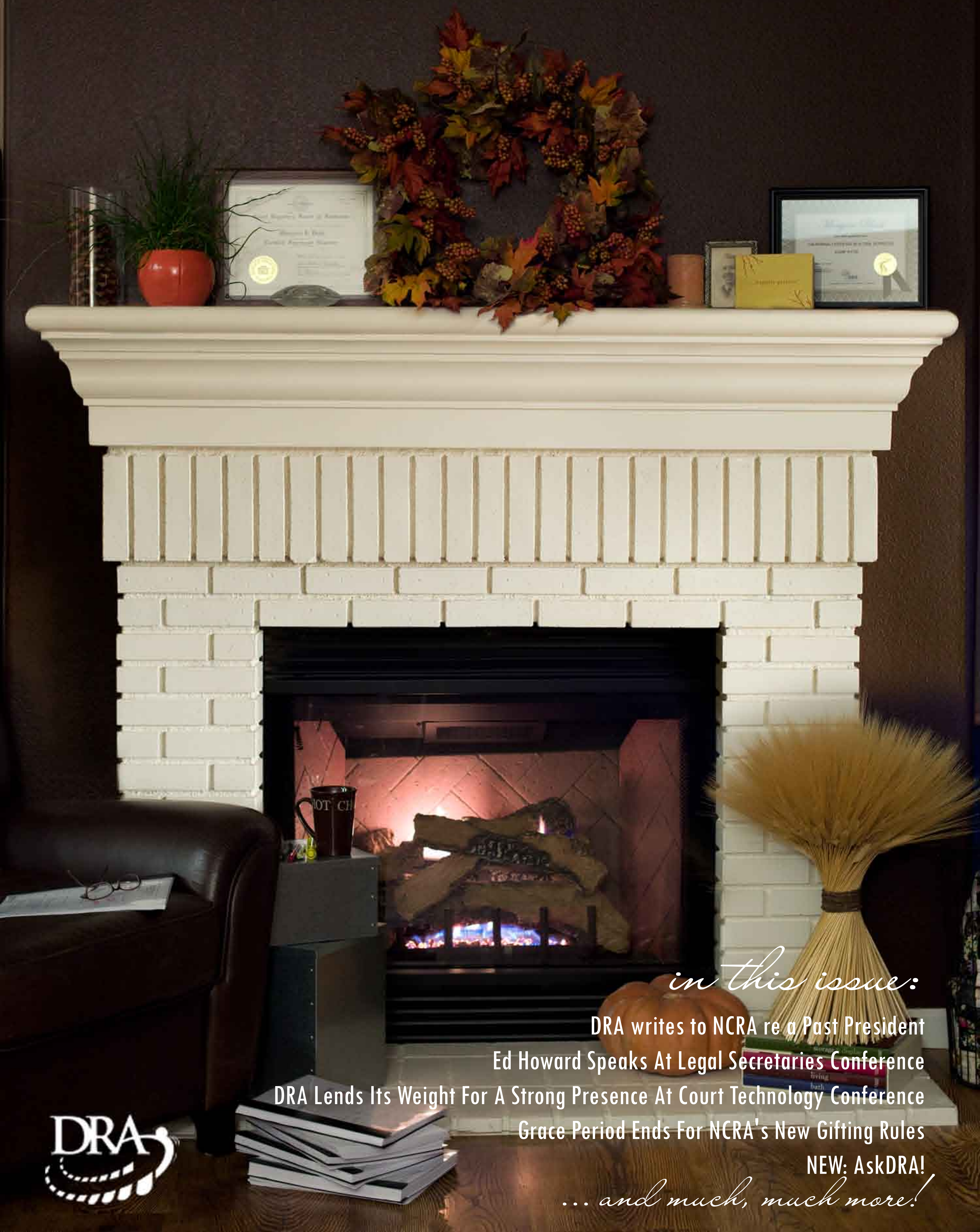


# The Deposition Reporter



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Grace Period Ends For NCRA's New Gifting Rules

NEW: AskDRA!

*... and much, much more!*







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## President's Message



A houseful of noisy siblings and cousins. The seldom-seen china plates and silver place settings. A colorful dish of every description and not a lot of elbow room at the table. As a child, I couldn't wait for Thanksgiving because of these ordinary things. As a grown-up, I have come to cherish the chill in the air and the warmth of the holiday for other reasons. In the interest of full disclosure, I'll reveal up front my pro-Thanksgiving bias: I love it.

The best way to think about Thanksgiving is as a time to express gratitude for all of the great things in your life — your friends, your family, your health, your access to massive quantities of poultry and pumpkin pie.

Thanksgiving is the only holiday that welcomes all races, all religions. We all gather together, not because we must, but from a personal need to acknowledge all that we treasure. There are no gift-giving rituals, but only the human holiday of celebrating the earth, the warmth of our homes and the companionship of others.

***When I started counting  
my blessings, my whole  
life turned around.  
-- Willie Nelson***

You're probably rolling your eyes right now if the past year has brought you challenges like never before, but trust me; there are plenty of things to be grateful for if you really think about it:

**Give Thanks for Your Paycheck** — If you're collecting regular paychecks, no matter the size, you're doing better than a lot of people. That's not to say that you should settle for the amount and quality of jobs you have now. If you want to give even more thanks next year, take that realtime test, create a professional resume and begin to expand your skills, increasing your chances of a more financially rewarding career.

**Give Thanks for All That You've Learned** — Your experiences have made you wiser. With each deposition, each trial, each DRA seminar and convention, you have learned valuable business skills, developed a network of helpful contacts, and created new items for your resume. No one can ever take away any of that hard-earned experience or your talents, skills, or wisdom.

**Give Thanks for Friends** — Recent research studies show job satisfaction increases by nearly 50 percent when you have a close friend at work. It's a lot more fun to go to work when you have colleagues that you like and respect. Having court reporter friends is even more important because of the benefits from the smart, informed advice and support of those who know all of the players and perplexing issues that you bump into every single day. I'm not saying that spending time with "normal" people (those not lucky enough to be CSRs) isn't good for your health as well, but having a confidante who gets what you do and understands your lingo is truly something to be thankful for.

Great News From New  
Jersey

Grace Period Ends For  
Enforcement Of New  
NCRA Gift-Giving Rules

SF Eliminating Court-  
Provided Reporters In  
Most Civil Cases

Machines Incapable Of  
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Big Win In Arizona!

Depo Diplomat

Congratulations New  
CCRRs!

