



## DETAILED SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, July 23

**8:30 a.m. - 12 pm**      **NCRA Board of Directors Meeting**

**9 - 10 a.m.**      **National Speed Contest**

*(separate registration required)*

Engage in friendly competition with some of the best writers in the country. During the National Speed Contest, contestants write and transcribe two legs, each five minutes in length – 220 wpm literary, and 280 wpm testimony – and qualify for each with an accuracy score of 95 percent or better. Contestants will have 90 minutes per leg to transcribe. 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 35 contestants, whichever comes first. On-site registration is not permitted.

**2–5 p.m.**      **Exhibitor Registration and Expo Hall Move-in**

**3-4 p.m.**      **National Speed Contest**

*(separate registration required)*

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 35 contestants, whichever comes first. On-site registration is not permitted.

**5:30–7 p.m.**      **National Congress of State Associations (NCSA) Reception**  
*By invitation only*

### Thursday, July 24

**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 bylaw 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 voting card 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.

**0.4 CEU** *Separate registration required.*

### **Vendor Training Workshop**

#### **Advantage**

*Presenter: Ashli Van Dyke*

This session will provide a comprehensive look at the latest and greatest features of Eclipse covering improvements in audio management, translation, realtime collaboration, output options, and user interface enhancements. Attendees will gain an in-depth understanding of the most recent features and refinements designed to enhance productivity and streamline workflows.

#### **Topics:**

- Audio Overhaul
- Translation Tips and Tools
- Realtime Collaboration and Output
- Boost and Boost Flow and Improvements
- Realtime Tools
- User Interface and Workflow Improvements
- Production and Output Enhancements
- Bug Fixes and Stability Enhancements

**0.4 CEU** *Separate registration required.*

**8 a.m.–11:00 a.m.**

### **Realtime Boot Camp Workshop**

*Presenter: Kathryn R. Sweeney, FAPR, RDR, 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 NOT 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** *Separate registration required.*

**9 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.**

**Expo Hall Move-in**

**1–2 p.m.**

**Building Your Online Presence: Strategies to Market Yourself and Your Business**

*Presenters: Brett Bova, CLVS and Derek Letellier, CLVS*

Do you want to build up your client base but have no idea how to use online marketing? This seminar will guide participants in ways to build their online presence, whether as individuals or businesses, by understanding why having a website is beneficial, why SEO is important, why social media matters, and how to convert leads to one-time business and repeat business

**0.1 CEU**

**Windows Wizardry: Keyboard Shortcuts You Never Knew You Needed**

*Presenter: Jean Kim, RPR*

Think you know all about Ctrl+C and Alt+Tab? Think again! Join Jean Kim for an eye-opening exploration of Windows' lesser-known keyboard magic. This engaging session unveils the hidden power of the Windows key and modifier combinations you never knew existed. From lightning-fast window management to obscure system shortcuts that will make your colleagues say, "How did you do that?!" This workshop is packed with practical tips for anyone who wants to become a Windows keyboard shortcut superhero. Discover time-saving combinations that will transform your daily workflow and boost your productivity without ever touching your mouse!

**0.1 CEU**

**Stenopausal: Excelling in Spite of Menopause**

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

You might be Stenopausal: A court reporter in menopause ... and you are not alone. This session will be a frank discussion about a taboo topic, the physical phenomenon that affects more than 80 percent of women in the United States. Not only will you learn some simple strategies that you can implement daily to cope with the challenges of menopause symptoms, but you will also explore ways to support your colleagues during the most unpredictable time of their lives. Expect some music, a little movement, and a lot of motivation.

**0.1 CEU**

## **Words & Signs in Sync: The Art of ASL Interpreters and Stenographers Working Together**

Presenter: Adam Rademacher, MS RID CI/CT

In many settings — courtrooms, conferences, classrooms, and beyond — ASL interpreters and stenographers work side by side to provide equitable communication access. But how can these professionals collaborate effectively to ensure a seamless experience for d/Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals?

This interactive workshop explores the dynamic relationship between ASL interpreters and stenographers, highlighting best practices for teamwork, ethical considerations, and strategies to navigate real-world challenges. Participants will gain insight into the unique roles, workflows, and communication styles of both professions while learning practical collaboration techniques to enhance efficiency and accuracy.

Through real-life case studies, group discussions, and hands-on exercises, attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of how to optimize positioning, adapt to different settings, and address common obstacles such as rapid speech, overlapping dialogue, and technical terminology.

Join us for an engaging session designed to strengthen the partnership between ASL interpreters and stenographers — because when we work together, accessibility thrives!

**0.1 CEU**

**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.

**2:15-3:15 p.m.**

### **Staying Positive in A Negative Environment**

Presenter: Allison Hall, RDR, CRR, CRI

What do you do when you find yourself surrounded with negativity? How do you maintain a healthy headspace in a stress-induced environment? This seminar will teach you how to push through negative energy, actively seek out things to appreciate in your life and career, and remain optimistic.

**0.1 CEU**

### **A to Z Scoping Workshop**

Presenter: Rachel Artis

This session aims to guide court reporters in ensuring that their transcripts are fully scoped using Case Catalyst or Eclipse. Participants will learn how to optimize the Case Catalyst Eclipse software. In addition, participants will learn how to predict transcript turnaround time while maintaining reporting accuracy and efficiency. Participants should have their laptops with Case Catalyst or Eclipse. This session is designed for court reporters who are looking for ways to

gain confidence in their scoping process and students who haven't yet developed their own process yet.

**Takeaways:**

- How to ensure that transcripts are fully scoped.
- How to maximize Case Catalyst or Eclipse while scoping
- How to ensure that transcripts are ready to be proofed.
- How to accurately estimate completion times for transcripts.

**0.1 CEU**

**Career Outreach – A Grassroots Approach**

Presenter: Darlene Devlin

Are you concerned about the future of our shared profession? Have you heard about the supposed "court reporter shortage"? Have you ever wondered why someone isn't doing something about that? Well, that someone could be you.

Now more than ever, the recruitment of new court reporters is crucial to our continued viability.

In this seminar, we will discuss:

- The important role court reporters play in the freelance world, within the courts, as well as CART and captioning
- The benefits of a career in court reporting
- The demand and shortage of qualified court reporters in light of upcoming retirements
- Current challenges in career outreach, i.e., the lack of information about the field in the community
- The misconceptions and lack of awareness about the profession with a brief discussion about emerging technology and concerns in the court reporting field
- Leveraging social media with presenting "IRL"
- Grassroots outreach resources
- Who to contact to find opportunities to speak about the profession
- Collaborating with members of the community
- Preparing for a successful career presentation
- Preparing several pitches about court reporting
- Encouraging all participants to engage their local communities

**0.1 CEU**

**Realtime Principles**

Presenter: Jen Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI

Join us to learn solid realtime principles that will help you reach your personal stenographic realtime goals, whether that is preparing for new career opportunities, writing cleaner on jobs to reduce edit time, passing the CRR or CRC, or simply challenging yourself! Hear from graduates of Anoka Technical College on realtime principles they learned and are applying as they now provide realtime and/or captioning in the field.

From this session, you will

- Learn and apply techniques to eliminate conflicts and word boundaries

- Understand the use of prefixes and suffixes
- Recognize necessary elements of clean numbers, alphabets, dictionary management, and more!
- Create effective practice techniques to implement new realtime concepts

**0.1 CEU**

**3:30-4:30 p.m.**

### **My Least Favorite “F” Word**

Presenters: Leah Willersdorf, RMR, CRR; and Stacey Raikes, RMR, CRR

In this podcast-style conversation/interview of Leah by Stacey Raikes, RMR, CRR, the learning outcomes are:

1. To omit the word “fail” from your vocabulary when it comes to exams and certifications — in order to allow you the headspace to be more open to continued attempts if and when necessary.
2. While certifications are not compulsory everywhere, having them will bolster your confidence and allow you to take on the world, quite literally.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Becoming Irresistible**

Presenter: Amy Doman, RDR, CRR

If you're looking for tips and tricks that will help you shine in the steno world, Amy's got some nuggets of wisdom to share. Learn some tidbits for marketing yourself, playing and working well with others, strategies for surviving and preventing burnout, and reaching out for help to set and reach your goals.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Bylaws 101**

Presenter: Tami Keenan, FAPR, RPR, CPE and Jo Anne Leger, RPR, CRR, FAPR

A brief overview of bylaws in general, along with how bylaws are important to NCRA. Our panel will share information that will give insight into the intricacies and nuances of bylaw amendments. Come prepared to ask your questions. We hope to make it informative and fun.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Be Who You Are and Do It on Purpose: Driving Professional Growth through Focus and Passion**

Presenter: Lindsay Stoker, RDR, CRR, CRC

In this talk, Lindsay Stoker invites working court reporters to embrace Dolly Parton’s message — “Find out who you are and do it on purpose” — as a catalyst for professional growth. By identifying core strengths, aligning them with personal values, and pursuing goals such as realtime provision or advanced certifications, reporters can craft a purposeful career path. This journey involves setting clear objectives, investing in new technologies and training, and reframing challenges as opportunities to refine skills. Ultimately, “doing it on purpose” means not only raising individual standards but also uplifting students and colleagues through mentorship and collaboration. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies to nurture their talents, expand their capabilities, and shape a professional identity that resonates at every stage of their reporting journey.

