



The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years.

NCRA members include

- **Official court reporters** who work in the courtroom to capture the official record of proceedings.
- **Freelance reporters** who work in the legal deposition arena, as well as often capturing business meetings for companies and government agencies.
- **Broadcast captioners** who provide both remote and live captioning of television programming and live events such as sports, theater, and more. In an emergency situation, broadcast captioners also provide vital information to 48 million Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- **CART captioners** who provide Communication Access Realtime Translation services to individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing in the classroom and other smaller settings.
- **Certified legal videographers** who work alongside court reporters to capture video depositions and other videography projects used to present evidence in court cases.

NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 14,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, captioning, educator, and videographer certification programs.

Capturing the record of important proceedings dates back to the fourth century B.C. The ampersand (&) is one of the earliest surviving forms of shorthand.

Today's court reporters can write 225 words per minute or more when capturing the spoken word.

Court reporters and captioners use cutting-edge technology to bring the spoken word to text accurately in real time. NCRA members are highly tech savvy as they rely on the latest in technology to get their jobs done. Today's steno machines are hooked up to computers and other devices to capture what the reporter is typing, unlike the previous machines that relied on paper.

Major priority

NCRA is also committed to growing this profession to ensure an ample supply of high-quality court reporters and captioners are available to fill the increasing number of job opportunities both in and out of the courtroom.

The [NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand program](#) uses volunteers from the profession to provide six-to-eight weeks of basic steno training to those who might be interested in pursuing it as a career choice. Participants learn to write the alphabet in steno by the end of the course. Across the nation, a growing number of NCRA members are getting involved in the program. Participants who complete the free course are then mentored about attending court reporting school. For more information, visit DiscoverSteno.org

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NCRA offers the Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR) educational certification, which reflects a recipient's increased proficiency in providing realtime.

With recent changes by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the availability of captioning in major television markets, and the growing number of states and localities also mandating that captioning be provided in public places, there is an increase in the need for professional captioners.

Realtime reporting in the courtroom offers an array of benefits, including:

- Realtime provides immediate access to the record.
- Realtime ensures that the record is being made.
- Realtime court reporters can simultaneously digitally record proceedings. Digital recording devices cannot simultaneously provide a realtime feed.
- Errors in a realtime feed can be detected and fixed as they happen.
- Everyone involved in a proceeding can have access to the realtime feed.

Legal Education Program

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) created a [Legal Education Program](#) that facilitates the education of the legal profession about the role of the court reporter through a court reporter-led seminar to educate law students, attorneys, and judges on *Making the Record* and on the value of stenographic reporting technology. Since 2010, NCRF has sent the free teaching tools to hundreds of people.

Opportunities within the profession

According to an industry outlook study, approximately 5,000 to 5,500 court reporters will retire over the next several years, creating a steady demand for new professionals to enter the field.

Across the nation, NCRA members are actively participating in state school counselor conventions to showcase the professions and provide hands-on demonstrations of how steno machines work, as well as the benefits of realtime.

In addition, FCC regulations require that all television programming in the 25 top markets of the United States provide closed captioning for their viewers. These regulatory changes have also led to a growing number of employment opportunities within the profession.

There have also been an increasing number of individuals who have turned to CART providers to assist them with their educational learning in the classroom setting.

Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that does not require a traditional four-year degree, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent over the next few years.

For more information, visit [NCRA.org](https://www.ncra.org) or contact NCRA at pr@ncra.org.