NEW: DRA Library Now  
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Veritext Acquires  
Sarnoff Court  
Reporters

Organic Voice  
Recognition

Distinguished Service  
Award Nominations

Welcome New  
Members

Proofreading Is A Dying  
Art

DRA Scholarship

**Give Thanks for a Day Off** — Most workers get a paid day off for Thanksgiving and even the day after. When's the last time you took a day off from proofing transcripts, email and bookkeeping? You can do whatever you want on Thanksgiving weekend, and you don't have to clear your plans with any boss. You are your own boss. Play hooky, eat well and wear loose-fitting clothing.

**Give Thanks for the Fire Within** — Sometimes we need to be just plain miserable in order to find the motivation to change. Just like every Disney movie hero, we must go through a crisis in order to achieve victory. What this means for you is that you will probably never take a true leap until you feel the fire of that burning passion for a realtime certification or the slow, smoldering frustration of yet another uninspiring job. The greatest motivation for change is when you feel a burning fire within. Be your own hero. Make that change.

As you prepare for my favorite holiday by calculating the amount of chairs you'll need for the table, dusting the china and decanting the wine, I hope you find a personal moment alone to acknowledge all that you treasure and, most of all, yourself and your own personal 2011 accomplishments.

Whatever your inspiration may be in 2012, if you find yourself giving thanks for a long list of great things in your life and a brilliantly successful career by next Thanksgiving, you'll have your experience, your friends and listening to that burning passion within to thank.



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# DRA Writes to NCRA Re a Past President

The following letter was prepared on behalf of all DRA members. To your credit, when asked via email if you would like to add your name to our letter, over 300 of you responded "YES." This letter was delivered -- as promised -- to NCRA's board of directors within two days of the announcement by For The Record, Ltd., a company selling digital recording and content management for judicial venues, that NCRA member and Immediate Past President SueLynn Morgan would head their new Consulting Services Department.

We understand that NCRA took our request for action very seriously and began immediately investigating the issue and discussing how to proceed going forward.

Advocating for our members hasn't stopped there. On November 12 and 13, 2011, DRA will be attending the NCRA board of directors meeting in MacLean, Virginia to personally receive an update as to our request. Thank you for letting DRA be your voice on a national level. To date, the "YES" requests are 426 and counting...

September 29, 2011

NCRA  
Doug Friend, President  
8224 Old Courthouse Road  
Vienna, Virginia 22182  
[ncrboard@ncrahq.org](mailto:ncrboard@ncrahq.org)

(Sent via e-mail and US Mail)

Dear NCRA Board and Officers:

On Tuesday, September 27, 2011, For The Record, Ltd., a company that sells digital recording and content management for judicial venues, released a press release announcing they have created a new Consulting Services department. This new department will be headed up by "industry expert" and NCRA member (and former President) SueLynn Morgan. As stated on their website, For The Record's business is to "provide an end-to-end solution for both courtroom recording and electronic court reporting," and they advertise their products to be used "for the digital court reporting needs of just one courtroom or, just as easily, several courthouses across entire cities." <http://www.fortherecord.com/products/ftr-gold/ftr-reporter/>

For The Record's press release specifically touts Ms. Morgan's former leadership in NCRA. It also specifies that her job will be to "focus" on the "transition" from using live official stenographic reporters to machines. The release <http://www.fortherecord.com/press/press-releases/> states (with emphases supplied) as follows:

The Consulting Services department will advise courts on the technological, administrative and operational best practices necessary for a smooth transition between traditional stenography and the digital capture and management of information. **Morgan** has been an Official Court Reporter for 17 years and **has served as a President and Board Member of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA)**. She brings a wealth of industry knowledge and experience to her new role at FTR, **where she will focus on assisting courts with the personnel, legislative and administrative aspects of transitions, as well as establish protocol that ensures effective and efficient record creation.**

In our view, it is reasonable to infer from this release that Ms. Morgan will be aiding in efforts to "transition" between "traditional stenography" and digital systems, i.e., replacing, in whole or in part, official stenographic reporters in courtrooms throughout the country with mechanical, digital recording provided by or through For The Record, her new employer.



Enforcement Of New  
NCRA Gift-Giving Rules

On behalf of the Deposition Reporters Association of California's Board of Directors and our Members, I respectfully request:

- That NCRA immediately terminate Ms. Morgan's NCRA membership.

- That the NCRA Board take immediate steps to ensure that every administrative office of the courts and chairs of each state's legislative judiciary committees be notified by letter that NCRA opposes replacing official reporters with digital recording of court proceedings and the substantive and operational reasons for NCRA's enduring opposition.

- That the NCRA Board immediately act to terminate Ms. Morgan's membership in the Past President's Advisory Council.

- That the NCRA Board immediately establish a committee, the sole task of which is to ensure that officers, as a pre-requisite to assuming office and before taking their oath, contractually bind themselves not to work for firms that promote replacing NCRA members with machines, whether in courthouses or in depositions.

There are ample grounds to take all of these actions.

According to Article 3, Section 13 of the NCRA Constitution and Bylaws:

Membership may be terminated or suspended for cause upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting at which a quorum is present. Sufficient cause for such termination or suspension of Membership shall include (but is not limited to) violation of this Constitution and Bylaws, the Code of Professional Ethics of the Association, or any lawful agreement, rule, policy, or practice properly adopted by the Association...or any other conduct prejudicial to the Association.

A participating member is any person who is primarily engaged in the verbatim stenographic reporting of proceedings (NCRA C&B Article III, Section 3). From the press release, it is reasonable to infer that Ms. Morgan is no longer primarily engaged in the verbatim stenographic reporting of proceedings, and therefore, may no longer be a lawful participating NCRA member.

Moreover, membership in NCRA is only open to individuals who subscribe to and support the purposes of NCRA and who meet the requirements for one of the classes of membership (NCRA C&B Article III, Section 1).

NCRA's policy on replacing stenographic court reporters has long been clear: NCRA opposes it and has long opposed it as reflected in your "NCRA Policy Statement on the Importance of Officials" and on your website in your statements as to "Why Use a Stenographic Reporter?"

NCRA advocates that realtime court reporters offer the best, most accurate, most efficient means (human or technological) and best proven and most widely available method for reliably and instantly capturing and integrating the spoken word into a comprehensive and accurate information base. This capability is critical to the swift, fair, and accurate operation of justice. Therefore, the nation's courts should take every opportunity to make use of the skills and services that only a realtime or computerized court reporter can offer to the judicial system.

<http://http://www.ncra.org/Membership/content.cfm?ItemNumber=10074>

There is no substitute for the human element that court reporters bring to the courtroom. **Having a single person be a part of the transcript-making process from beginning to end guarantees the best record possible.** When someone's life or livelihood is at stake, a stenographic court reporter is the only choice to guarantee that justice is carried out.