**0.1 CEU**

**4:45 – 5:45 p.m.**

**Minnesota Bar Presidents Panel**

*Presenters: Judge Mary B. Mahler, Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten, Ryan Petty, Katie Barrett Wiik*

Court reporters play a vital role in ensuring accuracy, integrity, and accessibility in the legal system. In this unique panel current and past presidents of the Minnesota Bar Association will discuss their experiences working with court reporters, why this relationship matters, and how mutual support strengthens the justice system. This is a must-attend session for anyone interested in building stronger bridges between legal leadership and the professionals who help preserve the record.

**0.1 CEU**

**6 –7:30 p.m.**

**Welcome Reception in Expo Hall**

Welcome to Minneapolis! 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 25

**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 Minneapolis Hotel 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: sponsored by Stenograph**

Installation of Officers and Directors

NCRA will install the 2025-2026 President, Officers, and Board of Directors.

Keynote Presentation with Kristi Johnson, RPR.

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

**0.1 CEU**

**10–11 a.m.**

**Coffee Break in Expo Hall**

**11 a.m.–12 p.m.**

**Revolutionizing Speedbuilding: Unlocking Your Potential with EV360 Ultimate**

Presenter: Jeff Moody, BS

In today's rapidly evolving digital world, staying competitive is essential for professionals in every industry. For court reporters, access to customized speedbuilding resources can be the key to success — both as students and working professionals.

To meet this need, EV360 Educational Solutions proudly introduces a cutting-edge software suite designed to enhance skill development in stenography and voice writing. With powerful tools for practice, testing, transcription grading, and resource creation, this innovative program empowers users to take control of their learning.

Level Up 360, Create 360, Innovate 360, and Grade Pro 360 redefine speedbuilding and testing by addressing the limitations of traditional resources. By integrating artificial intelligence (AI), these programs provide a personalized and adaptive learning experience tailored to individual needs.

Take your skills to the next level with EV360 Ultimate — a revolutionary approach to speed building that prepares you for success in the future of court reporting!

**0.1 CEU**

### **Certs Matter**

Presenter: Kathryn Sweeney, FAPR, RDR, CRR

Do you think national certifications don't matter? Think again! Agency owners and court systems rely on the testing done by NCRA for determining the competency of stenographers. Kathryn will break down each exam and its testing requirements, and she will emphasize the importance of holding one (or more!) of those certifications. Maybe you've already been certified and are looking to level up!

Learn how you can open yourself up to better job opportunities, make more money, cut down on your editing time, and the best practice sites to utilize. It's time to be among the court reporting elite!

**0.1 CEU**

### **Fake It Until You Make It – Discover Your Inner Extrovert**

Presenter: Joshua Edwards, RDR, CRR, CRC

What secret weapon can help someone to be more extroverted and to build self-confidence? Their creativity. What is an ideal place for future court reporters to unleash their creativity? A mock trial. In this session student attendees will act out a mock trial complete with opening and closing statements, examinations, and objections (and, of course, realtime). The audience will comprise the jury, which will deliberate and render a verdict. We will save time at the end for reflections. If you are naturally shy, introverted, or nervous about one day working with attorneys, this session is for you.

**Objectives:**



- Build self-confidence by discovering your inner extrovert and owning your role
- Observe and analyze courtroom procedure
- Visualize yourself as a successful court reporter
- Watch a certified stenographic reporter provide realtime

**0.1 CEU**

### **Right Brain/Left Brain Marketing**

*Presenter: Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC*

Understanding how people perceive you and your perceptions of the world can often dictate your success or failure in your career. This seminar will show you how the brain operates in marketing you and your skills and help you master your surroundings. We are constantly inundated with professional marketing techniques and this seminar will help you separate the substance from the flash.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Preserving Service Through Story: The Veterans History Project and the Power of Court Reporting**

*Presenter: Kerry Ward*

This session explores the enduring collaboration between the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project (VHP) and the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) to preserve the firsthand remembrances of America's veterans. Since 2003 NCRA members have contributed their professional skills to transcribe and capture the powerful stories of those who served in the U.S. military — ensuring these voices live on in the nation's permanent record.

Attendees will gain insight into the mission and scope of the Veterans History Project, learn how oral histories are collected, and discover how court reporters and captioners can get involved. The session will include moving excerpts from veteran interviews, best practices for transcribing oral histories, and real-life examples of how these narratives are being used in education, scholarship, and national remembrance.

Whether you're a seasoned transcriber or new to oral history work, this session will inspire and equip you to use your unique talents in the service of veterans and their legacies.

**0.1 CEU**

**12:00–1:15 p.m.**

**NCRF Angel Thank You Luncheon**

*By Invitation Only*

**12–1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch on your own**

**1:30–2:30 p.m.**

**Skillbuilding Meets AI**

*Presenters: Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI, CPE*

Another major upgrade from Realtime Coach™! Improve your writing, earn CEUs, prepare for online certifications, make more money, have more personal

time. And have some fun in the process. Too good to be true? Fortunately, no. It's all about skills. And the most effective, most used skill-building system on the planet (over 4.5 million hours of practice logged) will now help you even more. Come see this major new release of myRealtimeCoach™. Create material from any text, ranging in speeds from 60 wpm to over 400 wpm! Customize audio to suit your needs.

And for schools: StenEd Instructional Modules and other powerful tools for schools, and STILL Realtime Coach's instant, accurate evaluation and feedback, Barrier Buster drills, unmatched reports and more.

This seminar will be fun, fast, meaty, and meaningful, and thousands in software and other prizes will be handed out on the spot.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Complex Depositions Seriously! The New "GOLD" Standard**

*Presenters: Richard Hayden, CLVS; and Joel Freedman, CLVS*

Complex depositions are becoming a gold standard among top litigators. Are you as a legal videographer, court reporter, or firm owner prepared to handle that request for a complex deposition? What is complex? During this session we are going to familiarize you with the different types of complex depositions using multi-camera setups, multiple multi-media, trial presentation, and for good measure we will throw in streaming the deposition in and out of the room. Oh, let us not forget the realtime reporter who has to provide a realtime feed off site. You now have a full television production with closed captions, are you ready? Our goal during this session is to provide you with a road map to get you started preparing and equipping yourself or your team to handle the evolving world of complex depositions.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Bag Check: (Un)packing Work Essentials**

*Presenters: Bethany Morse, RSR; Amanda Doherty; and Angie Podge, RSR*

As students prepare to graduate and embark on their court reporting careers, it's crucial to think about the tools that will help them succeed in the field. In this session, we will guide soon-to-be graduates and new reporters in assembling a versatile and efficient work bag, ensuring they're ready for any job assignment. We'll dive into what items should be included in your daily carry for efficiency and preparedness so that by the end of the session you'll be bagged and ready for success.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Transferring the Knowledge**

*Presenters: Cristy Smith, RPR, CRI; and Michelle Roberts, CRI*

Are you interested in teaching court reporting, new to the teaching field, or a seasoned instructor interested in mentoring a new generation of realtime reporting instructors? Don't miss this opportunity to delve into getting started in the court reporting education field. Join Michelle Roberts, CRI, and Cristy Smith,

RPR, CRI, as they map a course for transitioning to instructing, NCRA's CRI certification, and the value of peer mentorship.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Introduction to Trauma and a Trauma-Informed Approach**

Presenter, Deborah Saari – National Alliance on Mental Illness, Minnesota

A one-hour overview of trauma, its impacts on the brain, and the guiding principles of a trauma-informed approach. Trauma has long been described as a unique and personal outcome of adverse events or experiences, but exposure is more widespread in our communities than ever before. For those living with a mental illness or substance use disorder, exposure is even more common.

**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.**

### **Videographer Support for Court Reporters**

Presenters: Andrea Kreutz, CLVS; and Charles Larson, CLVS

In this session we will cover topics that relate to interacting with reporters and explain additional services and support for reporters while in a deposition or various other settings.

We will cover pre-deposition, deposition, and post-deposition support that will help you to stand out as a go-to videographer in your area.

The goal of this session will be to leave the participants with a better understanding of certain support or services they are able to offer to reporters and how to best interact with reporters.

**0.1 CEU**

### **How to Be the Best Court Reporter You Can Be**

Presenter: Ron Cook, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

There is so much more to being a good court reporter than speed and accuracy. Ron will cover everything from how to write faster and cleaner to how to be more productive in editing to how to treat it like a profession and not a hobby. Now more than ever we all need to be the best we can be at what we do.

**0.1 CEU**

### **ChatGPT Making a More Perfect Transcript**

Presenter: Alex Lederer, RPR

In this hands-on seminar Alex Lederer will explore the use of AI tools like ChatGPT for research in depositions, hearings, and beyond. Learn how to effectively prompt ChatGPT to find medical terms, legal citations, expert jargon, and more based on the phonetics and context of what was said during the case while verifying the results through reliable sources. Through live

demonstrations, real-world examples, and audience participation, Alex will showcase the strengths and limitations of using AI for research.

**0.1 CEU**

### **The Cybersecurity Threat: How to Protect Yourself and Your Company**

Presenter: Oumar Dieng

In our ever-evolving digital era, where technology is at the forefront of innovation, the significance of cybersecurity cannot be overstated. As the virtual landscape expands, so do the threats that come with it, creating a constant risk to individuals and organizations alike. In fact, recent studies by leading technology firms indicate that as much as 95 percent of data breach incidents are caused by human error.

Cybersecurity is no longer an afterthought to be dealt with solely by your IT department. It impacts everyone and as such it is crucial to have a good understanding of it.

