

# THE RECORD IS TOO IMPORTANT



## The benefits of official stenographic reporters in courtrooms

- ✓ Stenographers undergo specialized training in court procedures, English, legal, and medical terminology. CEUs provide ongoing education.
- ✓ Stenographers make a live record of the proceeding from start to finish. Their steno cannot be tampered with, unlike files created from digital audio equipment.
- ✓ Stenographers are required to abide by laws, professional ethics codes, and court rules.
- ✓ Stenographers have four backups of every proceeding for preservation of the record, which includes synchronized audio backup.
- ✓ Stenographers differentiate between on- and off-record discussions, plus ask for clarification when noise or simultaneous cross talk could interfere with capturing an accurate record.
- ✓ Stenographers offer instant speech-to-text translation in real time. It's the most advanced technology available.
- ✓ Stenographers can provide instant read backs, rough drafts, and same-day transcripts.
- ✓ Maintenance costs of equipment are borne by individual stenographers as compared with court-owned digital equipment.

## The problems with digital electronic equipment in courtrooms

- ✓ Audio files are generally outsourced to one or more transcribers, some located outside the United States, with limited oversight or accountability, little to no advanced training, and unknown levels of security.
- ✓ The accuracy of the transcript depends on the quality of the audio recording equipment and the transcriber's equipment.
- ✓ Digital equipment provides four channels to record, which is problematic when it cannot filter bad noise out. Instead, it records all noise, making accurate transcription very difficult.
- ✓ Digital equipment failures sometimes go unnoticed for days, weeks, or months at a time.



## National Court Reporters Association

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