<http://www.ncra.org/Membership/content.cfm?ItemNumber=8654>

Ms. Morgan's apparent job of "assisting" the "transition" between "traditional stenography" and digital systems in our view violates the following provisions of C&B, Article II, Purposes:

(1) To assume responsibility for leadership and enlightenment of verbatim stenographic reporters and of the public regarding the special competency, importance, and value of verbatim stenographic reporters, and to promote verbatim stenographic reporting technologies by the use of symbols, manually or by stenographic machine, over alternative reporting methods.

Ms. Morgan's new job and the aims of her new employer, as outlined in the press release, are in our opinion

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Most Civil Cases

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Big Win In Arizona!

Depo Diplomat

Congratulations New  
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Sarnoff Court  
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Organic Voice  
Recognition

Distinguished Service  
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at odds with this subdivision. She will assuredly not be "enlightening" courts about the "special competency, importance, and value of verbatim stenographic reporters" while "assisting" in the "transition" between her employer's products and services and "traditional stenography." Ms. Morgan now "assists" in the broader use of an "alternative reporting method."

(2) To promote a broader understanding and acceptance of the verbatim stenographic reporter as an integral part of the judicial process. By definition, and as articulated in her employer's press release, Ms. Morgan will not likely, in our opinion, be "promoting" a "broader ... acceptance" of human reporters as an "integral part of the judicial process." In our view, she will instead likely be "assisting" in the "transition" between "human reporters" and digital capture and management of information."

By joining a company that in its press release says it solicits and contracts with courthouses to install digital capture and management systems, it is reasonable, in our opinion, to infer that Ms. Morgan will not be actively denigrating the capacities of those systems in comparison to "traditional stenography." In fact, it is reasonable, in our view, to infer that she will be promoting such systems as at least equally as capable as "traditional stenography."

In is, therefore, for all these reasons reasonable, in our opinion, to infer that Ms. Morgan no longer supports the purposes of NCRA and, in fact, is duty-bound in her own job to contradict those purposes, as expressed above. Her continued membership in an organization, the purposes of which she no longer adheres to and must to some degree publicly and privately contradict, is inappropriate, in our view. Her ability to say in her new capacity that as a matter of fact she is still a member of NCRA, when combined with her prior offices, we believe could falsely imply that NCRA does not disagree with the "transition between traditional stenography and the digital capture and management of information."

By termination of Ms. Morgan's membership, she will be no longer able to enjoy the privileges afforded to your members, including attending meetings of the members, participating in debates at such meetings and being eligible to vote and/or make or second motions at such meetings or to vote by electronic means (NCRA C&B Article III, Section 9). Ms. Morgan would also lose the ability to serve on NCRA committees, councils or task forces (NCRA C&B Article XII, Section 2). All of these venues may be places where strategies to educate court officials and legislators on the deficiencies of "digital capture and management of information" systems as compared to "traditional stenography" could be discussed.

Most concerning of all, each President, upon completion of office, shall become a member of the President's Advisory Council (NCRA C&B Article XII, Section 3). As a member and Past President, Ms. Morgan is part of the President's Advisory Council. This privilege to offer advice to the current and future NCRA Officers and Directors, while simultaneously working to aid in the "transition between traditional stenography and the digital capture and management of information" should be terminated as well, along with her membership.

We look forward to NCRA's prompt consideration and action.

Sincerely,

Lisa Michaels  
President

=====

***NCRA President Doug Friend  
responded as follows:***

Dear Lisa:

Thank you so much for your caring and for your involvement!

The NCRA Board is actively investigating its legal options in this matter, and I hope we will have more to report in the coming week.

I understand how upsetting this is to many members NCRA. At the same time it is important to bear in mind that your association goes to great lengths to operate in an open and transparent manner, conducting meetings in the open and communicating meeting outcomes in detail and in a timely manner. This limits the amount of secret or sensitive information that any past volunteer carries away with them when they leave the organization.

I don't say this to minimize your concerns. As I said, the Board is aggressively pursuing all steps to protect sensitive and proprietary information from unauthorized release or abuse by any party and will assess the other steps you have suggested as well. We will take all legally permissible actions to continue to protect and serve the membership's interests, as NCRA has done since 1899.

This controversy is unfortunate. In recent months, NCRA and its stenographic membership have enjoyed an aura of positivity not seen in many, many years among our ranks. With the release of the "Writing Our Future"



findings [<http://www.ncra.org/News/newsdetail.cfm?ItemNumber=11610>], with an outstanding, uplifting convention in Las Vegas, and an impressive menu of programs and advocacy in support of steno interests already underway, the news for those who care about NCRA and the profession is exciting and good. It is up to each member to continue with that attitude and not let the actions of one individual cause us to be distracted.

We must learn from the past, deal with the present, and look forward. NCRA is moving full-speed ahead on its agenda to promote, advance and support the stenographic profession. Let me repeat the last paragraph of the statement I posted to the membership last week:

"I want there to be no doubt in any member's mind over where NCRA stands. We heard our members through your Writing Our Future responses. Your NCRA board today remains unwaveringly committed to keeping the promises that we have made to our members. NCRA is an association devoted exclusively to the welfare and promotion of the stenographic reporting profession."

We have direction. We have purpose. We have strength.

Sincerely,

Doug

---

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## New: AskDRA!

### LIGHTS!! CAMERA!! ANSWERS!!

The Deposition Reporters Association is proud to announce our newest member benefit:  
**AskDRA!**

From our first deposition to the one we attended just last week, all reporters have questions about the law, our ethics, exhibits, and our license. We run into crazy, weird situations or have a dilemma dealing with that "SoCal Stip."

Through the years, DRA's Depo Diplomat Toni Pulone has answered thousands of member questions through popular presentations at our conventions and seminars, in our newsletter, and on the phone. So DRA thought why not try to streamline this and make all the years of wisdom and experience of DRA readily available to every DRA member all the time?

Now here's the fun part! Today we are proud to announce our video library of reporter questions and answers. Yes, your questions and our answers! With **AskDRA**, it just takes a couple of clicks and you have the answer you've always been looking for. Take a look:

<http://bit.ly/AskDRA>

Isn't it great?!

Don't see your question listed? Grab your camera and submit your video question to DRA, or send it to us in an e-mail, and get a chance to help others who are scratching their heads wondering the exact same thing.



**BE A PART OF IT!**



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# DRA Petitions CRB For Clarification Of Gifting Language

At the Court Reporters Board meeting in Sacramento on October 27, 2011, DRA's lobbyist, Ed Howard, presented a petition to request clarification of Provision 8 of the Standards of Professional Practice with regard to the gift-giving limits imposed upon CSRs. The language currently reads as follows:

*Other than the receipt  
of compensation for  
reporting services,  
neither directly or  
indirectly give nor  
receive any gift,  
incentive, reward, or  
anything of value to or  
from any person or  
entity associated with  
a proceeding being  
reported. Such persons  
or entities shall  
include, but [are] not  
limited to, attorneys,  
employees of attorneys,  
clients, witnesses,  
insurers, underwriters,  
or any agents or  
representatives  
thereof. Exceptions to  
the foregoing  
restriction shall be as  
follows: (A) giving or  
receiving items that do  
not exceed \$100 (in  
the aggregate for any  
combination of items  
given and/or received  
per above-described  
person or entity per  
calendar year.*

DRA often receives requests from its members for an explanation of the language "person or entity." Does that mean the law firm or does that mean each person who is employed by the law firm?

