He has served two terms as Civil Administrative Judge of the 24 Civil District Courts of Harris County as well. Judge Engelhart lives in Bellaire, Texas, with

his wife of 27 years, Eva, who is an attorney and a Chapter 7 bankruptcy trustee. They have two boys, Joey, 23, a University of Texas graduate, and Zachary, 20, a junior at Texas A&M University

Ron Estefan

Ron Estefan is a Plaintiff's personal injury trial lawyer who is also an instructor at The Trial Lawyers College. He has had the privilege of handling and trying a wide variety of cases from slip and falls to product liability. Estefan feels purpose in standing up for people who feel powerless and speaking up for people who are voiceless.

The Hon. Audrie Lawton Evans

Judge Audrie Lawton Evans is the presiding judge of Harris County Civil Court at Law No. 1 in Texas. She was appointed to her position on August 10, 2021, and re-elected into office on November 8, 2022. Judge Evans served as the Administrative Judge for the Harris County Civil Courts at Law in 2022. She earned her law degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law, in Houston, Texas, in 2002 and her Bachelor of Arts in History from Loyola University in 1999. In law school, she served as the vice president of her class, a member of *Law Review*, and was first-place winner of the 2001-2002 Helen Dawn Williams Mock Trial competition. Judge Evans began her legal practice at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Litigation Division. After returning home from Austin, Texas, Judge Evans served as an Assistant Disciplinary Counsel with the State Bar of Texas and a Special Prosecutor with the Special Prosecution Unit of Texas. Prior to her appointment, she worked as an Assistant General Counsel at a local Houston company. In addition to her service on the bench, Judge Evans has given back to the community by volunteering countless hours to various community service organizations. She has also served as a speaker and advocate for Implicit Bias training in and around the State of Texas.

Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI, CPE

Marybeth Everhart is the national marketing manager at Realtime Coach, a realtime trainer, and a former court reporter.

F

Tim Falk, CLVS

Tim Falk has been a legal videographer for the past 16 years, owning his own legal video business in Colorado and recently launching a new worldwide remote legal video business as well. He has consulted with many court reporters over the years about their technological needs and questions. Falk believes that the more you know about technology, the more empowered you are to take necessary risks and the more valuable you are to your clients. He and his wife have five daughters — who might just know more about technology than he does.

Gale H. Gainey Fiasco

Gale is serving on state association and NCRA boards.

Amie First, RDR, CRR, CRC, CPE

Amie First is a federal official court reporter in Orlando, Fla. Prior to that, she worked as a captioner and freelance reporter. She is currently serving as chair of the NCRA Student/Teacher Committee and a member of the Test Advisory Committee. Amie loves all things steno, playing fetch with her silly French Bulldogs, and a long motorcycle ride with her husband.

G

Marina Garcia, RPR

Marina attended Alvin Community College in Alvin, Texas and became a Steno Diva two years after graduating. She has been reporting for one year. She is a mom to two girls and currently lives in Round Rock, Texas. She learned Sten-Ed and loves learning new briefs. She is a Texas CSR and would like to attain the RMR and CRR certifications in the near future.

The Hon. Tanya N. Garrison

Judge Tanya Garrison was born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1997, where she met her husband. After graduation, the Garrisons moved to Houston, Texas, where Judge Garrison attended the University of Houston for law school, graduating in 2000 with honors in both oral advocacy and academics. During law school, Judge Garrison began working at the law firm of Weycer, Kaplan, Pulaski & Zuber, P.C., where she practiced law until being elected as Judge of the 157th in 2018. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Garrison's law practice consisted of entirely civil litigation with an emphasis on appellate law. She is Board Certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a proud member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Judge Garrison is active in the legal profession and in the community. In 2008 she was elected as President of the Houston Young Lawyers Association and in 2011, was selected as the Woodrow B. Seals Outstanding Young Lawyer. Judge Garrison has served on the boards of various pro bono organizations providing legal services to lower income Houstonians, but probably her best test of patience and organization was serving as the "cookie mom" for four years for her daughter's Girl Scout troop. When not at work, Judge Garrison loves to spend time with her kids, friends, and husband, oftentimes helping on her husband's championship BBQ cook-off team. She is a proud fan of the Houston Texans and is always loyal to the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

Patricia K. Graves, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Patricia K. Graves is president of Caption First in Chicago, Ill., which she founded in 1989. Her responsibilities include overseeing all facets of Caption First, leading its growth to more than \$4 million annually, and recruiting new team members. August of 2016 was a highlight for Graves as she was awarded the National Court Reporter Foundation's most prestigious award, the Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism. It is given to a working court reporter with at least 25 years of experience and who has given back to the profession and to the court reporting community with no expectation of reward. One supporter said, "She is a tireless educator, mentor, and entrepreneur who uses her means and her podium to lift others to be better than they thought they could be." Pat currently sits on the Board of Trustees for the National Court Reporter Foundation.

