

CCRA *online*

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CCRA's 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 10-12, 2008
RIVIERA HOTEL • LAS VEGAS, NV



YOUR WINNING HAND!



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CCRA Online Copy Deadlines

The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries also should be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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The Electronic Magazine of
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.

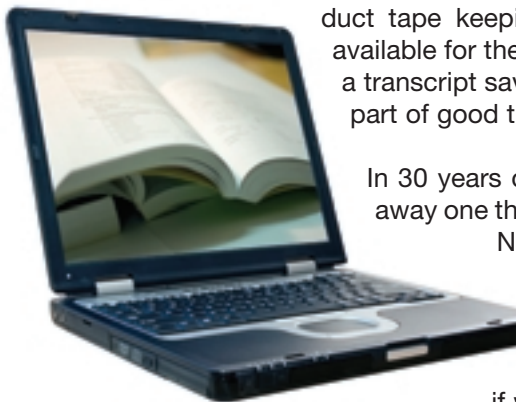
President's Message

By Lesia J. Mervin, CSR #4753, RMR, CRR
CCRA President



As of this writing, AB 2189, the mandatory CSR continuing education bill, is on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. I have received several letters from members asking why they need to have continuing education when they've been a reporter for over 30 years and have never had to take a continuing education class in 30 years. My response to that is a lot has changed in 30 years. I know reporters who have not kept up with the ever-changing technology of our profession, and they wonder why they can't figure out how to get to the control panel of their computer. They say having to learn this "Windows stuff" is a waste of time when all they want to do is produce transcripts on their DOS program like they used to. After all, DOS worked just fine; right? Not keeping up with technology actually costs you money. Yes, it costs you money. Whether it's writing skills or computer skills, it frees up your time so you can make more money or walk on the beach if you choose.

How much downtime do you have due to equipment failures? I've seen everything from duct tape keeping old laptops together to machines so old that ribbons are not available for them anymore. Time is money. Anything that shaves off time to produce a transcript saves you money and time. Coaxing equipment to work each day is not part of good time management.



In 30 years of court reporting, I have never stopped learning. Even if I only take away one thing from each seminar, that's one thing I didn't know before I got there. Never stop learning. Our profession has really morphed into more of an information manager — an important and integral component to the litigation process. Many reporters are not educated to the technical level to provide basic services. Our profession is in the digital world. We must stay abreast of these changes in the industry if we expect our services to be relevant to the legal profession.

This year's DR fight should be a strong indication of how things can change quickly in our profession, and I would hope that each and every one of you would want to avail yourselves of every available opportunity to improve your skills, thus ensuring your marketability, whether freelance or official, and the longevity of our profession.

California is known for its high-quality reporters. Let's keep it that way. Join me in supporting continuing education for all California reporters.