DRA believes the intent of the regulation is to ensure that no single recipient – whether the single recipient be a law firm in and of itself or each individual who works there – obtains a single gift in any calendar year in excess of the dollar limit.



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The ambiguity arises because the regulation uses the shorthand "person or entity" to describe the list of individuals covered by the regulation. Fixing that shorthand we believe fixes the ambiguity and brings the regulation in line with the Board's original intent:

**Proposed Amendment:**  
***(8) Other than the receipt of compensation for reporting services, neither directly or indirectly give nor receive any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value to or from any person or entity associated with a proceeding being reported. Such persons or entities shall include, but are not limited to, attorneys, law firms, attorneys, clients, witnesses, insurers, underwriters, or any agents or representatives thereof. Exceptions to the foregoing restriction shall be as follows: (A) giving or receiving items that do not exceed \$100 (in the aggregate for any combination of items given and/or received) per calendar year to or from an attorney, law firm, of attorneys, a client, a witness, an insurer, an underwriter, or any agent or representative thereof.***

*employees of*

*an employee*

*a*

The CRB unanimously granted our petition to change the regulation, making it easier for deposition reporters to comply and encouraging the CRB to enforce the regulation.

What's next?

- 1) formal regulatory process
- 2) public hearing
- 3) approval by the office of administrative law
- 4) it becomes binding law

Click this link to read the full petition:

**<http://bit.ly/DRApetitionCRB>**

**DRA IS ALWAYS WORKING FOR YOU!**



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# 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, will present 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 will go over it again in person with a full house of legal secretaries. He will deliver our message and answer 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!***





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# Get Better or Get Out

*by Mary Ann Payonk, RDR-CRR*

I belong to a listserv that includes reporting firm owners as well as working reporters and videographers. Recently, I was inspired by a post titled "2012 - Looking Forward." CLVS videographer Brian wrote, "It's that time of year to start planning for 2012. As we head into the busy holiday season, now is a good time to evaluate what we can all do to improve and advance our offerings to stay competitive next year." Brian's reasoning for this great advice was, "If we can improve the level of service we provide every day, we will then have a competitive advantage." Everyone wants to gain a competitive advantage! "Put in the effort," Brian said, "to offer realtime for every deposition." As a realtime reporter, that got my attention. But wait! There's more! "Increase your knowledge about the latest technologies and it will pay off in 2012." "Do not accept either 'That's just the way we've always done it' or 'I don't want to learn a new ... ' Fill in the blank with software, service, delivery method, or skill set." Great advice!

I see numbers of reporters increasing in almost every market, but I also see an attitude of hubris -- that arrogant sense of entitlement, a sense we are deserving of good and wonderful things, in our case, just because we are court reporters. "Just because." To borrow a phrase, I say giving someone a wrench does not make them a mechanic!

Brian ended his post by saying, "We can each be the key to our own success -- or a roadblock. In our industry, we have a responsibility to represent all others in our field and to provide the best service and technologies available. Often we are judged by our weakest links. Don't let yourself down, or others in our industry." I could consider myself one of those "others" feeling let down. But I vow to replace my own hubris with humility and do one thing: Get better at what I do!

Since we work with words every day, let me say that I believe "solidarity" is not just a term peculiar to union matters. Solidarity means a unity or fellowship arising from common responsibilities and interests. So in solidarity, I responded to Brian, and here are my thoughts.

First, what a great message! I read it from the agency owner's side but also from the working reporter's side. In my experience, from the time school starts in September right up to December 24th has always been the busiest time of the year. But, like any self-employed professional, we experience a natural anxiety when activity slows, even expectedly. Brian was right in so many ways. To summarize, we must get better at what we do, and there's no time like the present to do it. If you are experiencing a lull in your market, use your extra time to your advantage. Get better at what you do! Act as if your future depends on it. In fact, it does.

There is now a surplus of reporters in many markets and, in my opinion, far too many reporters destroying the image of our profession. Brian said, "We are each the key to our own success." Let me add, only the best will survive. To survive, we must offer what others cannot, deliver a level of service that others cannot. We must exceed the expectations of our clients. We must raise the bar, not lower it. Brian said, "Don't let yourself down, or others in our profession." Again, very kind. I say to the weakest links, if you can't get better, get out. Make room for someone who will (1) take the ball and (2) actually run with it. I believe reporting agencies should not be looking for warm bodies, they should be looking for the best and the brightest

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reporters to come and work for them, lending their skills and expertise and professionalism to the agency to not only keep current clients but drive new clients to them. If fresh new faces are to be attracted into this great profession -- smart, skilled, topnotch reporters whose entry will act to cull the herd -- they will not be attracted to the profession from a love of words. They can get that fix by doing the Jumble in the newspaper every morning.

Attracting top-level professionals with a love of words, grammar, punctuation, style, working with people, variety, technology, and not the least, service -- the whole package -- will require moving forward in our profession AS a profession, a profession with standards and a reputation, offering something that no other can, and compensating experts in our field for their expertise. The harmful effects of low-ball contracting, commoditization, and (at least) embarrassing and (at most) unethical incentive gift-giving practices will discourage the best and the brightest from entering this great profession. Leave poverty thinking to those who are struggling to keep up. Without its reporters, a reporting firm is a scheduling service with no clients. Reporting agencies are dependent on skilled reporters who lend their talents, expertise, and good name to the agency so that their clients connect superior service and quality with that agency. To reporters and firm owners both I say, let's get smart about business.

In many areas, the flood gates are open. Often unregulated, reporting agencies are appearing overnight -- some good for our profession, our reporters, our clients, our future ... many downright dangerous. And because of the dangerous effects of both fly-by-night agencies and complacent reporter who will not lift a finger to get better at what they do, I believe quality will become increasingly critical in the field. I not only hope for this, I truly believe this!

Recently, a very well-publicized trial ended. There were thousands of pages of testimony, but only a few sentences caught my attention. After the verdict was read, as the judge was dismissing the jury, he thanked them and said, "We stand for juries in this courtroom." Then, emphasizing that indeed they do not simply stand for juries in principle, they actually actively stand up for juries, all stood in respect as the jury left the courtroom.