H

Allison Hall, RDR, CRR

Allison Hall is a court reporter of more than 20 years and currently works as a freelance reporter. Hall also teaches eager court reporting students at Tulsa Community College, Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City, and the College of Court Reporting. She enjoys coaching working reporters through their certifications. Hall also enjoys public speaking and has taught seminars on shortening writing styles, efficiency, the future of court reporting, how to be an effective mentor, focused practice, and legal education seminars to both judges and attorneys. Hall is the recipient of the 2022 Oklahoma Bar Association Liberty Bell Award in recognition of her contributions to the legal profession. She is also the recipient of the 2022 Steno in the City Philanthropist Award in recognition of passion, commitment, and unstoppable initiative, as well as the recipient of the 2020 Oklahoma Supreme Court Chief Justice Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Oklahoma Judiciary.

Yvonne N. Harris, SPHR, SHRM-SCP

Yvonne N. Harris serves as the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) Brand Leader on the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) team for Capgemini North America. She drives the execution of the organization's D&I efforts, including the management of Capgemini's Employee Resource Group Program and its partnerships with external organizations that focus on D&I in the broader community. Prior to joining Capgemini, Harris was a regional human resources director in the professional services industry. She combines her HR experience and passion for D&I to help create a business culture where D&I is viewed as an integral part of the business. Harris is a frequent speaker on diversity-related topics, including

generational differences, gender balance, work/life integration, and career coaching. She is also certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR), a Society for Human Resources Management – Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), a Life Coach, and is a two-time winner of the DiversityFIRST Award which recognizes demonstrated dedication and continuing commitment to advocacy, raising awareness of diversity, and protecting civil and human rights.

John Hazeslip

John Hazeslip is currently serving as the Emergency Management & Security Director for a Texas hospital. He has worked with numerous private and government agencies all over Texas, preparing them for the unexpected. He is a retired Texas Master Peace Officer of 30 years and has served as a Team Leader for a tactical unit based out of downtown Houston. He brings with him advanced emergency preparation and response mitigation gained from his years serving as a Texas Peace Officer. Hazeslip has been a part of numerous protective security and emergency response details including high profile criminal assignments, dignitary protection assignments, executives' protection details, and athletes and celebrities' security details. John holds many advanced certifications as a requirement of his job assignment, including:

- Advanced SWAT Certification
- Active Shooter-Train the Trainer
- Advanced Hostage Rescue Certified
- Anti-Terrorism Response Trained

Mike Hensley, RDR

Mike Hensley, from Irvine, Calif., is currently employed as the Reporter in Charge of California for Calloquy, PBC. He is a leader of the new generation of court reporters, having completed his entire schooling remotely and online. With hard work and dedication to building his skills and seeking knowledge early in his career, he was able to achieve RDR certification within the first five years of licensure as a court reporter. His experience in stenography includes coverage of trials, arbitrations, and depositions. He focuses on assignments involving complex technical, medical, and intellectual property matters, and provides realtime transcripts to those clients. Hensley finds a special thrill in exploring the technology of our profession, and he has a strong passion for inspiring and teaching others to develop new skills and abilities. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious and will inspire audiences to face their own challenges with vigor and succeed in reaching their personal and professional goals.

Dennis M. Holmgren

Dennis M. Holmgren is licensed in both California and Texas and has been practicing law in Texas for more than 20 years. He is also licensed as a patent attorney by the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office. Holmgren maintains active transactional and litigation practices with transactional expertise that encompasses a wide range of areas such as business formations, joint ventures, private securities placements, commercial lending transactions, and purchase and sale agreements. On the litigation front, Holmgren handles corporate and real estate disputes, oil and gas disputes, intellectual property issues, bankruptcy litigation, and labor and employment. Holmgren serves as the outside general counsel to several mid-sized Texas and national businesses, as well as to an Arizona life insurance company where he handles the transactional and litigation matters for its national commercial lending portfolio.

Jo Ann Holmgren

Jo Ann Holmgren is a Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter and President/Owner of Preferred Legal Services. She began reporting in 1985 and has been active in both the Texas Deposition Reporter Association and the National Court Reporters Association, and currently serves on the National Court Reporters Association STRONG Committee.

Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

After more than two decades as a freelance reporter and occasional CART captioner, Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag returned to her first love, the courtroom, in late 2020 when she landed her dream job with the U. S. District Court in her hometown of Cheyenne, Wyo. She'll cover the pros and cons of the job and why she sleeps wearing a smile these days!

