



The Deposition Reporter

Deposition Reporters Association OF CALIFORNIA, INC.








DRA NEWS

Deposition Reporters Association

OF CALIFORNIA, INC.

Integrity, Leadership, Education



2011 Board of Directors

[Home](#) [Latest News](#) [Announcements](#) [Upcoming Events](#) [Laws & Regs](#) [Newsletters](#) [DRA Website](#)

News Highlights

- ▶ [CRB v U.S. Legal – Breaking News](#)
- ▶ [Kathy Helmcamp will be greatly missed](#)
- ▶ [Another View: In real life, court reporters count](#)
- ▶ [Live Court Reporters Better Than Tape-Recording Systems](#)
- ▶ [AB 803 – did not pass.](#)
- ▶ [Hackensack church offers captioning for hearing-impaired](#)
- ▶ [SB 671 hearing – 8 to 1, bipartisan vote. PASS!](#)
- ▶ [California's Court Reporters Fight to Protect Their Turf](#)

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▶ oops! We'll be back soon.

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MAY
3

CRB v U.S. Legal – Breaking News

by DRAADMIN

COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA v. U.S. LEGAL SUPPORT You've heard about it, you've read about it, and now you can see it with your own eyes! U.S. Legal says heck-no-we-won't-pay <http://bit.ly/USLEGALNO> The California Court Reporters Board fires back <http://bit.ly/CRBBAM> The Deposition Reporters Association has been filing complaints of gift-giving violations for YEARS with the CR Board. With our members' livelihoods at stake, we've sat through many meetings with key people, spent hours calling, writing, but never lost hope that someday one of our complaints would be accepted and acted on by the CR Board. Finally, last year, a subpoena

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MAY
2

Kathy Helmcamp will be greatly missed

by DRAADMIN

One of California's strongest court reporting advocates died earlier this week. Kathy Helmcamp served as an official court reporter with the Los Angeles County Superior courts. She succumbed to

in this issue:
CR Board Sues U.S. Legal
ER Bill Is Dead!
NCRA Bans Incentive Gifts
DRA Co-Sponsors Continuing Ed Bill
and much, much more



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

Court Reporters Board Sues U.S. Legal

CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS BOARD FILES SUIT AGAINST U.S. LEGAL

Back in December we advised you that U.S. Legal - a firm not owned by a CSR - had been fined by the Court Reporters Board (Board) for violating the Board's gift-giving rules.

DRA and CCRA applauded the Board's action as an important first step in ensuring fair and level marketplace competition between deposition firms owned by California CSRs (licensees) and those not owned by licensees. While firms owned by licensees have complied with the Board's modest regulation limiting the value of gifts to \$100 annually, those firms owned by corporations have apparently ignored the regulation and have continued to offer increasingly more valuable gifts in exchange for business.

U.S. Legal was found to be in clear violation of the rules, was cited and fined by the Board and is refusing to pay the fine, presumably on the grounds that it does not believe the Board has jurisdiction over it.

DRA AND CCRA AGAIN APPLAUD THE BOARD'S ACTION, THIS TIME FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH A LAWSUIT.

Click here to view the court documents:

www.caldra.org/MediaFiles/US_Legal's_Response_to_CA_CRB_Fine.pdf

http://www.caldra.org/MediaFiles/CA_CRB_v_US_Legal_Complaint.pdf

Together we will continue to go to bat for all licensed deposition professionals and fight for a level playing field.

JOIN DRA AND JOIN THE FIGHT!

http://caldra.org/join_dra.asp

MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WAR CHEST!

<http://caldra.org/warchest.asp>

EVERY PENNY COUNTS.

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CHARLES J. STEVENS
cjs@sojllp.com

FILE NUMBER
1495.0002

November 16, 2010

Via Federal Express

Ms. Connie Conkle
Enforcement Analyst
Court Reporters Board of California
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 230
Sacramento, CA 95833

RECEIVED

NOV 17 2010

Re: *U.S. Legal Support*
Citation No. 2010-24

Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Court Reporters Board of CA

Dear Ms. Conkle:

We represent U.S. Legal Support ("USL") and are writing in response to the above-referenced citation served on USL by the Court Reporters Board. The Board, however, lacks jurisdiction to issue this citation to USL.

As you know, the Board issued a subpoena to USL in September 2009. In our letter dated October 14, 2009, a copy of which is enclosed, we informed the Board that USL would not respond to the Board's subpoena since USL does not fall under the Board's jurisdiction. Our letter cited Business & Professions Code section 8008, numerous publications issued by the Board, the Board's "Firm Registration Task Force," and the California Court Reporters Association, all of which confirmed that firms such as USL do not fall under the Board's jurisdiction. Indeed, the Board documents cited in our letter repeatedly refer to the Board's desire to expand its jurisdiction to cover firms like USL. The Board's jurisdiction, however, has not been expanded by the Legislature. Nor has the Board responded to the invitation in our prior letter to explain the legal basis for its assertion of jurisdiction over USL.

We were therefore surprised to learn that the Board has now purported to impose a fine on USL for an alleged violation of a statute and regulation that plainly do not apply to it. We note further that the citation refers to Business and Professions Code § 125.9 and 16 C.C.R. § 2480 as authority for the Board's citation, but those sections explicitly refer to the issuance of a citation to a "licensee." Since the Board knows full well that USL is not a licensee, there is no legal basis for even issuing this citation.

STEVENS, O'CONNELL & JACOBS LLP

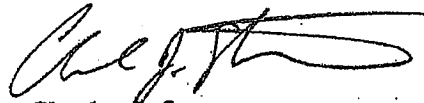
Ms. Connie Conkle

November 16, 2010

Page 2

Because the citation, like last year's subpoena, falls outside the Board's authority, USL is not subject to this fine and will not pay it. If the Board believes it does in fact have jurisdiction to issue citations to non-licensees, we request that you advise us of the legal authority for that position.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Stevens

CJS/sc
Encls.



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

NCRA Bans Incentives Gifts

DRA DOES IT AGAIN!

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT DRA'S JOINT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO NCRA BANNING GOODIES OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR BUSINESS HAS PASSED!

You know that DRA filed the complaint that led to discipline against a Very Large court reporting firm for violating the California Court Reporters Board's regulations on gift-giving.

You know that DRA, working collaboratively with our colleagues at CCRA, obtained the Hanson Bridgett memo outlining the tax problems with goodies-for-business offers.

Now DRA is pleased to announce that because of its tireless work within NCRA -- drafting language and lobbying against goodies-offered-for-business arrangements -- NCRA has voted to adopt our proposed resolution entirely banning such quid-pro-quo offers!

That's right. Banning it.

Here is the back story: DRA has made fighting these practices a huge priority. Our first resolution presented to NCRA last year as its newest affiliate sought to ban these kickback-type arrangements.

We were honored to be joined in this effort by our invaluable colleagues from Arizona, Florida, Washington DC, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Washington. These states signed on to our resolution advocating to ban the offering of goodies in exchange for business.