There are great reporters out there right now, today, looking for work ... and there are also reporters who are not making our profession look very good. To the latter, I say if you don't want to get better, get out. Make room for reporters who take this job seriously. And to agencies, I encourage you to choose reporters for the quality of their work, not simply to put a warm body into the reporter's chair. Then .. stand up for your reporters. Do it because you respect what they do for you. I vow to get better at what I do in 2012 - no, starting today! I want to lend my time and talents to great firms who respect the profession, who vow to find reporters they will stand up for!

In solidarity.





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## Be Proud! Show The DRA Logo

DRA is proud of everything it has accomplished and proud of the principles for which it stands. We are likewise proud of each and every member who has made the commitment to carry on our ideals and efforts on an individual level. As such, we would be pleased to allow our members to display our logo on their websites and marketing materials, on the condition that their membership remains current and that they agree to abide by our Code of Ethics.

Click this link to apply for the DRA member logo:

[\*\*\*http://bit.ly/GetDRALogo\*\*\*](http://bit.ly/GetDRALogo)





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## Fall Grab 'N Go Recap

**September 24, 2011 -- Handlery Hotel**  
***Overview, by Charlotte  
Dunn and Sue Campana***

Vendors:

We were joined by Stenograph, with their newest flashing Diamante on display; Eclipse; Neutrino Group, with two machines; and the Steno Doctor.

Speakers:

Lynn Penfield, Gizmos and Gadgets:

These seminars are always popular. Something new all the time. Lynn was entertaining and informative. She let us know that StenoCast is up and running with their new realtime display TV and that SoundProfessionals.com has a CSR microphone tab and a USB foot pedal. Express Scribe is a free program that allows you to upload audio files and then run it in the background when scoping a job. It really comes in handy when the videographers give you a digital audio file.

Margie Wakeman Wells, Hyphens and Compounds:

Margie has a new book out that has the rule, along with an explanation of how to punctuate. You can write to her any time with questions. She's going to start a blog: [www.margieholdscourt.com](http://www.margieholdscourt.com)

Ed Howard and Toni Pulone, Sacramento Snapshot:

Always informative, always enjoyable. The new DRA video "Is Your Depo Getting You In Hot Water?" was played to an overwhelmingly enthusiastic crowd. We are all so lucky to have Ed and Toni working on our behalf to protect our interests in Sacramento.

**\*\*\* A delicious bag lunch was served in our DRA logo lunch bag! Great idea. \*\*\***

California Certificate in Realtime Reporting:

21 reporters sat for the exam; two passed. Congratulations to Jane Bramblett and Elizabeth Borrelli!

Marla Sharp, Briefology:

Marla did an awesome job of sharing briefs and making our lives just a little bit easier on the job. Everyone appreciated her tips and tricks!

Depo Diplomat:

Toni Pulone impressed the crowd once again with her knowledge of the state and federal rules of procedure, and engendered a lively discussion of the "LA Stip."



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Richard Abbey, Hook Them at Hello:

Richard says you should be able to leave an impression in 90 seconds or less! Good physical appearance and a good attitude are important. We are naturally drawn to happy people. Body language is so telling. 55% of people remember gestures, 38% remember tone of voice, and 7% remember the actual words exchanged. "What someone says to us is easy to forget, but how someone makes you feel, you'll remember."

Show Me The Depos:

Panel members Todd Olivas, Lisa Michaels and Pam Cotten, moderated by Diana Sasseen, were a fantastic group! Here's what they had to say: If you do REALTIME, you've got a better chance of working. Be willing to take all jobs; don't be a prima donna. Be on time to the job; turn your jobs in on time; be professional. Don't steal clients. Don't hand out your own cards unless it's just your name, and then write in the firm name and info. Diana asked questions of the panel, and then there were questions asked from the audience. She kept things moving and had some funny stories too. The panel answered honestly and got some great feedback from the audience about how they would handle certain situations and what impresses them about reporters.

All in all, it was a fabulous seminar. It really seemed like everyone had a good time and enjoyed the seminars. Lots of networking was going on, with exchanges of cards. Best way to find an agency to freelance with? Attend a DRA function and get to know the owners! Best way for a firm owner to cover an out-of-town job? Attend a DRA function and get to know reporters in other locales! Connections were made between reporters, scopists and proofreaders. It was a win/win for all. Hopefully they will have lasting working relationships and remember that they met through attending a DRA seminar.

DRA functions are like a reunion of sorts because you always see someone you haven't seen in a while, and you get to catch up on them, their work, their families. On the other side of the coin, you meet fabulous reporters whom you never would have had a chance to get to know but for DRA! Attendees always leave spinning with information from all the energy and excitement!



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# CORE Curriculum Recap

*by Jeri Cain*



CORE CURRICULUM-MODULE I  
WEST VALLEY COLLEGE, OCTOBER 8, 2011  
SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA

Presenter: Lois Ludwig  
DepoMap: Karen Klein  
Hostess, Robin Riviello, District 2 Representative  
Report by Jeri Cain, Coordinator



It was a beautiful day in Saratoga as we gathered at the registration room at West Valley College, Business Administration Building #9. Linda Lawson and Sue Coleman, our hosts and WVC instructors, greeted us with a smile and piping hot coffee. Linda and Sue were responsible for signing up 12 of their own students. Robin Riviello, DRA's own District 2 representative, brought yogurt, cheese, grapes, cookies, and water. It was the perfect combination to get us through the day. We were pleasantly surprised to have Vicki Squires and Anne Torreano join us, too. Vicki printed name tags for the registrants and assisted with registration. We felt like royalty all day. It was a beautiful day in Saratoga as we gathered at the registration room at West Valley College, Business Administration Building #9. Linda Lawson and Sue Coleman, our hosts and WVC instructors, greeted us with a smile and piping hot coffee. Linda and Sue were responsible for signing up 12 of their own students. Robin Riviello, DRA's own District 2 representative, brought yogurt, cheese, grapes, cookies, and water. It was the perfect combination to get us

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through the day. We were pleasantly surprised to have Vicki Squires and Anne Torreano join us, too. Vicki printed name tags for the registrants and assisted with registration. We felt like royalty all day.

Lois and Karen set up in the classroom adjacent to the registration room while 34 registrants one by one took their seats and waited in anticipation for the instruction to begin. Lois delivered another magnificent CORE. Karen displayed DepoMap on the overhead projector as Lois covered her outline. The instructors wanted to know how to obtain DepoMap for the school to incorporate it into their codes and procedures class. Lois received 18 positive feedback forms at the end of the instruction.

I spoke for a few minutes about the many benefits of DRA membership and addressed the five reporters who would be eligible for a \$25 gift certificate towards our upcoming convention for renewing/joining DRA on this day. Christine Hicks and Meghan Palma gladly took us up on the offer.