J

Dr. Erika Jacobi

Dr. Erika Jacobi is the Managing Director of LC GLOBAL®, a business transformation consulting firm with offices in New York City and Munich, Germany. Specializing in adaptive organization design, Dr. Jacobi has led organizations and entire industries through large-scale transformation and innovation initiatives on three continents. She holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Development & Change and an M.A. in Human & Organizational Behavior, Systems, and Development from Fielding University in Santa Barbara, Calif. She obtained an additional master's degree in Cognitive Linguistics and Literature from the Ludwig- Maximilian University in Munich. Dr. Jacobi is published in top academic journals such as *Sage* and is a five-time *Forbes* contributor. She teaches organizational leadership at Colorado State University.

Mary Beth Johnson

Mary Beth Johnson holds a B.A. in American Studies from Dickinson College and an M.Ed. from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa., Graduate School of Education. With 47 years of teaching experience, she currently serves as Program Coordinator for the court reporting department at Community College of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh, Pa. Johnson is an emeritus member of the CCAC Educational Foundation Board of Directors and a member of the NCRA Student/Teacher Committee. Johnson's dedication to teaching has been recognized through numerous awards, including Educator of the Year in 2014 from NCRA and the CCAC Educational Foundation's Legends of Leadership Award in 2009, as well as numerous grants and funding sources to support student memberships in NCRA. For the past 24 years she has volunteered for the Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Court Competition held in the U.S. Courthouse and Post Office.

Merilee S. Johnson, RDR, CRR CRC

Merilee S. Johnson is a freelance court reporter, official court reporter, captioner, and court reporting instructor from Eden Prairie, Minn., who began her career in 1998. She holds the Realtime Systems Administrator certificate, and is also certified in the state of Illinois. At the national level, Johnson has served on a number of NCRA committees as both a member and as chair.

Shonbay Jones

Shonbay Jones is a Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration in the Dallas Region, stationed in the Greater Houston area.

K

Andrea Kreutz, CLVS

Andrea Kreutz is a second-generation firm owner and Certified Legal Video Specialist from Huney-Vaughn Court Reporters in Des Moines, Iowa. She spent over 14 years as a computer programmer after graduating from AIB College of Business. At the national level, Kreutz also serves on the NCRF Board of Trustees, NCRA Technology Committee, CLVS Council, and NCRA STRONG Committee. Kreutz is passionate about organ donation and GiGi's Playhouse, a nonprofit whose mission is to change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all.

Debbie Kriegshauser, FAPR, RMR, CRR, CLVS

Debbie Kriegshauser is currently a federal official reporter with the U.S. District Court in St. Louis, Mo. She has been a reporter since 1980 and has worked in all phases of the reporting profession. She has also served on numerous national and state committees, including her current service on the Test Advisory Council.

L

Anna Lambert-Short

Anna Lambert-Short's SSA career began in 2003 as a student intern in the State of Louisiana. Lambert-Short has held most front-line field office positions throughout her SSA career. Lambert-Short's tenure position was as an Operations Supervisor at the local Social Security Office in Conroe, Texas, through October 2022. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of New Orleans. Lambert-Short is currently a Bilingual (Spanish) Public Affairs Specialist for the Houston and surrounding areas in the Dallas Region.

Scott C. Lannie

Scott Lannie has been an attorney licensed in the State of Texas since 1988, and is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Lannie is also a former briefing attorney for the Texas Supreme Court, and has maintained his office in Baytown, Texas, since 1989.

Alex M. Lederer, RPR

Alex Morgan Lederer is a certified freelance reporter who has worked in both New York and Florida. He started working during COVID-19 via Zoom depositions as opposed to other reporters who entered the field and immediately took in-person jobs. He is currently working towards achieving his RMR and CRR certifications. He has worked in courtrooms, doctors' offices, lawyers' offices, and the comfort of his own home. He looks forward to discussing the insights he achieved from entering into the field this way, which has now become the norm for new reporters.

Dan Linebaugh

Attorney Dan Linebaugh is a 1985 graduate of South Texas College of Law. He is certified as a specialist in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and in Truck Accident Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. In 2009 Dan was inducted into the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum as a lifetime member. He has also been named "Texas Super Lawyer" every year since 2003 by *Texas Monthly Magazine*.

Kelly Linkowski, RPR, CRR, CRC, CPE

Kelly Linkowski has been captioning since 2003 from both the comforts of home and around the world. She believes passionately in communication accessibility, with captions being a part of the universal planning of all events, conferences, and entertainment — not as an accommodation but as equal access. Linkowski has been a stenographic reporter since 1993. "Our career has offered me the opportunity to schedule work around our family's schedules and needs, never having to figure out how to schedule things with work as the epicenter. I love this profession." Linkowski served as the 2019-2020 Ohio Court Reporters Association President and volunteers on caption-related committees for NCRA.

