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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Court Reporter to serve as National Secretary-Treasurer
Cathy Penniston from Waukee, Iowa, named NCRA Secretary-Treasurer

RESTON, Va., July 31, 2023 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Cathy Penniston, RPR, CRI, a court reporting instructor and broadcast captioner from Waukee, Iowa, will serve as its 2023-2024 Secretary-Treasurer. The announcement was made at the 2023 NCRA Conference & Expo that took place July 27-July 30 at the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown in Houston, Texas.

Penniston holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI). She spent 30 years working as an official court reporter for the state of Iowa before transitioning into a broadcast captioning career. She has also worked as a freelancer and a CART (Communications Access Realtime Translation) provider. Penniston currently teaches stenographic reporting at the Des Moines Area Community College in Newton, Iowa.

Penniston holds a Master of Arts Degree in Education and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. She obtained her associate degree in Court Reporting from the American Institute of Business.

At the national level, Penniston has served on numerous NCRA committees and enjoys leading NCRA A to Z[®] Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand programs. She has served as a member of the NCRA Board of Directors since 2018 and has also been a volunteer for phone-a-thon fundraising campaigns to support the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF).



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At the state level, Penniston served as president, vice president, and secretary of the Iowa Court Reporters Association, and is the recipient of the Roy Voelker Memorial Award for Distinguished Service for the court reporting profession of the state of Iowa. She also received the Indian Hills Community College Vision Award Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year in 2014.

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 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



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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](http://NCRA.DiscoverSteno.org).