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**Free A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program leads to new career
for busy Texas mom**
Job security and earning potential too good to turn down

RESTON, Va., Jan. 30, 2023 — After completing the free [NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program](#) offered by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, Shannon C. Alexy, of Fort Worth, Texas, is an online court reporting student at the Arlington Career Institute in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas and looking forward to a career that offers flexibility, vast job opportunities, and lucrative earnings.

To help celebrate NCRA’s 2023 Court Reporting & Captioning Week taking place Feb. 4-11, Alexy recently shared her journey to finding the perfect career path for her.

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.

NCRA 2023 Court Reporting & Captioning Week
February 4-11
STENO ALWAYS in my heart

NCRA.org/Awareness | DiscoverSteno.org

The 2023 event marks the 11th year NCRA has hosted the celebration.

Alexy said she is extremely excited about her classes, noted that that the online program she is enrolled in fits



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in perfectly with her daily duties as a wife and mother. She anticipates graduating in 2024 and plans to start work as a freelance court reporter before pursuing a long-term career as an official court reporter working in a courthouse.

The [NCRA A to Z Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program](#) offers the perfect opportunity for potential students to learn the alphabet in steno, write on a real machine, and decide if pursuing an education in court reporting or captioning is the right choice. Alexy said she learned about the program once she decided that court reporting was her profession of choice. “I googled everything I could about it. Googling led me to the NCRA’s website, which led me to a list of accredited schools and the A to Z program. The program was immediately appealing due to the scholarship opportunities it would offer me once completed,” she added.

“I had an amazing experience in the A to Z program. My instructors went above and beyond to give us all the information we would need to make the choice of continuing in this field or not. They had guest speakers every week for us, including the NCRA president at the time,” Alexy said. “Listening to and finding out more about the profession made me want to jump in even faster.”

Alexy said that what she is looking forward to most about becoming a court reporter is to have her own piece of pie. “I’ve been a stay-at-home mom for so long, I’ve focused on my children’s needs and schooling for so long, it really is time for me to focus on me and my future. The idea of being a two-income family makes me really happy as well. To have that back-up income reserve for emergencies and even family vacations is a dream I will not deny.”

“I didn’t go to college after graduating high school. I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do. I worked at a temp agency for a bit and eventually was hired full time as a human resources assistant for a local company. I did that until I married and started having children. I’ve been a stay-at-home mom for the past 19 years. My husband and I have seven children: the oldest is going to college this year and the youngest is just three years old. No matter the ages and stages of our children, I really felt that it was time for me to make choices for my professional future; so, I enrolled in court reporting school,” she added.

Alexy said that she has always known about the court reporting profession from television and movies but didn’t think much about pursuing it until becoming sick with COVID-19 in 2021. “My husband’s family has a few court reporters in it as well, all based in Upstate New York. I don’t have much interaction with their work, but I do know that they have done well for themselves in this profession. My husband’s sister in particular ran her own freelancing firm and was able to carve a nice business out for herself.”



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She said she was also attracted to the career because of the potential freedom it offers, and because of the many areas of work a stenographic court reporter can go into such as captioning, freelance work, and as an official in a courtroom.

“The demand for certified court reporters right now is astronomical, and it isn’t going to diminish any time soon. With that kind of job security and earning potential I really had no reason to turn away,” she added.

What has surprised her most about the court reporting profession, Alexy said, is learning how vast and varied the skill is, as well as the amount of traveling some reporters are able to do with their firms. “Having to travel overseas to get a deposition down was definitely something I never had considered as a bonus to this field,” she noted.

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 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



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reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at [NCRA DiscoverSteno.org](https://www.ncra.org/discoversteno).