Serrano v. Coast Reporters Update

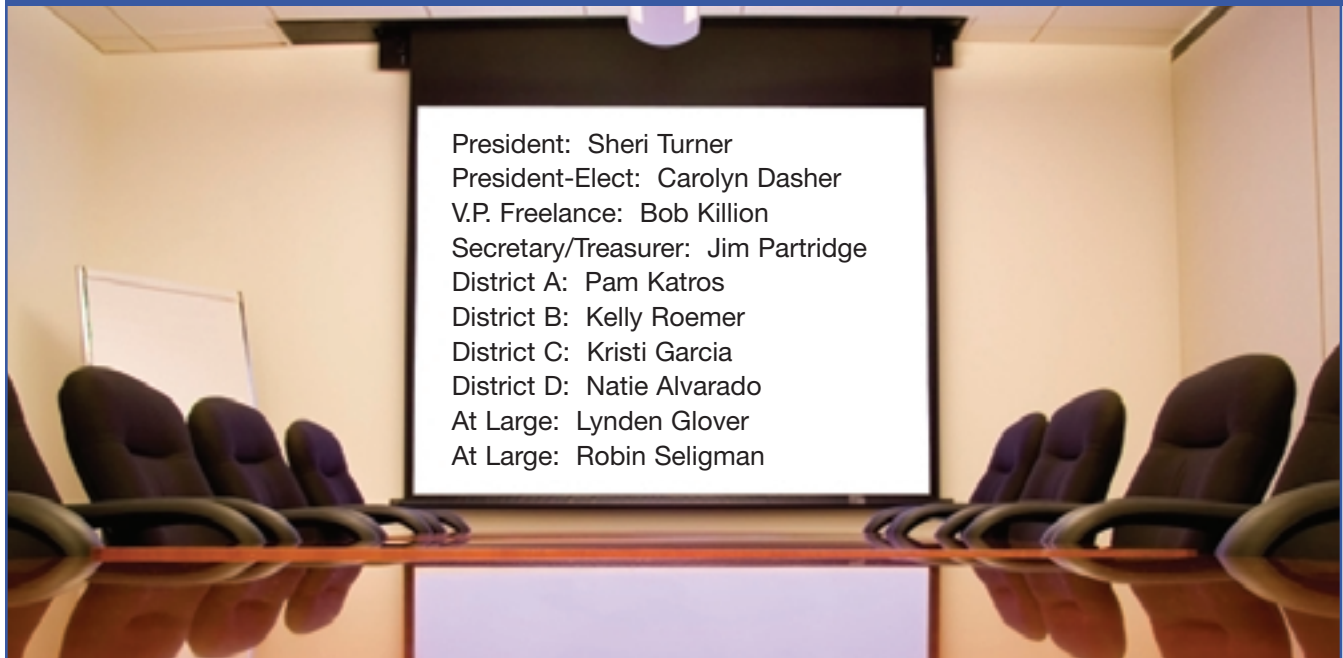
On August 20, CCRA's attorney, Jay Eisen, notified CCRA that the Supreme Court has denied the petition for review of the *Serrano v. Coast Reporters* appellate decision. As many of you know, the Court of Appeal had reversed the trial court in the "reasonable fee case" and ruled that the trial court does have the power to determine court reporter fees in actions where the court reporter **does not have a fee arrangement** with the party to the litigation. By the Supreme Court denying the request for review, the appellate decision will stand.

It is our recommendation that you consider obtaining fee arrangements in writing from ordering attorneys to avoid issues with trial courts having the ability to determine your "reasonable" fees.



Slate of Candidates for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors

CCRA's nominating committee has recommended the following slate of candidates for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors:



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Lesia Mervin

**President-Elect/
Vice President Freelance**
Sheri Turner

**Vice President
Officials**

Jim Partridge

Secretary-Treasurer
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District E – (At Large)

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District F – (At Large)

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lynden@lyndenj.com

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Connie Parchman

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NCRA Testing

Doreen Perkins

Nominating

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PACCRA

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**Support
Our Students**

Judith Gillespie

Technology

Sandy Bunch VanderPol
LeighAnn Orozco

Visionary

Tom Pringle

Past Presidents

Sandy Bunch VanderPol

See YOU at the Convention!

By Lesia J. Mervin, CSR #4753, RMR, CRR
CCRA President

I hope by now you're all making your preparations to join me in Las Vegas for our annual convention. I'm really excited about this year's lineup of seminars and I know you will be too. Don't miss the victory celebration as we party at the top of the Riviera. It's a well-deserved celebration!

This year Karen Goodman, president of the California Women Lawyers Association, will be presenting a course that provides an insider's view of quality and timely services. Marketing is more than gifts. It is about providing exemplary service. This course provides insight on developing and implementing a successful marketing plan, and helping the busy reporter focus on what the client really wants and how to deliver it. Don't miss it.

Can't pass the CRR? Not anymore. You can do this! Straight from NCRA's annual convention, come and learn how you can pass the CRR. Join us for three mock CRRs from actual past CRR tests. Bring your steno equipment and let's pass that test.

We all know that adjusting your Elan Mira or Stentura to your writing style is as important as adjusting your car seat in order to reach the accelerator. One of the most

important adjustments is the key contacts. It is a simple process once you understand the concept of key contact. Spending the time now adjusting your steno machine means writing cleaner with less untranslates and maximizes the performance of your writer. If your writing is STACKING, DRAGGING or DROPPING, this class is for you. A little TLC can make all the difference. Bring your writer and tune it up.

These are just a few of the classes being offered this year.

