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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Firm owner and captioner from Monument, Colo., to serve national foundation *Patricia K. Graves to serve three-year term on NCRF Board of Trustees*

RESTON, Va., July 25, 2022 — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), announced that Patricia A. Graves, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, an agency owner and captioner from Monument, Colo., has been named to serve a three-year term on its Board of Trustees. NCRA is the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon held at NCRA's 2022 Conference & Expo held July 21-24 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando, in Orlando, Fla.

Graves founded Caption First in 1989 in Chicago, Ill., and serves as president of the company. In addition to providing realtime captioning services, Graves' responsibilities include overseeing all facets of Caption First, leading the growth of Caption First to more than \$2 million annually, and recruiting new team members.

In August 2016, Graves was awarded NCRF's most prestigious award, the Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism, which is given to a working court reporter or captioner with at least 25 years of experience and who has given back to the profession and to the court reporting community, with no expectation of any reward. One supporter said: "She is a tireless educator, mentor, and entrepreneur who uses her means and her podium to lift others to be better than they thought they could be."

Graves was integral in getting Caption First certified as a Disability-Owned Business Enterprise with U.S. Business Leadership Network (USBLN), as a Woman-Owned Small Business with the National Women Business Owners Corporation, and as a Woman-Owned Business Enterprise with the Women's Business Enterprise National Council. In 2014, Caption First was named Diversity Supplier of the Year by USBLN.

Graves earned a degree in Court & Convention Reporting from Triton College and is a certified stenewriter. She holds multiple certifications from the National Court Reporters Association, an



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organization she has been involved with since 1977. Those certifications include Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), and Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC). She is also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR). She has served on and chaired various NCRA committees as well as on its Board of Directors from 2010 to 2013.

At the state level, Graves served in many capacities for the Colorado Court Reporters Association between 2004 and 2010, including as president. Additional interests led Graves to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee for Ad Hoc Rules and Regulations for the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing from 2006 to 2013.

Graves has taught both on the local and national levels on CART and captioning for Court Reporters and consumers. In 2000 she was listed in *Today's Chicago Woman* as one of the "100 Women Making a Difference." Graves is widely published and has spoken at many conferences around the world on bringing spoken communication via CART and captioning to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing and to those whose native language is not English.

The court reporting and captioning professions offer viable career choices that do not require a four-year college degree and yet offer good salaries, flexible schedules, and interesting venues. There is currently an increasing demand for more reporters and captioners to meet the growing number of employment opportunities available nationwide and abroad. Court reporters and captioners rely on the latest in technology to use stenographic machines to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time. These professionals work both in and out of the courtroom recording legal cases and depositions, providing live captioning of events, and assisting members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter or captioner, or to learn more about the lucrative and flexible court reporting or captioning professions and the many job opportunities currently available, contact pr@ncra.org.

[About NCRF](#)

As a charitable organization, the Foundation relies almost solely on tax-deductible donations, the majority of which come from NCRA members and associated businesses. To donate, or for information on NCRF's programs, visit NCRA/Foundation.org, or call 800/272-6272, ext. 126.

[About NCRA](#)

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 12,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized



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court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. According to 247/WallSt.com, the court reporting profession ranks sixth out of 25 careers with the lowest unemployment rate, just 0.7 percent. Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at NCRA DiscoverSteno.org.