Kayla Lotstein, RPR, CRR, CRC

Kayla Lotstein has been a professional stenographer since 2014. Thus far she has been a freelance reporter, official, and a captioner. Through her experience, she has developed a special interest in reporter empowerment and the individual reporter's self-care. She is a strong believer in healthy communication in both her personal and professional life and believes the skill of communication is the key to reporters living a more healthy, fulfilling life, and is the key to working more efficiently while executing their duties.

Cindi Lynch

Cindi has trained thousands of court reporters, captioners, CART providers, scopists, instructors, and students all over the English-speaking world on a variety of CAT and other software applications for the past 33 years. She created and maintains the Ascend Training by Stenograph online training resources and community, and she is the creator and manager of CATalyst Academy. She is the author of 10 Case CATalyst Self-Study Guides and the Exceptional Extras files

and documents included with CATalyst. Cindi also created and continues to manage Stenograph's Certified Independent Training Agent Program.

M

Linda Maddox, RMR, CRR

After graduating from school in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1983 and passing the Texas CSR exam, Linda Maddox moved to the Dallas/Fort Worth area and began freelancing. After freelancing for two decades, she ventured out into covering court and providing CART services. Upon achieving a level of confidence and knowledge that she was competent for the tasks of a full-time court, Maddox applied for and received her first appointment in a county criminal court in Lubbock, Texas. Due to circumstances, however, she needed to move back to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, where she eventually attained her first appointment in a district court in the area. Maddox is currently the official court reporter for the 382nd District Court in Rockwall, Texas, which is a general jurisdiction court that covers civil, family and felony cases.

Joel McCray

Joel McCray is a producer, performing artist, music educator, and composer. He started playing the piano when he was 18 months old and studied piano with his mother, Ruby H. McCray, from 1976 to 1988. He moved to Arlington, Texas, in 1988 on a track scholarship from the University of Texas at Arlington, where he graduated with a BBA in Finance in 1992 and with NCAA All-American status in track. McCray is a producer for a 2011 Dove Award Nominee and has 15 recording projects. He has also produced several recording projects for others, and he has performed with a number of industry-leading artists including Kirk Franklin, Joseph Vincelli, Kirk Whalum, and many more. McCray currently serves as the music director at Word of Truth Family Church in Arlington, Texas, a teaching artist, director of virtual programming for The Artist Outreach, and the founder and director of J & B Music Ministries.

Tammy K. McGhee, RMR, CRR, CRC

Tammy McGhee has been working as a reporter/captioner for a total of 33 years. She began as an official, then was a firm owner where she did freelance and official work for several years. She switched to captioning six years ago.

Michael E. Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR

Michael E. Miller is a freelance court reporter and agency owner from Houston, Texas, who has been reporting since 1994. He holds the Realtime Systems Administrator certificate and is certified in the states of Louisiana and Texas. At the national level, Miller is a past NCRA Director and co-creator of the Realtime Systems Administrator certificate program. He was also the creator of Depoman.com, one of the original and most popular court reporting websites in the 1990s. He is an expert in all matters of complex litigation, including patent, toxic tort, pharma, and environmental.

Jocelynn A. Moore, Esq.

Jocelynn Moore is the Director of Government Relations for NCRA. Moore comes from Bakersfield, Calif., where she attended California State University, earning her bachelor's degree in political science and religious studies. After undergrad, Moore worked in California state politics managing political campaigns, coordinating fundraisers for elected legislators, and leading regional voter registration projects. She continued her education at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, in Washington, D.C., where she earned her Juris Doctor in May 2018. While in law school, Moore had the honor of clerking for the law office of the Kern County Public Defender and former U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly. Since joining NCRA, Moore works daily advocating for the court reporting, captioning, legal videography, and scoping professions.

Bethany Morse, RSR, CRR

Bethany Morse is a March 2022 graduate of the Mark Kislingbury Academy of Court Reporting and the first-place winner of the National Court Reporters Foundation 2022 New Professional Reporter Grant. Within her first year of working, she had taken more than 140 depositions and produced more than 12,000 pages of transcripts. She has her RSR and

Washington CCR and has goals of achieving further certifications. Prior to finding her true calling and passion in stenography, Morse obtained her bachelor's degree in oboe performance and master's degree in architectural history.

