

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES IN COURT REPORTING

Stenographic reporting: Technology and skill combined

- ✓ Stenographers are the most technologically advanced, highly trained individuals for creating a written record.
- ✓ A stenographic record is the most accurate, reliable, and secure method available.
- ✓ When a transcript is needed, a single stenographic court reporter can immediately provide what it can take four or five digital transcriptionists to produce using a standard QWERTY keyboard.
- ✓ Stenographic reporting requires two years of specialized training and testing, as well as the completion of an internship.
- ✓ Additional certifications through the National Court Reporters Association and state associations give further assurances to consumers that they have hired a qualified court reporter.
- ✓ Stenographic court reporters assure that the record is verifiable as it happens, not after the fact.

Problems with digital recordings

- ✗ The integrity and accuracy of the transcript completely depends on the audio quality
- ✗ Inaudible statements
- ✗ Incorrect speaker identification
- ✗ Recordings lost or misplaced
- ✗ Equipment failure can cause entire proceedings to be lost
- ✗ Operators forget to turn on equipment
- ✗ No formal education required of digital reporters
- ✗ Unregulated transcriptionists
- ✗ Accuracy, efficiency, and quality are the most important things to consider when deciding which method to use for your depositions – not the empty promise of the savings of a few cents per page. A single "(inaudible)" could be very costly to your case.

Market readiness of ASR and AI

- ◆ The market readiness of automated speech recognition (ASR) is overhyped. Did the witness say "bologna amputation" or "below-knee amputation"? A live court reporter's constant brain processing works more efficiently than any computer software can and ensures an accurate record.
- ◆ Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning software claim a 99% accurate transcript in a controlled environment. The reality is that these accuracy rates plummet in uncontrolled instances, such as during a courtroom proceeding.
- ◆ The same dangers that exist with digital reporting also apply to AI/ASR because unregulated transcriptionists fill in the gaps where the technology falls short.

Your notice of deposition should indicate that the testimony will be taken before a stenographic court reporter. Your client, your case, and your records are too important to risk to substandard alternatives.



Choose a stenographic reporter

While the premium services of realtime and immediate rough drafts often come at a higher price, the same quality and skill go into a transcript provided on a non-expedited basis at market-competitive prices. Consumers do not pay a higher fee if not using a realtime feed, yet the same reporter with this impressive skill set will be assigned to cover your other cases, short or long in duration, wherever needed, all with redundant backups that help secure the record.

