

# MAY IS THE MONTH TO EARN THAT DESIGNATION OF EXCEPTIONALISM



May 2022 marks the fifth year NCRA has recognized Celebrate Certification Month for its members, and President Debbie Dibble, RDR, CRR, CRC, is calling on all members to be inspired to let their expertise shine.

“May is Celebrate Certification Month, so let that be the reason you differentiate yourself from the rest of the pack and supercharge your earning potential,” said Dibble. “NCRA certifications reflect your pledge to provide the highest level of professionalism and skill to those you serve with your stenographic or videography skills.”

NCRA selected May as Celebrate Certification Month to coincide with the new growth that the spring season is known for. The campaign is designed to encourage members to share with their judges, attorneys, customers, clients, and potential clients the importance of working with professionals who hold NCRA nationally recognized professional certifications. The effort is also aimed at encouraging NCRA members and nonmembers to commit to earning an NCRA certification or to add to any they already hold.

“Earning my RPR represents to me personal and professional growth,” said NCRA member Leslie Ruiz, an official court reporter from Adair, Okla., on earning her RPR. “I set a goal and achieved it! It’s one of

**By Annemarie Roketenetz**

“Obtaining my RMR certificate is a culmination of hard work and dedication. I wanted to be considered among the best of the best within my profession and achieving an RMR from the National Court Reporting Association means I have achieved that goal, and I am truly ecstatic.”

— Mary Jo Monteleone, RMR, an official court reporter from Haledon, N.J., on earning her RMR.

“Technology in litigation is no longer a luxury; it is a requirement, a powerful tool to be strategically leveraged to give litigators the upper hand in every circumstance. I am excited to take the knowledge I have gained and use it to empower the entire ARV Dynamic team to serve our legal community in creative new ways and show them what an impact cutting-edge technology can have on their practice.”

— Andrea J. Wecker, RDR, CRR, CRC, a freelancer, CART captioner, and agency owner from Boise, Idaho, on earning the Trial Presentation Professional certificate.



several certifications that I plan on attaining. Why be complacent? I know my worth! And knowing that, I love being a member of NCRA, where I can celebrate and commiserate with like-minded professionals who feel the same. Certifications do matter.”

To help members celebrate, NCRA has launched an official Celebrate Certification Month resource page that offers an array of downloadable resources members can use. The resources range from press release templates to flyers to customized certification business cards and more. In addition, NCRA members can also celebrate their pride in their certifications by ordering customized swag ranging from clothing, accessories, gifts, and more from the NCRA Merchandise Shop. All items can be customized with a range of logos to choose from including NCRA, NCRF, and official certification logos.

“This hard-earned certification has further validated my abilities as a stenographer and provides a platform upon which I can confidently promote myself as a seasoned professional in the industry,” said NCRA member Sue E.

Garcia, a freelance court reporter and captioner from Tacoma, Wash., who earned her RMR in 2021. “I am proud to be a member of NCRA, where- in I continue to acquire further education, increasing the breadth of my knowledge, honing my skills, and expanding my network of excellent colleagues.”

According to Dibble, in addition to showing

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“I am grateful for the opportunity and ability to provide CART captions to individuals with a hearing loss. Passing the certification test has been a bucket list item for me, and I’m happy to join my fellow captioners and add CRC to my credentials.”

— Catherine L. Zelinski, RPR, CRC, a freelance court reporter and CART captioner from Norton, Mass., on earning her CRC.

“I am excited about my new certification and proud to be associated with NCRA, who set the standard for excellence in our field.”

— Perry Stoltz-Hohlstein, CLVS, a legal videographer from Seattle, Wash., on earning his CLVS.

“Earning this certification is a reflection of hard work and dedication. To be a member of NCRA is a responsibility not only to others in our profession, but also to our consumers who receive and rely on our services.”

— Ariel Selca, RPR, a CART captioner from New York, N.Y., on earning her RPR.



**Leslie Ruiz**



**Andrea Wecker**



**Caitlin Albrecht**

proficiency in various skills, numerous NCRA membership surveys have found that court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers who hold NCRA certifications make more money and are often in higher demand than their competitors.

