



DEPOSITION  
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION  
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

## Student Newsletter – June 2011

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### **Reporter and Student Events:**

#### **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors will be meeting in Southern California on June 25th, 2011. Do you have anything you'd like us to discuss? Your district rep is your voice. Send them an e-mail with your questions or concerns.

#### **DRA'S STUDENT BARBECUE** NorCal date and location to be rescheduled – Stay tuned!



**Date:** Saturday, TBA, 2011  
**Start Time:** 11:00 am **End Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Price:** \$5 member, \$15 non-member

#### **CEU Grab-n-Go**

**Date:** September 24, 2011  
**Start Time:** 9:00 am **End Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Location:** TBD  
San Diego, California  
**More Info:** <http://www.caldra.org>

#### **DRA's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**Date:** February 24 - 26, 2012  
**Location:** Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa  
400 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA  
San Diego, California  
**More Info:** <http://www.caldra.org>



### **Current Legislative Update:**

#### Continuing Ed Bill Update:

In the March newsletter, we advised you that The Deposition Reporters Association is co-sponsoring California legislation with CCRA to enact continuing education requirements for court reporters, something that is long overdue and was one of the priorities set by you, our members, in DRA's "There Oughta Be A Law" fall 2010 seminars.

The continuing education legislation is Senate Bill 671, authored by Senator Curren Price. On April 25, 2011 the bill was heard before the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. We want you to know that you were well represented by three DRA committee members (Toni Pulone, Stephanie Grossman and Holly Moose), as well as our lobbyist, Ed Howard, all of whom spent the day at the Capitol speaking with legislators' staff and attending the hearing.

Toni Pulone, DRA's legislative chair, gave a terrific argument in favor of the bill. Yvonne Fenner, Executive Officer of the CR Board, was present to field questions. No one spoke in opposition. The bill passed 8 to 1. It now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee. We will advise you of the progress as it unfolds. The goal of continuing ed programs is to raise the level of competence and professionalism of the practitioners in the industry. As technology continues to change rapidly, as litigation grows more complex and the judicial system becomes more sophisticated, effective preparation and continuing education and development to meet the changing demands of the profession proves even more critical. In addition, it is paramount to stay abreast of the changing laws governing court reporters.

To that end, DRA will continue to endeavor to ensure that California reporters are at the top of their game, which is critical in this time of rampant and continued threat of replacement by electronic recording.

## Court reporter school demand up due to Casey Anthony case

It is a silent process, but is considered one of the most powerful tools during a trial.

Since 1942 the Stenotype Institute in Orlando has been training future court reporters, but now because of the Casey Anthony murder trial, more people are asking about their programs, some which can be completed in just under two years.

"They are writing in abbreviations, taking short cuts. They are able to write words and phrases in single key strokes and it makes it go faster. And they are not typing so much individual letters as they are able to type multiple letter at one time in order to be able to write those words," said Carl McGowen with the Stenotype Institute.

Those who are typing are cranking out about 25 words to 30 words a minute, but you are "writing" as a court reporter, everything is happening so fast, you are actually cranking out about 225 words a minute.

The pay is pretty good. The national average is \$62,000 per year. In Central Florida a court reporter can make between \$30 to \$80,000 per year.

The tool of the trade is a manual machine that is provided on a rental basis to help students get started, usually around the 4th semester they buy their own for about \$2,500 — an investment that will hopefully yield returns.

### DRA's Mission Statement:

DRA represents Certified Shorthand Reporters who report depositions and out-of-court proceedings in the State of California, as well as captioners and CART providers. DRA strives to preserve and enhance the stenographic reporting profession, ensure its integrity, and maintain its high standards and impartiality wherever stenographic services are required. DRA is committed to ensuring that the stenographic reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system.



## Father's Advice Re: Court reporting school:

*What was the best advice dad gave you about your career choice and your future?*

[Anne Torreano](#) "Keep your mouth shut." And you all know how closely I followed that advice!

[Derek Hoagland](#) Do your homework boy or you'll be singing hold the pickles, hold the lettuce, special order don't upset us...

[Rosalie Kramm](#) When I was 12 my Dad took me for a walk around the block, and he told me being a court reporter would be a great profession because I loved my typing class. He was right! Thanks, Dad.

[Christina Cleckler Lother](#) When we toured the court reporting school and the director told us about the 75% dropout rate of students, my dad said "I'm not putting a dime down for this unless you promise me you will do it." I heard those words in my ear everytime I got stuck on a speed test and wanted to give up. 26 years later, I am so glad he said that and I stuck

[Nancy Levinson Kramer](#) My dad told me to check out court reporting!!!

[Carolyn Mann](#) Slightly different angle: My dad told me I'd make a great lawyer. Since I've become a court reporter and seen both professions close up, I've never regretted ignoring his advice to go to law school!

[Sue Nenne Campana](#) "Keep your options open and never burn any bridges." I've tried to follow his advice and think I've done fairly well at it except maybe one small bridge that I just had to put a match to.

[Sabine Becker](#) My dad had his deposition taken and told me he thought it was something I would like. Fifteen years later and I'm still at it!

[Elaine Senick Cropper](#) My dad never gave advice on a career yet he spent hours playing catch with me and taught me all about baseball...I miss him 24 years already.

[Debbie Landi](#) He was just thrilled I decided NOT to major in theatre/drama anymore.

[Tami Smith](#) He told me, "It's not what you know; it's who you know." Knew somebody who pretty much assured I got my official's position.

### Did You know??

- DRA has an annual scholarship for students?
- A DRA Student Membership is **ONLY** \$30 annually?
- DRA has eight district reps to serve you, covering every county in California?
- DRA's Mentor Program is FREE?

Is there an issue you would like to know about? Have a question or a story to share?

Write to [studentneslettereditor@caldra.org](mailto:studentneslettereditor@caldra.org)



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