N

Anissa R. Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI

Anissa Nierenberger is a certified professional realtime trainer. She has fun helping reporters boost their realtime skills so that they can make more money. More than 1200 stenographers have successfully attained their realtime goals and certifications after training with Nierenberger. Her career includes three decades of captioning news, sports, and tech captioning at Facebook and Amazon. She's researched and created Dictionary Jumpstart, 10 modules containing over 165,000 words that can be added to your dictionary at 1,000 words/hr. Most recently Anissa has created the first game in English and steno, STENOphonatic! Nierenberger is here to help you upgrade your career.

P

Alan Peacock, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Alan Peacock is a freelance court reporter and CART captioner from Mobile, Ala. He holds the Realtime Systems Administrator certificate and has been reporting since 1987.

Cathy Penniston, RPR, CRI

Cathy Penniston received her BA in Business Education from Iowa Wesleyan University and her MA in Education from Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. Penniston currently teaches stenographic reporting at Des Moines Area Community College in Des Moines, Iowa, and works as an independent broadcast captioner. She spent 30 years working as an official court reporter for the state of Iowa before transitioning into her broadcast captioning and teaching career. At the national level, Penniston has served as a member of the NCRA Board of Directors since 2018 and has served on numerous Association committees and spoken at a number of national conferences. She has also participated in a number of student webinars. Penniston is the recipient of the Roy Voelker Distinguished Service Award in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Court Reporting Profession in Iowa, and of the Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa and Centerville, Iowa, Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year Vision Award.

Mark Phillips

Mark Phillips is Founder and Managing Director of Lamkin Road, a North Carolina-based boutique investment banking firm that focuses on M&A advisory for closely held private businesses. Lamkin Road works with private businesses across many industries, but Phillips has particularly deep experience in court reporting, where he has advised more than a dozen firm owners in selling their businesses. He received both his bachelor's and MBA degrees from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he received several distinctions, including the Frank Hawkins Kenan Award for excellence.

Mary E. Pierce

Mary Pierce has been licensed in the State of California since July 1983 as a Certified Shorthand Reporter. From 1983 to 2001 she worked as a staff reporter for two different agencies in the greater Los Angeles, Calif., area. Since January 2002 she has owned and operated Pantera Court Reporters in Huntington Beach, Calif. Pierce served on the Board of Directors of the Deposition Reporters Association of California (CalDRA) from February of 2018 and also in various capacities, including as President from 2020 to 2022. She is now the Immediate Past President, as well as co-chair of the legislative committee for CalDRA. Pierce has published several articles, including the April 2022 article in *The Daily Journal* entitled "Make Sure Your Court Reporter Is Really a Court Reporter," a widely circulated article that she co-authored with Melissa Buchman, a family law attorney in Beverly Hills, Calif. Most recently, Pierce joined the highly respected and incredibly hard working NCRA STRONG Committee, a dedicated group that continually impresses her with their efforts and tenacity.

Tom Pirtle

Tom Pirtle is a nationally recognized trial lawyer who has won a number of groundbreaking verdicts in cases involving defective medical devices and pharmaceutical products. His practice covers a number of fields including civil litigation, products liability, complex litigation, mass torts, and commercial litigation. From 1990-2006, Pirtle was a senior litigator with the law firm of O'Quinn, Laminack & Pirtle, in Houston, Texas. During his tenure at the firm, Pirtle worked in the its mass tort division which encompassed a number of medical devices and pharmaceutical dockets. During this time Pirtle became a recognized leader in establishing corporate liability in complex cases including silicone breast implant litigation and diet drug litigation. He currently serves on the executive committee for the Combat Arms Earplug litigation and successfully tried five of the bellwether cases resulting in more than \$27M worth of verdicts.

R

Stacey E. Raikes, RMR, CRR

Stacey Raikes has had the privilege of being a court reporter/stenographer for almost a quarter century, having served as a freelancer both at home and abroad, a state official, and now a federal official in Fort Myers, Fla. She serves as the Chair of the NCRA STRONG Committee as well as a member of the Education Content Committee. Raikes practices daily as part of the "100-Day Challenge" practice group. She has an overall passion and penchant for all things steno, and she is thrilled to be a part of the steno community.

Grecia Ramirez

Grecia Ramirez started her court reporting journey at Brown College of Court Reporting in Atlanta, Ga., in April 2015. She had reached 225 wpm when the school closed its doors in 2020 at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. After taking an accidental year off, she found the SimplySteno training program and started speedbuilding again at 170 wpm. A year-and-a-half later, she has passed all three of the RPR skill legs and is waiting to take the Written Knowledge Test. She hopes to be freelancing and eventually achieve her realtime certification and become a CART captioner.