“NCRA certifications set our members apart from the competition. They exemplify an investment in your unparalleled expertise in the courtroom, the classroom, the boardroom, or anywhere else we might be asked to create an accurate record of proceedings or events,” she said.

“Ignite your potential by earning NCRA certifications, and let your career explode. Not just in the month of May, but during every month of the year, commit to sharing with others the importance of holding NCRA distinctions and why it is important to choose a certified professional whenever possible,” Dibble added.

Caitlin Albrecht, RPR, an official court reporter from Golden Valley, Minn., said that earning the CRR recently has proven that she can take on a challenge and she is thankful to NCRA for providing the opportunity to prove herself in this way. “Providing realtime is like being asked to play a piano piece perfectly the first time through without ever having seen the sheet music ... it’s extremely challenging,” she added.

“Technology in litigation is no longer a luxury; it is a requirement, a powerful tool to be strategically leveraged to give litigators the upper hand in every circumstance,” noted Andrea J. Wecker, RDR, CRR, CRC, owner of Associated Reporting & Video in Boise, Idaho, on earning NCRA’s Trial Presentation Professional certificate. Wecker says the knowledge she gains from working toward and earning certification goes to “empower the entire ARV Dynamic team to serve our legal community in creative new ways and show them what an impact cutting-edge technology can have on their practice.”

## Make plans to celebrate yourself and your peers during the 2022 Celebrate Certification Month.

**For more information, visit [NCRA.org/celebrate](https://ncra.org/celebrate), and don’t forget to share how you plan to celebrate with NCRA’s PR staff at [pr@ncra.org](mailto:pr@ncra.org)**

*Annemarie Roketenetz is NCRA’s Director of Communications and Public Relations.*



# NCRA OFFERS THE FOLLOWING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

**RSR**

**REGISTERED  
SKILLED  
REPORTER**

The RSR recognizes those stenographic professionals who are looking to validate their beginning level of competency. Created as a stepping-stone credential to ultimately achieving the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) designation, the RSR certification will offer the prestige of an NCRA certification for those early in their careers. Candidates do not need to be members of NCRA in order to take the RSR Exam. Candidates must pass three five-minute Skills Tests (SKT) that evaluate their skills in literary at 160 words per minute, jury charge at 180 words per minute, and testimony/Q&A at 200 words per minute, with a 95 percent accuracy rate on each leg to pass. Since its inaugural testing period in January 2020, 19 have earned the RSR, the newest of NCRA's certifications.

**RPR**

**REGISTERED  
PROFESSIONAL  
REPORTER**

RPR stenographic court reporters are among the top contributors to the profession in terms of technology, reporting skills, and professional practices. The RPR has been offered since 1937, and many states currently accept or use the certification testing in place of a state certification or licensing exams. RPRs have passed tests requiring them to write up to 225 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate. More than 5,000 NCRA members hold the RPR certification.

**RMR**

**REGISTERED  
MERIT  
REPORTER**

RMRs must hold the RPR and have shown the ability to write at speeds of up to 260 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate. Currently, 1,554 NCRA members hold the RMR certification.

**RDR**

**REGISTERED  
DIPLOMATE  
REPORTER**

The RDR designates the highest level of certification available to court reporters and distinguishes high-level, seasoned reporters as members of the profession's elite. Currently, just over 500 NCRA members hold the RDR certification.

**CRR**

**CERTIFIED  
REALTIME  
REPORTER**

The CRR recognizes a realtime reporter's knowledge of current technologies and a high proficiency of at least a 96 percent accuracy rate at speeds up to 200 words per minute. Realtime reporting instantly translates the spoken word to text, allowing for an immediate transcription of proceedings. Currently, nearly 2,300 NCRA members hold the CRR certification.

**CRC**

**CERTIFIED  
REALTIME  
CAPTIONER**

CRCs have passed a skills test, a written exam, and attended an educational workshop. The CRC tests for competence and provides quality education to those who are interested in entering the captioning field. Currently, nearly 800 NCRA members hold the CRC certification.

**CLVS**

**CERTIFIED  
LEGAL VIDEO  
SPECIALIST**

CLVSs hold a high level of skill and understanding of all aspects of video deposition recording, court proceedings, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and deposition best practices. Currently, nearly 300 NCRA members hold the CLVS certification.