

CCRA *online*

Volume 10 | Issue 4



**Happy Spring,
Everyone!**



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the California Court Reporters Association

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CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

President's Message — Happy Spring, Everyone!

By Carolyn Dasher, CSR, RPR
CCRA President



Well, I sit here thinking with a mixture of hope, sadness, and wonder.

I hope all the official reporters who have been let go because of financial difficulties in their counties will be rehired.

I am sad that our freelancers and officials are feeling the financial woes of our economy. And I wonder how we're going to get through the coming years of estimated financial problems.

I took a winter vacation and we drove up the 395 on our way to Tahoma, California, in El Dorado County. We skied at Homewood Mountain Resort and visited family there and in Lee Vining as we traveled through California.

As I traveled through Inyo County, I saw the courthouse. I thought of the reporters working there. We went through Mono County. I have relatives there. And I thought of the freelance reporters there who fight the elements of the weather to get to a depo. We drove through Kern, Lancaster, and many little counties throughout the state that I don't even know.

I thought of all the reporters around our state and how different our lives may be, but how our profession bonds us into one entity. We are the keepers of the judicial record. Depo reporters work sometimes all day without a lunch break. Officials have to work during their lunch break just to keep up with the demands of their busy calendar and transcript load.

Not a day goes by that I don't think about all of you reporters and how we can make our profession more stable, make us more appreciated. I feel so privileged to be associated with CCRA because this association is so dedicated to fighting for your profession.

The Centennial Convention Committee is hard at work on the finishing touches of CCRA's 100th Annual Convention coming up this October. I personally can't wait for some of the events. We're going to the Capitol! That's one of my favorite places.

Please keep us informed of anything new happening in your area. We are able to quickly contact key people to help situations as they occur. If we don't know, we can't help fix it. We need you to be our eyes and ears. Sometimes the answer is only an e-mail away.



Celebrating the Past



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As we go through the sunshine and flowers of spring, let's us all be thankful for the good things in our lives, even if we've seen better times. Let's work together toward a positive tomorrow.



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West Valley College Court Reporting Program Still in Business

By Gerie Bunch, SOS Committee Chair

On March 23, 2010, the West Valley College Academic Senate voted in favor of continuing the Court Reporting program. This vote came after two separate days of presentations and public comment.

On March 16, 2010, I attended the first hearing on behalf of CCRA. The room was filled beyond capacity. First, Mr. David Fishbaugh, Vice President of Instruction, gave a presentation as to his reasons for recommending discontinuance of the CR program touching on the program's deficiencies. It felt like I was in Mordor; the room was silent.

Then Mr. David Henderson, head of the Business Department, gave a very persuasive presentation as to why the program should continue. Armed with hundreds of letters sent from students, parents, judges, legislators, directors of disabled students services, DRA and CCRA and information from the program director, Linda Lawson, he was able to highlight the different employment opportunities for which the CR program certifies students. He noted that Court Reporting, according to *US News & World* report, is among the 50 best careers for 2010 and will have strong growth (18%) over the next decade not only because of the demand for reporters, but broadcast captioners and CART reporters for the hearing impaired. He successfully contradicted Mr. Fishbaugh's statistics and summarized that the program meets the mission goals in Career and Technical education. Cheers were not allowed, but that didn't stop this audience.

Following their presentations, both presenters answered questions by the Academic Senate.

Then the public was allowed three minutes each to speak. There were no persons present who wanted to speak for discontinuance. Over 30 people from all walks of life testified on the subject:

- Teachers
- Professors
- Students
- Mothers whose children attend
- Hearing impaired people who use their CART students

- People with several degrees and now seeking retraining
- Official Reporters
- Freelance Reporters
- Firm owners, and
- Association leaders

This process was reported and displayed in realtime by one of their top-notch students. The amount of support that was shown for the program continuing was impressive.

During my three minutes, I highlighted a couple of the things that had been said prior to my chance to speak, and then I added the following:

If they closed their program, there would be fewer reporters entering the profession which would create additional expense for the public litigants by having to go out of the area to procure reporters;

- It would be a shame if they closed their program because it would impact the female workforce, not allowing women to able to avail themselves of such a good profession;
- A survey that CCRA conducted showed the total State enrollment of court reporting students has increased 24% over five years which reflects the viability of the profession and demand;
- I talked about the fact that West Valley College's pass rate is commensurate with all other CR schools in California;
- And ended with something an instructor told me: "If it were easy, everyone would be doing it and it wouldn't pay nearly as much," for a starting salary, as one alumni pointed out, of \$60,000 her first year.

