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**Local court reporting student wins scholarship**  
*Liane Hatch from Whispering Pines, N.C., is recipient of \$1,000 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 Liane Hatch, a court reporting student from Whispering Pines, N.C., and a student at College of Court Reporting in Valparaiso, Ind., is the 2024 recipient of the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) scholarship prize of \$1,000.

Four additional scholarships were also awarded in the amounts of \$250, \$500, \$750, 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.

Hatch said she discovered the career of court reporting in the summer of 2021 when she made what she said was a difficult decision to get out of the U.S. Army early to avoid being separated for a two-year assignment from her husband, who also serves, and their then new-born son.

“I was thrilled to be able to keep my family together but found myself scrambling for a path to follow. I’d just cut our income in half, and it all happened on such a short timeline that I didn’t really have an opportunity to create my ‘Plan B’ before getting out,” she said.

A search for an online schooling program to enroll in so that she could draw her G.I. Bill benefits until she figured things out led her to court reporting. “While my first instinct was to pursue law school, that didn’t feel very practical considering my life circumstances at the time, and instead,



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serendipity led me to court reporting. From my very first strokes on my machine, I knew I'd chosen the right path," she added.

Hatch said that on a practical level, a career in court reporting will afford her a great deal of flexibility, which is hugely important for military families. "I'll get to work more or less depending on my spouse's training and deployment schedules and the needs of my family, and it's a job I can do from practically anywhere the Army sends us," she said.

"But more than just that, it's something I truly enjoy. The way steno language works — the language input, sensory processing, and tactile output — feels like a puzzle to me. It's where learning a language and playing an instrument meet, and it just engages my brain in such a way that's difficult to describe," she added.

Currently working on her exit speeds, Hatch anticipates graduating in June 2025 and hopes to start her career working as a freelance court reporter before switching to an officialship once she gains some experience and her son is in school.

As for the scholarship money, she said she plans to use the funds to set up a nice comfortable home office for herself and use any remaining money to start taking care of administrative tasks like establishing an LLC, purchasing insurance, and perhaps even taking a small business course.

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

[The NCRA A to Z<sup>®</sup> 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](#).



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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](mailto: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 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](http://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).*