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Local retired court reporter to serve national foundation

R. Douglas Friend from Vancouver, Wash., named National Court Reporters Foundation chair

RESTON, Va., Aug. 1, 2023 — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), announced that R. Douglas Friend, FAPR, RDR, CRR, a retired court reporter from Vancouver, Wash., has been named Chair of 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 the 2023 NCRA Conference & Expo held July 27-31 at the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown, Houston, Texas.

Friend began his reporting career in 1975. He holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR) and Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR). He is also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR).

At the national level, Friend served as NCRA President in 2011-2012. During his membership he has also served on or chaired a number of its committees. Friend is also one of the first NCRA members to become an NCRF Angel Donor and has been a member of the Foundation's Legacy Society since 2006. He has also served as an NCRF Trustee since 2020 and most recently chair the Foundation's Vintage Writer Adoption Task Force.

At the state level, Friend has held numerous leadership positions and with the Oregon Court Reporters Association, as well as having served on or chaired a number of its committees.

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, offers the opportunity for work at home or abroad, like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you can explore at NCRA/discoversteno.org.

[The NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](#) program, a free online six-week introductory course, lets participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning would be a good choice for them. The program is an introduction to stenographic theory and provides



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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](#).

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.

[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 court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. [NCRA's STRONG Committee](#) promotes stenographic captioning and court reporting as the best means to maintain the accuracy of the record. One of its missions is to combat false proclamations that digital and automatic speech recognition (ASR) methods of capturing the spoken word are equal to superior to stenographic means and/or that these methods are less expensive.

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](#).