The hearing was adjourned and we were told that a similar process would happen again on March 23rd. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend that meeting; however Linda Lawson emailed today that, "all our efforts worked!" The vote was positive in favor of keeping the program in operation with some qualifications. WVC will need to issue more certificates of achievement at the different speed

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West Valley College Court Reporting Program Still in Business

(continued from Page 5)

levels which reflects employability, i.e., proofreader, scopist, administrative assistant, offline captioner, legal transcriptionist, CART provider and Broadcast Captioner. Because most students in the program want to be a CSR, ultimately, they weren't applying for these interim certificates. Now, they will be required to apply for the certificates because that's how the program measures its success. The program will also have to increase enrollment and they'll be calling upon all supporters to help.

Thank you to everyone who sent letters, appeared in person, and those who spoke. We have a great profession and need to stand up for those coming along behind us. I was proud to represent CCRA and be supportive of this school in need.



Editor's Note:

Our own Early Langley wrote an article for Plaintiff Magazine. Here's the link. It's a great article well worth reading. Enjoy!

http://www.plaintiffmagazine.com/Mar10/Langley_Transcribing_testimony_into_action_Plaintiff_magazine.pdf



Cal-e-licious

By Gerie Bunch, SOS Committee Chair

VEGETARIAN LASAGNA ROLL-UPS

Ingredients:

6 lasagna noodles cooked per pkg. directions & drained
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 c. finely chopped broccoli florets
1 c. thinly sliced mushrooms
1 c. chopped onion
1 lg. garlic clove, minced

8 oz. nonfat ricotta cheese or sm. curd cottage cheese
¼ c. grated parmesan
½ c. grated mozzarella
¼ c. chopped fresh parsley or basil
Salt & pepper
2 c. marinara sauce

Preheat oven to 350, spray 8x8 baking dish with olive oil spray. Spoon ½ c marinara sauce into the bottom of pan.

Cut each cooked noodle in half. Set aside.

Prepare filling by sautéing all veggies in olive oil, stirring frequently for about 6 minutes, until broccoli is tender. Transfer to a medium mixing bowl, cool briefly and add cheeses, parsley, salt and pepper to taste and stir well.

Spread 1/3 c. of filling over the length of each cut noodle, then roll up, beginning with one of the short ends, placing seam sides down. Spoon remaining marinara sauce over roll-ups. Cover and bake 40 minutes; remove cover and make 10 minutes more.

You can substitute 10 oz. pkg. frozen chopped spinach (defrosted and moisture squeezed out) for the broccoli.



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Those Pesky Prefixes and Their Peskier Exceptions

Below is a list of some common prefixes that are frequently misspelled by using improper hyphenation:

Anti, co, counter, hyper, hypo, inter, intra, mega, micro, mini, mis, multi, non, out, over, para, post, pre, re, self, semi, pseudo, sub, super, ultra, un are all unhyphenated words, e.g., nonmember, interchangeable, unimaginable, etc.

Words with the prefix *anti, mini, multi* and *semi* are one word unless the second syllable begins with an *i*, e.g., anti-inflammatory, multi-institutional, semi-independent. Of course, to be difficult, mini-mart is hyphenated.

Words with the prefix *co* are all one word unless there's a double *o*, e.g., co-occur, co-official, co-own. Please note that coworker is one word.

Words with the prefix *mis* are all one word even if second syllable starts with *s*, e.g., misshapen, misspeak, misspell.

Words with the prefix *non* are one word even with a double *n*, e.g., nonnative, nonnegotiable, unless there's a proper noun or adjective following, e.g., non-French, non-American.

Words with the prefix *out* and *post* are all one word even if second syllable starts with *t*, e.g., Outthrow, outthink, outtalk, posttraumatic, posttrial.

Words with the prefix *pre* are all one word even if the second syllable begins with *e*, e.g., preestablish, preenrollment.

Words with the prefix *pseudo* are all one word, and there don't seem to be any with double *o*.

Words with the prefix *intra* and *para* are not hyphenated unless the second syllable begins with *a*, e.g., para-aminobenzoic, intra-arterial.