Don't forget our extensive student track. Support our students by sponsoring student attendance at the convention. Remember what it was like when you were in school? This is your chance to give back to the profession by sponsoring a student and helping them in their studies.

Don't miss the fun! Plenty of time to book a show, shop, or just relax.

See you there.



www.cal-ccra.org

Shop at the CCRA Store!



Mini Mouse = \$25



Paper Holder = \$5



Travel Mug = \$15



Keychain = \$25



Highlighter = \$4



Mouse Pad = \$15



Wall Clock = \$20



Freelance & Official Compendiums = \$25



Sunshade = \$15

AB 1569 Letter to Governor

By Lesia J. Mervin, CSR #4753, RMR, CRR
CCRA President



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Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
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August 19, 2008

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1569 (Mendoza)

The California Court Reporters Association, a professional association representing both “court” reporters and “deposition” reporters for over 100 years, urges you to sign AB 1569 into law. This bill clarifies that the official reporter or official pro tempore reporter’s “Instant Visual Display” (also known and referred to as realtime reporting) cannot be certified and cannot be used, cited or transcribed as the official transcript of the proceedings. The “Instant Visual Display” of the proceedings shall not be used to rebut and/or contradict the official certified transcript of the proceedings. AB 2884 will clarify that the “Instant Visual Display” will be treated consistent with the use of a rough draft transcript, as currently defined in Code of Civil Procedure Section 273(a) and (b). This simple clarification will ensure the integrity of the official record and provide to the consumer, bench, and bar the confidence in the official transcript of the testimony and proceedings.

“Instant Visual Display” has become a service that many stenographic reporters have the skill set to provide to the judicial process. Court reporters’ dedication over the past two decades to develop the necessary knowledge and skill set to provide this service has made it possible for many courtrooms throughout the state to benefit from this service. “Instant Visual Display” is being requested by the bench and bar, and oftentimes you can find the court reporter providing this service on an everyday basis to the bench and bar in many counties throughout California. AB 2884 creates consistent law in the use of this service/product as compared to the rough draft transcript.

Sincerely,

Lesia Mervin, CSR#4753, RMR, CRR
President – California Court Reporters Association





Why Rebates Instead of Lower Prices?

Q. Why do hardware and software companies offer rebates instead of just selling a product at a lower price?

A. Companies have various reasons for offering rebates, but in general, there are three primary motivations: First, the time between the purchase and the rebate can be several weeks, a period in which your money is in the company's possession, earning interest or working in other ways to its advantage.

Second, what better way for a company to obtain your personal information for subsequent contact or to sell to others than by offering you money in the form of a rebate?

Third, companies know that most people are busy or lazy (or both) and won't go to the trouble of cutting out a bar code or providing the requisite paperwork to obtain a rebate. In this way the company gets to attract purchasers by advertising a low price, and in many instances selling an item for a higher price, because the purchaser never applies for the rebate. What a deal!

You can avoid any unpleasant surprises by reading rebate offers carefully before sending them in. Somewhere within the fine print, any restrictions or limitations will be noted, such as the rebate being paid in Drachmas or Rupiahs, or the rebate being a coupon that can only be used to purchase merchandise from the same retailer.

Q. What's the difference between 32-bit and 64-bit computing? When asked, should I get the 32-bit version of a software program or the 64-bit? I don't have a clue. I love your weekly newsletter, Mr. M. Keep up the good work.

A. Within your computer, there are many items that you won't (mercifully) need to concern yourself with, and one of those items is called the data bus. A bus provides transportation, but instead of transporting people, this type of bus transports data within your computer. Basically, it connects memory to the rest of the system, including the processor.

A bit, by definition, is the smallest unit of data that a computer can recognize. At the risk of causing your eyes to glaze over, there are eight bits to one byte, and one byte equals one character, such as the letter "s" or the numeral "7". A typical data bus is 32-bits wide, like a 32-lane highway, kinda-sorta. A 64-bit bus is twice as wide, so the system can move twice as much data. Being able to process more data results in a faster system—but only for specific purposes. You won't notice any increased speed doing normal computing chores such as word processing, email, or viewing Web pages; noticeable speed increases primarily occur in the areas of graphics processing, math and scientific calculations, or what we in the biz refer to as "number crunching."

