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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Local Court Reporting Student Awarded Scholarship**  
*Alexandra Simon, from Brooklyn, N.Y., awarded a \$750 scholarship*

**RESTON, Va., July 6, 2022** — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Alexandra Simon, from Brooklyn, N.Y., a student at Plaza College in Queens, N.Y., has been awarded a \$750 [NCRA A to Z® Scholarship](#). The scholarships are supported by funds from the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of NCRA.

The [NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](#) program, a free online six-to-eight-week introductory course, lets participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning would be for them. The program is an introductory course in stenographic theory and provides participants with the opportunity to learn the basics of writing on a steno machine. There is no charge to take the course, but participants are required to have access to a steno machine or an iPad they can use to download the [iStenoPad app](#).

Simon, who is currently writing at 100 words per minute and working on reaching 120 words per minute, plans to graduate in January 2023 and become a freelance court reporter. She is also very interested in the opportunities that captioning offers.

“After being in this program for a year now, I realize that there are a lot of different opportunities for my future career path, and I’m interested in being able to experience them all at some point and discover what I might gravitate to,” Simon said.

“This scholarship is a major boost of encouragement for me. I’ve never been a scholarship recipient before, and this will greatly help me financially to take on more classes, as cost unfortunately is why I couldn’t take on additional classes this semester,” she added.



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Simon said she heard about the court reporting program through word of mouth. But after years of being interested in how closed captions work, she finally learned about the career behind it all, which piqued her interest and led to her taking the NCRA A to Z Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program and discovering her love of stenography.

“If you like the English language and the science behind phonetics, this is the career for you. English and pronunciation have always been my strong points, and learning theory proved to me how strong I was in those areas,” Simon said.

“But I can imagine even if you aren’t, it could still be a great career field because you will learn so much about English, speech, tone, and the way everyday people talk. In this field you can work in various areas that best suit you, and it’s comforting to know that despite technological advances, there will always be a need for a verbatim record of a live event, case, meeting, or hearing,” she added.

Students who have completed an NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program and are enrolled in a court reporting program are encouraged to apply for consideration for one of 15 \$750 scholarship awards.

Qualified applicants must have completed the NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program as well as pass a skills test writing between 60 and 100 wpm, among other eligibility requirements.

For more information about the NCRA A to Z Scholarship, or the [NCRA A to Z Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program](#), please contact the Education Department at [schools@ncra.org](mailto:schools@ncra.org).

NCRF is currently accepting donations to meet its 2022-2023 goal of \$5,000 to fund an additional 15 scholarships. To donate to the A2Zfund, text the keyword **A2ZFUND** to 41444 with this message: A2ZFUND \$Amount Name and Message.

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.

If you’re looking for a career that is on the cutting edge of technology and offers the opportunity to work at home or abroad, and if you like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your



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fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you can explore at [NCRA/discoversteno.org](http://NCRA/discoversteno.org).

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter, captioner, legal videographer, or a current court reporting student, 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](mailto:pr@ncra.org).

### [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 13,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized 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](http://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](http://NCRA DiscoverSteno.org).*