Margary Rogers, RPR, CRI

Margary Rogers has been an official in Washington D.C. for 19 years and is currently president of the Maryland Court Reporters Association. She has taught court reporting at several universities and community colleges, including Anne Arundel Community College and Howard University in Maryland and at the Reporting Academy of Virginia. She is an NCRF Angel and an Angel Gatherer with the National Court Reporters Foundation and serves as chair of the NCRA Membership Committee. Rogers loves supporting court reporting students through events like "High Tea for High Achievers" and "Steno Karaoke." She has written several articles for the NCRA student newsletter and the *JCR* magazine. Rogers is creative and enjoys planning events. She created a Facebook group and page entitled "Stenographers Leveling up with Certifications," a group that encourages court reporters to obtain court reporting certifications. She is also the creator of the Facebook group "Steno Fitness Challenge till Orlando/Houston 2022/2023!", a challenge to keep stenographers exercising given the sedentary nature of their jobs. Rogers is passionate about diversity and inclusion and hosted an event honoring African American court reporters who have obtained the highest certification in court reporting, the RDR. Rogers is the first recipient of the Carl Saucedo Grant, awarded by NCRF for sharing her knowledge and assisting others in advancing their skills.

S

Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI

Jennifer Sati is the Program Director of the Judicial Reporting/Broadcast Captioning Program at Anoka Technical College in Anoka, Minn. She is also currently an independent captioner and has worked professionally in the freelance, broadcast/CART captioning, and official fields for the past 30 years. Sati's passion is graduating students and watching them flourish as new professionals.

Craig D. Saunders

Craig Saunders is an accomplished sales manager with a track record of more than 25 years of success. With expertise in sales techniques, client relations, and the utilization of sales automation/CRM systems, Saunders has consistently excelled within defined sales environments. His exceptional influencing skills enable him to negotiate and motivate prospects and clients from diverse backgrounds. Saunders' areas of expertise include legal service solutions, selling to corporations and law firms ranging from mid-size to Fortune 500, C-level sales, business development, sales training and development, client relations, lead generation, negotiation and closing, strategic planning, as well as sales automation and CRM implementation.

Victoria "Tori" Schafer

Tori Shafer is a graduate of BeST Scoping Techniques with 22 years of experience working with both official and freelance court reporters. She has worked on a very wide variety of subjects, both civil and criminal, and truly enjoy the research part of the job, and notes that her head is filled with random knowledge on obscure topics.

Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC

Sheri Smargon captioned straight out of court reporting school and has live captioned high-profile events like the Oklahoma City Bombing, 9/11 coverage, NBC Nightly News, NFL on FOX, the Stanley Cup Finals, the U.S. Olympics, the Voice, and the Golden Globe Awards. She provides CART and captioning in a variety of arenas including governmental committee work, international symposia, and educational settings. She also teaches fundamental classes through Oklahoma State University and Magnum Steno. Smargon is current President of the Florida Court Reporters Association. She has competed on the national and international stage, winning several awards during Intersteno and the NCRA competition held last year in Orlando, Fla. She serves on several NCRA committees, holds a master's degree in psychology, and recently earned her California CSR. Smargon lives just outside of Tampa, Fla., with her cats, Pita, Snuffy, Mocha, and her dog, Winnie the Whippet.

Sponsor Info

Nell McCallum & Associates has been a nationwide leader in litigation support for more than 55 years. The firm's experienced court reporters, responsive staff, and technological focus have combined to provide personalized deposition and records retrieval solutions since 1968.

Lindsay A. Stoker, RPR, CRC

Lindsay Stoker is a freelance deposition reporter and realtime captioner with more than 13 years' experience. Her specialties include remote, broadcast, and technical captioning – with a particular focus on clients in the technology sector – and has presented on captioning best practices at many state and national conventions. She lives in Orange County, Calif., with her husband and their four sons, ages 13, 13, 9, and 7.

Carol Studenmund, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Carol Studenmund is one of the owners of LNS Captioning, based in Portland, Ore. LNS Court Reporting and Captioning was founded in 1987. Studenmund has been an active member of NCRA since 1983, serving on and chairing several committees, including the Captioning Community of Interest, the Captioning Committee, and the CRC Certification Committee. She became a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters in 2015 and was awarded the Oregon Court Reporters Association's Distinguished Service Award in the same year.

Kathryn R. Sweeney, FAPR, RMR, CRR

Kathryn Sweeney has been a court reporter for 32 years. She holds the CSR in Massachusetts, LCR in New Hampshire, as well as her RMR and CRR designations from the National Court Reporters Association. She has won a realtime contest in Massachusetts, qualified in the National Realtime Contest, and became a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters in 2016. Kathryn has proudly served on the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association board and is currently President-Elect for the New Hampshire Court Reporters Association. She was the Chief Examiner on behalf of NCRA for 18 years and has given this CRR Boot Camp across the country for the past 14 years.

