

DRA ANNUAL CONVENTION / May 2-4, 2025
Ventura, California
Convention Schedule
(1.60 CEUs pending approval)

Friday-May 2:

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

9:15am - 10:15am / Concurrent Sessions

(0.10 CEUs)

Conquer Your Day with PB&J (Postures-Breath-Joy)

Speaker: Terry Littlefield

Start your Friday morning with Terry (former court reporter and teacher) in this interactive and energizing one hour session. Dive into powerful strategies for whole-body wellness, stress relief, and maximizing productivity---all designed to help you thrive in your daily life. Kickstart your day with focus, move through your day with confidence, experience simple, yet powerful breathing practices to center your mind and create calm. All this is infused with Terry's signature blend of heart, humor and expertise. Don't miss this opportunity to move with intention, breathe with awareness, and spark some feelings of joy!

Level Up Your Court Reporting Game with Social Media

Speakers: Jack Janowicz, CSR, and Desiree Cooks, CSR

Are you a court reporter who's camera-shy or overwhelmed by the idea of promoting yourself online? Join Jack and Desiree, the experts in court reporting social media strategy, for an exciting seminar that's all about showing you how to shine on social media---no awkward videos or intimidating tech skills required! Whether you're looking to boost your visibility, connect with fellow professionals, or simply share your unique expertise, we've got you covered. By the end of the session, you'll have all the tools you need to create fun, authentic content that promotes YOU and your craft. Ready to hit "record and level up? Let's do this!

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

(0.15 CEUs)

From Freelancer to Founder: Navigating the Journey to Court Reporter Agency

Speaker: Ivy Reid, CSR

Join us for an inspiring seminar featuring Ivy Reid, a court reporter who transformed her freelance career into a growing multi-state reporting agency. With over ten years of experience in the industry, Ivy has grown and cultivated relationships and learned the back-end intricacies of the profession. In this session, Ivy will share valuable insights into the challenges and triumphs of building a business from the ground up. Attendees will learn about the essential skills needed to transition from freelance work to agency ownership, effective strategies for client acquisition, and tips for managing a team of reporters.

Are You Ready to Take Control of Your Financial Future?

Speaker: Brandon Sussman, CFP

Join Brandon for a dynamic and insightful presentation on financial planning, where we'll cover everything from retirement strategies and cash flow management to investments and distribution planning. Discover actionable tips and insights to make the most of your hard-earned assets. Plus, don't miss our eye-opening case study that reveals how your choices today can shape your retirement tomorrow. Whether you're just starting out or planning for the next chapter, this session is for you!

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

1:00pm - 3:30pm

(0.25 CEUs)

CAT Training / CaseCAT, ProCAT, and Eclipse

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

Trainers include: Jean Kim, Heather Logan and more.

3:45pm - 5:45pm

(0.20 CEUs)

We Fight the Law....and You Win! (Legislative update)

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

Join us for our annual legislative seminar with the very latest updates that every licensee needs to know!

Hear from our Sacramento lobbyist Ed Howard, a public interest lawyer and strategist, as well as DRA

Board members who will offer an insider's view of court reporting in California's Capitol, including

developments in electronic reporting, firm oversight, title protection, and the new requirements for

California CSRs that went into effect on January 1. Share in our "There Oughta Be a Law" segment,

where members identify and advocate for what they would like to see as part of our legislative agenda.

This grassroots brainstorming session with our members has yielded many critical laws over the years

that benefit us all. Hope to see you there!

6:30pm to 9:00pm / An Evening in Roma

Embrace the Convention theme, "Veni, Vidi, Vici"! Get whisked away to Europe and come dressed to

impress like the gods and goddesses of our profession that you are. Enjoy delicious appetizers and crisp

cocktails while mingling amongst longtime and first-time friends. For your entertainment, DJ Javier is

back to play your favorite tunes to dance and sing the night away!

Saturday-May 3:

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)

Pivot: When Life Hands You Lemons!

Speaker: Allison Hall, RDR, CRR, CRI, CSR

What to do when your life or your career throws a curveball? This inspirational and motivational seminar

will teach you how to pivot and make the best out of your situation; how to find opportunity in every

situation, how to maintain a positive attitude, and how to adapt and improve your circumstances.

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

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

Meet the 2025-2026 Board of Directors, Distinguished Service Award presentation, Student Scholarship

Award presentation, and more.

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

(0.15 CEUs)

AI and the Legal Industry: What's Changed, What's Changing, and What's Next

Speaker: Mike Friedland, Friedland Cianfrani LLP

This seminar will provide an introduction to recent developments in AI and its capabilities, and discuss the evolving role of AI in the legal industry. We will address the use of AI by lawyers and supporting professionals in litigation, and the impact of new AI applications in diverse areas of the law; from patent, copyright, trademark and trade secrets to employment, entertainment, insurance, and more.

A Day in the Life of Calendar: They Scheduled, I Assigned, They Confirmed. But is it Ever That Easy?

Speakers: Darcy Sparrell, Gina Velasco, Jesse Rubio, Rosie Lagunas

Join this great panel of calendar managers from SoCal agencies for a peek into the quick-paced, chaotic, sometimes comical, and always action-packed day in the life of a court reporting calendar manager! In this seminar we will share stories of mishaps and mayhem along with some of the inner workings of how calendar managers keep things running on schedule. By shedding light onto this less familiar but integral side of our fabulous industry, we hope to help court reporters gain a better understanding of what transpires leading up to their assignment and ultimately their appearance at a deposition.