#### **What You Will Learn:**

1. The diverse landscape of cyber threats, from traditional phishing to sophisticated social engineering attacks.
2. Insights into the evolving nature of cyber threats and the latest trends in cyberattacks.
3. Practical strategies for safeguarding personal and financial information against cyberattacks.
4. The importance of asset protection and how cybersecurity measures contribute to preserving wealth.
5. Real-life examples of cyberattacks, dissecting their anatomy to understand the vulnerabilities they exploit.
6. Best practices for maintaining privacy in an interconnected world, minimizing the risk of unauthorized access.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Beyond “Diversity 101”: Inclusive Awareness & Language in a Legal Context**

Presenters: Kelly Collins, PhD, Tisa Mitchell, and Isabella Stade

This interactive workshop explores the power of inclusive language and its role in fostering respectful and equitable legal environments. Participants will engage in content review, reflective discussions, and practical exercises to recognize and shift biased or outdated terminology. The session will highlight current language best practices and offer strategies for incorporating inclusive and expansive equity principles into workplace practices and communication. Attendees will leave with greater confidence and awareness to apply inclusive language in their work, empowering them to create more welcoming and respectful spaces for all.

**4:15–5:15 p.m.**

### **NCRA Ethics: Just Because You Can, Should You?**

Presenter: Debbie Dibble, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Are you as sharp as an ethical fifth grader, or will you be the weakest link? This dynamic and interactive session, led by Debbie Dibble and the COPE Committee, will make ethics education more fun than you ever imagined.

Grab your smartphone, tablet, or laptop (internet required) and put your ethical IQ to the test. Compete against your peers in this high-energy showdown — winner takes all! No Whammies!

**0.1 CEU**

### **Everything is (Not) Fine: Seeking Wellness in a World of Conflict and Chaos**

Presenter: Debbie Russell

Russell will first describe the world of litigation, focusing on the personality types of lawyers generally and prosecutors and judges specifically. Second, from personal experience, she will describe past patterns of ignoring those around us with addiction or mental health issues and how shame and stigmatization push those with addiction or mental issues into isolation. Third, Russell will share her own journey in therapy and identify the different modalities of therapy. Finally, she will recommend ways to self-advocate and manage stress around all the things we can't control.

**0.1 CEU**

### **In Kahoots 3.0: Technology Bits, Bytes, Gigabytes, and Beyond**

Presenters: Suzanne Trimble, RPR, CRR; Hector Cordova CLVS; Merilee Johnson RDR, CRR, CRC

Reprising the popular session from the last two Conferences, the Technology Committee will be presenting a trivia game show with what you need to know about phishing and spoofing, end-to-end encryption and decryption, and much, much more. Come and answer the questions and see how you stack up against the Tech Committee's responses.

**0.1 CEU**

### **CART in Court: Ethics and Best Practices**

Presenters: Claudette Mondragon, CRC; and Tarra Grammenos, M.S., SC:L, NIC

Providing CART services for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing consumers requires more than just realtime accuracy — it demands cultural awareness, ethical decision-making, and a deep understanding of accessibility needs. As the demand for Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) in court settings grows, it is essential for CART providers to understand the unique challenges, ethical considerations, and best practices required to ensure accurate and effective communication access. This session will provide a comprehensive look at CART in legal environments, including courtroom protocols, confidentiality, and professional responsibilities. We will discuss the latest rules and standards for CART in court, strategies for working with judges, attorneys, and court personnel, and practical solutions for handling difficult scenarios.

Join us for an interactive discussion on the ethical obligations of CART providers including impartiality, accuracy, and advocacy while maintaining professional boundaries. Learn from real-world experiences and gain valuable insights to enhance your CART services in legal settings.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Online Skills Testing: A Blueprint for Success**

*Presenters: Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI, CPE, and Amy Davidson, NCRA Director, Certification and Testing*

Come learn how to construct success with NCRA online skills testing. We're laying out the blueprint to help you pass your skills tests with confidence, clarity, and maybe even a little fun. From prepping your tools (aka your machine) to navigating test-day jitters, you'll walk away with a solid plan. Whether you're laying the foundation or adding the finishing touches, this session will help you design your path to NCRA certification success — one smart step at a time.

**5:15 – 6:15**

**Stenograph Happy Hour**

## **Saturday, July 26**

**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 Minneapolis and registered for a Conference package or workshop.

**8:30 a.m.–5:15p.m.**

**Expo Hall Open**

**8:30–9:30 a.m.**

**Best Practices for New Professionals**

*Presenter: Kathryn Sweeney, FAPR, RDR, CRR*

This seminar is geared towards students and those stenographers who have been working for less than five years. Kathryn Sweeney has been a freelance stenographer for 33 years and an agency owner for 25 of them. From the agency owner perspective, she will highlight things expected from anyone who accepts an assignment. As a freelancer, she will point out things that she wishes she knew when she first started out. She will cover things like setting the pace of depositions, finding your voice, keeping emotions in check, promptness and cleanliness, record keeping, importance of certifications, flexibility and reliability, knowing your worth, exhibit marking, and accepting assignments within your abilities.

**0.1 CEU**

**How to Move from Official to Freelancer and the Things You Need to Think About (i.e., Taxes, Insurance, Retirement, etc.)**

*Presenter: Adrienne Conzemius, RPR, CRI*

This session will focus on making the transition from the role as an official court reporter to the role of a freelance court reporter.

- \* How to create an online presence for your business;
- \* Website creation;
- \* Small business resources in your local community;
- \* Marketing;
- \* Importance of state association/national association involvement;

- \* Tax preparation;
- \* Retirement planning;
- \* Technology advancements — staying relevant with current industry standards.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Captioning a Live Event: Concerts**

Presenters: Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRR, CRC; Anna Cillo; and Denise Mungia, RDR, CRR, CRC

Captioning live music for shows, concerts, and everything in between. Learn the nuts and bolts of preparing a script, script management, setlists, formatting overlapping lyrics, and more. How to deal with performers who deviate from their lyrics and tips for pushing script of foreign music.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Tales from the Bench: An Interactive Panel Discussion with Judicial Officers and Staff**

Presenters: Judge Bryce A.D. Ehrman; Judge Luis Morales; and Madalyn Elmquist

Have you wondered what it is like to work in the judicial court system? This interactive session will feature a behind the scenes discussion about how judge teams work together. Learn about the day-to-day work of an official court reporter and the integral role they play in our judicial system. Bring your questions —this will be a fun one! (Duplicate session – credit will only be awarded once)

**0.1 CEU**

### **One Size Does Not Fit All**

Presenters: Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI, CPE; Cristy Smith, RPR, CRI; Michelle Roberts, CRI; and Deborah DuBoc, RPR, CRI, CPE

Learn how to use action-based research to identify student needs and improve learning outcomes. This session will explore how reviewing weekly assessments can help educators adapt their teaching strategies to meet students where they are now and effectively guide their future progress.

**0.1 CEU**

**9:30–10 a.m.**

**Coffee Break in Expo Hall**

**10–11:15 a.m.**

### **Best of Anissa's Tips, Tricks, and Brief Families**

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

18 PowerPoints, 23 years of sharing knowledge, and 42 states visited to inspire and motivate reporters to become fabulous realtimers! Here it ALL is in a culmination of the most valuable methods, tools, and tricks to help you on your realtime journey! Learn/Review SADA, FPP55, J/Y, Case/Eclipse tips, the value of repetition and consistency, and how brief families can save the day!

**0.125 CEU**

### **Working Together, Winning Together**

Presenters: Mike Hensley, RDR; and Tori Schafer

Behind every thriving court reporter is a sharp scopist and a detail-loving proofreader. In this session, we'll show you how to build your own dream team. Learn how to recruit, vet, and vibe with the right professionals so your work flows more smoothly, quickly, and better than ever. We'll share smart practices, communication hacks, and the tech tools that make remote teamwork a breeze. Whether you're a court reporter looking for trusted support or a scopist seeking the perfect client match, you'll leave with real-world strategies to boost your efficiency, your income, and your work-life balance.

**0.125 CEU**

#### **Captioning a Live Event: Theatre**

*Presenters: Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRC, CRR; Anna Cillo; and Denise Mungia, RDR, CRR, CRC*

Join us to learn what goes into captioning a theatre performance and how to prepare for all the things that you may encounter. We've been there, done that, and had it happen. Learn best practices before your first performance so you can caption like a seasoned professional.

**0.125 CEU**

#### **Quality Mentoring: Making the Most Out of the Student/Reporter Mentoring Relationship**

*Presenters: Jenny Melius, RPR; Lee Leigh, RPR, CRI, and Vanessa Johns*

Join us for this exciting joint reporter/student session to learn why mentorship is valuable for student success. Find out the secrets to what makes a good mentor. For students, learn why finding a mentor is important and about mentee etiquette. The session will conclude with a fun "Meet-a-Mentor" opportunity.

**0.125 CEU**

#### **Tales from the Bench: An Interactive Panel Discussion with Judicial Officers and Staff**

*Presenters: Judge Bryce A.D. Ehrman; Judge Luis Morales; and Madalyn Elmquist*

Have you wondered what it is like to work in the judicial court system? This interactive session will feature a behind the scenes discussion about how judge teams work together. Learn about the day-to-day work of an official court reporter and the integral role they play in our judicial system. Bring your questions —this will be a fun one! (Duplicate session – credit will only be awarded once)

**0.125 CEU**

**11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.**

#### **Awards Luncheon**

*Ticketed event*

**1:15–2:15 p.m.**

#### **Guardians of the Industry: Machine and Voice Writers Hand in Hand**

*Presenters: Rene White, RPR, CRR; and Stephanie Leslie, RPR, CRR*

This session explores common misconceptions about voice writing in the judicial system as well as the immense benefits it is bringing to our industry nationwide. Discover the similarities between voice writing and traditional shorthand



methods as well as how it differs from digital recording and A.I. Perfect for those who want to hear more about the benefits of working together to protect the record and our industry as a whole!