Manufacturers are currently working on 64-bit processors that are faster, but with cooler operating temperatures. 64-bit is an up and coming technology, but there still isn't a great deal of 64-bit software to choose from. For that reason, if you're shopping for a new computer,

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I'd steer clear of 64-bit and stick with 32-bit, at least for the foreseeable future. When it comes to software, if you're asked to select a 32- or 64-bit version, select the 32-bit.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

Charity Navigator

Have you ever wondered where your money really goes when you donate it? Who hasn't? The Charity Navigator evaluates the financial health of America's largest charities. Be sure to visit their Top Ten Lists which include the "10 Best Charities," as well as "10 Charities Routinely in the Red," "10 Charities Stockpiling Your Money," and "10 Charities in Deep Financial Trouble." www.charitynavigator.org

One-Stop Instant Messaging

Launched less than two years ago, today Meebo is used to transmit more than 90 million instant messages each day. Using Meebo, you can IM from anywhere, using any computer, and it doesn't matter

if your friends, children or grandchildren are using AIM, Yahoo!, MSN, Google Talk, ICQ, Jabber or just about any other instant messaging service. Meebo is entirely Web based, so there is nothing to download or install. Even better, it's free. www.meebo.com

The Why Files

The objective of this site is to explore the science, math and technology behind the daily news. Recent Why File stories include information about a molecule that cures alcoholism in rats (I had no idea they drank); a scientist who perpetrated the biggest scientific fraud since my father built my 7th grade Science Fair project, and an analysis of the Bird Flu pandemic situation. <http://whyfiles.org>

Mr. Modem's weekly newsletter delivers helpful computer tips, great Web sites and his personal answers to your questions! Trial offer: Subscribe online using Promo Code MODEM and receive one free month with your six-month subscription (28 issues!) To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com



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Risk of Rewards

By: James DeCrescenzo, RDR, Fellow
Reprinted with permission from *Journal of Court Reporting*

Everyone loves something for nothing. Marketers invest a lot of time and effort trying to appeal to that trait. A recent trend in the legal arena has seen an explosion of so-called "Rebates" programs and expensive gifts and rewards to attorneys or their staff for scheduling depositions. It is important to be aware that accepting these so-called "Rebates" offered by court reporting firms may attract the attention of the Internal Revenue Service. Some secretaries and paralegals are participating in the rebate programs without the knowledge of the firm or attorney. The rebates, in the form of cash, gift cards, travel and shopping, are made to influence the selection of court reporting firms when scheduling depositions.

Court reporting companies had historically been local Mom-and-Pop operations. Over the past several years consolidation has taken hold, as well as an influx of non-court reporting principals, including lawyers, buying and running court reporting firms. To maximize the return on investment, many of these firms have expanded beyond their city of origin.

Along with the trend to consolidate and expand has come the push to gain new business. In the early '90s salespeople began delivering trays of cookies and providing other low-cost items to lawyers and their staff. What began as an inexpensive treat has grown to the point of some court reporting firms proudly posting on their websites programs to earn "points" for every deposition scheduled. The points may be redeemed for all-expenses-paid vacations, limousine travel, rounds of golf, and the like. One recent flier boasted, "You Book The Depo, We'll Bring The Dom. Take your next deposition with us and we'll hand deliver a complimentary bottle of the world's finest champagne, Dom Perignon." In the fine print the firm, whose president and vice-president are lawyers, offers the option of a donation to charity or a \$125 State Liquor Store gift card.

Free iPods, mall gift certificates, theatre tickets, cash, rounds of golf.... There are anecdotal reports in court reporting circles of payments in excess of \$25,000 going to a secretary to switch court reporting firms.



For convenience, I'll lump all gift, incentive, and reward point programs into the title "Rebate."

The first question is who is entitled to the rebate? The answer to this question is not as simple as it might seem. If the rebate benefits an attorney's staff member, becoming in effect, a "perk" of the job, that is one thing. If the rebate benefits the attorney, then another set of issues is put into play. For example, shouldn't any benefit received go directly to the lawyer's client who is paying for that product or service? While not on the level of the entertainment industry \$100,000 gift bags, an active litigator, or his staff, can accumulate rebates valued in the thousands of dollars a year. As suggested, this raises both ethical and tax questions.

