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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local court reporter to serve national foundation

Amie Rena First from Orlando, Fla., to serve as National Court Reporters Foundation Trustee

RESTON, Va., July 30, 2025 — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), announced that Amie First, RDR, CRR, CRC, CPE, an official court reporter and captioner from Orlando, Fla., has been selected to serve a three-year term on its Board of Trustees. NCRA is the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon held at the [2025 NCRA Conference & Expo](#) that took place July 24-26 in Minneapolis, Minn.

First holds a degree from Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, as well as the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Diplomat Reporter (RDR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC), and Certified Program Evaluator (CPE). She has worked as a freelance court reporter, court reporting instructor, and a CART (Communications Assess Realtime Translation) captioner for numerous colleges and organizations. Since 2011 First has worked as an official court reporter for the U.S. District Court Middle District of Florida in Orlando.

First has been a member of NCRA since 1989 and has attended more than 25 of the Association's annual Conference & Expos. She currently serves on NCRF's Ask Me Anything Task Force, as well as NCRA's Council on Approved Student Education and Test Advisory Committees. She has also served on NCRA's Student/Teacher and Skills Testing Committees and the Officials and Captioning Community of Interest Committees. She is a frequent presenter at NCRA student events and contributor to its student newsletter. First has also been an NCRF Angel since 2018 and is a multi-time qualifier in the national Speed and Realtime Contests.



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As a member of the U.S. Court Reporters Association, First currently serves on the Convention Committee and is a past member of the organization's Realtime Committee and earned first place honors in its 2012 annual Realtime Contest.

At the state level, First is a member of the Florida Court Reporters Association Government Relations and Courts committees and earned second place in that state's 2011 Speed and Realtime contests.

First also holds membership in the Ohio Court Reporters Association and has served on numerous committees as a presenter and is a numerous-time speed and realtime contest qualifier. She also organized numerous student and CART/captioning seminars. In 2006 she was presented with the OCRA Diplomat Award in recognition of her commitment to support the goals of the association. In 2008 the association also presented her with its Martin Fincun Award recognizing her diligence in promoting the profession.

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.

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. 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).

[About NCRF](#)

The National Court Reporters Foundation is the philanthropic arm of NCRA. As a charitable organization, 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.