**0.1 CEU**

### **Captioning Across Digital Platforms (Zoom, Teams)**

*Presenters: Ellen Kerr, CRC; Anna Cillo; and Denise Mungia, RDR, CRR, CRC*

So many platforms, processes, and constant changes! Learn how to set up a job, embed your captions into various platforms, and guide your clients through the setup, including tips and tricks to ensure your captions look as beautiful and streamlined as possible.

**0.1 CEU**

### **Fortify Your Internet: A Checklist for Seamless Remote Proceedings**

*Presenters: Sarah Kleinschmidt, CLVS; and Hector Cordova, CLVS*

Remote proceedings demand a rock-solid internet connection. In this session, you'll uncover simple, actionable steps to upgrade your setup, troubleshoot issues, and stay online no matter what. Walk away with a practical checklist to ensure you're always connected, prepared, and confident in your remote work.

**0.1 CEU**

### **AI and Court Reporters: Surprising Use Cases from Dictionary Prep to Production**

*Presenter: Tamara Chapman, RPR, CRR*

AI is a tool that court reporters can use to become more efficient at their jobs. From creating vocabulary lists for your dictionary to streamlining your production, AI can help you work smarter and gain back your time

**0.1 CEU**

**2:30–3:30 p.m.**

### **AI and the Future of Court Reporting**

*Presenter: Casey Gordon, PhD*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming industries worldwide — and court reporting is no exception. This engaging session provides a clear introduction to AI specifically designed for court reporters. Discover what AI is (and isn't), explore practical ways AI can streamline your daily tasks, and learn about emerging tools that can enhance accuracy, productivity, and client service. We will also candidly address the impact of AI on job roles within the profession, highlighting both opportunities and challenges.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Gain a foundational understanding of AI technology relevant to court reporting.
- Explore practical applications of AI tools to improve efficiency and accuracy.
- Understand the potential long-term impacts of AI on the court reporting profession.
- Identify strategies for adapting to technological advancements while remaining competitive.

**0.1 CEU**

**What's In My Bag**

Presenter: Mike Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR

Hang out with Mike "Depoman" Miller as he goes through his everyday carry as a high-end deposition reporter. Have your Amazon app open and ready to "add to cart" as Mike goes through all the gadgets that make his life so much easier.

**0.1 CEU**

**My Grandmother Told Me to Do It ...**

Presenter: Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CRC

Lisa will be talking about her life as a court reporter and CART captioner, and how she worked to bring CART and captioning to Minnesota.

**0.1 CEU**

**Live on the Fly**

Presenters: Rob Hemenway, RPR, CRC; and Denise M. Munquia, RDR, CRR, CRC

Keeping your hands on the steno machine: An overview of on-the-fly dictionary commands and entries for CART/broadcast captioners. These useful tools also work well for realtime writers in court and deposition settings who want to work more efficiently.

**0.1 CEU**

**The JFK Assassination Revisited**

Presenter: Judge John R. Tunheim

Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to gain a firsthand perspective on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy from Judge John R. Tunheim, former Chair of the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board. This independent federal agency was responsible for declassifying over five million pages of documents related to the Kennedy assassination. Come hear Judge Tunheim's fascinating insights into the truth behind this historic event.

**3:30–4 p.m.**

**Coffee Break in Expo Hall**

**4:15–5:15 P.M.**

**CART Captioning: The Places You'll Go and the People You'll See**

Presenters: Jo Gayle, RPR, CRR, CRC; and Lisa Johnston, RMR, CRR, CRC

Interactive workshop to talk about the places you can go and the people you can caption as a CART captioner. Come listen and share experiences and get excited about CART captioning.

**0.1 CEU**

**One Extraordinary Case - A Very Unusual Murder Trial**

Presenter: Debbie Peterson, RPR

This case has everything from speeding to murder, and with so many twists and turns. Attendance is a must!

**0.1 CEU**

**How to Get Lucky**

Presenter: Jenny Melius, RPR

Does it seem like some people get all the luck? They always get the fun jobs and the lucrative jobs, and you want to get lucky and get those jobs too? This session will help you learn some tools to position yourself to also be one of the lucky ones, ranging from improving your steno skills to learning networking skills so you can also get lucky and get those great job offers and be able to say “Yes.”

**0.1 CEU**

### **Depositions 101**

*Presenters: Laura Hammargren, Jan Ballman, FAPR, RPR, CMRS; and Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI*

Whether you're a student of court reporting, preparing for your first assignment, or simply wish to learn what an experienced litigator looks for in a court reporter and their transcript, Depositions 101 offers a practical guide to one of the most common and essential aspects of the profession. This session will break down the deposition process from start to finish, including what goes into preparing for a deposition by attorneys and their staff, how they use the reporter's transcript in their legal proceedings, what they look for in a court reporter, best practices during a deposition, and professional expectations. Attendees will learn deposition terminology, how to best prepare for a deposition, exhibit management, handling attorney and witness interactions, and the importance of maintaining neutrality — all while producing an accurate, timely, and complete record. Real-world examples and scenarios will help bridge classroom knowledge with on-the-job readiness.

**0.1 CEU**

**7–10 p.m.**

### **Member Recognition Gala**

*Ticketed event*

## 2025 SPEAKER BIOS

### A

### B

#### **Brett Bova, CLVS**

Brett Bova, CLVS, began her career as a legal videographer in 2017 when she launched the first in-house video department for Urlaub Bowen & Associates, Inc., a Chicago-based court reporting firm. A Louisiana native, Brett holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, with a concentration in journalism and television/radio production, and an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Southeastern Louisiana University. She's been involved in the legal profession in some way, shape, or form, from a private investigator to working with attorneys assisting with property law and closings. Becoming a legal videographer naturally fit Brett, mixing the legal profession with a communication medium, just like both of her degrees. Brett moved back to Louisiana in 2022 and has been working remotely for UBA, mainly building up the company's marketing platform and assisting with Zoom video work.

#### **Linda Breech, RPR**

Linda Breech, RPR, has worked in both the official and freelance arenas during her 32-year career. She is constantly researching new treatments and trends to address various occupational and other injuries and health challenges. After discovering the fascinating world of fasciology, she has immersed herself in learning about the newest tools and treatments that have allowed her not just to survive, but to heal and thrive. She is excited to share her knowledge and experience and the tools and tips that can help keep your body's fascia healthy and vibrant!

#### **Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten**

Elizabeth Sorenson Brotten is the President of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association and is a partner in the Minneapolis office of Foley & Mansfield.

Liz received her undergraduate degree from Concordia College in St. Paul, Minn., and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

Liz has been in private practice for 18 years and specializes in product liability, personal injury defense, commercial litigation and asbestos litigation.

### C

#### **Tamara Chapman, RPR, CRR**

Tamara Chapman is a seasoned freelance court reporter based in Austin, Texas, with more than 25 years of experience in the field. Certified as both an RPR and CRR, she's known not only for her precision and professionalism, but also for her passion for sharing knowledge. Through her popular Facebook group of court reporters, Tamara has become a go-to resource for real-time tips, briefs, audio setups, tech tools, and Windows.

During the industry's shift to remote work, she played a pivotal role in helping fellow reporters transition to Zoom — offering guidance on audio configuration, exhibit handling, and platform functionality. More recently, Tamara has been exploring and sharing creative, unconventional, and incredibly useful AI use cases for court reporters, continuing her mission to stay at the forefront of the profession and empower others to do the same.

**Anna Cillo**

Anna Cillo has been a captioner and court reporter since 2009. She is a graduate of Community College of Allegheny County's court reporting and captioning program and is currently a member of CCAC's Court Reporting Advisory Council.

Anna started her career providing CART captioning at Carnegie Mellon University and has worked in and around Pittsburgh with various organizations including The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, FISA Foundation, The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Prime Stage Theater, The Heinz History Center, The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, City Theater Company, The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Temple Sinai, and was the in-stadium captioner for the Pittsburgh Pirates for many years. Anna is the owner of Advanced Realtime Captioning Solutions. She also works as a realtime court reporter.

**Kelly Collins, PhD**

Kelly Collins, PhD, is the Director of Education at the University of Minnesota's Office for Equity and Diversity. Kelly began her career as an advisor for first-generation, low-income college students in the TRIO programs at the University of Iowa, where she also received a Master's Degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs and served on the Native American Staff and Faculty Council. Kelly has served as the Associate Director of Racial and Social Justice Education at the University of Minnesota and as the Native American Student Success Coordinator and Community Faculty in Ethnic Studies at Metropolitan State University. Kelly currently serves as a steering committee member of the University of Minnesota's First Generation Institute. She is a proud first-generation alumna and professional, community activist, intergenerational caregiver, traditional beadworker, and access and equity scholar and practitioner.

**Ron Cook, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC**

Ron passed both the California CSR and the NCRA RPR in 1977 and has been reporting ever since, striving to improve every single day. Ron passed the CM (RMR) in 1986 and the first-ever CRR in 1992, and in 2013, thanks to a very good friend's very strong encouragement, passed the RDR. He regularly competes in the NCRA Speed and Realtime Contests, having won the Realtime Q&A portions in 2012 and 2016. His latest and best finish in the NCRA Speed Contest was last year's second place finish in the Q&A leg. As a bucket list item, Ron also competed in the Intersteno speed capturing and realtime contests in 2019 and finished seventh overall in both categories.

