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Local court reporting student wins scholarship
Taylor Elstrom from University Place, Wash., is recipient of \$750 award

RESTON, Va., Dec. 11, 2024 —The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Taylor Elstrom, a court reporting student from University Place, Wash., and a student at Green River College, in Auburn, Wash., is the 2024 recipient of the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) scholarship prize of \$750.

Four additional scholarships were also awarded in the amounts of \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500. To be eligible to apply, students must currently be attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program, have an exemplary academic record, and have passed one skills test writing at 160 wpm or above at the time of submission. In addition, applicants must submit an essay on a topic chosen by CASE.

Elstrom said she learned about the court reporting profession from her mother, who was insistent she look into it as a career path. “She knew before I did that this is what I was meant to do. Fast forward 18 years, I finally took her advice, and it turns out, she was absolutely right,” she said.

In short, Elstrom explained, stenographic court reporting checked the boxes of what she was seeking in a career including a flexible schedule, the ability to work remotely, travel opportunities, and something new that would be challenging and interesting, as well as a community in which she



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could feel supported, and something that felt creative or slightly out of the box. The more she learned about the career while in school, the more assured she has become that she made the right choice, she added.

Currently writing at 160 words per minute in literary and 180 words per minute in jury charge and testimony, Elstrom said she plans to take her Registered Skilled Reporter (RDR) certification test in the summer of 2025. She plans to apply the scholarship funds toward her tuition in her final months of school.

“When I graduate, I plan to start as a freelance reporter, as I believe that’s where I’ll feel most comfortable while transitioning into the profession,” Elstrom said. “Although I’m open to becoming an official reporter, I’d like to gain solid experience first. One of my ultimate goals — a true bucket list item — is to work as an international reporter.”

For more information on the [CASE Student Scholarship](#), please contact the Education Department at schools@ncra.org.

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



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promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 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.

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