Gift bags had been a common practice in the entertainment industry since the 1970s. The Internal Revenue Service decided in 2006 to begin cracking down on gift bags. The IRS is always looking for ways to collect more tax dollars from high-income taxpayers. The companies who "donate" these items aren't really intending to make gifts. Since the donors will usually take the cost of the gifts as a business deduction, the IRS is looking to the recipients for payment of the tax. Is it any surprise the value of the entertainment industry gift bags has dropped dramatically since 2006?

This level of tax-responsibility awareness hasn't yet reached the court reporting firms and law firms involved in today's expensive rebate programs. In fact, according to tax practitioners I have consulted, the Internal

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Risk of Rewards

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Revenue Service would look at the situation like this: Whether the rebate is paid to the law firm or to an employee of the firm, and whether it's accomplished through an immediate transfer of the rebate property or service, or by way of a "points accumulation system," there is no reason for excluding it from the recipient's taxable income. It is plainly not a gift, because the court reporter is anything but disinterested when it comes to wanting to influence the recipient's decision-making as to future court reporting services.

If the recipient is the law firm, ethically speaking, it should be a wash to the law firm. The law firm is under an obligation to give its client the benefit of the reduced cost reflected in the value of the rebate. Only if the law firm is charging the client the full value of the service would the firm have income equal to the value of the rebate. To use a simple example, let's say that the reporter charges \$100. The law firm passes the \$100 expense through to the client. The result is a wash. Then, if the rebate is \$10, the law firm pays the reporter a net \$90, and passes the \$90 cost through to the client. Again this is a wash.

But if the rebate is \$10, and the law firm charges the client the \$100, then the firm has \$10 income. That is, the \$100 charged to the client, less the \$90 net paid to the court reporter. This raises what the lawyers like to call, "some nice questions" about not only whether the client should get the benefit of the rebate, but also if the rebate is accreted over time and paid out at some future date, then which client or clients should get the benefit, which is a problem called partitioning.

It must also be said that if the recipient of the rebate is either a subordinate employee of the firm, or an attorney employee or a partner, then the value of the rebate is clearly income to the individual, unless, perhaps, the value is somehow passed through for the benefit of the firm. The question is complicated, however, for the employee or partner if the value of the rebate is not transferred for the benefit of the firm.

Accepting rebates would clearly violate most law firms' gift policies, unless the value was truly trivial under those policies; for example, a box of candy. Vendor rebate programs involving non-trivial amounts are precisely why law firms and some insurance carriers have such policies forbidding acceptance of "gifts."

Seen from the court reporter's standpoint, the situation is, if anything, even more complicated. The reporter generally would be required to provide an IRS information return to the recipient if the annual value of the rebate exceeds \$600. The rebate would be deductible by the reporter unless it's a bribe, kickback or other illegal payment under U.S. law or under generally enforced state laws that provide for criminal penalties or loss of license. Section 162(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code says that a kickback includes "payment in consideration of the referral of a client, patient, or customer." So where does that leave the too-generous court reporter? Not in a very enviable position.

Obviously, a more in-depth discussion of the legal and ethical implications of this situation may be forced upon those who participate in giving and/or receiving these excessive gifts from court reporting firms.

The message is clear though, as underscored by knowledgeable tax attorneys: No court reporting service should venture into the world of "Rebates" without a solid understanding of the potential problems they are creating for themselves and for their customers — both the attorneys and their clients.



Exhibit Index on Appeal

Are you complying with 2008 California Rules of Court 8.44(b) with respect to exhibit indexes on appeal?

8.44 Form of the Record on Appeal

(b) Indexes

At the beginning of the first volume of each:

- (2) The reporter's transcript must contain alphabetical and chronological indexes listing the volume and page where each witness's direct, cross, and any other examination, begins; and*
- (3) The reporter's transcript must contain an index listing the volume and page where any exhibit is marked for identification and where it is **admitted** or **refused**. The index must identify each exhibit by number or letter and a **brief description** of the exhibit.*

