

DRA ANNUAL CONVENTION / April 26-28, 2024

Convention Schedule

(1.6 CEUs pending approval)

Friday-April 26:

8:30am - 5:00pm / Registration Open

9:45am - 10:45am / Concurrent Sessions

(0.10 CEUs)

Align Your Body & Mind

Speaker: Jamie Alonge

Reporters are no strangers to stress management and deserve to have practical tools readily available to preserve their well-being. Join us for an uplifting seminar that offers a holistic movement approach towards relieving accumulated tension in the body to recover your vital energy and circulation. Discover ancient techniques of posture alignment that increases stamina, and learn to find the stillness in motion that returns you to your center. End each work day feeling calm and awake.

Create a Bulletproof Routine

Speaker: January Johnstone

Do you often struggle with juggling your to-do list as a working reporter and feel like you have no time left at the end of the day to take care of yourself? Have you had plans to start a new exercise routine or improve your diet, but that last minute expedite has you rushing around, picking up fast food, chained to your desk for hours on end, and getting only a few hours of sleep? You won't want to miss this inspirational seminar that will include daily time management ideas, tips on healthy eating, and how to incorporate exercise into an already busy and tiring day. January will share fitness and self-care success habits that will help you take control of your schedule, your health, and your career so you can live your life to the fullest while juggling all of the different hats that you wear!

11:00am - 12:30pm / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

How It's Made: Language

Speaker: Molly Cooper

Calling all language enthusiasts! This seminar will explore the dynamic world of linguistics, the scientific study of language. It will unravel its three main pillars: phonology (sound), syntax (structure), and semantics (meaning). You will learn surprising facts about the history of English and how it has evolved. Don't miss out on this opportunity to discover fascinating new things about language!

Laptops for Legal Proceedings

Speaker: Tim Falk

How do I know when it's time to replace my laptop? What should I consider when picking out my new device? CPU speed, RAM, drive types, resolution -- do your eyes start to glaze over? What do these terms mean exactly and what is their purpose in a laptop? We will answer these questions and more as we go through the components of a laptop, one by one, clearly explaining their function and how they relate to your specific needs, as well as considering the overall price of the computer. Tim believes the more you know about technology, the more empowered you are to take necessary risks and the more value you can provide to your clients.

12:30pm to 1:30pm / LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30pm - 4:00pm

(0.25 CEUs)

CAT Training / CaseCAT, ProCAT, and Eclipse

Bring your equipment and sharpen your tools with hands-on CAT training.

4:15pm - 6:15pm

(0.20 CEUs)

We Fight the Law....and You Win!

Speakers: Ed Howard, Mary Pierce, Stephane Leslie, Cindy Vega

Our longtime Sacramento advocate Ed Howard offers both: (i) An insider's view of court reporting in California's Capitol: electronic reporting, firm oversight, title protection, and what is coming for your profession this year. (Hint: Could be big!) (ii) "There Oughta be a Law." Ed leads the always-fun discussion where members identify and advocate for what they would like to see as part of our advocacy agenda. Many laws benefitting you have started in seminars just like this one!

6:30pm to 9:00pm / Captain's Cocktail Party

Don your Maritime 'dress whites' and enjoy delicious appetizers and crisp cocktails while mingling amongst longtime and first-time shipmates. For your entertainment, karaoke will be on deck. Line up your favorite tunes to perform and let's make this one unforgettable night, DRA style!

Saturday-April 27:

8:00am / Registration Open

8:00am - 9:00am / Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 6:00pm / Vendor Hall Open

9:00am - 11:00am / Keynote Seminar

(0.20 CEUs)

Rise Above the Chaos / Speaker: Carolyn Gross

When bombarded with constant uncertainty and all the turmoil from AI and digitally distanced lives, how are you surviving? This program offers concise strategies to help you minimize internal vs. external chaos and gives you the tools to fill your mind with ninja strength. Navigate where you are with tactics to redefine and move forward with clarity. Learn to gauge how chaos is affecting you and shift your perspective to rise & realize the lessons learned from Chaos the Great Teacher! (1) Review the categories of chaos and their impact on performance. (2) Learn strategies to help you fortify your strength in challenging times. (3) Build your efficacy to create a mindset for success. (4) Realign yourself quickly when productivity is marginalized.

11:00am - 11:30am / Morning Break, Vendor Hall open

11:30am to 1:30pm / Saturday Luncheon / President's Remarks and Awards

Meet the 2024-2025 Board of Directors, Distinguished Service Award presentation, Student Scholarship Award presentations

1:30pm - 3:00pm / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

Terminate Transcript Turmoil - Part I

Speaker: Anissa Nierenberger

What if a small change in HOW you edit could result in better realtime in only one week. The SADA editing method will change your life! We'll do a 180-degree spin and rescue you from seeing the same mistakes over and over. The "Simpler Syllables" book compliments this seminar.

Secure Your Financial Future

Speakers: Michael Martin, Tali Vaughn

Do you want to learn more about the benefits of setting up a retirement plan for you and your business? Please join Michael Martin, CRPS (Chartered Retirement Plan Specialist), and Tali Vaughn, QKA(Qualified 401k Administrator), both specialists in working with business owners; as they discuss the different types of retirement plans available, how to choose the best plan for your business, and the significant tax benefits/deductions that come along with it. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to secure your financial future and grow your business with a retirement plan that works for you.

3:00pm - 3:30pm / Afternoon Break, Vendor Hall open

3:30pm - 5:00pm / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

Terminate Transcript Turmoil - Part II

Speaker: Anissa Nierenberger

Let's talk about your visions for the future! We'll review the SADA concept from the first seminar, talk about families of prefixes and suffixes, and the importance of consistency. We'll learn a way to make stacking work for you! This presentation builds upon the original Terminate Transcript Turmoil.

