

# Reporter Spotlight - Andrew Ha



ANDREW HA,  
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**How long have you been reporting?**

Nearly 3 years. First job was October 13, 2023.

**Where did you grow up?**

Torrance, CA

**Tell us about your family.**

My dad loved to exercise, climb mountains, run marathons, play golf. He was chill and affable, a bit stoic but playful. We always said that he didn't look Korean; he looked like a movie star. My sister got his looks; I got mine from my mom. My mom loves to arrange flowers, play musical instruments, line dance, sing. She's organized and always goes the extra mile. Any amount of musical talent I have, I got from her. She's equal parts artistic and technical. My sister loves to draw, watch movies and tv. She's empathetic and hardworking. We go to the movie theater together almost every week. I got my respect for women from her.

**How did you first get involved with DRA?**

Probably the DRA picnic early in my schooling. I remember doing really well at the egg balancing race.

**What do you like to do when you're not reporting?**

I like to sing, cook, watch movies and tv, play story driven video games, play boardgames with friends, and hang out with fellow reporters.

**What has been the highlight of your career?**

First highlight is taking over my family's mortgage until we could stabilize after my dad passed away about a month after I got my license. We didn't have to worry about losing the house thanks to court reporting. Second highlight is taking my sister and cousin to Japan for three weeks. I was able to pay for all hotels, train rides, Disneyland, Universal Studios, and more.

**If you could do it all over again, would you choose court reporting as a career?**

Absolutely. I wish I could have gotten in sooner. 10 years sooner.

**What is one professional accomplishment you'd still like to achieve?**

I'd still like to study psychology formally. Also, I'd like a singing voice acting role. Let me be a Disney villain!

**What's your cocktail order?**

Some novel form of lemonade. I had the most devilishly amazing lemonade from a top floor fancy hotel restaurant in DTLA. They said they just made it from Pericone Farms lemonade mix. It was fizzy and tart.

**Do you still practice on your machine?**

Admittedly, not much.

**What advice would you give to a struggling court reporting student?**

Every time you feel like you've hit a wall, change something. Think about anything and everything you might be dreading to do, such as talk to your teacher or do more finger drills, and then go do that thing. Court reporting training is brain training, which means you are changing the structure of your brain. If you fall into a habit, your brain stops changing and starts reinforcing. You can also be practicing too much. Rest is just as important. If you're getting too much rest, then practice more. If you're doing too much practice, rest more. Confuse your brain.

**If you couldn't be a court reporter anymore, what career would you choose?**

Psychologist or voice actor.

**If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

Salmon.

**Why is DRA membership important to you?**

Court reporting school is scary. The state exam is scary. The real world is scary. You never quite feel you're ready for each step, but you've got to take each step anyways. What's scarier is doing all of that alone. Court reporting can be terribly isolating if you let it. All the answers to this career are found within the community. Why? Because they've had to answer the same questions. Receive and give in return.