



DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Student Newsletter – October 2011

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Reporter and Student Events

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors will be meeting in Northern California (Oakland) on January 28, 2012. 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 16th Annual Convention

Date: February 24 - 26, 2012

Location: Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa
400 Cannery Row, Monterey, CA

More Info: <http://www.caldra.org>

APPLY TODAY FOR OUR 2011 SCHOLARSHIP!

WIN \$1000!

This is a reminder that the deadline to apply for a DRA student scholarships is December 1, 2011. The scholarships will be presented at the February 2012 convention in Monterey.

The Deposition Reporters Association is offering three scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to deserving court reporting students, currently enrolled in an approved court reporting program, that are in the 180-and-above speed classes, in qualifier classes, or sitting for the California CSR exam. An applicant sitting for the CSR must continue to be enrolled in school and maintain excellent attendance. The scholarship is intended to be used for school-related and court reporting-related expenses and may be used at the discretion of the recipient.

To be eligible, you must be a student member of DRA.

In addition to the completed application, an official school transcript, and a personal statement, each applicant must provide two (2) letters of recommendation (from teachers, counselors, community or religious leaders, employers, or other nonfamily members) to be sent directly to the Scholarship Committee (see address below and on the application form).

Apply online at: <http://bit.ly/DRAScholarships>

All information will be kept in strictest confidence within DRA's Scholarship Committee and Board of Directors.

Visit our Web site at www.caldra.org

Integrity, Leadership, Education

Current Legislative Update

Continuing Ed Bill Update (SB 671)

The Governor vetoed SB 671, our continuing education bill (co-sponsored with CCRA). The Governor's veto message announced a skepticism of continuing education generally as the reason for the veto. He did not single out our profession as unworthy of CE. We had secured internal support from the Department of Consumer Affairs, and they were surprised about the veto. This is, of course disappointing, but as we noted at our Fall Grab 'N Go, the vetoes can't be predicted. DRA is running down more information, and we have asked our legislative advocate to lay out options before our next Board meeting.

http://gov.ca.gov/docs/SB_671_Veto_Message.pdf

Recent News Articles of Interest

Machines Incapable of Replacing Court Reporters

The following was submitted in response to the October 7, 2011 Napa Register article:

"In response to last week's Register article regarding the layoff of several court reporters by the Napa Courts (Layoffs in court system to cost civil disputants, Oct. 7), I would appreciate the opportunity to explain exactly what court reporters do to earn those seemingly inflated salaries, and to argue why we should never be replaced by electronic recording, as is so often suggested. Frankly, if I weren't a court reporter myself, I would be thinking the same thing, but of course, there's more to the story..."

(To read the full article please visit: <http://www.caldranews.org/machines-incapable-of-replacing-court-reporters/>)

President's Message – DRA Takes the Fight to the State Bar (10/4/11)

Hello, DRA! I'm writing to you from the convention floor of the State Bar of California's 84th Annual Meeting, the year's biggest gathering of lawyers, where DRA is appearing in person for three straight days to fight for our professional respect and our professional ethics. Along with myself are two DRA Past Presidents, board members and volunteers. We are here staffing our super cool DRA booth, which is tricked out with:

● **A BRAND NEW VIDEO** explaining why law firms should forbid their assistants and paralegals from accepting "if you book a depo, I will give you this goody" offers. (You really, really need to watch and distribute this hot video – [click here](#).) We also are passing out DRA's recent article in the Legal Secretaries magazine ([click to read it](#)), and, of course, the Hanson Bridgett legal memo explaining the tax consequences of incentives. ([click to review](#)).



● **QR CODES** are being scanned so everyone can download it all directly to their mobile phones. Pretty cool, huh? And the good news is our message is really well received. The hundreds of attorneys and legal support staff we are speaking with have had no idea this incentive game is going on. They are disgusted at the thought and promise to end the practice. In fact, officers of The Legal Secretaries and The Paralegals Associations are very interested in this fight, have asked for more information, and we've started talks about putting on seminars at their meetings.

DRA sister, brother, know this: Wherever there is an opportunity for DRA to fight for you, that is where DRA is going to be. Whether it be writing articles, passing laws to protect you, or educating clients for three straight days, we've got your back.

Don't Forget about DRA's mentor program

DRA is committed to ensuring that the shorthand reporting profession remains a viable and integral part of the legal system. To this end, we have designed a Mentor Program that will meld the enthusiasm of new reporters and students with the maturity of the more seasoned reporter. New reporters and students will be matched up with experienced reporters in the state of California in order to provide them with relevant guidance, support and encouragement during the beginning stages of their new careers.

Do you need some extra help, personal attention, or have questions regarding reporting? If so, then sign up for our mentoring program and receive guidance or help from a professional working court reporter. Working reporters understand what difficulties you face as students and new reporters. We are willing to volunteer our time to get to know you, praise you for your achievements and lend encouragement for those tough times when you take the CSR, attend your first deposition, or are making the switch from being an official to freelance reporter.

If you are a current student at the 140-level speed and above or any reporter that wishes to be mentored, and you are interested in participating, please go [read more](#), or fill out the [Mentee Application form](#). If you have further questions, we can be reached at 925.905.2611 or email the Mentor Program coordinator at: jcain@meritreporting.com. Once we receive your application, we will endeavor to make the best match possible for both mentor and mentee.

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.

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 studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org