After lengthy discussion and consultation with their Committee on Professional Ethics, the NCRA Board approved the following language. The NCRA Code of Professional Ethics Provision No. 8 will now say:

"A member shall refrain from giving, directly or indirectly, any gift or anything of value to attorneys or their staff, other clients or their staff, or any other persons or entities associated with any litigation, which exceeds \$100 in the aggregate per recipient each year. Nothing offered in exchange for future work is permissible, regardless of its value. Pro bono services as defined by the NCRA Guidelines for Professional Practice or by applicable state and local laws, rules and regulations are permissible in any amount."

Why is this change important?

- It means that incentives or rewards, no matter the dollar value, in direct exchange for scheduling of court reporting services is expressly prohibited by NCRA.
- It means that with NCRA's recent change to its advertising policy, any entity or individual purchasing advertising from NCRA must also agree to abide by this new Code of Ethics.

[DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraprofessional
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

OTHER LINKS

[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

- It means that Court Reporting Boards across the country will soon look to this revised language as THE national standard so they can work to adopt these same ethics and they can begin to enforce them within their own jurisdiction. DRA will soon be bringing just such a proposal to the California Board.

- It means that DRA has dealt another blow to those who demean and corrode our profession by peddling fruit baskets or theater tickets in exchange for business instead of obtaining it on the bases that lawyers' clients care about (quality and price) and that justice cares about (fairness and accuracy).

WE CHANGED NATIONAL POLICY ... FOR YOU.

And we did it together!

For years DRA wanted to have a voice at NCRA, but only state affiliates can submit resolutions. These resolutions are frequently the driving force behind changes in NCRA policies or procedures.

Thank you to all who helped us to become an NCRA state affiliate, and thank you to Toni Pulone, Holly Moose and Lisa Migliore Black for drafting and presenting our winning resolution!

If you haven't joined DRA by now, what is holding you back?

JOIN THE FIGHT. SUPPORT THE CAUSE!

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EVERY PENNY COUNTS.

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[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

Nevada Court Reporters Defeat Dangerous Legislation

Several weeks ago, the Nevada Court Reporters Association (NVCRA) was forced to deal with a new legislative threat that literally popped up overnight that would have capped the amount that court reporting firms and freelancers could charge for transcripts. The legislation, AB 353, would prohibit a court reporter or court reporting firm from charging more than an amount set by statute per page for copies of a transcript. NVCRA quickly mobilized its members and heavily attended the hearing on the legislation and had several individuals speak out in opposition of the legislation, including attorneys. After the hearing, the sponsor of the legislation suggested that the bill, as written, was not the best legislative solution for the perceived problem and NVCRA was able to schedule a meeting with the bill's sponsor. After a successful meeting, the legislator did agree to pull the bill and work with NVCRA to find a more suitable solution to his and other attorneys' perceived problems with court reporting fees. Additionally, NVCRA and the legislator are working to strengthen the Nevada State Court Reporter Licensure Board so that they have more ability to penalize firms that break existing laws. Below is the Esquire court reporting invoice which gave rise to the perceived problem and the concern for the need to cap transcript charges:

[AB 353 Invoice.pdf](#)

Assembly Bill 353

Prohibits a court reporter or court reporting firm from charging more than \$2.50 per page for copies of a transcript under certain circumstances.

Assemblyman Tick Segerblom

Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee • March 25, 2011



Category		Value
Cost		\$1,611.85
Pages		341
Cost per page		\$4.73



Esquire Deposition Solutions
PO Box 934157
Atlanta GA 31193-4157
www.esquiresolutions.com

Invoice # EQ233020

Invoice Date	02/04/2011
Terms	NET 45
Payment Due	03/06/2011
Date of Loss	
Name of Insured	
Adjustor	
Claim Number	

RICHARD SEGERBLOM ,ESQ.
LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD SEGERBLOM
700 S. THIRD STREET
LAS VEGAS, NV 89101

Assignment	Case	Assignment #	Shipped	Shipped Via
01/05/2011		196315	02/02/2011	UPS

Description	Amount
Services Provided on 01/05/2011, [REDACTED]	
ONE COPY OF TRANSCRIPT PACKAGE	\$ 1,426.85
EXHIBITS	\$ 78.30
LITIGATION SUPPORT DISK	\$ 49.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,554.15
ARCHIVING FEE	\$ 30.00
DELIVERY	\$ 27.70
	<hr/>
	\$ 57.70
Tax:	\$ 0.00
Paid:	\$ 0.00
Amount Due On/Before 03/21/2011	\$ 1,611.85
Amount Due After 03/21/2011	\$ 1,773.04

Tax Number: 22-3779684

or pay online at **www.esquireconnect.net**



Payment Due: 03/06/2011

Amount Due After 03/21/2011 **\$ 1,773.04**

Esquire Deposition Solutions
PO Box 934157
Atlanta GA 31193-4157
www.esquiresolutions.com

Thank you for your business!



**RICHARD SEGERBLOM ,ESQ.
LAW OFFICES OF RICHARD SEGERBLOM
700 S. THIRD STREET
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071 0000233020 02042011 6 000161185 9 03062011 03212011 7 000177304 83



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

Good News From Oregon

BRING BACK THE COURT REPORTERS

By Steve Duin, The Oregonian

April 9, 2011

It's the rare legislative bill that touches on equity and the death penalty, state budgets, the value of a human being in this internet age, and the endangered species that is court reporters.

But that's what we're dealing with in Senate Bill 409, which argues that aggravated murder cases in Oregon just might be important enough to have a certified stenographer in the room.

In one of those classic penny-wise-pound-foolish moves, the state largely did away with court reporters in 2002 during a glorious budget crunch in which, for six months or so, courts closed on Fridays and judges stopped hearing landlord-tenant cases.

Nine years later, there are a grand total of five court reporters still at work in Lane and Marion Counties. Thus, when Bruce and Joshua Turnidge were sentenced in the Woodburn bombing case, court reporter Mary Fagan transcribed every word of the three-month trial.

When Randy Guzek was sentenced to death (for the fourth time) last June in Deschutes County, however, the proceedings were recorded. The transcript for that three-week trial, essential for the automatic Supreme Court review, won't be ready until May, at the earliest.

"The Turnidge case is our poster child of how the system works well," said Carol Studenmund of the Oregon Court Reporters Association. "The Guzek case is an example of how it works poorly."

Without a dime's worth of differences, I'd wager. The poor soul transcribing the Guzek trial isn't working for free. Her bill is simply being paid by the state public defenders' office, rather than the Justice Department.

The need for court reporters is one of the rare issues in which prosecutors and defense attorneys are of similar mind.

"In a perfect world, we'd love to have one," said Clatsop County DA Josh Marquis. "We grew up trying our major cases before court reporters. Part of the culture of learning law was to get yelled at by court reporters. I have a tendency to talk too fast. The jury wouldn't be rude enough to tell you to slow down, but the court reporter would."