Ron also mentors high-speed students via Zoom on a weekly basis as a way to give back to the profession that has given him so much.

**Hector "Rex" Cordova, CLVS**

Hector "Rex" Cordova is the founder of Alitigate, a legal video and trial tech firm based in Orlando, Fla. He's spent nearly a decade quietly reinventing how legal video gets done, blending deep courtroom experience with custom-built tools and just enough AI to keep things efficient — but never robotic.

He's passionate about building systems that serve people: Clients, contractors, and the humans doing the heavy lifting behind the scenes. From designing workflows that eliminate busy work to training the next wave of legal video professionals, Rex believes the best tools are the ones that disappear into the background and just work.

Outside of courtrooms, conference rooms, and Zoom windows, you'll find him with a guitar in hand and his three sons in tow, soaking up the Florida sun.

**Adrienne Conzemius, RPR, CRI**

With more than 20 years of experience, Adrienne Conzemius is dedicated to providing reliable realtime court reporting services. Adrienne is active in the Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters as well as the National Court Reporters Association. She is a faculty member at Anoka Technical College, teaching courses and mentoring students in the JRBC program.

**D**

**Amy Davidson**

Amy Davidson is an experienced association professional with a background in membership and foundations and more than twelve 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 successfully achieving their professional goals and proudly displaying their hard-earned achievements.

**Darlene Devlin**

Darlene began her court reporting career in 2000 as a top-ranking, award-winning student. She worked as a freelance court reporter traveling throughout Long Island and New York City for eight years before joining the ranks of the New York State's officials. In 2017 Darlene was promoted and is currently a Senior Court Reporter for the New York State Supreme Court. She is on NYSCRA's Board of Directors and sits on several of NYSCRA's committees. She is a member of NCRA's Government Relations, A to Z, and Membership, Marketing, and Outreach Committees. She was selected to be on the Suffolk County District Administrative Judge's Women in the Courts Committee. Darlene is Vice President of CSEA's Region One Judiciary Local 330 as well as a delegate for AFSCME, Long Island Federation of Labor, NY AFL-CIO. In 2024, CSEA honored Darlene with their highest award for her advocacy and recruitment efforts.

**Debbie Dibble, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC**

Debbie has almost 40 years of experience as a freelance reporter, CART captioner, and working in courtrooms in an official capacity. She has served in Utah state leadership since 2006 and was the UCRA president from 2010-2011. She has been serving in national leadership for the past 10 years, culminating in the role of president of the National Court Reporters Association in 2021-2022. She is presently serving on the NCRA Constitution & Bylaws and COPE Committees.

**Oumar Dieng**

Oumar Dieng is a dynamic TEDx speaker and cybersecurity expert with more than two decades in the field of information technology. Oumar has worked for companies in both the public and private sectors, including Cargill, Inc., U.S. Bank, and the state of Minnesota. His insights have garnered attention in the press, on TV shows like *The List* and *The Brooklyn Cafe Show*, and on several radio programs and podcasts. Additionally, Oumar is the author of several books and holds a B.S. in Management Information Systems and degrees in business and communication.

**Amy Doman, RDR, CRR**

Amy Doman, RDR, CRR has been a freelance stenographer since 1990. Born and raised in Texas, she attended Iverson Institute of Court Reporting in Arlington. As much as she misses her family – and winters – in Texas, Amy has enjoyed working around the country as a freelance reporter based in Indianapolis. She's had the opportunity to work in high-profile criminal and civil cases as the official and unofficial record and provided realtime transcripts for national association hearings as well as a short stint providing CART. She's been an NCRA speed contest qualifier each year from 2021 to 2024. Amy was the first recipient of the National Court Reporters Foundation Court to CART grant in 2023. When not working, Amy enjoys family time with her husband of more than 30 years, their four almost-out-of-the-nest children, and her one-year-old Havanese, Lucy.

**Deborah DuBuc, RPR, CRI, CPE**

After seven years teaching middle school and a cross-country move, Deb trained at AIB College of Business in Des Moines, Iowa, working for a short time thereafter as a freelance reporter in Kansas City, Mo., before moving back to Des Moines to marry her two loves (reporting and teaching) at AIB, where she served in a variety of leadership roles including department chair, online education coordinator, and curriculum committee chair. When AIB announced the sunset of their program and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC) committed to adding a program, they contracted Deb to write the program's curriculum. She joined DMACC's faculty nearly ten years ago. Currently serving as department chair and teaching theory and introductory speed classes, Deb loves reading and hanging out with her two daughters (often at some dance event) and her two "puppy boys," Java (a black shipoo) and Biscuit (a cream cavapoo).

**E**

**Judge Bryce A.D. Ehrman**

Judge Bryce A.D. Ehrman is a 1st Judicial District Court Judge chambered in Dakota County, Minn. He was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz in November of 2021. His prior service includes volunteering with the Public Defender's Office, employment as an Assistant Sibley County Attorney, Guardian ad Litem Coordinator, and an Assistant Scott County Attorney III. Judge Ehrman currently serves as the Criminal Lead Judge for Dakota County, co-chairs the Dakota County Domestic Violence Coordinate Community Response Team and is a presiding judge in the First Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court.

**Madalyn Elmquist, JD**

Madalyn Elmquist is a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Richelle M. Wahi, a First Judicial District Court Judge chambered in Dakota County, Minn. Madalyn currently serves on several committees in the First Judicial District. She is also a former and honorary member of Team Ehrman.

**Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI, CPE**

Marybeth Everhart began reporting in 1980. She has been a freelancer and official reporter in Brisbane, Australia. She has presented hundreds of seminars for the court reporting profession. Marybeth is the National Marketing Manager for Realtime Coach, working closely with schools, firms, and court systems to improve skills for students and working reporters.

She has served as a member of numerous NCRA committees and has been a contributing editor to the *Journal of Court Reporting* for over 35 years

**Joshua Edwards, RDR, CRR, CRC**

Joshua Edwards, RDR, CRR, CRC, blends his acting and stenography backgrounds to bring you an all-original mock trial experience. Before working as a court reporter and captioner, Joshua performed in plays, musicals, and operas. Occasionally, he sings at weddings. Joshua is the past president of New York Toastmasters and the New York State Court Reporters Association, as well as a prior chair of the National Congress of State Associations. He has given numerous speeches at Toastmasters and founded StenoMasters in 2021. He lives in New York City where he co-owns StenoCaptions LLC.

## F

### **Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRC, CRR**

Kim Falgiani is a 45-year veteran stenographer who is currently working as an independent captioner and also as an official court reporter.

Her extensive background in broadcast captioning and CART captioning work includes a spectrum of music venues: On-site and remote live outdoor concerts, musicals, and a vast amount of music during her broadcast captioning days, which began in 2002.

Kim is the chair of the NCRA Captioning Committee, after three years as a committee member, served on NCRA's STRONG Committee, and has been the official captioner in years past for NCRA's national Conferences. She is Vice President of the Ohio Court Reporters Association, Chair of Membership, and also served as Secretary for three years.

### **Joel Freedman, CLVS**

Joel Freedman is president of The Legal Video Team. Joel has more than 35 years of experience in the video industry. He continues to provide broadcast quality video production for clients like CBS News, Fox News, ESPN, MSNBC, and more.

Before starting The Legal Video Team, Joel earned a BA from James Madison University in Telecommunications. He then gained experience as a staff member of several production facilities and television stations. The live news environment taught Joel how to meet tight deadlines. The video production environment focused him on maintaining the quality of his work. During his tenure at these jobs, he continually worked as a freelancer, which added to his wealth of knowledge.

Joel enjoys being active and spending time outside with the family. Activities include boating, biking, rollerblading, and snow skiing.

## G

### **Jo Gayle, RPR, CRR, CRC**

Jo started her reporting career in Chicago in 1980 and started working as a CART captioner in 2004. Jo works remotely and onsite all over the country and continues to this day to love what she does!

### **Casey Gordon, PhD**

Dr. Casey Gordon is an innovative technologist with more than 20 years of experience at the intersection of education and emerging technologies. Currently serving as Chief Information and Transformation Officer at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, Dr. Gordon specializes in enterprise risk management, digital transformation, cybersecurity, and strategic planning. Passionate about empowering professionals through technology, Dr. Gordon frequently leads workshops and seminars on



effectively leveraging AI to enhance productivity and career resilience. When not immersed in technology, she enjoys writing novels and spending time with her two children.

**Tarra Grammenos, M.S., SC:L, NIC**

Tarra Grammenos, M.S., SC:L, NIC Advanced, holds a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice, a Graduate Certificate in Legal Interpreting, a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology of Deviance, and an Associates Degree in ASL/English Interpreting. Born and raised in Minnesota, Tarra has been an ASL/English Interpreter for almost 20 years, with the last 10 years primarily working in court and other legal settings.

**H**

**Allison Hall, RDR, CRR, CRI**

Allison is a court reporter of 25 years and currently works as a freelance reporter. She is a teacher at Oklahoma State University and also teaches motivated court reporters how to pass their certification tests. She 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.

**Laura Hammargren**

Laura Hammargren is a partner in the national law firm of Greenberg Traurig's Minneapolis office. Laura received her undergraduate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and her law degree from the University of St. Thomas School of Law in St. Paul, Minn. Laura is a litigator with 16 years of experience and expertise in corporate litigation, mass and toxic torts, and product liability.