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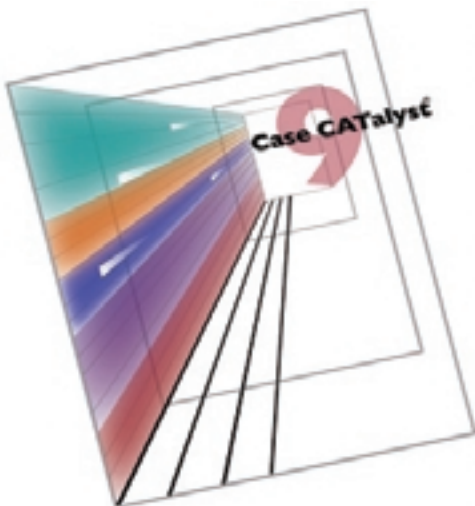


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CCRA Convention — Great Lineup of Classes

By Carolyn Dasher, Convention Chair

Hi, again! The convention is getting closer and I, for one, can hardly wait!

CCRA has a great lineup of classes for those preparing to take any test.

We have teachers with over 30 years of experience coming to help you prepare for your TEST.

We will have a MOCK written knowledge test with an hour and a half review after. Then we will have a MOCK English test with an hour and a half review. Come learn what you need to focus on for your exam. It will be helpful to those taking the RPR or any test.

We also have a MOCK CRR exam and class to help you pass your realtime writers exam.

There will be a class on Official Reporting, Freelance Reporting, and CART Reporting. Learn about the ethics of Audio Media before you get out in the reporting profession.

Get your friends together and come as a group! It will be great fun and you'll learn a lot! Remember, what happens in Vegas, you can take to work with you!



Briefs Online

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

If you find yourself reporting in Juvenile Court you will appreciate these briefs.

Briefs to Share:

Adjudicate	JUD
Adjudicated	J*UD or JUTD
Adjudicates	JUDZ
Adjudication	JUBGS
Boot camp	BOK
California Youth Authority	KRAORT
Child Protective Service	KHAOIPS
Child welfare	KHAEFL
Child Welfare Services	KHAEFLS
Child welfare worker	KWERK
Clear and convincing evidence	K*FD
Community service	KIF
Dependency	DAENS or DPENS
Dependent	DAENT or DPENT
Electronic monitor	LEM
Free exchange of information	FREGS
Full force and effect	F-FT
Foster parent	FOFRP
Grandparent	GR-PT
Group home	GROEM
Guardian	GAERN
Guardianship	GOIP or GARP
Juvenile	JUFL
Juvenile Court	JUFLT
Juvenile delinquent	JUFLD
Juvenile Hall	JFUL
Juvenile dependency	JAENS
Juvenile Justice Campus	JUK
Maximum period of confinement	MAOEURPLT
Minor	MOIRN
Parent	PARNT
Parental	PARNL
Parental rights	PARNLTS

Parenting	PARNG
Probation	PRAIBGS
Probation Department	PR-D
Probation Office	PROIFS
Probation officer	PRAIFR
Probation report	PRAIRBT
Probationary	PRAIRGS
Probationary period	PRAIRPD
Welfare	WAEFL
Welfare & Institutions Code	WOED
Welfare & Institutions Code Section	WOEDZ
Youth Authority	YORT



Classified Ads

June 20: Reno Justice Reno Justice Court is seeking a certified court reporter or reporting firm to provide up to 245 days of contract court reporting services on an as-needed basis from July 2008 to June 30, 2009. For further details and application: Darin Conforti, Court Administrator via email at dconforti@washoecounty.us no later than June 26, 2008. [Download announcement](#)

July 21: The Superior Court of California, County of San Luis Obispo is accepting applications for Court Reporter. Minimum Qualifications: Possession of a valid CA Certified Shorthand Reporter license and graduation from the twelfth grade. Salary: \$29.49-\$36.75/hr + benefits. Relocation expenses reimbursed up to \$5,000. Job description, application and requirements are available at www.slocourts.ca.gov or by calling (805) 781-5146. EEO

August 27: U.S. DISTRICT COURT, HONOLULU, HAWAII. Immediate opening for OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER who seeks a vibrant, multicultural community that embraces the spirit of aloha. Salary range \$76,929-\$92,315 (includes 25% COLA), plus transcript fees. Excellent federal benefits. Minimum Quals: 4 years freelance, court or combination; certified RPR; proficiency in CAT. Preferred Quals: CRR; federal court experience; ability to report people of varied backgrounds and limited English. See complete vacancy announcement at www.hid.uscourts.gov.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Join Your Leaders for their Convention Legislative Council and Board Meeting!

