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Local court reporting student wins scholarship
Bianca Blocker from Philadelphia, Pa., is recipient of \$250 award

RESTON, Va., Dec. 4, 2024 —The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Bianca Blocker, a court reporting student from Philadelphia, Pa., and a student at Plaza College in Queens, N.Y., is the 2024 recipient of the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) scholarship prize of \$250.

Four additional scholarships were also awarded in the amounts of \$500, \$750, \$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.

Blocker said she learned about the court reporting profession from her mother who was at one time an aspiring court reporting student before changing career paths but who always spoke highly of the vocation and encouraged her to pursue it.

“What attracted me to the profession was the uniqueness of it and the ability to create words phonetically on a machine. I’ve always had a knack for languages and previously worked as an interpreter after teaching myself how to speak Spanish and saw this career in a similar light,” she



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said. “I was fascinated by the steno translating into English and was excited to take on the challenge! I also was drawn towards the versatility of court reporting, which enables students to pursue many different avenues upon graduation, the opportunities are limitless,” Blocker added.

Currently in her final speed class, she anticipates graduating in early 2025, and plans to pursue an officialship working in a courthouse. She also hopes to travel for her work later in her career. She noted that she plans to use the funds toward the purchase of a new steno machine following her graduation.

“My advice to students currently pursuing court reporting is to keep going and not give up! It may take longer than expected or than others but stay the course and know that amazing opportunities await us,” Blocker added.

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 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



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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).