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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Local court reporter earns \$4,000 New Professional Reporter Grant
Iris Thaller, RPR, from Mattoon, Ill., receives top honors

RESTON, Va., July 31, 2025 — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), presented the [New Professionals Reporter Grant](#) in the amount of \$4,000 to Iris Thaller, RPR, from Mattoon, Ill. 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 2025 NCRA Conference & Expo held July 24-26 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Thaller, who holds the nationally recognized professional certification of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR), works as an official court reporter.

"I'm deeply honored to be selected as the first-place recipient of the 2025 NCRF New Professionals Grant," she said. "I want to sincerely thank the National Court Reporters Foundation for this generous award. This motivates me even more as I begin my career, and I'm excited to grow and contribute to such an important and dynamic profession. I'm incredibly grateful for the support and excited to continue growing in this amazing career."

The [New Professionals Grant](#) spotlights rising talent in the court reporting and captioning professions. These annual awards recognize exceptional new professionals in court reporting and captioning who demonstrate dedication, skill, and promise in their early careers. 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.

"This year's applicant pool was truly outstanding," said NCRF Chair Doug Friend, FAPR, RDR, CRR (Ret.), from Vancouver, Wash. "Each candidate brought strong qualifications to the table,



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making the judges' decisions more challenging than ever. In the end four exceptional individuals rose to the top. It's a joy to reward their hard work and passion for this profession. We especially thank our NCRF donors who make these awards possible."

Now in its second year of expanding both the number of awards and the amounts given, the 2025 NCRF Grant program awarded \$4,000 each to two first-place recipients and \$2,000 each to two second-place recipients.

For more information about the New Professionals Grant and other award opportunities for students and professionals, visit the [scholarships and grants web page](#) or contact Jill Parker Landsman at jlandsman@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.

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 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.

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, 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.



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