Words with the prefixes *counter, hyper, inter, over, super* all are one word even when the second syllable starts with an *r*, e.g., counterreform, hyperreactive, interregional, overrespond, surreal. Of course, super-duper is always hyphenated.

Words with the prefix *mega* are all one word.

Words with the prefix *micro* are all one word even when the second syllable starts with an *o*, e.g., microorganism.

Words with the prefix *re* are not hyphenated unless they can be confused with another word, e.g., recreate, to take recreation, or re-create, to create again. Or recover, to regain something, or re-cover, to cover again. Even if the second syllable begins with an *e*, *re* words are one word, e.g., reelect, reenroll.

Words with the prefix *self* are always hyphenated except *selfdom, selfhood, selfness and selfward* — words you hear and use frequently.

Words with the prefix *sub* are all one word, even when the second syllable starts with *b*, e.g., subbranch, subblock.

Words with the prefix *ultra* are one word, and there appear to be none with double *a*'s.

Words with the prefix *un* are all one word, e.g., unnamed, unneeded, unnoticeable.

The exceptions are when a proper noun or a proper adjective follow the prefix, e.g., non-European, non-Biblical, pre-Gothic, pseudo-French, anti-HIV,

References are Merriam-Webster's 11th Edition and One Word, Two Words, Hyphen-ated?





A couple of lawyers in Texas have started a fun Web site called [Overheardincourt.com](http://overheardincourt.com) and it went "live" Monday. There was a judge in Texas who published courtroom antics once a month in the Texas Bar Journal for many years, and it was a hit with everyone who read it. Unfortunately, Judge Buchmeyer recently passed away and this group wants to carry on the "publications" in an online version.

The site is fun, full of humor and they are asking us for our input! We think you will enjoy the site!

As we ALL know, court reporters hear the funniest things while working. The best stories will come from us!

There is a contest on the site right now so start sharing your humorous stories with the world.

Here is the link:

<http://overheardincourt.com/>



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Briefs Online

By Doreen Perkins

Looking for a quick brief for those hard-to-write words or common phrases? If you have a word or phrase that you would like a brief form for, let me know, and I will publish your requested brief in the next CCRA Online. If you have briefs that you would like to share with our members, please send them to Doreen Perkins, CortReptr1@aol.com or 1100 Van Ness, Dept. 50, Fresno, CA 93724-0002.

Briefs to Share

Possession of	POI
Possession of alcohol	POIL
Alcohol	KHOL
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Paraphernalia	P-FRNL
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As a member, you send in \$30 for each student membership you'd like to sponsor. Then the SOS committee will distribute certificates to CR schools. The administration of each school will distribute the coupons to students in the 200 level so they may become members of CCRA for a year. If you would like a particular school to receive your sponsorship, just indicate on the attached Student Sponsorship Form.

There are 17 schools in the state, and CCRA would like every school to receive several sponsorships for distribution to their students.



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for over 100 years. >>>



California Court Reporters Association

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Sponsor a Student Membership

Give a student access to mentoring, information, education and professional affiliation.

Sponsor a student membership.

It's only \$30 for a one-year student membership.

Our goal is to send at least one complementary membership to each of the 16 Court Reporting schools in California for a 180–200 level student.

Complete the sponsor form, return it to us at 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656, and we will do the rest.

If you know a student or school that you would like to sponsor, please indicate.

SPONSOR FORM

Sponsor Name: _____ Sponsor CSR Number: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

Student Name: _____ (or) School Name: _____

Yes, please share my contact information with the student

I wish to remain anonymous

PAYMENT

For Online Payment: <https://ssl.nelix.com/cal-ccra/secure/SponStudentMember.asp>

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CCRA Leg Report

By Carlos Martinez, Leg Rep
and Sandy Bunch VanderPol, Leg Monitor

CCRA assisted the Court Reporters Board in introducing legislation **SB1181 (Cedillo)** which will broaden the scope of the TRF fund to include pro per litigants. As it is now written, only indigent litigants who have counsel can use the TRF (see below).

CCRA is also watching closely the legislation introduced by SEIU, **AB2521 (Torrico)**, removing the Judicial Council's ability to audit court financial records. This would lead to transparency of the AOC budgets (see below).

The legislative committee is following several pieces of legislation. Below are the listed pieces of legislation with a brief summary of each.

