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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Local captioner says Hamilton was her dream job
Captioning at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.**

RESTON, Va., Feb. 1, 2023 — Darian Elliott, RPR, CRR, CRC, a captioner from Frederick, Md., and a member of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, recently shared her story about landing her dream job: captioning the play, *Hamilton*, at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She is sharing her story and more about her work in celebration of the 2023 National 2023 Court Reporting & Captioning Week taking place Feb. 4-11 and that has been sponsored by NCRA for the last 11 years.



2023 Court Reporting & Captioning Week
February 4-11



[NCRA.org/Awareness](https://www.ncra.org/Awareness) | [DiscoverSteno.org](https://www.ncra.org/DiscoverSteno.org)

The weeklong event, themed ‘STENO always in my heart’ brings court reporters, captioners, court reporting firms, schools, and others in the legal industry together to help highlight the many aspects that make court reporting and captioning a

viable profession. Those aspects include a quicker entrance into the workforce since no four-year degree is required, good salaries, flexibility, interesting venues, and the increasing demand for more reporters and captioners to meet the growing number of employment opportunities available in the field.



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Elliott, who holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), and Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC), has been providing captioning and CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation) for 23 years — covering church services, news programs, council meetings, theatre performances, sporting events, and her favorite, classes for students.

She currently is a senior realtime reporter with the Social Security Administration. Elliott said that she loves captioning, its income-earning potential, work-life balance, and the community and support that comes along with it. She also added that she is grateful for a profession where she can help deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals attain the same career advancements or even just enjoy a good laugh at a television program the same as a hearing individual.

Last October she received a call for a dream assignment: Captioning a performance of *Hamilton* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

“Finally, I got the call to be in ‘The Room Where It Happens.’ You would have thought I was in the show, I was so excited. I rarely dress up anymore since COVID-19; however, the night before I was trying on dresses, hoping all my late-night munchies wouldn’t cause me a problem, just this one night. Found a dress! Now it was time to prep.”

Elliott said the great thing about captioning theatre is there’s not much prep, as it’s usually completely scripted; however, she said, she loved going through the songs and looking through the script where they’ve ad-libbed before and getting all the names in a few different ways, just in case there were additional ad-libs.

“All the prep, all the tough jobs no one else wanted to do that got me to this point did not disappoint,” Elliott said of the experience. “We are the most blessed people in the world to get to a place where we realtime to the realest from Colin Powell to Martin Scorsese — and deliver. Then someone asks us to do the seemingly unimaginable like theatre and we find it’s easy-peasy. How lucky we are doing something we’d do for free if we could,” she added.

“There’s no way to really see Lin-Manuel Miranda’s brilliance until you’ve read the play, but no way to get to a place where you’re reading the brilliance of Broadway or captioning inaugural events unless you sometimes try the hard thing, the National Institutes of Health meeting, or the medical class you keep rolling your eyes at,” Elliott said.

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.



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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 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.

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.