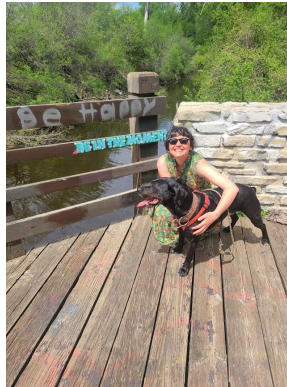




CONTACT:
Annemarie Roketenetz
aroketenetz@ncra.org
703-969-6363

National Court Reporters Association
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 610
Reston, VA 20191-3492
Tel: 703-556-6272 • Fax: 703-391-0629
800-272-NCRA (6272) • NCRA.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local court reporter earns \$2,000 New Professional Reporter Grant
Karli Pikala of Minneapolis, Minn., wins top honors

RESTON, Va., Aug. 8, 2024 — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), presented the [New Professional Reporter Grant](#) in the amount of \$2,000 to Karli Pikala, an official court reporter from Minneapolis, Minn. NCRA is the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon at the 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo held Aug. 1-3 in Louisville, Ky.

NCRF awards the annual New Professional Reporter Grant to a reporter who is in his or her first year of work, has graduated within a year from an NCRA-approved court reporting program, and meets specific criteria, including a grade point average of 3.5 or above, a letter of recommendation, an answer to an essay question, and is actively working in any of the career paths of judicial (official/freelance), CART, or captioning.

“I am beyond grateful to have received this grant. The community and support I’ve felt throughout my court reporting journey continues to grow and is made apparent through opportunities such as this one,” said Pikala, an official reporter with the Dakota County District Court.

“I strive to be an asset to our profession and to keep our legacy of community and camaraderie alive. Thank you to all of the donors who made this possible,” she added.

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.



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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 125 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.

[About NCRF](#)

National Court Reporters Foundation is the philanthropic arm of NCRA. As a charitable organization, the NCRF relies almost solely on tax-deductible donations, the majority of which come from NCRA members and associated businesses. To donate, or for information on NCRF's programs, visit NCRA/Foundation.org.