Anne addressed the group and shared some of the many highlights and background concerning speakers and programs DRA is offering at the convention being held at the beautiful Monterey Plaza Hotel & Spa on February 24-26, 2012.

There's no greater fun than to get together with friends and colleagues as we share our reporting experiences with the group and learn new things. After all, that's what CORE is all about...







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## Great News From New Jersey

### SINGER BILL LEVELS PLAYING FIELD, ALLOWING SMALL BUSINESSES TO REMAIN COMPETITIVE

Legislation sponsored by Senator Robert Singer (R-Ocean) that would help local businesses provide court reporting service, better compete with larger, out-of-state companies was passed by the Senate Commerce Committee today.

"These larger agencies hire certified reporters, often as independent contractors, but the firms themselves have no limitations on the way that they do business because they do not fall within the purview of the court reporters' certification law or any regulation by the board," stated Singer. "These large agencies have an unfair competitive advantage because they have not been restricted with respect to giving gifts or other incentives to attorneys in order to get their business."

Singer's bill (S397) would require the owner or operator of a court reporting agency that provides court reporting services to have a certificate granted by the State Board of Court Reporting, or have a registration certificate granted by the board in accordance with the bill.

Court reporting agencies, registered pursuant to the bill, would also be subjected to board regulations, and would be required to employ only court reporters certified by the board or temporary court reporters registered with the board.

Under current law, court reporters have limitations on the way they do business including a strict limitation on any gift or other incentive that may be given to attorneys or others that hire the reporters.





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## Grace Period Ends For Enforcement Of New NCRA Gift-Giving Rules

In July of 2010, several NCRA state affiliate associations signed on to DRA's resolution requesting that the NCRA board of directors approve new gift-giving rules set forth in Provision 8 of the Code of Professional Ethics.

In the spring of 2011, the changes were approved, as amended by the NCRA board.

The board also approved a grace period for members to have time to learn about these new rules and make the appropriate changes to their marketing strategies. The grace period ended on October 31, 2011. The Committee on Professional Ethics may now begin considering complaints regarding possible violations of this provision. No alleged violations occurring prior to November 1, 2011 will be considered.

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# SF Eliminating Court-Provided Reporters In Most Civil Cases

*by Cheryl Miller*

2011-09-29 05:33:14 PM

SACRAMENTO — Starting Monday, San Francisco Superior Court will no longer provide court reporters for matters heard in 16 civil courtrooms, the court announced Thursday. Litigants will be allowed to hire their own certified shorthand reporter, said Marilyn Sage, San Francisco's managing court reporter. Prevailing litigants may be able to recover the expense as part of their costs.

The elimination of court-provided reporters in most civil cases at the Civic Center Courthouse is a result of S.F. Superior's significant budget cutbacks. Twelve official court reporters will be laid off and 10 pro tem, or on-call, reporters have already been terminated, court officials said. Courts elsewhere in the state have also stopped providing court reporters to save money. The court will still provide reporters in cases where it is required to do so by law, including those on family, juvenile and civil harassment calendars. Court leaders are considering the use of electronic recording devices in some misdemeanor cases but not elsewhere, Sage said. The court also announced Thursday that it is cutting hours at its multilingual self-help center at 575 Polk St. and the Civic Center Courthouse's family law assistance office. The centers served a total of 37,000 clients last year.

Effective Friday, the court will lay off 67 employees due to a \$6.23 million deficit. The court scaled back plans to cut 175 jobs after receiving a \$2.5 million loan from the Judicial Council.



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# Machines Incapable Of Replacing Court Reporters

*by Michelle Corrigan*

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.

The reality is that court reporters are highly skilled, trained professionals who are required to undergo rigorous testing to attain our certifications, and who must be proficient in medical and legal terminology and procedures. Our licensing process in California is a two-day, three-part written and skills exam, often considered to be one of the most difficult court reporter certification tests in the United States. One thing that never seems to be mentioned when the topic turns to electronic recording is exactly who would transcribe these court proceedings if we don't? Court reporters are required to become mini experts in everything from a botched surgical procedure, to DUI cases, to divorce proceedings. I was one of the reporters recently assigned to a locally publicized "cold case" homicide trial where the evidence centered heavily on DNA testing. Trust me, deoxyribonucleic acid was one of the more basic terms tossed around by several different experts. Utilizing some "cheaper" typist/transcriber with a basic vocabulary would be a monumental step backward for technology, not any measure of progress whatsoever.

Yes, we receive a good salary, but we also must purchase and maintain all of our own costly software, equipment and supplies, and it is the norm to prepare transcripts during evenings and weekends. I have a great job, and I am extremely grateful to have one that I actually enjoy, but I can assure all of you taxpayers that there are no official reporters getting rich quick working for the government.

It is also a little known fact that virtually all of live TV broadcast captioning for the hearing impaired is performed by court reporters. The Today Show, CNN, Fox News ... it's all instantaneously transcribed by a court reporter (aka broadcast captioner), usually captioning remotely from their home, using the same equipment that I use in the courtroom.

Which brings me to the subject of real time, the one court reporter trump card that will keep our profession alive for years to come, in my opinion. When I am reporting a hearing, my judge is receiving a real-time rough draft transcript via their computer monitor at bench. The judge has instant access to testimony and legal arguments, therefore expediting rulings and helping the proceedings to run more smoothly overall. There is simply no voice-to-text technology in existence today that is capable of deciphering accents, mumbling, and dual speakers as well as a real, live human being can, at the level of accuracy to which court reporters routinely perform. Not even close.

Unfortunately, I believe we are becoming a society who often expects machines to replace people. I'm as addicted to my smartphone as the next person, but haven't we all spent 15 minutes trying to "self-check" a handful of groceries, just to have a clerk come finish the



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transaction anyway? Or yelled into our phones like a crazy person, repeating the same command over and over again in an attempt to navigate an unbelievably annoying voicemail tree? Computers still can't reason, despite what clever software marketers and cost-cutting managers may claim.

As far as the courts' decision to lay off such a large chunk of our small division, well, I have ten pages of commentary I could write about that, but a whiny, vitriolic rant on my part would serve no purpose here. And while I truly don't think this is the case in Napa yet, every time I read a headline about massive layoffs of workers while the top-heavy "upper management" teams remain intact, I am often left wondering exactly who, and what, is left for upper management to manage? My ultimate point is, court reporters are not some line item on a bloated government budget that can just be deleted and discarded. We are an integral part of the judicial process; talented, hard-working professionals with mortgages and medical bills to pay, kids to raise — a typical American worker, in my mind.

Looking at the bigger picture, however, I do fear that with the rising costs of litigation, and with a littany of new fee schedules instituted on a regular basis, we are moving closer to a system where justice will come more easily to those who can afford to pay for it.