"Let me speak very selfishly: As a defense attorney, I absolutely can not do the job without getting a rough transcript every day," said Steve Krasik, the Salem-based attorney who defended Christian Longo, Angela McNulty and the Joshua Turnidge. "Instead of slavishly taking notes, I can listen to the witness."

[DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraprofessional
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

OTHER LINKS

[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

"As a practical matter," Krasik adds, "99 percent of these agg murder cases are going to result in a conviction and appeal. You might as well have the transcript done right up front."

The alternative? An audio recording that is good for posterity and little else. A CD-ROM that is unsearchable and, all too often, unintelligible. "The audio in the Longo case," Krasik notes, "was a disaster."

According to the Oregon Justice Department, the states of Texas, New Mexico and Nevada have seen the wisdom of bringing certified stenographers back into the courtroom.

The fiscal impact of doing so in Oregon for aggravated murder cases?

At most, \$275,000 through the 2013-15 biennium.

The Oregon Legislature, of course, is not obligated to provide funding for SB 409, even if agrees with the concept. "If 409 passes and the Legislature doesn't give us new money, we'll do what everyone else does, which is patch something together," said Phil Lemman, a Justice Department spokesman. The stenographers from Eugene and Salem may be forced to report trials in Portland or Bend.

But the practical impact of business as usual is onerous. When the death penalty is in play, the quality of representation -- and the interminable wait for the transcript -- should not depend on whether the case goes to trial in Lane County or Deschutes County, or whether Justice or the public defenders' office picks up the tab.

Krasik is appropriately blunt: "For really important things, there ought to be statewide standards."

For the worst murder cases, there needs to be a certified stenographer, deliberately tracking every word that's said. The truth of that seems so obvious that I'm stunned we need take it to a vote.



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

Gifting Sinks To A New Low

In April 2011, the following post was spotted on Craigslist:

Deposition Service company needs a paralegal or legal secretary with connections to other paralegals/legal secretaries to make sale inquiries. Will receive 5% of Gross Income (around 15% of profits) of all depositions referred. Ongoing supplemental income. National law firms a plus (We would like clients that pay and pay on time).

If you refer one client, you will receive a check whenever they order a deposition service from us, so it's possible to make one phone call and get paid for the rest of your life.

About us: We are a relatively new firm, but have secured clients at Manatt Phelps, Haynes and Boone, etc. We specialize in court reporting, legal video, video/text synchronization, web repository, and more.

Please list experience and how you can help. Thanks,

Compensation: 5% of Total Checks of Referred Work. Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster.

Please, no phone calls about this job! Please do not contact job poster about other services, products or commercial interests.

PostingID: 2322866841



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

GEICO Institutes No-Gifts Policy

GEICO Insurance recently issued a Notice of Vendor Expectations which states in part "Gifts and Gratuities: GEICO bans any gift, favor, gratuity, or entertainment given by Vendors in order to influence a business transaction or to initiate a business relationship where one did not previously exist. Experience has shown that the relationship between insurance adjusters/examiners, attorneys, body shops and vendors must be safeguarded such that the appearance of impropriety must be avoided. Gifts of any amount are not permitted."



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

Continuing Ed Bill Update



[DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraprofessional
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

OTHER LINKS

[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

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.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE BILL ANALYSIS](#)

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.

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Senator Curren D. Price, Jr., Chair**

Bill No: SB 671 Author: Price
As Amended: April 14, 2011 Fiscal: Yes

SUBJECT: Shorthand reporters. Continuing education requirements.

SUMMARY: Requires the Court Reporters Board of California to establish continuing education requirements for renewal of a shorthand reporter certificate.

Existing law:

- 1) Certifies and regulates some 7,700 certified shorthand reporters (CSRs) and regulates 16 shorthand reporting schools by the Court Reporters Board of California (Board) within the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).
- 2) Provides that a CSR certificate is valid for one year, and may be renewed by applying for the certificate renewal, paying the renewal fee, and notifying the Board of any substantially related criminal convictions or of any disciplinary action taken by any regulatory agency against the licensee. (Business and Professions Code (BPC) § 8024)
- 3) Establishes various fees which may be charged by the Board, including fees for examinations, initial and renewal CSR certificates. (BPC § 8031)
- 4) General provisions of the Business and Professions Code require the director of DCA by regulation to develop guidelines for continuing education programs by DCA boards and bureaus to ensure that mandatory continuing education is used as a means to create a more competent licensing population. (BPC § 166)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the Board, by July 1, 2012, to adopt regulations to establish minimum continuing education requirements for renewal of a CSR certificate.
- 2) Requires that, no earlier than six months after the effective date of the regulations, a CSR renewing a certificate must certify to the Board completion of the minimum continuing education requirements.
- 3) Requires the Board to ensure that the required continuing education is relevant to the practice of shorthand reporting.

- 4) Requires the Board to establish a procedure for approving continuing education course providers, and requires continuing education providers to comply with procedures established by the Board.
- 5) Authorizes the Board to establish a fee for providers of continuing education courses.
- 6) Authorizes the Board to establish exceptions to the continuing education requirements for individuals who cannot meet the continuing education requirements for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship.
- 7) Requires the continuing education requirements to fully comply with the guidelines for mandatory continuing education established by DCA.
- 8) Additionally, authorizes the Board to adopt regulations to implement the continuing education provisions.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill has been keyed "fiscal" by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

1. **Purpose.** This bill is sponsored by California Court Reporters Association and Deposition Reporters Association (Sponsors) to require the Board to establish minimum approved continuing education requirements for renewal of all shorthand reporter (both court reporters and "freelance" reporters) certificates on or before July 1, 2012.

According to the Sponsors, there are currently no provisions which ensure the consumer that the CSR is gaining or maintaining the education necessary to stay updated on the rules, regulations and statutes that affect the way they practice shorthand reporting. The Sponsors believe that continuing education will provide confidence to the citizens of the state that the verbatim record is and will continue to be held to the highest possible standards. Mandating continuing education requirements will ensure that all rules, regulations and statutes specific to the CSR are known by and followed by the CSR, according to the Sponsors.

2. **Background.** Certified shorthand reporters, commonly known as court reporters, typically engage in one of two types of shorthand reporting practice. "Official" reporters are individuals who work as employees of the court system, and "freelance" reporters are individuals hired privately by court reporting businesses and firms or attorneys to report depositions. In order to obtain licensure, both types of reporters must qualify by attending one of the 16 California schools of court reporting authorized by the Board and passing two written exams and a performance exam. There are currently approximately 7,700 certified shorthand reporter licensees statewide. The CSR certificate is issued for a one-year period, expiring on the last day of the birth month of the licensee.
3. **Judicial Counsel Continuing Education Requirement.** Beginning January 1, 2007, the Judicial Counsel of California adopted a continuing education requirement for all personnel employed by the Court, including court reporters (California Rules of Court, Title 10, Division 2, Chapter 8, Rule 10.451, ff.). The Rule requires each employee to complete 8 hours of continuing education every 2 years. The Judicial Council has listed education as a vital component in achieving the goals of its Long-Range Strategic Plan, which including access,

fairness, and diversity; branch independence and accountability; modernization of management and administration; and quality of justice and service to the public.