T

Becky Tallarico, RPR, CRR, CRC

Becky Tallarico has been captioning since 2001 and has been a Certified Realtime Captioner since 2006. She enjoys all types of captioning with her favorite being national and international conferences and live theater captioning. Tallarico has served as a director for the Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association as well as on several committees for NCRA. She enjoys adventures of any kind, including traveling, boating, skiing, hiking, and reading.

Sue Terry, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC

Sue Terry currently serves as the official court reporter for the Greene County Common Pleas Court in Xenia, Ohio. She is a Past President of NCRA, the Ohio Court Reporters Association, and the StenoCat Users Network. She is the only person in NCRA history to receive both the NCRA Distinguished Service Award and the Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism in the same year.

Kathryn A. Thomas, RDR, CRR, CRC

Kathryn A. Thomas is a captioner based in Caseyville, Ill., and the greater St. Louis metro region. She is past president of the Illinois Court Reporters Association and a member of the National Court Reporters Association. Kathryn began her career in 1998 as a deposition reporter in Southern Illinois, then transitioned to captioning around 2010. She has served on many committees for ILCRA and NCRA and also attempted the Guinness World Record for stenographic speed in 2013 and 2021. She has given seminars to NCRA and state associations on several subjects over the years. She blogs at www.stenoray.com every once in a while.

Jeremy Thorne

Jeremy Thorne has been the director of Research and Development for the Eclipse CAT software since 1987 and enjoys leveraging new technology to push the boundaries of what CAT software can do. In his spare time, he volunteers to do software development and robotics programming workshops for high school students.

Suzanne Trimble, RPR, CRR

Suzanne (Suzie) Trimble is an official court reporter for U.S. District Court, stationed in Orlando, Fla. She became a reporter in 1997 after attending Court Reporting Institute in Seattle, Wash. For most of her 26-year career, Trimble has served as an official reporter for both state and federal courts in Washington and Florida, although she did enjoy freelancing for several years as well. She has a heart for technology and has been a volunteer with the NCRA Technology Committee the last few years and is serving as its current chair. Trimble loves being a part of the vital training and information the committee brings to the stenographic reporting and the CLVS communities.

Kevin Tompkins

Kevin Tompkins is a civil litigation trial lawyer with more than 35 years of jury trial experience and over 200 first chair jury trials in Texas state and federal courts. His primary area of practice is personal injury. He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Tompkins is a native Houstonian. He graduated from the University of Houston in 1982 with a degree in English Literature and received his law degree, with honors, from South Texas College of Law in 1985. He was Case Notes Editor on the *South Texas Law Review* and a member of the South Texas Mock Trial Team. During his time away from the office, Tompkins enjoys time with his wife and kids and his dogs and cats. He is an avid beekeeper and has been engaged in the field of herpetology, raising corn snakes, for many years. He and his wife conduct herpetology shows for school districts in and around the Houston, Texas, area.

Roberta Turner, RPR

A veteran in the court reporting industry, Roberta Turner has been reporting since 1991. Among her extensive skill sets, Turner has successfully reported for highly complicated depositions, trials, and sworn statements ranging from criminal cases, medical malpractice cases, Workers' Compensation cases, personal injury cases, technical matters, and much

more. She has reported throughout the country with a primary focus in the Central Florida and Georgia areas for the past 33 years. Giving back to the court reporting profession is extremely important to her. Turner has written several articles for NCRA on a wide range of topics from steno writing to health and wellness. Most recently, she has been nominated as the director of the Florida Court Reporters Association. Turner has been instrumental in serving the court reporter community as she volunteers and mentors new and seasoned reporters by facilitating high-speed dictation sessions weekly. She also actively visits area high schools to introduce the court reporting profession to rising students.

U

Donna Urlaub, RMR, CRR

Donna Urlaub, RMR, CRR, has been a certified stenographic reporter since 1969. She is the reigning Illinois speed and realtime champion and the 2021 NCRA Speed Contest winner. In 2022 she had a perfect paper in the 280 Testimony portion of the National Speed Contest. Urlaub is a firm owner and working court reporter who loves all things steno and words. She wants to share with you what she has learned in 54 years of reporting, some "word crimes" that we have all committed at one time or another, and how you don't know what you don't know. Be prepared for some informative and fun "aha" moments.