***(Michelle Corrigan, of Napa, indicated that she is a certified shorthand reporter, certified realtime reporter, registered merit reporter, certified broadcast captioner.)***

From Napa Valley Register



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# DRA Lends Its Weight For A Strong Presence At Court Technology Conference

On behalf of the Deposition Reporters Association of California, President Lisa Michaels attended the 2011 Court Technology Conference in Long Beach, California from October 4-6 to join NCRA in its efforts to strongly advocate for the role of the realtime stenographic court reporter. Over 1,000 judges, court administrators and IT professionals representing courts of all sizes from across the United States and the world were in attendance. It was a shining example of how national and state associations are working together to promote the profession and the value of realtime stenographic reporters to key influencers.

As part of the group called the Alliance For Integrated Court Technology, Smart Technologies, YesLaw, and StenoCast lent their support as well, assisting with the illustration of the role of the realtime stenographic reporter. Special thanks to DRA member Reagan Evans for providing the realtime reporting.

President Michaels also attended the presentation given by For The Record on the benefits of their digital reporting system, presented by their new marketing person, SueLynn Morgan, NCRA member and Immediate Past President (thereby providing DRA with confirmation of her new role in this company).

Despite the fact that the neighboring vendor booths were promoting DAR/ER systems, it was a very successful team effort by the Alliance to aggressively push the benefits of steno to the judicial system.

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## Governor Vetoes SB 671

Senate Bill (SB) 671, authored by Senator Curren Price, would have required implementation of mandatory continuing education for CSRs. On September 30, 2011, Governor Brown vetoed the bill. He did not single out this bill but did note "The whole idea of legally mandated continuing education is suspect in my mind. Professionals already are motivated to hone their skills – or risk not getting business."

This is the third time a bill for mandatory CSR continuing education has failed to achieve a Governor's signature, despite the support of the CR Board, the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Senate and House.

This is, of course, disappointing, but as noted at the DRA Fall Grab 'N Go seminar, the vetoes can't be predicted.



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## Big Win In Arizona!

*by Karen Kahle  
President, ACRA*

On Friday, October 28, 2011, the Presiding Judge from Maricopa County proposed to the Arizona Judicial Council the grand jury legislation to allow electronic recording as the only means of the record. The proposal was to allow video and audio recording to be provided to defense attorneys and that it would only be transcribed upon request. There was no mention of who would be transcribing it.

This was the exact same proposal that we battled last year. The only difference was our lobbyist was able to catch it sooner this time, so we were prepared. The Arizona Judicial Council is comprised of presiding judges and members of the public. Our lobbyist was armed with tons of information this time from research we had provided him from last year, and even more research this year. Our lobbyist was very eloquent when he spoke against the proposal. We were expecting to lose and ready to begin the letter-writing campaign to senators and representatives, as we had done last year. Suddenly, the Presiding Judge of Pima County and the Presiding Judge of Pinal County spoke against the proposal, as did a judge from the Court of Appeals. The chair took the vote, and it failed with seven voting for it and 11 against. This is a huge, huge victory in Arizona!!



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# Depo Diplomat

## REPORTER CORRECTION OF TRANSCRIPT

Dear Depo Diplomat:

I have a situation where a reporter who took a job for me made an error. She clearly states that it was a transcription error. This error appears in a portion of the testimony that is key to whether the defendants can get the case dismissed – a biggie.

I'm including here the letter from the law firm that took the depo, in which the attorney asks whether the reporter could have made a transcribing error in a deposition. I've also included a letter written by the reporter to the two attorneys involved, explaining that she did make a transcription error and stating how the transcript should have read.

It is impossible to issue another "original"; correct? How would you handle this situation? Should I send out another copy of the transcript with a copy of the reporter's correction letter at the front?

Thanks again for your help and advice. I really appreciate it.

**Dear Reporter:**

***I think that the letter written by the reporter involved here should serve as an adequate reply to the noticing attorney letter, which asks about whether a transcribing error could have occurred, and should also serve as a notice of correction to both parties. I don't believe another original should be prepared and issued. What you might do next depends on whether you still have possession of the original or whether you've already transmitted it to the noticing attorney. If you do still have it, I think it's acceptable***

' s



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*in this case, where the reporter wishes to correct a word in the transcript that she feels completely confident was transcribed in error, to correct the page involved and substitute it for the original page in the transcript, then send copies of that corrected page to each person who's received a copy of the transcript, along with a cover letter which explains that this error has been corrected in the original and that you are sending a copy of the corrected page for each party to insert into his/her copy. You should also include a copy of the reporter's letter that you attached here.*

' ve

*Now, if it so happens that the witness here has already reviewed the transcript and submitted corrections and/or signed the transcript, then this becomes a bit more complicated in that you would also need to notify the witness of this correction being made. And if the original has already been sent out, then since no one should be allowed -- or encouraged -- to open the sealed original, assuming it is still sealed, you would then have to retrieve the original from the person who has it in order to substitute this corrected page into it, then seal it and return it. In this scenario, you would still need to notify all the parties and the witness that this correction had been made in the original and provide them with a copy of the corrected page for their copies of the deposition.*

*I should also say that*

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*there is no language included in the Code of Civil Procedure regarding how corrections can or should be made by the deposition officer, so there are no instructions along these lines. I do believe, however, that this is a good common-sense approach for a reporter to follow in order to correct an error and notify the parties and the witness of the correction. This correction procedure should only be used, I would emphasize, in situations where the reporter feels absolutely certain, without question, that a reporting or transcribing error has occurred. The reporter cannot be persuaded to make a correction by one of the parties unless he/she is positive, after review of the steno notes and perhaps the audio file, that the transcript does contain a reporter error.*

---

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# Congratulations New CCRRs!

*by Valerie Eames*

DRA would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to its newest CCRRs!

Passing the September 24, 2011, exam in San Diego are:

**Jane Bramblett**  
**Elizabeth Borrelli**

Passing the October 1, 2011, exam in San Francisco are:

**Jeanie Cayaban-Alma**  
**Sara Lershen**  
**Allison Ash-Hoyman**  
**Susan Magee**  
**Julie Lessa**  
**Tamara Houston**  
**Jennifer Arroyo-Samels**

These two CCRR exams were given on back-to-back weekends. The first test was given on September 24, 2011, at the Handlery Hotel and Resort in San Diego at DRA's fall Grab 'N Go seminar. We had a good turnout, with 21 signing up to challenge their skills.

The second test was given on October 1, 2011, at COCRA's fall seminar at San Francisco State University Union Square Downtown Campus, The Westfield San Francisco Centre, with a record 41 signing up to challenge their skills!

DRA would like to offer a special thanks to Margaret Ortiz and Eric van Dorn from West Valley College School of Court Reporting for making the trip to San Francisco on a Saturday afternoon to read for the October 1 CCRR test.