4. **Continuing Education for Court Reporters: A Legislative Sunset Review Issue.** The issue of continuing education has been raised when reviewing the Board under the sunset review process. In 1996, the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee (Joint Committee) noted that the Board had been instrumental in attempting to provide leadership in the area of continuing education for the profession. At that time, there had been much discussion about the pros and cons of such requirements, but the Board had deleted a continuing education proposal from its 1994 legislation when it learned that the Governor would not approve it.

At that time the Board stated, that many in the profession believe that the Board's pre-license testing system keeps the standard of entry at an appropriate level, and the intensity demanded in the day-to-day requirements in this occupation drives the individual licensees to seek and find the educational training requirements necessary on their own initiative. However, others believe that the use of electronic information processing and the speed with which technologies are changing, are putting more pressure on the profession to keep the standard of performance at its highest level.

Ultimately, the Joint Committee's recommendation did not include pursuing continuing education. The issue was again raised in the 2004/2005 review of the Board, however, the Joint Committee did not recommend establishing a continuing education requirement, due primarily to the unwillingness of the Schwarzenegger Administration to establish a continuing education requirement.

5. **Prior Legislation.** AB 2189 (Karnette) from 2008, was substantially the same as this bill and would have required the Board to establish continuing education requirements by July 1, 2009. That bill was vetoed by the Governor stating that the continuing education requirements impose an additional burden on the regulated profession without justifying a compelling need.
6. **Arguments in Support.** In sponsoring the bill, California Court Reporters Association (CCRA), states that currently there are no structures in place that ensure that the CSR is gaining or maintaining the education necessary to stay updated on the rules, regulations and statutes affecting the practice of shorthand reporting. The recently-adopted Judicial Council rules mandating continuing education for all staff, including court reporters, does not specifically mandate that the official court reporter obtain continuing education specifically as it relates to the job of court reporting according to CCRA.

CCRA further states that in the world of ever-changing technology, the consumer of the products and services of the CSR expect to be offered and provided the latest technological advances that are available; i.e. real time reporting, Internet text streaming, transcript repositories, exhibit scanning and linking to transcripts, and much more. The job of a CSR has really morphed into more of an information manager, an important and integral component to the litigation process, according to CCRA.

Also sponsoring the bill, the Deposition Reporters Association of California (DRA) additionally argues that deposition reporting is one of the most critical parts of our system of resolving disputes. An accurate written record of who said what in court is essential if the outcome of

judicial proceeding is to be accepted by the litigants and the public as non-arbitrary, fair, and credible, and against a backdrop, where a single error can translate into the distorted and arbitrary administration of justice, deposition reporting professionals absolutely must, not just at the time of licensure but throughout their careers, maintain the highest possible level of ethics and competence to protect consumers and our system of justice.

DRA suggests that continuing education as well as vigorous enforcement are the two tools regulatory boards use to ensure a sustained level of quality in licensed professionals throughout their careers.

DRA additionally argues that although official reporters who work in courtrooms must currently complete ongoing continuing education, deposition reporters must ensure the integrity and accuracy of the vital written record while working in a private commercial setting, even though they are hired by one of the parties in often hotly contested litigation.

Many arguments for the bill focus on informing CSRs about changes in laws and regulation, court procedures, and technological advances in the profession. In many cases, continuing professional development and education will be undertaken voluntarily by conscientious, motivated licensees on their own who are motivated to stay on top of their profession. Yet, the proponents of the bill point out that typically deposition reporters practice in isolated settings, apart from other CSRs and may not have ready access on their own to information regarding changing practices, technological advances, and changes in the law.

7. **Regulatory Issues to be Addressed by the Board.** In implementing the continuing education requirement for CSRs as provided in the bill, there are several issues that Board will need to consider, including:
 - a) Whether the continuing education requirements established by the Board will be in addition to or the same as the continuing education requirement established by the Judicial Council for official reporters. In other words, will a licensed CSR who is employed by the court and who must complete the continuing education required by the Judicial Council be required to fulfill as separate continuing education requirement to renew their license from the Board? While it seems appropriate that the two continuing education requirements work together, it is recommended that the specific nature and extent of how they work together be left to the Board to address through its regulatory process.
 - b) The bill broadly requires the Board to ensure that the required continuing education is relevant to the practice of shorthand reporting. In addition, general DCA guidelines require boards to ensure that mandatory continuing education is used as a means to create a more competent licensing population. These provisions will guide the Board in establishing the regulations, so that irrelevant courses will not be allowed for continuing education.
 - c) The bill does not specify the number of hours of continuing education would be required for each annual license renewal period. As stated above, the Judicial Council requirement for official reporters is to complete eight hours of continuing education every two years. The Board will need to determine an appropriate number of hours through its regulatory process.

- d) The bill authorizes the Board to establish a fee for providers of continuing education courses. This provision, which authorizes but does not require, the Board to require the fee was added to the bill out of concern about the Board's funding and staffing necessary to assume the new responsibility of approving continuing education providers. In addition, the bill currently does not establish a maximum fee level. An appropriate level will need to be amended in as the bill goes forward through the legislative process.

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:

Support:

California Court Reporters Association (Sponsor)
Deposition Reporters Association (Sponsor)

Opposition:

None received as of April 20, 2011

Consultant: G. V. Ayers



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

The Banks Have Been Robbed

No Worries: My Roll Of Nickels Is Secure

By Michael Appelman, CSR

One did not need to be the brightest reporter in the bunch, one merely needed to be awake at some point in the past several years, to have picked up the theme that realtime is necessary for the survival of reporting. We've all heard it. It's pretty hard to avoid the incessant drumbeat of the realtime bandwagon.

The question is: How? To be more precise: How do we get the realtime translation from our computer to our clients' computers?

There are three methods available: serial cables, Wi-Fi networks and Bluetooth wireless systems. Reporters use all three methods. So where's the problem? Glad you asked. What if one of the methods was actually dangerous? For example, if it was determined that 27 percent of all attorneys who received realtime from court reporters via serial cables ended up being strangled to death by said serial cables, would you still consider it a viable option? Just to be clear: I believe the figure is much less than 27 percent, but I digress...

The real subject of my observation is Wi-Fi networks. I'm going to talk briefly about security. Before your eyes glaze over and your head begins to nod, let me request that you hang in there for another minute or two. Please resist the temptation to thumb to the back of the JCR to see if the job-share position in the Caribbean, paying \$1 million a year plus extravagant benefits, has finally been listed. It has not. It will not be. Accept it and read on.