Tech Talk 2024

Speaker: Mike Hensley

Explore the cutting edge of court reporting technology with Mike Hensley, RDR, in this dynamic seminar. Delve into software advancements, discover essential accessories, and master professional practices for an unparalleled workflow efficiency. Join us as Mike, an expert in the field, unravels the intricacies of modern tools, offering insights that elevate your court reporting experience. From innovative software solutions to must-have accessories, this seminar is a gateway to optimizing your skills in the ever-evolving landscape of court reporting technology.

5:00pm to 6:00pm / Vendor Champagne Reception and Court Reporter Crack-Ups

Meet us in the vendor hall for champagne and laughs, as we share our funny and strange encounters in this exciting and unpredictable profession.

8:00pm to 10:00pm / Late Night Game Night

Keep the action going after dinner with bingo, trivia, and more!

Sunday- April 28:

7:30am / Registration open

7:30am - 8:30am / Continental Breakfast

8:00am - 2:00pm / Vendor Hall open

8:30-10:00am / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

Facts From Firm Owners

Speakers: Evelyn Mah, Brenda Peterson, Paula Behmke, Mary Pierce

Come join us to pick the brains of four agency owners with a combined 169 years of experience. Evelyn Mah of Abrams Mah & Kahn in Orange County, Brenda Peterson of Peterson Reporting in San Diego, Paula Behmke of Behmke Reporting in San Francisco, and Mary Pierce of Pantera Court Reporters started their agencies from the ground up. These agency owners will share their stories of their starts and challenges. What can you expect in terms of expenses and overhead? Are you familiar with what responsibilities an agency has for the handling of transcripts? How can you rope in your own clients and maintain them? How can you strike a balance of pleasing your clients and your reporters? Bring your list of questions if you're interested in opening an agency, whether large or small.

Let's Clean Out Your Dictionary: Maintaining Your Million Dollar Tool

Speaker: Anissa Nierenberger

"I need to clean out my dictionary!" Reporters say this ALL the time! But what does this really mean? Why do you need to clean it out? What are you seeing that's causing you grief? We'll answer some very important questions before we can finally scour your million-dollar tool! Ms. Dictionary Jumpstart herself is the dictionary expert and she will help you navigate this process. Stop letting your dictionary break you! Let's show your dictionary some love so that you can show off your radiant realtime!

Mock California CSR Exam / Students only

Speaker: Heatherlynn Gonzalez

Nervous about the CSR exam? Wonder how it all works? This presentation will give you a chance to remove the mystery, ask questions, and learn some helpful hints to make the state exam less intimidating. The 'mock' exam will follow the presentation.

10:00am - 10:30am / Morning Break, Vendor Hall open

10:30am - 12:00pm / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

Explore & Discover: A Look into Voice Writing

Speakers: Judy Moreno, Steph Cole, and Kathleen Keenaghan

Did you know that voice writers can practice in all but four states in the United States? Did you know voice writers use the same software as machine writers to produce a transcript? Judy will be joined by her colleagues (previous students) in presenting how the school program pivoted from machine writing to voice writing, and started producing CSRs within a few months. She will be sharing all the similarities between a machine writer and a voice writer, and what you need to know to become licensed in California as both a machine writer and voice writer. Begin your quest today...

Electronic Transcripts Required by CA Courts and Deposition Transcripts Too (YesLaw!)

Speaker: Kathryn Filley

Per California Code of Civil Procedure section 271 (CCP271), as of January 1, 2023, all official reporters and official reporters pro tempore shall deliver transcripts in electronic format to the court in compliance with the California Rules of Court 8.144. This session will provide instructions on how to use the YesLaw software to produce 8.144 compliant transcripts should you need to file court transcripts or appeal transcripts. Did you know that electronic transcripts produced with your CAT software do not meet the 8.144 requirements? Deposition reporters will want to add these new features to their transcripts too. We will cover training options including official training video courses, providing you with 24/7 step by step training covering all aspects of transcript production for officials, from installing and activating the software to unpublishing a multi-volume transcript.

12:00pm to 1:00pm / LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00pm - 2:00pm Concurrent Sessions

(0.10 CEUs)

Breaking Down the CCRR

Speaker: Andrea Rinker-Chavez

Have you ever wondered what goes into creating a realtime certification test? Are you gearing up for your first attempt, or maybe wondering why you've been so close in the past but just can't quite nab those coveted letters after your name? Join us as we break down CalDRA's California Certificate in Realtime Reporting examination with one of its composers, Andrea Chavez. She'll give you all the tips and tricks you'll need to obtain Realtime Rockstar status!

Deep Dive into Speed & Realtime Tests: Navigating the Landscape

Speaker: Lindsay Stoker

Join us for an enlightening seminar led by Lindsay Stoker, a distinguished veteran in the court reporting and captioning industry with over 17 years of experience. In this engaging session, Lindsay will provide a comprehensive overview of the certification landscape, shedding light on the various certifications available and their significance, emphasizing the critical role certifications play in the professional journey of court reporters and captioners. Delving into the heart of the matter, Lindsay will share expert tips and strategies for successfully navigating advanced speed and realtime certification tests. Drawing from her wealth of experience, she will provide valuable insights on effective practice routines, time management, and the mindset needed to excel in these crucial assessments.

2:30pm - 4:00pm / California Certificate in Realtime Reporting (CCRR) Exam

Separate Registration Required (Register in advance or same-day)

Doors open/Check-in: 2:30

Warm up: 2:30-3:00

Doors close: 3:00

Test begins: 3:15