V

Denee Vadell, RPR

Denee Vadell has been a professional court reporter and realtime captioner for almost 10 years. She graduated from Stenotech Institute in Fairfield, N.J., in 2012, and her first job out of school was providing CART. She provided CART for college classes, HBO, and the National Action Network before pursuing a captioning career at VITAC where she captioned for a variety of television networks including CNN, QVC, and MSNBC, to name a few. After captioning for VITAC, Vadell began her career as an official at Bronx Criminal Court in New York, in 2018. She is a consummate professional with a strong commitment to promoting the profession and inspiring others to enroll in court reporting school. In another effort to bring awareness to her profession, Vadell created StenoFluencer during the pandemic to tell her steno story and promote steno. StenoFluencer means "Living a Life of Purpose & Service."

W

Kerry Ward

Kerry Ward is a liaison specialist with the Veterans History Project (VHP) of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. As part of the Program Coordination and Communications team, she focuses on program planning, developing and implementing strategies for building the archival collection, managing public and private partnerships, and creating a national and focused communications strategy. A Tucson, Ariz., native, Ward graduated from the University of Arizona where her studies centered on Psychology and Pre-law. Before coming to the Library, she worked at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in aviation event management, technology, and with veteran service programs. When Ward isn't working, she enjoys traveling, putting her pilot's license and scuba diving certificate to use, and spending time with loved ones.

Jill Wells, RMR, CRR,

After graduating from The Cittone Institute in Edison, N.J., Jill Wells began her career as a freelance court reporter in 1988. She then took the court exam for lower courts in the N.Y., Office of Court Administration and worked in Family Court in Manhattan from 1990-1993. Wanting to challenge herself more, she sat for the Supreme Court test in 1993 and passed. So began her journey in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Criminal Term. She worked there until 2004. In 2004 Wells moved to Florida and worked for various freelance firms. Missing the courtroom, she took the Hawaii CSR and accepted a job with the Hawaii Judiciary in 2015. In 2017 she applied for the federal court in the Southern District of Florida and has been working there since. Wells is the mother of two adult children, one who is in court reporting school and the other a stenographer of 35 years.

Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC

Dave Wenhold, Executive Director of NCRA, has represented the court reporting and captioning professions as a lobbyist for more than 20 years. In his tenure as NCRA's Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, he was successful in lobbying the Judicial Branch and the Executive Branch, and he has worked with Congress to earmark tens of millions of dollars for the court reporting and captioning professions. He is co-founder of Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, a full-service lobbying firm based in Northern Virginia. Wenhold is a past president of the American League of Lobbyists, and founder of the ALL Capitol PurSuit Drive, an annual clothes drive held on Capitol Hill to aid Americans trying to re-enter the workforce, for which he was presented with the U.S. President's "Call to Service" award, the country's highest award for citizen volunteerism. In 2008, Wenhold was selected with three other lobbyists and named as one of the most effective association lobbyists in Washington by Association Trends. He holds a BA in political science from Keene State College in Keene, N.H., the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives, and the Professional Lobbying Certificate (PLC) from the American League of Lobbyists.

Erica R. Wofford, RPR

Erica R. Wofford graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2011 and was a civil litigation paralegal for ten years. During that time, she obtained an Advanced Certified Paralegal (ACP) certification in Land Use and worked in Las Vegas at a boutique eminent domain firm before moving to Atlanta, Ga., and joining a team handling qui tam/whistleblower cases. In March 2022 she and her husband moved across the country once again and landed in Austin, Texas. She decided to take the plunge and pursue a career as a stenographer and graduated from the College of Court Reporting in September 2022. Around that time she also earned her Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) through the National Court Reporting Association and became certified as a Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR), Georgia Certified Court Reporter (CCR), and a Nevada Certified Court Reporter (CCR). Aside from work, Erica enjoys spending time with her husband and fur baby, staying active, and playing the flute.

X**Kimberly Xavier, RDR, CRR, CRC, CMRS, CRI**

Kimberly Xavier became a court reporter in 1994 after separating from the U.S. Air Force. She holds multiple Texas and NCRA certifications. She has enjoyed a rewarding career as a freelance reporter and a firm owner, and is currently an official court reporter in Dallas, Texas. She has educated, inspired, and mentored students and reporters for more than 20 years through seminars, training courses, and unique networking events. Xavier is a Texas Speed and Realtime Contest Champion as well as an all-around NCRA Speed Contest qualifier. She has volunteered on many committees since 2001 and has held multiple board positions at local and state levels. Her extensive experience and volunteer service in the court reporting profession culminated in 2020 when she founded Stenovator Pathway Solutions, Inc., a nonprofit organization that benefits new professional reporters and advanced reporting students. Xavier loves to provide unique events and programs for the reporting community.

Y**Catalina Chiang Yuri**

Catalina Chiang Yuri resides in Orlando, Fla. She is a student in her 120s who started at the College of Court Reporting and is continuing her studies at SimplySteno. Chiang Yuri hopes to one day work as a CART captioner.