I spent about .3 seconds on Google and found these two headlines: "Computer Virus Crashes San Diego Court Computers" and "An Apparent Computer Virus Is Forcing The Houston Municipal Courthouse To Shut Down."

We are being told that realtime via Wi-Fi is perfectly safe, that there is 42-trillion-bit encryption, and all of the wireless data packets are totally encased in electronic razor wire, etc. In other words, blah, blah, blah. Let me tell you what I think that means and why it may not really mean anything at all. To do so, let's make a mental image, shall we?

Imagine a triangle with a bank building at each point of the triangle. Let's call them Bank A, Bank B and Bank C. Picture an armored truck that leaves bank A, makes a delivery at Bank B, then makes a delivery at Bank C before heading back to Bank A. The cargo that leaves Bank A is a roll of nickels. That roll of nickels will likely be delivered safely to Bank B and/or Bank C, but the bottom line is, who cares? The people writing malicious viruses certainly don't.

If hackers don't care about your nickels, what does catch their fancy? They care very deeply about access to computers. If it is not clear from my illustration above, the nickels being sent from Bank A to Banks B & C are your realtime notes. I want to break this news as gently as I can: The tens of thousands of hackers in China and Russia do not want to steal your transcripts. Although your transcripts are important to you and your clients, the other six billion people on

DRA Fresno CORE A

Big Hit

Depo Diplomat

ER Update

CSR Exam Stats

What's a
Paraprofessional

Sentence?

Welcome New
Members

Save These Dates

OTHER LINKS

DRA Mission Statement

DRA Calendar

Membership
Application

What is DepoMap?

Classified Ads

DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application

War Chest

earth don't care a whit what was said at your hearing.

What does have value to hackers is the potential treasure trove of data that can be mined from the court reporter's computer, the attorneys' computers and the courthouse's network of computers: credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, bank accounts, just to name a few.

Clear from your mind the concept that all viruses are designed to cause your computer to crash or do annoying things. A profoundly simple but surefire way to get rich quick is to secretly load a keystroke-logging program onto everybody's computer, which then transmits those keystrokes every Monday morning at 3:00 a.m. to Sergio's apartment in Kiev, Russia. Sergio loves to find keystrokes that are three digits, followed by a hyphen, followed by two more digits, followed by a hyphen, followed by three more digits (123-45-6789) or perhaps a string of 16 digits, such as you might find on a credit card.

Putting this into perspective, imagine an intruder breaking into your home, but it's an intruder with a big heart. He allows you to keep one item, your dearest possession, but only one; the rest is his. Pick one: your money, your jewelry, your banking information, all personal data, the personal data of all of your co-workers at the courthouse or your realtime transcript from March 29, 2011. Which one of those items will you choose to save? If you select your realtime transcript, you are one very dedicated, albeit profoundly disturbed, realtime reporter.

You can make your wireless transmission of your realtime transcript as secure as you like, but if you are using a Wi-Fi network (and some of you are) then in effect what you are doing is building an incredibly strong bank, but you're leaving the windows open. All it takes is a virus on any attorney's computer. The virus is transmitted via Suzy Realtime's wireless realtime network. All counsel now have the virus, as well as Suzy and her judge, as well as every other judge, clerk and administrator at the courthouse. Suzy now refers to her Wi-Fi router as a VTD (Virus Transmission Device).

Nobody at the courthouse had malevolent intent. The attorney just wanted to share files between his or her work and home computers and therefore enabled the computers to allow file sharing. Seems harmless. Unfortunately, when that pop-up window opened on the home computer's screen indicating (falsely) that a virus had been detected and to click the flashing button to stop the threat, the attorney clicked. Instead of eliminating the threat, the virus was now installed on the home computer and ready to launch, just waiting for someone to open the window. The virus was immediately shared with the attorney's work computer, and is now diligently looking for a way to spread the wealth. It needs only a small opportunity, just a moment or two, to migrate to other computers faster than you can say, "Would you like to receive my realtime transcript?"

Suzy promotes her little heart out as it relates to realtime. When the attorney walks through the courtroom doors, the first words out of Suzy's mouth could be fairly translated as "Come visit our banks; the windows are open."

At StenoCast, we make a Bluetooth wireless realtime system. Our system is designed to transmit realtime transcripts from the court reporter to the judge, the attorneys and/or the CART recipients. The judge and the attorneys cannot send anything to each other, and they cannot send anything back to the court reporter. There are no open windows.

The key differentiator between a secure Wi-Fi network and a secure StenoCast Bluetooth system is that StenoCast's security is at the hardware level. StenoCast's hardware will not allow a reporter to send anything but a realtime transcript. It does not allow the reporter's clients to transmit anything, period. The parties may only receive transcripts. We do not rely on software solutions to resolve security concerns. So my earlier statement that "there are no open windows" with the StenoCast method turns out to be an understatement. There are no windows, period.

If someone tries to sell you a Wi-Fi-based wireless realtime system and touts its connection as being as secure as any bank's, try this experiment: Go to your local bank. Bring your notebook computer. Go up to the manager and ask if you can hook into the bank's network for one minute, just to check your email. You will want to do a quick 360-degree scan of the room to make sure no one with a sharp stick is quickly advancing on you.

Nobody allows strangers to connect to their secure networks, yet that is exactly what they are asking attorneys and courthouses to do each and every day. And if reporters are lulled into it, being assured the whole way that all is safe and secure, they may be setting themselves up for a horrible backlash. If a courthouse or a law firm were to go dark for a couple of days or weeks,

and it's all linked back to the court reporter's "secure" Wi-Fi network, how do you think that will play out? If millions of dollars worth of data is stolen, all traceable to Suzy Realtime's secure network, my best guess is that if (a) Suzy keeps her job, then (b), she won't be offering realtime services any longer. And my prediction is that if reporters cannot provide realtime to their clients, then we will have a crisis of epic proportions in the not-too-distant future.

If the poets and writers of years past could peer into the future and watch the slow death march as reporters approach the cliff's edge, the temptation would be to assume the worst and classify this tale as a tragedy. The good news is that you get to write the story's ending. Write well.

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[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

In Memory of Kathy Helmkamp

One of California's strongest court reporting advocates died in late April 2011. Kathy Helmkamp served as an official court reporter with the Los Angeles County Superior courts. She succumbed to pancreatic cancer after fighting breast cancer. Kathy was highly respected in our field for her energy and tenacity and having the courage to take on issues she strongly believed in for the betterment of reporters. She was a founding member of the California Official Court Reporters Association and served as its president for several terms. After her retirement, Kathy was intensely involved in animal rescue efforts. She leaves behind a husband, son and daughter, who, along with the entire reporting community, will always hold Kathy in the highest regard. She will be greatly missed.