OCTOBER 13, 2008 (MONDAY) – LAS VEGAS – RIVIERA HOTEL

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Legislative Council meeting

11:00 – 1:30 p.m. Condensed Board meeting

The CCRA Board of Directors and Officers would like to invite you to join them in Las Vegas for their Legislative Council and Board meeting. Each year, prior to California's Legislative Session, pursuant to bylaws, CCRA meets with their Legislative Council. The purpose of the legislative council meeting is to hear from the local associations throughout the state. Each local association has the opportunity to present legislative proposals to the state leadership. These legislative proposals are presented by the local association, discussed at the legislative council level, and then move forward to be discussed and voted on by the CCRA Board of Directors.

Should your legislative proposal be adopted by the CCRA Board, your lobbyist, Capital Strategies/Jim Cassie, will work with your CCRA Board and Legislative Advisor to develop language for your proposal, obtain a legislator to author this language, and lobby the bill before the various committees that hear the bill, eventually to be voted on by the Assembly and the Senate and signed into law by the Governor.

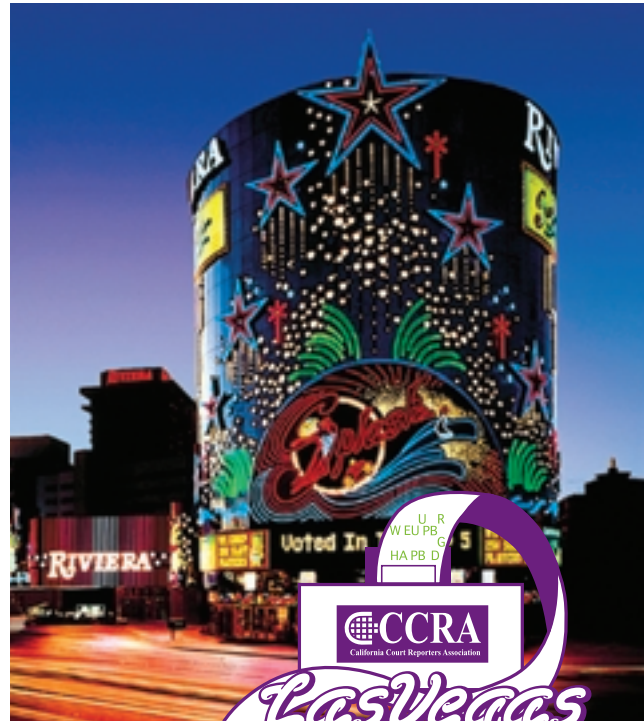
CCRA's success in the legislature is profound. A brief example of our successes: Protection of your transcripts and copies for officials; protection of your transcripts by not allowing citation of your rough draft transcripts in the deposition and court forum as the official record; requiring the stenographic reporter in courtroom proceedings; anti-contracting and disclosure statutes in depositions; language that mandates counsel are responsible for the payment of products and services provided by the deposition firm/reporter, and much more.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. Bring your legislative proposals forward.

Topics of discussion that are anticipated at the legislative council meeting are:

- 1. Right to use and ownership of your AudioSync (Backup Audio Media/BAM).**
- 2. Incentive gift giving by firms that are not licensed CSRs and are not bound by the recent adoption of the Court Reporter's Board Code of Professional Conduct.**
- 3. Attorney payment for official reporters' products and services.**

Please join your leadership at their next board and council meeting.