**Rachel Harris**

Rachel Harris is a dynamic entrepreneur with a profound impact on the court reporting industry. She got her start as a court reporting student in her home state of New Jersey. With more than 11 years of experience as a scopist, she has not only built a thriving scoping and proofreading agency, but also co-founded an online scoping school after personally training more than 250 individuals as scopists (editors for court reporters) and proofreaders.

Rachel started consulting internationally almost immediately through her passion for giving people opportunities regardless of location. Rachel's journey transcends traditional boundaries as she currently works to revolutionize Nigeria's judicial system, empower its citizens, and memorialize the nation's history and current affairs with captioning in the entertainment and media sectors.

**Richard Hayden, CLVS**

Richard and his wife Dana are the owners of Arkansas Realtime Reporting, LLC. Richard is a CLVS and Trial Presentation Professional who specializes in high-complex legal video services. Richard also serves on the NCRA CLVS Council. He started as a videographer with a passion for scuba diving as an instructor and underwater videography, of which he is very active today. Richard's background brings with it experience as a sound engineer and video for television.

Richard started his career in the Air Force after which he has spent the majority of his career as a professional educator in highly technical subject matter up until his retirement in 2019 from public service. Richard thoroughly enjoys presenting and educating others.

Richard and the staff of Arkansas Realtime Reporting, LLC are known for their extensive knowledge and skill in complex legal videography and realtime court reporting serving clients throughout the U.S.

### **Mike Hensley, RDR**

Mike Hensley, RDR, is a dynamic force in the world of court reporting as a freelance court reporter based in San Francisco, Calif. Mike has pursued and achieved significant milestones within the profession, with the standout accomplishments of obtaining RDR certification within his first five years as a court reporter and becoming a nationally ranked speed contestant.

Mike's expertise spans coverage of diverse legal proceedings at all levels. His specialty includes matters involving biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, software development, and mechanical engineering.

Beyond his individual accomplishments, Mike is deeply passionate about inspiring and mentoring fellow court reporters. He has served as President of the California Court Reporters Association and has chaired several committees for the National Court Reporters Association. Mike's infectious energy and enthusiasm shine through in his interactions, making him a captivating speaker who motivates seminar audiences to seize the day and to transform their ambitious goals into achievable realities.

### **Rob Hemenway, RPR, CRC**

Rob Hemenway is a CART captioner, a realtime broadcast captioner, and owner of Caption Connection LLC. He specializes in medical, educational, and sports captioning and has prior experience as a freelance reporter.

## **I J**

### **Vanessa Johns**

Vanessa Johns is a court reporting student from Louisville, Kentucky. Vanessa holds a BA in International Studies and an MA in TESOL and taught adult education ESL classes for 10 years. In 2021, she googled "what is my dream job?" and discovered court reporting perfectly combined her love of helping others and interest in the many ways we use language to communicate. She is speed building with Simply Steno and hosts virtual practice sessions on the Steno Study Buddies Facebook group. Vanessa is excited to finish school and get to work as a freelance reporter.

### **Merilee Johnson, RDR, CRR, CRC**

Merilee has been reporting for 27 years and has experience as an official reporter, freelance reporter, and captioner. She has a long-standing history of serving on industry committees and boards and is a regular presenter at local and national conventions. As a former court reporting instructor, she focuses her teachings on Catalyst software, technology, and mentoring. She is an active contributor to Stenograph, where she is also a Certified Independent Training Agent. Presently she is a member of the court reporting team reporting the trials in Guantanamo Bay.

### **Lisa Johnston, RMR, CRR, CRC**

Lisa started her reporting career in Florida in 1985 and started working as a CART captioner in 2004.

## **K**

**Tami Keenan, FAPR, RPR, CPE**

Tami Keenan is a retired official reporter and is a past president of NCRA and former chair of NCRF. She has served on the NCRA Constitution & Bylaws Committee for a number of years. She also served as bylaw chair of the Michigan Association. Her first work on NCRA bylaws was serving on the task force to rewrite the NCRA bylaws in 2004.

**Ellen Kerr, CRC**

Ellen Kerr is a CART captioner with 25 years' experience in remote broadcast and CART captioning. She works as a remote staff captioner with Caption First from her home office in the beautiful rolling hills of the Southern Tier of New York State. She has a wonderful husband and two school-age children and enjoys playing guitar and writing and performing music in her spare time.

**Jean Kim, RPR**

Jean Kim is a freelance reporter working primarily in Los Angeles and Orange County, Calif., covering all varieties of depositions, arbitrations, hearing, meetings, and court work. She attained her California CSR in 2010, the same year she attained her RPR certification from NCRA.

Jean firmly believes in staying current with the most up-to-date technology available to reporters and is a Certified Independent Training Agent with Stenograph, offering both in-person and remote training to reporters new and experienced in the intricacies of CaseCATalyst. She can be found online at [jeankimcourtreporter.com](http://jeankimcourtreporter.com).

**Sarah Kleinschmidt, CLVS**

Sarah Kleinschmidt is an experienced trial technician and legal videographer (CLVS). Having grown up immersed in the legal industry, Sarah is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the field while embracing and advancing with new technology.

**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 more than 14 years as a computer programmer after graduating from AIB College of Business. At the national level, Andrea also serves on the National Court Reporter Foundation and CLVS Council.

Andrea 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, CRC, CLVS**

Currently a Federal Official in Dallas, Texas; prior Federal Official in St. Louis, Mo; prior freelancer and CLVS in Metropolitan St. Louis market; freelancer/CART captioner in Illinois; member of numerous NCRA and state committees.

**L****Chuck Larson, CLVS**

Chuck Larson moved to Kentucky from Wisconsin in 2019 to pursue a career in videography and captioning services with Sworn Testimony, PLLC and GameDay Captions, LLC. The primary goal was to

continue the implementation of new technology and systems that help court reporters and captioners become as efficient as possible and to help streamline many of the processes within the field. Having held many positions across multiple disciplines including customer service, manufacturing, and sales, Chuck has a diverse range of knowledge which he utilizes to develop common sense and outside-the-box solutions to help service clients' needs.

Since achieving his CLVS certification in the spring of 2023, Chuck has become a contributing CLVS Council member with the NCRA. Having knowledge of legal videography and court reporting and captioning services, Chuck is helping to develop systems that give videographers unique skills, providing invaluable support to both court reporters and captioners.

**Alex Lederer, RPR**

Alex Lederer, RPR, is a freelance reporter in Florida. He has been working for three years and has taught multiple seminars on a wide range of topics.

**JoAnne Leger, FAPR, RPR, CRR**

Jo has been a court reporter for 37 years. Her reporting career includes freelance and closed captioning as well as official reporting. She has worked as an official in a multi-jurisdiction district court in Texas for the past 25-plus years.

Jo has served on the NCRA Constitution & Bylaws Committee for the past seven years and has served on various NCRA committees throughout the years including the Nominating Committee, Education Content Committee, and Elections Committee. She has also served on her state association Bylaws Committee and the StenoCAT Users Network Bylaws Committee throughout the years. Jo has served as an NCRA Director, is a past president of her state association, currently serves as President-Elect on the StenoCAT Users Network, and still volunteers locally and nationally.

**Lee Leigh, RPR, CRI**

Lee Leigh "Lili" (she/they) has been part of the court reporting industry since 2000. It was then, while working as an administrative professional in a freelance firm, Lili decided to pursue court reporting as a career. After graduating in 2006 from Madison College, Lili has worked as a captioner, CART provider, official, freelance, reporting instructor, and Stenograph training agent. Lili has served on NCRA's CASE, Education Content, and Student/Teacher Committees and is committed to finding ways to move our profession forward with an eye to keeping diversity, equity, and inclusion at the forefront of discussions in our profession and communities. Lili is currently an official reporter in Madison, Wis.

**Stephanie Leslie, RPR, CRR**

Stephanie Leslie has been a licensed steno reporter for 20 years in Southern California. She and her husband, Isaiah, founded Regal Court Reporting in 2007 and have two kids together as well as several fur babies. Stephanie has been providing realtime to clients for most of her career in all legal aspects of reporting including depositions, court work, private arbitrations, and some international work in Colombia, Nigeria, and Canada. She teaches the depo procedures class at South Coast College part-time at night and greatly enjoys mentoring students and new licensees, doing her best to pay forward what her mentor gave to her when she was a new reporter. She has served on the CalDRA board for several years, most recently as president for a two-year term. At the center of all her work is the goal to keep court reporting relevant and thriving for decades to come.

**Derek Letellier, CLVS**

Derek Letellier, CLVS, has been a legal videographer and trial technician in Chicago since 2014. As the former co-owner of Lake Cook Reporting, Derek founded the video department and helped the company conduct thousands of video-recorded depositions and work on hundreds of trials. In 2022 Lake Cook Reporting merged with Paszkiewicz Litigation Services to expand service offerings nationwide.

Derek earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Southern Illinois University, providing a strong foundation in video production and emerging communications technologies. His expertise has contributed to both Lake Cook Reporting and Paszkiewicz Litigation Services staying at the forefront of the evolving litigation support landscape. His companies have adapted to the remote environment, introduced innovative trial solutions, and collaborated with colleagues to enhance the client experience.

Derek lives in the Chicago suburbs with his wife, Elizabeth, their newborn son, Miles, and their extremely outspoken dog, Mimi.