[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

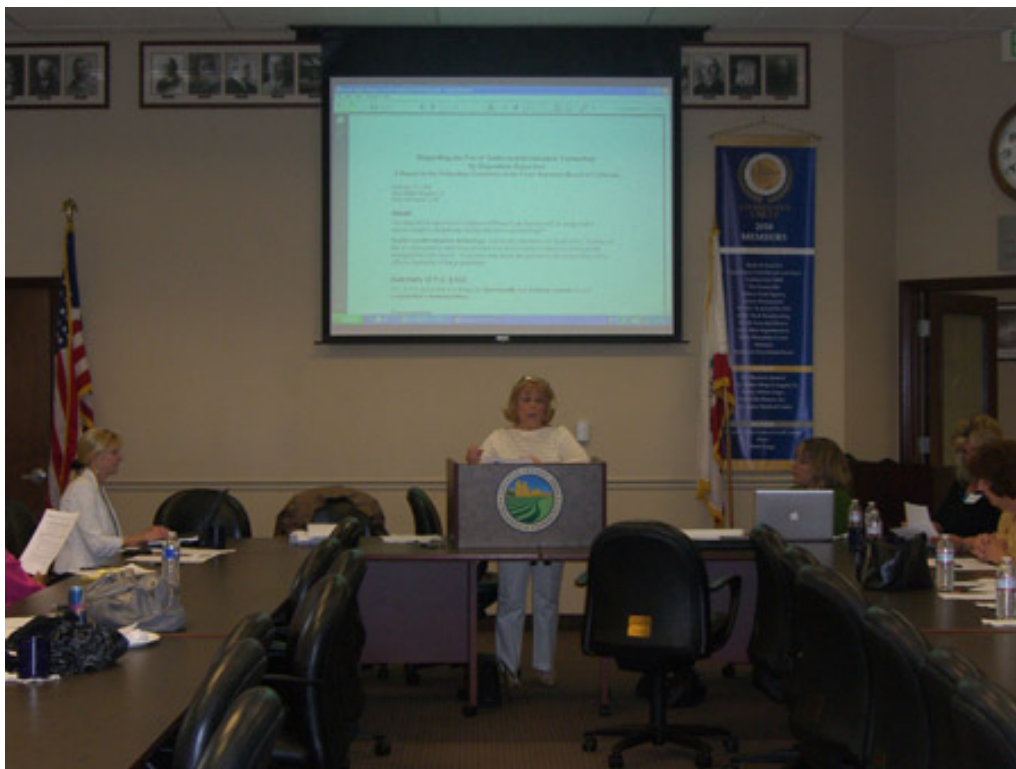
[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

DRA Fresno CORE A Big Hit

By Holly Moose

On April 16th, 2011 DRA hosted another of its hugely successful CORE Curriculum seminars, this time at the Chamber of Commerce in downtown Fresno. Having never attended a previous CORE and hearing nothing but rave reviews, I wanted to see for myself what it was like. Since I live four hours from Fresno and the seminar was set to start at 9 a.m., I decided to drive down the night before. I booked a room at the beautiful downtown Holiday Inn -- unfortunately, along with 100 high school prom-goers whose dance was being held on the top floor, unbeknownst to me. The revelry went on for hours. Just when I thought it was over, there was a huge commotion at the elevators down the hall from my room, where 25 of them had piled into one car and gotten stuck. Fortunately, they were extracted in short order and the rest of the night was fairly quiet. So much activity for the price of one small hotel room!



However, all that excitement paled in comparison to what I experienced at CORE the next day. Lois Ludwig, Karen Klein, Valerie Eames and Jeri Cain are to be commended for putting on such an amazing seminar. As chief presenter, Lois managed to squeeze a wealth of valuable information into four short hours. The material she shared with us was targeted not just to new reporters but to ALL reporters. It was quite humbling, actually. We seasoned veterans tend to think we know everything by this point in our reporting careers and that we have nothing new to learn. That could not be farther from the truth. Everyone in that room learned something,

[DRA Fresno CORE A](#)

[Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraprofessional
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

OTHER LINKS

[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

including the presenters!

Because it was a small group of only 12 attendees, people felt comfortable sharing their opinions and experiences, whereas a large group tends to be intimidating. We discussed topics such as when to go off the record, what to do if the proceedings are out of control, how to handle confidential portions of a transcript, what wording to use in your parentheticals, and much more.

Karen Klein, the creator of DepoMap, an electronic guide to the rules and regulations governing reporters, had the program displayed on the big screen and was able to pull up relevant code sections within seconds. I highly recommend it to every working reporter as one more tool in their arsenal to make them the best reporter they can be. How empowering to have at your fingertips the answer to any procedural question that may arise at a deposition. DepoMap is the best bargain in town, at a mere \$35 for members, and can be purchased on DRA's website, caldra.org.

Back to the seminar. The four hours flew by, and suddenly it was time to go. I found myself saying "Wait, but what about this; what about that," wishing we had more time. Several happy attendees said they definitely plan to attend the next CORE in Sacramento on May 14 because they know that even if some of the same material is covered, there will be new scenarios and suggestions and valuable input, all worth hearing.

If you have not had the opportunity to experience CORE for yourself, what are you waiting for? You will be blown away. In the words of Karen Klein, "CORE is DRA's best tool to create a higher level of competency, camaraderie and confidence in our colleagues and increase the positive perception of our profession in California. CORE makes all reporters look a little better each time DRA puts one on."

Enjoy!

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[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

Depo Diplomat

Dear Depo Diplomat:

I have an upcoming Federal depo and the deposing lawyer wants me to recite a preamble into the record before he begins his examination, per his interpretation of Rule 30(b)(5), which I've attached below. I've not done that before. And while it presents obvious talking-while-writing issues, he's now got me wondering: Is the fact that the same information is covered at the beginning of the transcript enough to meet this code section? Does someone need to actually recite it at the depo? If so, which one of us?

(5) Officer's Duties.

(A) Before the Deposition. Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, a deposition must be conducted before an officer appointed or designated under Rule 28. The officer must begin the deposition with an on-the-record statement that includes:

- (i) the officer's name and business address;
- (ii) the date, time, and place of the deposition;
- (iii) the deponent's name;
- (iv) the officer's administration of the oath or affirmation to the deponent; and
- (v) the identity of all persons present.

Thanks for your input.

Diane Smith, CSR

Dear Reporter:

You bring up a very interesting question, a topic quite appropriate for a Depo Diplomat article.

This language in the Federal Rules has existed for some time, but it's one of those details of the Federal Code of which many depo reporters are unaware. I will say, though, that I've never known an attorney to pay a great deal of attention to this requirement, and I've certainly never heard of an attorney asking a reporter specifically to recite this information and especially under these circumstances, where he actually presents you with a preamble to read into the record as he wants it to be done.

[DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraprofessional
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

OTHER LINKS

[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

The question about whether the depo officer is required to actually read this information into the record at the beginning of every depo venued in Federal Court is one that a few of us at DRA have discussed in the past at some length. I was originally of the opinion that yes, this language clearly requires that the reading of this information be done by the depo officer. Other reporters, whose opinions I respect, took a different approach to this language and believed that including all of this information on the cover page of the transcript fulfilled this requirement. And while I still believe that the authors of this language probably intended for this info to be recited by the reporter, I have to agree with this position, that including all of this information on the record at the beginning of the depo transcript does technically meet the requirement. After all, the wording doesn't say specifically that the reporter must actually verbalize these things on the record; it only says that the reporter "must begin the deposition with an on-the-record statement," and beginning the transcript with these details does accomplish this.

I've also run this question by our esteemed attorney/lobbyist, Ed Howard, and while he agrees with me that the intent of this language was most likely that this be all said on the record by the reporter, he does confirm that including this at the beginning of the transcript adequately complies with this language. Maybe what this proves is that in writing legislation, you must be extremely careful of your choice of words, as the words chosen can almost always lead to more than one interpretation.

Now, whether you want to point out to this attorney that your cover page will include all the required information and therefore be responsive to this language, and then possibly have to argue the point with him, is another matter, and that may not be a place you'll want to go. For that reason, it may be simpler just to recite this preamble and be done with it. I know it's impossible to write and speak at the same time, but I assume you have his suggested preamble in writing that you can refer to later when preparing the transcript. If I've incorrectly assumed that he has given you the preamble that he wants you to read, then I'd say that you could prepare your own ahead of time, with all this information written out in advance. And I assume he can get you whatever information you need, such as the names of the witness and the other persons who will be present so you can have this ready to go. Then you can just read it into the record and not worry about getting it all down but fill that in later.

And I'd reverse the order of IV and V that you've attached here, saving the oath administration for the end of all this.

I hope this answers your questions, but if I can help further with anything else on this, as always, please feel free to email me again at any time.

Sincerely,

DRA Depo Diplomat

DRA Editor's note: Diane Smith wrote the following note in appreciation of DRA Depo Diplomat, Toni Pulone's, response to her question:

Toni,

If I've said it once, I've said it a thousand times...you are a gift to the world of court reporting!

Thanks for getting back to me. This issue is a battle I didn't even know was raging :) As for my personal situation, I have a good relationship with this attorney, so I forwarded pieces of your response to him, we chatted, and he's agreed to let the transcript alone stand as code compliant. I offered either option as acceptable to me. I did, as well, thank him for starting (at least for me!) the conversation. I think it's a good one.

I'm forwarding a little blurb on this subject to the reporters working with me, and I agree that it would be a great newsletter inclusion. The lesson for me in this was: Don't assume anything. Especially if it's simply "The way I've always done it."

But most of all, thanks for, as always, being the go-to person that guides me through the many uncharted waters of the court reporting world.



[<< DRA Home](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#) | [The Deposition Reporter May 2011](#) | [Download PDF Version](#)



FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

ER Update

In March we reported that two separate ER bills had been introduced to replace California court reporters with electronic recording.

Assembly Bill No. 1096, authored by Orange County Assemblywoman Diane Harkey, seeks to require ALL court proceedings to be automated.

Assembly Bill No. 803, authored by Orange County Assemblyman Donald Wagner, seeks to require the Judicial Council to implement electronic court reporting in 20% of all superior court courtrooms by July 1, 2012 and in an additional 20% of all superior court courtrooms annually thereafter. This would not apply to felony cases.

GOOD NEWS!

On 4/26/11 Assembly Bill 803 did not pass out of Assembly Judiciary Committee. The vote was six to two, along party lines, with Democrats voting against, and Republicans voting in support of, the bill.

Assembly Bill 1096 will be dead as well if it is not assigned to, and heard in, a policy committee, and at this point there is no hearing date set.

DRA continues to be in full support of and ready to aid our fellow official reporters' efforts to defeat ALL ER bills. We will continue to bring you updates as they occur.

Court Reporters Board
Examination Statistics - November 1, 2010 Thru February 28, 2011

English

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass		First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	8	3	37.5%		4	3	75.0%
Bryan - Los Angeles	2	0	0.0%		2	0	0.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	3	1	33.3%		2	1	50.0%
Cerritos	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
College of Marin	1	0	0.0%		0	0	n/a
Cypress	2	1	50.0%		2	1	50.0%
Downey	9	3	33.3%		5	3	60.0%
Golden State	1	1	100.0%		1	1	100.0%
Humphreys	1	0	0.0%		1	0	0.0%
Sage - Moreno Valley	8	3	37.5%		4	3	75.0%
Sage - San Diego	4	1	25.0%		3	1	33.3%
Sierra Valley	9	0	0.0%		1	0	0.0%
South Coast	1	0	0.0%		1	0	0.0%
Taft	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	2	0	0.0%		0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	51	13	25.5%		26	13	50.0%
Closed	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
Five Plus	6	0	0.0%		n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	1	0	0.0%		0	0	n/a
RPR	7	1	14.3%		2	0	0.0%
Work	2	1	50.0%		2	1	50.0%
TOTAL	67	15	22.4%		30	14	46.7%

Professional Practice

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass		First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	6	5	83.3%		4	4	100.0%
Bryan - Los Angeles	2	2	100.0%		2	2	100.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	4	2	50.0%		2	1	50.0%
Cerritos	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
College of Marin	1	0	0.0%		0	0	n/a
Cypress	2	2	100.0%		2	2	100.0%
Downey	5	5	100.0%		5	5	100.0%
Golden State	1	1	100.0%		1	1	100.0%
Humphreys	1	1	100.0%		1	1	100.0%
Sage - Moreno Valley	6	4	66.7%		4	3	75.0%
Sage - San Diego	4	3	75.0%		3	2	66.7%
Sierra Valley	8	3	37.5%		1	1	100.0%
South Coast	7	6	85.7%		7	6	85.7%
Taft	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	2	0	0.0%		0	0	n/a
West Valley	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
SCHOOL TOTAL	49	34	69.4%		32	28	87.5%
Closed	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
Five Plus	4	2	50.0%		n/a	n/a	n/a
O/S	0	0	n/a		0	0	n/a
RPR	5	5	100.0%		2	2	100.0%
Work	4	4	100.0%		3	3	100.0%
TOTAL	62	45	72.6%		37	33	89.2%

Court Reporters Board
Dictation Examination Statistics - March 2011

School Name	Total # Apps	Overall # Pass	Overall % Pass	First Time Applicants	First Time # Pass	First Time % Pass
Argonaut	12	3	25.0%	4	3	75.0%
Bryan - Los Angeles	6	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Bryan - Sacramento	2	1	50.0%	2	1	50.0%
Cerritos	4	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
College of Marin	2	1	50.0%	1	1	100.0%
Cypress	3	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%
Downey	13	2	15.4%	5	1	20.0%
Golden State	3	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Humphreys	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
Sage - Moreno Valley	12	3	25.0%	4	2	50.0%
Sage - San Diego	3	3	100.0%	3	3	100.0%
Sierra Valley	8	1	12.5%	1	0	0.0%
South Coast	24	2	8.3%	6	1	16.7%
Taft	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Tri-Community	4	0	0.0%	0	0	n/a
West Valley	1	1	100.0%	1	1	100.0%
School Totals	98	18	18.4%	33	14	42.4%
Closed Schools	0	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Five Plus	13	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Out of State	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
RPR	4	3	75.0%	2	2	100.0%
State Hearing Reporter	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
Working Reporter	5	1	20.0%	2	1	50.0%
TOTALS	120	22	18.3%	37	17	45.9%



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FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board](#)

[Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives](#)

[Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court](#)

[Reporters Defeat](#)

[Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From](#)

[Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New](#)

[Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-](#)

[Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill](#)

[Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been](#)

[Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy](#)

[Helmkamp](#)

What's a Paraprodokian Sentence?