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

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

(0.15 CEUs)

CRB's Best Practices – A Tour of Updated Recommendations

Speakers: Mary Pierce, CSR, and Cheryl Haab Scott, CSR, RDR, CRR, CCRR

Over the last year, the Court Reporters Board of California (CRB) has held multiple meetings of the Best Practices Pointers Task Force with the goal of updating the content of the current list of guideline documents, as well as developing new recommendations for CSRs licensed in California. Join past CalDRA presidents Mary Pierce and Cheryl Haab Scott for a thorough examination of the entire list of Best Practice Pointers, including any that are new or significantly changed as a result of the Task Force's efforts, so that you can be aware of and avail yourself of the advice these valuable documents provide.

Seeing and Conquering the Perils of Stress and Vicarious Trauma: A Seminar for Court Reporters

Speakers: ilene Gonzalez, LMFT, and Jodie Shurtleff, LMFT

Court reporters sit and listen to various cases, some of which include difficult and distressing content. This seminar will provide insight into some key indicators of stress or potential trauma reactions, and ways to engage in self-care to mitigate the effects of stress and vicarious trauma. We will guide you through understanding what vicarious trauma is, what types of experiences can cause stress or trauma reactions, how to recognize the signs you may be experiencing trauma or stress reactions, and self-care strategies for managing reactions and mitigating further negative impacts.

5:00pm to 6:00pm / Exhibitor-Vendor Reception

Meet us in the Exhibitor room for a toast to the Vendors! Browse through the many products and services the Vendors are showcasing for you, from steno products to self-care to must-have items!

Sunday- May 4:

7:30am / Registration open

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

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

8:30am - 10:00am / Concurrent Sessions

(0.15 CEUs)

Voice Writing – “Verbatim Collaboratio”

Speaker: Victoria Pittman, BA, CVR-CM-M, RCP, RVR, FAPR, RDR, CCR

Join your colleagues for an overview of how voice writing counterparts produce the verbatim record by using realtime technology and reporting skill. Discover the technique, understand the certification qualifications, and discuss how working together in collaboration, machine writers and voice writers can continue to serve the judicial system by providing the highest quality transcripts by implementing cutting-edge tools, realtime technology, and ethical behaviors.

Be Who You Are and Do It on Purpose: Driving Professional Growth through Focus and Passion

Speaker: Lindsay Stoker, CSR, RDR, CRR, CRC

Lindsay invites you to embrace Dolly Parton’s message: “Find out who you are and do it on purpose” as a catalyst for professional growth. This journey involves setting clear objectives, investing in new technologies and training, and reframing challenges as opportunities to refine skills. Ultimately, “doing it on purpose” means not only raising individual standards but also lifting up students and colleagues through mentorship and collaboration. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies to nurture their talents, expand their capabilities, and shape a professional identity that resonates at every stage of their reporting journey.

Level Up Your Steno and Voice Writing Skills by Harnessing the Power of AI with EV 360 Ultimate

Speaker: Jeff Moody, EV360 Educational Solutions

In this rapidly advancing digital world, staying ahead of the competition is crucial for professionals in all industries. When it comes to court reporting, the need for custom speed building resources can make all the difference in being a successful student and working professional. To address this need, EV360 Educational Solutions proudly presents ‘Create 360’, a groundbreaking software program that utilizes the latest technologies to create new court reporting speed building practice resources. Start your journey now and embrace the future of speed building practice with Create 360!

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

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

(0.15 CEUs)

Phrase Hard, Write Short!

Speaker: Allison Hall, RDR, CRR, CRI, CSR

Phrasing is the key to short writing. This session will teach you a system of phrasing that is easy to understand, possible to implement, and will leave you writing much shorter, with an overall cleaner file come editing time.

10:30am – 12:00pm / Concurrent Sessions (continued)
(0.15 CEUs)

You Got that Hearing in Court – Now WHAT?

Speaker: Diana Van Dyke, CSR

You've been wanting to take some work in court, but you aren't sure what to do once you get there? Maybe you're just curious about what to expect when you work as an official pro tem court reporter. Join me as I de-mystify the courtroom and our important role therein, In this session, I will share my court reporter origin story, and more importantly what to do and NOT to do when you cover that job in the courtroom. Also, what is "the well" and why you absolutely, positively MUST know!

"Mock" California CSR Exam / open to CR students only (no CEUs)

Speaker: Heatherlynn Gonzalez, CSR

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.

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

1:00pm - 2:00pm

(0.10 CEUs)

Fiat justitia, ruat caelum, "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall"

Speaker: Debbie Dibble, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CSR/CCR, and Mary Pierce, CSR

Jeopardizing Justice will lead attendees in an informational discussion designed to educate reporters on how to advocate for our profession when engaging with the Bench, Bar, and legal professionals. This seminar will share facts and talking points that will prepare you to speak intelligently about the risks and liabilities of Automated Speech Recognition (ASR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in legal proceedings, including concerns over accuracy, confidentiality, and the potential impacts on the rights of the public and their access to justice.

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

Separate Registration Required (Please register in advance)

Doors open/Check-in: 2:30

Warm up: 2:30-3:00

Doors close: 3:00

Test begins: 3:15

