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Celebrating the importance of choosing a certified professional *NCRA announces 10th consecutive Celebrate Certification Month*

RESTON, Va., April 20, 2026 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is hosting its 10th [Celebrate Certification Month](#) in May. NCRA is the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers.

Throughout the month members who hold national certifications from NCRA will share with their clients, employers, and the public why certification means they are working with the best in the business. May also serves as a reminder for members to keep increasing their skills by adding more certification letters after their names. The month is also designed to encourage those who have yet to earn a national certification to make a commitment to invest in themselves and earn one.

“My RPR and CRI certifications not only validate my skills and knowledge to my clients and students, but they raise my credibility and provide me with a competitive edge in the profession. NCRA certifications are an honor to earn and signify that the holder is committed to being an expert in their specialized fields,” said NCRA President-Elect Cathy Penniston, a court reporting instructor and independent broadcast captioner from Waukee, Iowa. She holds the nationally recognized professional certification of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI).

Penniston encourages all NCRA members and court reporting students to also use the month as a platform to remind the public that any artificial intelligence, digital recording, or automated speech recognition lacks the emotional feelings and ability to capture the nature or true meaning of what is said, making stenography the gold standard when it comes to accuracy and integrity in capturing the official record in the courtroom, boardroom, or classroom, or providing captioning services to those who benefit from it. The technology today's court reporters and captioners use in their jobs only enhances their skills, it does not replace them.

NCRA offers the following nationally recognized professional certifications:

[Registered Skilled Reporter \(RSR\)](#): The RSR recognizes those stenographic professionals who are looking to validate their beginning level of competency. Created as a steppingstone credential to ultimately achieve the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) designation, the RSR certification will offer the prestige of an NCRA certification for those early in their careers. Candidates do not need to be members of NCRA in order to take the RSR Exam. Candidates must pass three five-



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minute Skills Tests (SKT) that evaluate their skills in literary at 160 words per minute, jury charge at 180 words per minute, and testimony/Q&A at 200 per minute, with a 95 percent accuracy rate on each leg to pass.

[Registered Professional Reporter \(RPR\)](#): RPR stenographic court reporters are among the top contributors to the profession in terms of technology, reporting skills, and professional practices. The RPR has been offered since 1937, and many states currently accept or use the certification testing in place of a state certification or licensing exams. RPRs have passed tests requiring them to write up to 225 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate.

[Registered Merit Reporter \(RMR\)](#): RMRs must hold the RPR and have shown the ability to write at speeds of up to 260 words per minute with a 95 percent accuracy rate.

[Registered Diplomat Reporter \(RDR\)](#): The RDR designates the highest level of certification available to court reporters and distinguishes high-level, seasoned reporters as members of the profession's elite.

[Certified Realtime Reporter \(CRR\)](#): The CRR recognizes a realtime reporter's knowledge of current technologies and a high proficiency of at least a 96 percent accuracy rate at speeds up to 200 words per minute. Realtime reporting instantly translates the spoken word to text, allowing for an immediate transcription of proceedings.

[Certified Realtime Captioner \(CRC\)](#): CRCs have passed a skills test, a written exam, and attended an educational workshop. The CRC tests for competence and provides quality education to those who are interested in entering the captioning field

[Certified Reporter Instructor \(CRI\)](#): CRIs are educators, administrators, and reporters who are NCRA Associate members and have attended a 13-hour NCRA Council on Approved Student Education-sponsored session designed to expand their level of knowledge for becoming more effective realtime reporting instructors. CRIs are knowledgeable about the learning process, versed in the development of course syllabi and lesson plans, and are able to interact through role play of various courtroom scenarios.

[Certified Legal Video Specialist \(CLVS\)](#): CLVSs hold a high level of skill and understanding of all aspects of video deposition recording, court proceedings, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and deposition best practices.

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



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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 or asynchronous 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.

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 10,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator, and legal 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 DiscoverSteno.org.