One that consists of two parts where the first is a figure of speech and the second an intriguing variation of the first. They're used typically for humorous or dramatic effect. Enjoy these!

- 1- Never argue with an idiot. He'll drag you down to his level and beat you with experience.
- 2- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- 3- The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
- 4- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- 5- We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- 6- Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- 7- The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
- 8- How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?
- 9- Dolphins are so smart that within a few weeks of captivity, they can train people to stand at the edge of a pool and throw fish.
- 10- I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
- 11- Women will never be equal to men till they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they're sexy.
- 12- A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
- 13- You don't need a parachute to skydive, but you do need one to skydive again.
- 14- The voices in my head may be fake, but they have good ideas!
- 15- Hospitality is making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.
- 16- I scream the same way whether I'm about to be eaten by a shark or seaweed touches my foot.
- 17- Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.

[DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit](#)

[Depo Diplomat](#)

[ER Update](#)

[CSR Exam Stats](#)

[What's a
Paraproisdokian
Sentence?](#)

[Welcome New
Members](#)

[Save These Dates](#)

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[DRA Mission Statement](#)

[DRA Calendar](#)

[Membership
Application](#)

[What is DepoMap?](#)

[Classified Ads](#)

[DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application](#)

[War Chest](#)

18- There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

19- You're never too old to learn something stupid.

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FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
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Welcome New Members

DRA welcomes these very smart new members who spent their money wisely on supporting their profession:

Robert Archibald

Dolores Arizaga

Julie Bantley, CSR

Celeste Byrd, CSR

Maryann Costa, CSR

Katherine Courtois, CSR

Chere Davis

Terry deDiego, CSR

Nancy DeLeon

Sandra Fernald, CSR

Cynthia Guzman, CSR

Esrom Jayasinghe

Warren Jones, CSR

Lori King, CSR

Phillip Liberatore

Joan Lynch

Torrey McLinn

Lorraine Mesker, CSR

Angela Messenger, CSR

DRA Fresno CORE A
Big Hit

Depo Diplomat

ER Update

CSR Exam Stats

What's a
Paraproisdokian
Sentence?

Welcome New
Members

Save These Dates

OTHER LINKS

DRA Mission Statement

DRA Calendar

Membership
Application

What is DepoMap?

Classified Ads

DRA Insurance:
Highlights
Application

War Chest

Cynthia Pacini, CSR

Denise Placencio, CSR

Mary Rea

Jane Sutton Rule, CSR

Penny Sanders, CSR

Arlene Szekeres

Barbara Tam, CSR

Dawn Wood

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FEATURES

[May 2011 Issue](#)

[Court Reporters Board
Sues U.S. Legal](#)

[NCRA Bans Incentives
Gifts](#)

[Nevada Court
Reporters Defeat
Dangerous Legislation](#)

[Good News From
Oregon](#)

[Gifting Sinks To A New
Low](#)

[GEICO Institutes No-
Gifts Policy](#)

[Continuing Ed Bill
Update](#)

[The Banks Have Been
Robbed](#)

[In Memory of Kathy
Helmkamp](#)

Save These Dates

Southern California Student Barbecue
Cerritos Regional County Park, Cerritos

May 21, 2011
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

DRA CEU Grab-n-Go
San Diego

September 24, 2011
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

DRA 16th Annual Convention
Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa

400 Cannery Row

February 24-26, 2012



Membership Application

Join online: www.caldra.org

Mail Application to:
DRA
7172 Regional Street #111
Dublin, CA 94568
Fax to: 925-905-2611
E-mail to: cal_dra@yahoo.com

Name _____ CSR # _____ ☐ NCRA Member # _____

Firm/School _____ ☐ Firm Owner ☐ Instructor ☐ Student

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____ Website _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Office Phone _____ Fax _____

Referred by _____ OR ☐ Facebook ☐ Direct Mailing ☐ Internet search

Have you ever been a member of DRA before? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ List me on DRA's on-line database ☐ List me as available for freelance work

**** I certify that the contents of this application are accurate and complete and will advise the association of significant or material changes to the membership information. I agree to abide by the DRA Bylaws, the written policies of the association, and in the decisions of duly constituted DRA Committees. I agree that my membership may be terminated immediately if this application contains false or misleading statements. _____ Initial**

Membership Options

☐ **Professional** \$ 135 ☐ **Three-year professional membership** (\$405 – save \$25) \$ 380

(Any person whose primary reporting income is derived from the practice of deposition reporting or general reporting and who holds a current CSR license issued by the Court Reporters Board of California.)

☐ **Associate** \$ 125 ☐ **Three-year associate membership** (\$375 – save \$25) \$ 350

(Any person whose primary reporting income is derived from working as an Official Court Reporter, who holds a current CSR license issued by the Court Reporters Board of California; **OR** any non-CSR who has passed the National Court Reporters Association Registered Professional Reporter examination; **OR** any person wishing to establish a professional affiliation with DRA to assist in promoting the mission of the Association.)

☐ **Student** \$ 30
(Any student enrolled in a verbatim shorthand reporting school)

☐ **Instructor** \$ 50
(Instructors who are nonreporting CSRs or, if not CSRs, who teach at institutions recognized/certified by the CRBC.)

☐ **PAC (not tax deductible)** Amount \$ _____
(Used to support the passage or defeat of legislation that has an impact on our members and for the support of political candidates seeking elective office who share similar points of view on issues that are important to our membership.)

☐ **FRIEND OF DRA (tax deductible)** Amount \$ _____

☐ **STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP** Amount \$ _____
(Currently three student scholarships awarded each year to help further student education)

Payment Information

☐ Check # _____ enclosed (payable to DRA) in the amount of \$ _____

☐ Charge \$ _____ to my: ☐ VISA ☐ M/C ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX ☐ Sign me up for automatic Renewal

Account Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____/____ 3-digit pin _____

Cardholder's Name _____ Signature _____

CC Billing Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
(If different from above)

*(Membership is for one year from the date dues are received. A portion of your dues will be used for lobbying activities as defined by the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993. For this year's dues it is estimated that the percentage used for such purposes will be 55%. This portion of your dues is not deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense. **NOTE: Checks returned from the bank for any reason will be assessed a \$25 service fee.**)*

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