Watching Closely:

SB 1181 (Cedillo) TRF

This bill would, until January 1, 2013, authorize low-income persons appearing pro se to apply for funds from the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, subject to specified requirements and limitations. The bill would require the board, by January 1, 2012, to submit a report to the Legislature that includes a summary of the expenditures and claims from the Transcript Reimbursement Fund by these persons. The bill would authorize charges for instant visual display services for depositions to be reimbursed from revenues in the fund.

LAST ACTION TAKEN: 4/5/10 referred back to Senate Judiciary Committee.

AB 2521 (TORRICO) Courts: Budget and Fiscal Management

This bill would eliminate the authority of the Judicial Council pursuant to those provisions to perform audits and reviews of court financial records.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 03/18/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: Referred to Com. on JUD.

COMM. LOCATION: ASM JUDICIARY

HEARING DATE: 04/20/2010

AB 1926 (Evans) Court Records: Preservation Guidelines

Existing law provides that court records may be

preserved in any form, including electronic forms, as specified. This bill would additionally authorize courts to create and maintain records in electronic forms, as specified, *and would authorize the signing or verification of trial court documents using a computer or other technology.*

LAST HIST. ACTION: 4/5/10 from committee: Amend, do pass as amended, and refer back to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 10. Noes 0.) (March 23). (As of now, this bill does not include court reporter transcripts.)

AB 2102 (Lieu) Court Proceedings

This bill would change the wording of "shall" to "may" in regards to a defendant's presence at criminal proceedings. It also removes the necessity of the defendant to execute a written waiver of his presence.

LAST HIST. ACTION: 3/4/10 referred to Committee on Public Safety.

Watching:

AB 663 (JONES) Legal Aid: Court Interpreters: Appearances by Telephone

This bill would require the Judicial Council by September 1, 2010, to establish a working group to review, identify, and develop best practices to provide interpreters in civil actions and proceedings as specified.

AB 2116 (Evans) Judges: Gifts and Honoraria

This bill would be amended to include: (c) For purposes of this section, "judge" includes all of the following:

- (1) Judges of the superior courts.
- (2) Justices of the courts of appeal and the Supreme Court.
- (3) Subordinate judicial officers, as defined in Section 71601 of the Government Code.

LAST ACTION: 4/5/10 referred to Committee on Judiciary. From committee chair with author's amendments: Amend, and refer back to Com. on JUD. Read second time and amend.

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AB 1718 (MONNING) Court Fees

(b) For each ~~three hundred thirty dollar (\$330)~~ ~~three-hundred-thirty-five-dollar (\$335)~~ fee collected under subdivision (a) of Section 70613 or subdivision (a) of Section 70614, thirty dollars (\$30) of the amount distributed to the Trial Court Trust Fund shall be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature, in approving the thirty-dollar (\$30) distribution out of each filing fee listed in subdivisions (a) and (b), to continue an incentive to courts to use the services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings. However, nothing in this section shall affect the Judicial Council's authority to allocate these revenues to replace reductions in the General Fund appropriation to the Trial Court Trust Fund.

(d) The portion of the distribution to the Trial Court Trust Fund to be used for services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b) shall be used only in trial courts that utilize the services of an official court reporter in civil proceedings.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 03/23/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Hearing postponed by committee.

COMM. LOCATION: ASM JUDICIARY

Monitoring:

AB 942 (COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY) Judgeships

Bill requires JC to report to Legislature every even-numbered year the need for more judges. (New judges should bring positions for new staff including reporters.)

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 08/27/2009

LAST HIST. ACTION: In committee: Held under submission.

COMM. LOCATION: SEN APPROPRIATIONS

AB 2130 (HUBER) Professions and Vocations: Sunset Review

This bill would abolish the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection. The bill would instead make specified boards and regulatory programs subject to review by the Joint

Sunset Review Committee. The bill would provide that its provisions would not become operative unless Assembly Bill 1659 is enacted and establishes the Joint Sunset Review Committee.

COMM. LOCATION: ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

COMM. ACTION DATE: 04/06/2010

COMM. ACTION: Do pass and refer back to the Committee on Appropriations.