And DRA is forever grateful to Ned Branch, Nancy Patterson, and Vicki Squires for their participation, hard work and dedication to maintaining the integrity and longevity of the CCRR.

The California Certificate in Realtime Reporting (CCRR) is a skills test designed to measure the basic realtime competency of court reporters. The current test consists of five minutes of dictation at 180 words per minute, requiring 96% accuracy.

Please note that the test speed will be increased from 180 to 200 words per minute immediately following DRA's convention in Monterey, February 24-26, 2012. In order to maintain the high standards of the CCRR certification and to keep abreast of the increasing challenges facing realtime reporters today with regard to terminology and speed of testimony, DRA feels that 200 words per minimum at 96% accuracy is a fair measure of the minimum level of competency.



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See you in Monterey in 2012. Don't forget to sign up for the CCRR!

**Realtime certification enhances your marketability as a reporter!!**



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## NEW: DRA Library Now Online - Check It Out

Ever wondered what the evidence is for the benefit of stenographic reporters over ER or what other reporters are doing to combat gift-giving in their individual work environments?

Yet another of our many member benefits, DRA has compiled an extensive list of reference materials to educate and assist you in fighting the threat of electronic recording and gift-giving in your area.

Click this link to take advantage of this tremendous resource:

**<http://bit.ly/DRALibrary>**





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## Veritext Acquires Sarnoff Court Reporters

On November 2, 2011 Veritext Corp announced the acquisition of the assets of Sarnoff Court Reporters, a litigation support firm with offices throughout California, Las Vegas and Chicago. Veritext's acquisition of Sarnoff represents a significant expansion of its legal resources in the western United States. The acquisition includes Sarnoff's core deposition and court reporting businesses and does not include its mediation and e-discovery units. No additional transaction details have been released.

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# Organic Voice Recognition

## JACK W. HUNT & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Kevin R. Hunt, President of Jack W. Hunt & Associates, Inc., conservatively estimated to be the universally acclaimed best reporting firm in the world[i], has announced the complete transition of their firm to Voice Recognition. According to a recent ABC World News interview with George Stephanopoulos[ii], Mr. Hunt states this comes on the heels of a number of digital voice recognition claims, and emphasized that this heretofore relatively unknown process of using organically-developed voice recognition technology far surpasses any of the recent claims of digital voice recognition.

"Despite the billions of dollars placed into the digital research arena, Organic Voice Recognition (OVR) far surpasses any of the technology coming out of companies like Microsoft, Google, etc." Mr. Hunt stated. "Our organic natural speech translation technology with appropriate software and hardware has been found to be capable of providing the highest accuracy rates available today."

Through the use of patent-pending non-artificial intelligence, the OVR technology is capable of discerning between speech and extraneous background noise, such as coughing, wheezing, rattling of papers, fire engines and even extremely loud flatulence. Mr. Hunt claims the use of non-artificial intelligence combined with the highly sophisticated and uniquely designed Echo Amplified Resonance System or EARS, results in an extremely high quality auditory reproduction of what was actually said and not simply what was heard which can then be reduced to a useable format such as a transcript.

Mr. Hunt counters the claims that OVR technology is difficult to obtain by stating that the raw materials have been made for thousands of years, and the process is not only easy to learn but can also be quite a lot of fun in the early planning and development stages, while he admits that it has been known to be a bit tedious in the final production process and not every result from the process has been able to be placed into productive OVR use. But, as Mr. Hunt cheerfully states: "If at first you don't succeed ... try, try again."As opposed to the latest digital voice recognition devices that have an extremely narrow functional capability, Mr. Hunt claims that the OVR entities can be quickly adapted to do more than just capture the spoken word and reduce it to a transcribed format. They can also be trained to respond to verbal and non-verbal requests by clients, even while performing their main voice recognition functionality. Some have even been developed so far that they can take the dog out for a walk, go shopping and with the advanced modules, even balance a checkbook[iii].

"As opposed to the cold, non-interactive capabilities of the digital machines, our clients have really enjoyed working with our OVRers so much so that a number of clients have even asked to take them home." Mr. Hunt cautions that this is done only while maintaining the highest of ethical responsibilities and often results in a contractual relationship being established for the use and caring when not being used in a professional setting. Mr. Hunt also states that there are often severe financial penalties for not fulfilling the terms of the above-mentioned contract.

"We enjoy OVRers so much that we even give them names, like Mary, and Sue, sometimes Bob, and even Sha'Na'Tquisha," Mr. Hunt exclaimed, indicating his enthusiasm for the new technology. Mr. Hunt completed the interview by stating, "While I'm sure that many of my fellow reporters

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and reporting firm owners may be shocked to hear that I've gone 100% OVR after so many years in the business, I want to assure them that my dedication to the profession has not diminished, and I will be happy to share with them all of the nuances to a successful integration of the OVR technology in their own business, for a modest fee[iv]."

---

[i] Based on a 1996 Survey Performed by Mr. Hunt of All of Mr. Hunt's Parents. With a 100% response rate, the survey has a 0% Margin of Error.

[ii] This interview never really took place but the quotes are probably what Mr. Hunt would have said if he was asked.

[iii] Available only in Organic Voice Recognition Pro.

[iv] Fees are paid even if it turns out the client has been using Organic Voice Recognition from the very start in their business.



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## Distinguished Service Award Nominations

Do you know a fellow reporter or a colleague in the reporting field who has served this profession on a state and national level, who has donated their valuable time to educate on behalf of the profession as a whole, who has attained a long list of achievements, who exhibits leadership qualities?

DRA invites you to submit nominations now for its prestigious Distinguished Service Award, to be announced at the annual convention in Monterey, February 24-26, 2012.

Click here to review the candidate criteria and submit your nomination:

<http://bit.ly/DRADSA>





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## Welcome New Members

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

Claire Andrews, CSR  
Juvilynn Benasfre  
Stephanie Borthwick, CSR  
Brian Clune  
Leanne Compton  
Alisa Ekk  
Tami Evans  
Ruth Grant, CSR  
Jeanese Johnson, CSR  
Rangel Kolt  
Christine Leung  
Claudia Marsh, CSR  
Kristen Moody, CSR  
Tammy Pageau-Hines, CSR  
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# 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***

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*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?***





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## DRA Scholarship Applications Deadline

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, who 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.

Members click here to apply:

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### **Potter Health Insurance Agency**

Bo Potter

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La Canada, CA 91011

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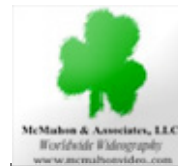
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Have you ever been a member of DRA before? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ List me on DRA's on-line database ☐ List me as available for freelance work

**\*\* 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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