The captioning and court reporting professions are receiving national recognition as competitive and rewarding career opportunities. For those just learning about the field, take a look at some of its notable perks:

**A specialized skill**
- Captioners and court reporters convert the spoken word to text using a language called *stenography*.
- Students learn to write on a stenotype machine, which has just 22 keys.
- By spelling words phonetically, a trained stenographer can record more than 200 words per minute.

**Job security**
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) predicts an increased need for captioners and court reporters over the next ten years.
- Captioners will be in especially high demand as the FCC requires the expanded use of captioning for television, the internet, and other technologies.
- The average median salary, according to the BLS, is $55,120 per year.

**Flexibility**
- Captioners and court reporters don’t just work in court rooms. Stenographers are needed in *sports arenas, television studios, theaters, universities, convention centers*, and more.
- Career paths are versatile, providing structure for those who want it and flexibility for those who don’t.

**A rewarding career**
- Captioning and court reporting are professions that reward hard-working individuals focused on transcribing with *speed, accuracy, and ethics*.
- Since the FCC requires broadcast material to be captioned, more captioners are needed to work in positions from captioning live events to providing services to the *deaf and hard of hearing*.
- From *presidential speeches to high-profile courtroom trials*, the ability to caption and provide communication access to those with hearing loss is vital.
The **ampersand (&)** is one of the earliest examples of shorthand.

Capturing the record of important proceedings dates back to the **fourth century B.C.**

Annual salaries of captioners and court reporters can reach up to (or even exceed) **$80,000.**

Captioners provide services in **sports, education, the arts, and entertainment** for people with hearing impairments.

A traditional **four-year degree is not required** to become a captioner or court reporter.

Captioners and court reporters use **cutting-edge technology** to bring the spoken word to text accurately in real time.

In an **emergency situation**, broadcast captioners can provide vital information to 48 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

According to an industry outlook study, there is currently a **demand for more than 5,500 court reporters and captioners.**

The career offers the flexibility of **working from home** and setting your own hours as a freelancer.

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**For more information**, visit [DiscoverSteno.org](#) or email schools@ncra.org.

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**NCRA**

National Court Reporters Association

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