COMM. VOTE SUMMARY:

Ayes: 11 Noes: 00 PASS

AB 1659 (HUBER) State Government: Agency Repeals

This bill would create the Joint Sunset Review Committee to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency in government agencies, as defined, and to conduct a comprehensive analysis of every agency to determine if the agency is still necessary and cost effective. The bill would require each agency scheduled for repeal to submit a report to the committee containing specified information. The bill would require the committee to take public testimony and evaluate the agency prior to the date the agency is scheduled to be repealed...

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/06/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: From committee: Amend, do pass as amended, and refer back to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (April 6).

AB 2288 (BLAKESLEE) Professions and Vocations: Boards: Review

Corporations in need of surety bonding. Watching to see if it has an effect on CSRs.

AB 2649 (TORRICO) Franchise Tax Board: Professional or Occupational Licenses:

This bill would require a state governmental licensing entity, as defined and excluding the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Contractor's State License Board, to provide to the Franchise Tax Board the name and social security number or federal taxpayer identification number of each individual licensee of that entity. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board, if a

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licensee fails to pay taxes for which a notice of state tax lien has been recorded, as specified, to mail a preliminary notice of suspension to the licensee. The bill would provide that the license of a licensee who fails to satisfy the unpaid taxes by a certain date shall be automatically suspended, except as specified, and would require the Franchise Tax Board to provide a notice of suspension to the applicable state governmental licensing entity and to mail a notice of suspension to the licensee, and would provide that the suspension be canceled upon compliance with the tax obligation. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to meet certain requirements and would make related changes. The bill would authorize a state governmental licensing entity, as specified, to impose a fee on a licensee with a suspended license in an amount necessary to cover its administrative costs. The bill would make implementation of its provisions contingent upon appropriation of funds for that purpose in the annual Budget Act.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 03/18/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: Referred to Coms. on B. & P. and REV. & TAX.

COMM. LOCATION: ASM BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS

SB 954 (HARMAN) Legislative Procedure: Committee Referrals: Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer or Business Protection

This bill would enact the Jobs Protection Act. The bill would rename the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection as the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer or Business Protection, and would create a new legislative procedure with regard to any bill, as defined, that may have a statewide economic impact affecting business.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 02/18/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: To Coms. on RLS. and APPR.

SB 1171 (NEGRETE McLEOD) Regulatory Boards: Operations

This bill would abolish the Joint Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Consumer Protection

and would authorize the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature to carry out its duties. The bill would terminate the terms of office of each board member or bureau chief within the department on unspecified dates and would authorize successor board members and bureau chiefs to be appointed, as specified.

473.12. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term of office of each member of the following boards in the department shall terminate on the date listed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before the date listed for that board, deletes or extends that date: (15) The Court Reporters Board of California: January 1, ____.

LAST HIST. ACT. DATE: 04/05/2010

LAST HIST. ACTION: Read second time. Amended. Referred back to Com. On RLS.

COMM. LOCATION: SEN BUSINESS, PROFESSIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COMM. ACTION DATE: 03/22/2010

COMM. ACTION: Do pass as amended, and refer back to the Committee on Rules.

COMM. VOTE SUMMARY:

Ayes: 06 Noes: 02 PASS



REMINDER TO STUDENTS!

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE May 1, 2010.

Simply go to our website @ www.cal-ccra.org and click on the "For Students" tab, then scroll down to the "Scholarship Application." Fill it out, write a one-page essay, get it approved and submit it. Then you would be eligible for a \$500 scholarship. It's that easy. Good Luck!

A Gift That Keeps on Giving

By Gerie Bunch

Have you purchased a new writer? Don't know what to do with that older backup writer that's collecting dust in the garage? Do you need another tax deduction?

Well, here's an idea. Donate your old machine, even if it is a manual one, to a school or a student. This donation will keep on giving because the student will learn the skill of court reporting, hopefully graduate from the program she or he is attending and become a reporter, therefore continuing to fill the vacancies of retiring reporters and perpetuate the profession. With new student enrollment up, schools are in need too. Currently, we have one student looking for a used machine or loaner. Won't you help her out?

Please contact me with any donations you'd like to make. The schools in need will be given the donations on a first-come, first-serve basis.

CCRA is the premier association that keeps in contact with all the schools and their needs and has extensive student programs. Let's show them what we can do.

Gerie Bunch at gerie@psln.com



CCRA FACT: This is the machine used to produce the steno paper we use in our machines.