**Cindi Lynch**

Cindi Lynch, Stenograph's Training Program Manager, has trained thousands of reporting industry professionals and students on various CAT and other software applications for 35 years. Cindi is the creator and in-house expert at the Ascend Training by Stenograph online training community, manages Stenograph's Certified Independent Training Agent Program, and is the author of the Self-Study Guides and Exceptional Extras files and documents included with Case CATalyst.

**M****Judge Mary B. Mahler**

The Honorable Mary Mahler is the President of the Minnesota District Judges Association and sits on the Bench in the Seventh Judicial District.

Judge Mahler received her undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and her law degree from Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, Calif.

Judge Mahler spent 15 years in private practice prior to being appointed to the Bench in 2010.

**Jenny Melius, RPR**

Jenny Melius is a freelance reporter and served on the Colorado Court Reporters Association board from 2017 to 2024. After attending school for architecture and urban planning and working as a GIS analyst and spatial data scientist for 15 years, Jenny decided it was time for a change and enrolled in court reporting school. Although she's still a spreadsheet nerd, she's found her passion in court reporting.

**Mike Miller, FAPR, RDR, CRR**

Mike is considered one of the premier realtime reporters working today. Over his 30-plus-year career, he has developed considerable expertise in all areas of litigation.

Mike's in-demand realtime court reporting skills and technical expertise have garnered him considerable experience working abroad, from Bangkok to Brussels and Stockholm to Seoul.

As one of the foremost authorities on realtime reporting technology, he served as the lead instructor for the National Court Reporters Association Realtime Systems Administrator Certificate Program and was a co-creator of the NCRF Career Launcher program.

### **Tisa Mitchell**

Tisa Mitchell was born and raised in North Minneapolis and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education Policy with a focus on Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development at the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development. She also holds a Master of Arts in Family Studies from Southeast Missouri State University and the University of Minnesota.

With more than a decade of experience in training on education and wellness topics, Tisa brings extensive research expertise in family engagement, cultural competency, family systems, education policy, and interpersonal relationships. As an educator, she has taught courses on life skills and relationship building, emphasizing the importance of identity in shaping our experiences and interactions.

Tisa is deeply committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, viewing this work as a lifelong journey. She believes in fostering environments where multiple truths can coexist, encouraging individuals to explore their identities, cultural patterns, and self-awareness. Her goal is to create safe, empowering spaces where people can engage in meaningful personal and professional growth.

Beyond academia, Tisa is passionate about community-building through athletics. As an Assistant Varsity Basketball Coach at the high school level, she mentors young athletes, combining her love for education and sports to support their development both on and off the court.

### **Jeff Moody, BS**

Jeff Moody holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Indiana University, Bloomington. From 1984 to 2024, he owned and operated one of the first online court reporting programs. Recognized for his contributions to education, he received NCRA's Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) Award of Excellence for Outstanding Educators. Throughout his career, he has participated in numerous professional development seminars through NCRA, served on multiple committees, and chaired CASE. Moody is the owner of EV360 Educational Solutions and the developer of EV360 Ultimate, a comprehensive software program designed for speedbuilding, evaluation, testing, and content creation in the court reporting industry.

### **Claudette Mondragon, CRC**

Claudette Mondragon is a Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC) and the owner of Visible Voices, Inc., providing CART services since 1996. She played a key role in developing CART rules for court settings in Colorado in collaboration with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind. With nearly three decades of experience, she is passionate about advancing accessibility and upholding professional standards in the industry.

### **Judge Luis Morales**

Judge Morales has been serving on the bench since July 2024. He previously served as a nonprofit criminal defense attorney for the Neighborhood Justice Center. He enjoys climbing and hanging out with Judge Ehrman on Saturdays.

**Bethany Morse, RSR**

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. Having just passed her third-year anniversary of working as a freelancer in South Carolina, she has taken more than 700 depositions. She has her RSR and Washington CCR and has goals of achieving further certifications. Prior to finding her true calling and passion in stenography, Bethany obtained her bachelor's degree in oboe performance and master's degree in architectural history.

**Matt Moss, RPR**

Matthew Moss, RPR, is a freelance reporter based in Blaine, Minn.

**Denise Munguia, RDR, CRR, CRC**

Denise Munguía is a freelance court reporter and CART captioner with Munguia Court Reporting & Captioning, LLC, who specializes in providing realtime in complex and technical litigation as well as CART captioning in educational, business, and medical settings; captioning for events; live theatre, and concerts. Denise is the 2021 recipient of the Ohio Court Reporters Association's Glenn W. Stiles, Jr. Distinguished Service Award and is a member of the National Court Reporters Association Captioning Committee.

**N****Anissa Nierenberger, RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI**

Anissa's passion for steno has shaped her remarkable career. With more than three decades of experience, including captioning for major tech giants like Facebook and Amazon, Anissa has honed her expertise in the industry. Her acclaimed training programs have empowered more than 2,300 stenographers to achieve their realtime goals and certifications, propelling their careers to new heights.

As the author of four books on shorthand techniques and the mastermind behind STENŌphonātic, the world's first English and steno word-building card game, she has helped reporters across the globe elevate their skills and reach new professional heights.

**O****P****Debbie Peterson, RPR**

Debbie Peterson, RPR, has been an official court reporter in Minnesota for 29 years. She has served on several committees in the First and Second Judicial Districts of Minnesota and has served on statewide committees in an effort to promote and advance the stenographic reporting method. She is a member of the Advisory Board for Anoka Technical College Judicial Reporting Program. She has been and continues to be involved in MAVRC, Minnesota Association of Verbatim Reporters and Captioners

**Ryan Petty**

Ryan Petty is President of the Minnesota Lavendar Bar Association and is an Assistant Attorney General within the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General.

Ryan received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

Ryan was a litigator at Fish & Richardson for four years before joining the Minnesota Attorney General's Office in 2024.

**Angie Podge, RSR**

Angie Podge has been a freelance reporter in Kansas City, Mo., since 2023. She graduated from the University of Missouri in 2015 with a BA in international business management and worked in sales management before finding her passion in the field of court reporting. When she's not working, she enjoys walks with her dogs, weightlifting, and talking to strangers about court reporting.

**Q  
R**

**Adam Rademacher, MS, RID CI/CT**

Adam is an experienced ASL interpreter, business leader, and accessibility advocate with more than 22 years in the field of sign language interpreting. Holding multiple professional certifications— including the RID Certificate of Interpreting (CI) and Certificate of Transliteration (CT), a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, PMP, and Certified ADA Coordinator — he brings a unique blend of linguistic expertise, project management skills, and accessibility knowledge to his work. His background spans medical, legal, and corporate interpreting, with a strong focus on compliance and inclusion. Passionate about collaboration and innovation, Adam has worked extensively to bridge the gap between ASL interpreters, stenographers, and other accessibility providers to enhance communication access. He is also actively involved with SafeAI, helping to establish ethical guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence in interpreting. As a thought leader in the industry, Adam is committed to fostering inclusive environments where both professionals and consumers benefit from seamless, effective communication.

**Stacey Raikes, RMR, CRR**

Stacey Raikes is a veteran court reporter with 30 years of experience in both the freelance and officialship landscapes. As a former NCRA STRONG chairperson as well as DEI Committee and Education Content Committee member, she will bring her vast knowledge with her to this session where we will dig our heels in and discuss the ability to remain poised under pressure while turning your trials and tribulations into your triumphs!

**Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CRC**

Lisa Richardson, RPR, CRR, CRC, began court reporting in Florida in 1976, moving back to Minnesota in 1988 to begin captioning at a local television station in Minneapolis. In 1990 she began providing CART for meetings for Delta Airlines, which launched her into the world of CART, along with captioning. She was the first person in Minnesota to provide CART and captioning services.

Lisa has had the opportunity to provide CART and captioning services for a wide variety of people and venues, including captioning the Dalai Lama, President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Neil deGrasse Tyson, to name a few. In the sports world she provides captioning for Minnesota Gopher football games along with in-stadium captioning for the Minnesota Wild and the MNUFC soccer team. She's also been privileged to caption events for the Guthrie Theatre, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Ordway, as well as performances at the Minnesota Fringe Festival.

**Michelle Roberts, CRI**



Michelle Roberts is an Alabama reporter, graduating with an AAS Degree in Court Reporting from Gadsden State Community College in 2006. She became a Certified Realtime Instructor in 2013. With 19 years of experience, Michelle has built a diverse career as a court reporter, gaining knowledge across multiple areas of the field — including in a large law firm working with focus groups and freelance reporting. For the past 13 years, Michelle has been leading the court reporting program at Gadsden State Community College, serving as both Theory Instructor and Program Director. Michelle brings five years of service on the NCRA CASE Committee, driven by her dedication to the success of court reporting programs nationwide. Motivated by her commitment to student achievement, she has served as a mentor to instructors across the country, empowering them to elevate their students' success.

### **Debbie Russell**

Debbie Russell is a lawyer-turned-writer. She spent twenty-five years as an Assistant County Attorney in Minneapolis, prosecuting numerous high-profile cases—specializing in those involving domestic and child abuse. At age fifty-five, Debbie took early retirement, giving up a full pension for the freedom of time. She now spends that precious time writing, restoring her property to native prairie and wetlands, and training her rambunctious retrievers.

Debbie's first published article appeared in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* in 2001. After that small triumph, her writing focused primarily on legal briefs and memoranda. Debbie resumed creative writing in 2014 when she began her storytelling blog by sharing personal stories and professional experiences that touched her life in a significant way.

Debbie's award-winning book, *Crossing Fifty-One: Not Quite a Memoir*, was released in June of 2023. In 2024 she became a regular contributor to the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, writing about criminal justice and adjacent issues.

