



DEPOSITION
REPORTERS ASSOCIATION
OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Student Newsletter – December 2011

Lorrie L. Marchant, Editor – studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org

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. All DRA members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board meetings.



DRA's 16th Annual Convention

Date: February 24 - 26, 2012

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

More Info: www.caldra.org/2012

Current Legislative Update

Fired & Fined: Ed Howard Speaks At Legal Secretaries Conference On Consequences Of Gifting

IS YOUR DEPO GETTING YOU IN HOT WATER?

On November 12, 2011 DRA's lobbyist, Ed Howard, presented an earth-shaking seminar at the Legal Secretaries, Inc., fall conference at the Sacramento Marriott Rancho Cordova. This is precisely the audience DRA has been trying to reach with our message. DRA has done it again.

In the August issue of "The Legal Secretary" magazine, Ed authored a full-page article on the tax consequences to court reporters who offer incentives in exchange for booking depositions, and the tax consequences to the recipients of those goodies.

Click this link to read the article:

<http://bit.ly/LegalSec2011DRA>

Click this link to read the tax memo:

<http://bit.ly/GiftsOrKickbacks>

On November 12, Ed Howard went over it again in person with a full house of legal secretaries. He delivered our message and answered their questions. It is our hope we can make a difference in how business is conducted in the future and once again get back to fairness: earning business based on the quality of one's products and services.

DRA's WORK IS NEVER DONE!

Visit our Web site at www.caldra.org

Integrity, Leadership, Education

Student-to-student secrets of success in court reporting school

Written by Michael McMorran

To this day I still remember my first day of court reporting school. Our school administrator, speaking to a group of about 10 to 12 students, myself included, informed us that the attrition rate of this field of study was in the low 90 percentile. That meant that realistically only one or two of the students in that room would go on to graduate. At that moment, I decided that the challenge had been laid out in front of me, and I was going to be one of those students.

Over the past two years, I have encountered so much in my time in court reporting school, accomplished a great deal, learned more than I ever thought I would, and discovered that there was more to this field than I had ever envisioned there would be when I filled out my enrollment paperwork in October of 2009. I can safely say that I would not have experienced the success that I have had in school if it wasn't for so many great reporters all over the country as well as my fellow reporting students. So it is my hope that I can share some of the things that have allowed me to thrive in the court reporting scholastic environment with students that I haven't yet had the pleasure of meeting as well as some familiar faces.

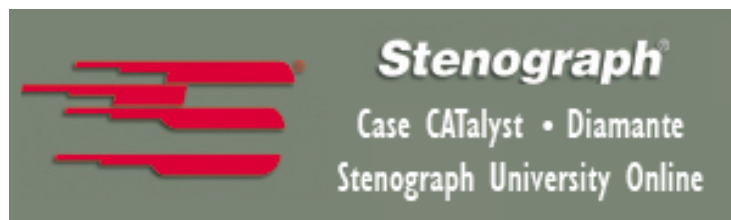
It all starts with Theory. Having a full and complete grasp of your Theory will be the ultimate determining factor in how quickly one progresses through speed. Even to this day in high speeds, I find myself learning things about my Theory that I never knew. If you don't know how to write it, how will you write it when it's said at speeds at or above your top writing speed?

While I've achieved many things thus far in my scholastic journey, the thing that I am still most proud of is the fact that I never missed a day in the entire six-month theory curriculum that my school requires of its students. I always felt like there wasn't a day that went by in theory where I didn't come away with learning something new, and I knew that if I missed a day, it would have an adverse effect on my progression in speed classes down the road.

Never compare yourself with others. To this day, I've yet to hear of two students in court reporting school passing all of the same tests, advancing to all of the speeds on the exact same day, and finishing the program at the exact same time. The fact is that there will always be someone faster than you and someone who thinks that you are progressing faster than they are. The trick is to always look for self-progression. One misconception about court reporting school is that progression can only be measured in speeds obtained. The truth is, progression can be measured in several different ways. It can be speeds passed in a quarter. It can be being unable to write at your current speed at the start of a quarter and then being able to write at it for sustained periods of time by the end of the quarter. It can be going to class every day and giving 100 percent effort and never faltering from that no matter what life throws at you. As long as you continue to progress in court reporting school, you will continue to move through the program and eventually reach the finish line.

Finding a mentor is paramount, in my opinion, to success in court reporting school and carrying that success during the transition to the field. There is so much knowledge about this profession to be obtained outside of the classroom environment, and the only way to do that is by exposing yourself to the realities of the profession. I was fortunate to be blessed with my mentor as soon as I finished my first quarter of speed by enrolling in the NCRA Virtual Mentor Program. My mentor, upon making initial contact with me, insisted that we meet for a face-to-face meeting so that she could learn about me and so I could lay out any questions that I had for her out on the table. This was one of the best things that could have happened for me at the early stages of my court reporting training as she introduced me to the importance of being a member of my state associations, and I have since been to every convention and seminar put on by my state associations.

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Student-to-student secrets of success in court reporting school (Continued)

To piggy-back off of that, it's absolutely imperative that reporting students attend at least one convention while in school. By doing so, it allows us as students to try out all of the various professional machines so we are able to make an informed decision prior to investing \$5,000 on a machine. By attending these conventions, it also allows students to see the differences between the various CAT softwares and allows for each individual student to determine what software is best for them. Perhaps the most beneficial reason of all, however, to attend as many conventions and seminars as possible as a student is for the vast amount of networking opportunities that exist there. I've met so many great and inspiring reporters at functions held by both DRA, Deposition Reporters Association of California, and CCRA, California Court Reporters Association, that I always come away from each one with a renewed sense of motivation, an increased knowledge about many different facets of my soon-to-be profession, and a new relationship that will benefit me both on the personal and professional levels down the road.

Last but not least, always keep a positive mindset while in school. Criticizing yourself, the person sitting next to you, the person who sneezed during a test, the school, will always lead you right back to square one. It's a waste of your time, the money that you spend to attend school every day, and most of all it is contagious. However, while negativity is contagious, so is positivity. Be sure to congratulate your classmates and your peers whenever they pass a test, as chances are they will likely do the same for you. Say hello to a classmate that you've never met and take the time to introduce yourself. I always try to think of my school, Sage College, as the best school around because I put in the effort to try and make it the best, and each and every student should feel the same about their school.

We as students are all in this together and as I mentioned in my opening paragraph, becoming a court reporter starts with wanting it. Once you've established that about yourself and are willing to do everything possible in order to obtain that goal, you will find yourself on the path to future success.

Michael McMorran
Sage College Student (200 WPM) and future CSR

Do you have a student-to-student letter that you would like to submit? If so, please e-mail it to: studentnewslettereditor@caldra.org.

COMEDY RELIEF

Proofreading Is a Dying Art

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says

Really? Ya think?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

Good-for-nothin' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

See if that works any better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace

I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Ya think?!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Who would have thought!

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

They may be on to something!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge

He probably IS the battery charge!

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Do they taste like chicken?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Did I read that right?

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, http://www.caldra.org/mentee_application.asp. 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.

DRA WISHES YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

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



DRA_TWEETS