## **S**

### **Jennifer Sati, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI**

Jennifer Sati is the Program Director of the Judicial Reporting/Captioning Program at Anoka Technical College in Anoka, Minn., and brings more than 25 years of realtime CART and broadcast captioning expertise. She started providing realtime professionally at depositions in 1993 and continues to provide realtime as a CART provider and broadcast captioner. Jennifer's passion is graduating students and watching them flourish as new professionals.

### **Deborah Saari**

Deborah develops, teaches, and coordinates workplace programs for employers on mental health and mental illnesses in the workplace. She has more than 20 years of experience supporting employer partnerships including providing training and resources supporting full-time employees, contract employees, and youth internships. Deborah graduated from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities with a degree in Psychology and has worked in both for-profit and nonprofit organizations.

### **Tori Schafer**

Tori Schafer is in the 25th year of her career in the industry. The first 13 were spent proofreading before discovering that scoping existed. With that revelation she found her dream career and enrolled in the BeST Scoping Techniques course to learn the craft.

Having worked with freelance court reporters in addition to federal and state officials, Tori has vast experience in civil and criminal cases.

Irreverent, smart, and funny, Tori is an unabashed supporter of stenography and stenographers, has a passion for learning all the bells and whistles in her CAT software, and finds researching to be a fine way to add to the random knowledge on obscure topics floating around her head.

### **Christy Smith, RPR, CRI**

Cristy Burnett Smith is a Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter, graduating with an AAS Degree in Court Reporting from Alvin Community College in 1987. She became certified that same year. For the past 37 years, Cristy has worked as a court reporter pursuing different facets of the field including freelance reporting, working as an official, and as a captioner for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities. She retired as an official court reporter where she worked in civil, criminal, and county courts at law and has provided daily copy and realtime translation to judges during trial. Cristy is now the Program Director/Lead Instructor at Lamar State College Orange where she developed the Court Reporting Program and curriculum, teaching the new 2023 revision of the StenEd Realtime Theory. She believes the knowledge gained from her experiences creates a well-rounded theory at LSCO that gives students the best possible chance to succeed.

### **Isabella Stade (they/she)**

Isabella Stade is the Education Program Coordinator at the University of Minnesota (UMN) Office for Equity and Diversity. Prior to this role, they coordinated NIH-funded social research at the UMN Institute for Social Research & Data Innovation with a focus on primary education's impacts on late-life cognition. Stade received their B.A. in Sociology with high distinction from UMN and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Society. As a person with multiple marginalized identities, they are passionate about increasing accessibility, community care, and widespread support within higher education as well as within the greater community more broadly.

### **Lindsay Stoker, RDR, CRR, CRC**

With an 18-year career in court reporting and captioning, Lindsay Stoker is renowned for her expertise and commitment to excellence. As a sought-after speaker and "realtime heavyweight," she has provided live captioning for leading tech giants (Meta, X, Google, Sony, Microsoft, GitHub), major investment firms, gaming conferences, and government proceedings.

Lindsay also covers complex litigation with remarkable speed and accuracy, spanning maritime, environmental, pharmaceuticals, toxic tort, intellectual property, antitrust, securities, class actions, defamation matters, and even the Oscars.

Her leadership roles include serving on the NCRA CRC Committee — eventually chairing it — and contributing to the NCRA STRONG and Skills Test Committees. This involvement demonstrates her technical mastery and passion for professional excellence.

### **Kathryn Sweeney, FAPR, RDR, CRR**

Kathryn Sweeney has been a court reporter for 33 years. She holds the CSR in Massachusetts, LCR in New Hampshire, as well as her RDR and CRR designations from the National Court Reporters Association. She has won a realtime contest in Massachusetts, taken third place in the National realtime contest, and even became a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters. Kathryn proudly served

on the Massachusetts Court Reporters Association board and is currently President of the New Hampshire Court Reporters Association. Kathryn is the owner of Gabriel & Sweeney Court Reporting, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in June of 2024.

## T

### **Suzanne Trimble, RPR, CRR**

Suzanne Trimble, RPR, CRR, is an official court reporter for U.S. District Court FLMD, stationed in Orlando, Fla. She became a reporter in 1997 after attending Court Reporting Institute in Seattle, Wash. For most of her career, Suzanne has served as an official reporter for both state and federal courts in Washington and Florida, although she enjoyed freelance for several years as well. Because Suzanne has a heart for technology, this is the third year she has chaired NCRA's Technology Committee. In her free time, she loves riding her Harley-Davidson with her husband Charlie, family time, and her mini dachshunds.

### **Judge John R. Tunheim**

The Honorable John R. Tunheim has served for 29 years as United States District Judge in the District of Minnesota and served as Chief Judge from 2015 until July 1, 2022. He also sits regularly as a Visiting Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. From 1994-1998 Judge Tunheim served as Chair of the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board, an independent federal agency empowered to declassify the remaining secret records of the assassination of President Kennedy. Before his appointment as a federal judge, he served as Minnesota's Chief Deputy Attorney General where he argued three cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, and earlier, in the U.S. Senate, as Staff Assistant to U.S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey. He has devoted much of his judicial career to helping develop the rule of law in new democracies, including drafting the Kosovo Constitution and advising more than 40 countries on the development of the rule of law. He is a leader in the federal judiciary, having served as a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference from 2020 to 2024 and formerly serving as Chair of the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management. He is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead and the University of Minnesota Law School, where he served as President of the Law Review. He is a former Chair of the Board of Advisors for the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and a former Chair of the Concordia College Board of Regents. Judge Tunheim currently serves on the Minnesota Historical Society Executive Council.

## U

## V

### **Ashli Van Dyke**

Ashli was born and raised in Phoenix, Ari., moving to Florida and joining the Advantage Software team in 2010. At Advantage, Ashli got her start in tech support, and she quickly netted a reputation as a go-to person for help with extraordinary Eclipse questions and for discussing ideas. Over the years she has worked intimately with the Eclipse dev team and has played a key role in many version releases. She has been involved with research, design, quality assurance, technical writing, and customer education. She especially loves demonstrating the benefits of Eclipse and showing off its latest features.

## W

### **Kerry Ward**

Kerry Ward is a senior liaison specialist with the Veterans History Project (VHP) at the Library of Congress where she helps collect, preserve, and share veterans' first-person narratives. She works with

individuals and organizations across the country to expand the Project's reach and highlight the Library's collections in innovative ways. Since working with the Project, Kerry has led major initiatives including with Gold Star families, Veterans Affairs Center, PBS, Netflix, and Members of Congress.

A graduate of the Library's Leadership Development Program, Kerry also mentors others through the Library's Women's Forum, where she served as president. Before joining the Library, Kerry managed events at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, worked with MTV, and led aviation and veteran service programs. A licensed pilot and certified scuba diver, she enjoys traveling, lifelong learning, and connecting people to stories that matter.

#### **Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC**

Dave Wenhold has represented the court reporting and captioning professions as a lobbyist for more than 25 years. In his tenure at NCRA as Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, and now as Executive Director, 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. Dave is currently advocating to curb AI in the judicial system for the protections of all litigants with the introduction of NCRA's AI oversight legislation.

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 Dave was selected along with three other lobbyists as one of the most effective association lobbyists in Washington by Association Trends. He holds a B.A. 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. In 2025 Dave received an honorary Doctorate Degree from his alma mater for his extensive philanthropic work and career of giving back.

#### **Leah Willersdorf, RMR, CRR**

Leah has been tapping the steno keys for more than 30 years, having begun her career in her home country, Australia. Moving across the world to London on a working holiday in 1995, and now certified in three countries (the U.S. the U.K. and Australia), Leah continues to travel the globe with her steno machine in one hand and passport in the other.

From American depositions to arbitrations, from courts-martial to conferences, inquests to inquiries, court to captioning, tribunals to talks, Leah has just about done it all and still loves the profession as much as she did when she first touched a steno machine at the age of 15.

Leah says, "Whether it be the Australian Outback or Arusha, Dubai or Dusseldorf, Lithuania or Luxembourg, Paris or Prague, the world really is a stenographer's oyster."

#### **Rene White, RPR, CRR**

Rene White is President-Elect of the Texas Deposition Reporters Association (TEXDRA). Rene has been a Texas CSR since 1986 and an NCRA RPR since 1988. Rene earned her CRR in 2000. Texas has

accepted voice writing officially as an approved method since 1977 when the CSR came into being. Since TEXDRA's formation in 2015, it has accepted Texas CSR voice writers as full professional voting members and continues to advocate for them as well as machine and pen writers.

**Katie Barrett Wiik**

Katie is the Immediate Past President of the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and is a partner at the national law firm of Saul Ewing.

Katie received her Bachelor's Degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., her Master's Degree from Queen's University in Belfast, Ireland, and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Katie has been in private practice for 19 years and specializes in business litigation and appellate law.

**X**

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

Kimberly Xavier has enjoyed a rewarding career as a freelance reporter and a freelance firm owner and is currently an official court reporter in Dallas, Texas. She has educated, inspired, and mentored students and professional reporters for more than 20 years through seminars, training courses, and unique networking events. Kim holds multiple certifications and 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. In 2020 she leveraged her extensive leadership experience and volunteer service to establish Stenovator Pathway Solutions, Inc., a nonprofit organization that benefits new professional reporters. She was inducted into the Texas Court Reporters Association Hall of Fame in 2022 and continues to give back to the reporting community through her passion and signature style of providing unique events and educational programs.