Vocabulary Building

facetious - fa·ce·tious

Function: *adj*

joking or jesting often inappropriately: <just being *facetious*>

fatuous - fat·u·ous

Function: *adj*

complacently or inanely foolish: silly <a *fatuous* remark>

feckless - feck·less

Function: *adj*

weak, ineffective

fiduciary - fi·du·cia·ry

Function: *adj*

of, relating to, or involving a confidence or trust

filibuster - fil·i·bus·ter

Function: *n*

a tactic for delaying or obstructing legislation by making long speeches

gamete - gam·ete

Function: *n*

a mature sexual reproductive cell having a single set of unpaired chromosomes

gauche - gauche

Function: *adj*

lacking social experience or grace

gerrymander - ger·ry·man·der

Function: *v*

divide unfairly and to one's advantage; of voting districts

hegemony - he·ge·mo·ny

Function: *n*

the domination of one state over its allies

homogeneous - ho·mo·ge·neous

Function: *adj*

all of the same or a similar kind or nature

hubris - hu·bris

Function: *n*

exaggerated pride or self-confidence

hypotenuse - hy·pot·e·nuse

Function: *n*

the side of a right-angled triangle that is opposite the right angle

New NCRA Professionals!

Congratulations to the following new NCRA professionals!

Registered Professional Reporters (RPR)

Tavia Manning, San Francisco, CA
Lisa Busath, Sacramento, CA
Lindsey Perry, Lincoln, CA
Audrey Ricks, San Diego, CA
Robyn Chalk, Santa Rosa, CA
Selena Babayan, Huntington Beach, CA
Jeanette Vissiere, Cameron Park, CA
Jodee Weinrich, El Dorado Hills, CA
Cinnamon Cosio, La Habra, CA
Georgeann Wiles, Saratoga, CA
Chrystal Maccini, Los Angeles, CA
Wendy Wachhorst, Palo Alto, CA
Cynthia Dunbar, Los Angeles, CA
Patti Lindsey, Laguna Hills, CA
Kelley Van Winkle, Cool, CA
Tammy Moon, Carmichael, CA
Anne Zarkos, Carlsbad, CA
Gabrielle Ammon, San Gabriel, CA
Judith Runes-Simpson, Oceanside, CA
Nicole Chinevere-Worthen, Lakeport, CA

Registered Merit Reporters (RMR)

James Pence, Imperial Beach, CA
Diana Jacquet, Walnut, CA
Melanie Wilkins, San Diego, CA
Daryl Baucum, Canyon Country, CA

Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR)

Denise King Paddock, San Clemente, CA
Janet Hunnicutt, Santa Rosa, CA
Mary Lee, Ventura, CA
Rose Goni, Fair Oaks, CA
Renee Wolf, Novato, CA
Dianne McGivern, San Pedro, CA
Wendi Vallarino, Orange, CA
Denise Carrillo, Alpine, CA
Lisa O'Sullivan, Cypress, CA
Renee Bush, Oakland, CA
Kathy Fries, Fresno, CA
Vanessa Harskamp, Fresno, CA
Sandy MacNeil, Santa Monica, CA
Roselen Mills, Visalia, CA
Katie Thibodeaux, Santa Monica, CA

www.cal-ccra.org

Shop at the
CCRA Store!



Mini Mouse = \$25



Paper Holder = \$5



Travel Mug = \$15



Keychain = \$25



Highlighter = \$4



Mouse Pad = \$15



Wall Clock = \$20



Freelance & Official
Compendiums = \$25



Sunshade = \$15



2008 Convention Las Vegas



Las Vegas continues to build upon its reputation as a vibrant showcase for the extraordinary. This is the city that attracts more than 38.9 million visitors a year by offering the grandest hotels, the biggest stars in entertainment, the highest caliber of award-winning chefs and master sommeliers, and, of course, the brightest lights.



Las Vegas offers unmatched entertainment. Some of the many headliners performing here include Barry Manilow (Las Vegas Hilton), Gordie Brown (Venetian) and Toni Braxton (Flamingo Las Vegas). Also bona fide hits with the millions of visitors every year are Broadway shows such as “MAMMA MIA!” (Mandalay Bay), “Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular” (Venetian), “The Producers” (Paris Las Vegas) and “Monty Python’s SPAMALOT” (Wynn Las Vegas). Other entertainment options include concert headliners who regularly bring their world tours to Las Vegas’ showrooms and arenas, as well as five resident Cirque du Soleil productions, comedy clubs, classic Las Vegas showgirl revues, and more.



The city famous for having “something for everyone” furthers the proof to its claim when the sun goes down. After dinner, you can experience a variety of night spots with personalities as varied as their own. From elaborately themed clubs to the new wave of upscale “ultra lounges” sweeping the Strip, you can choose from a wide array of offerings, including Ivan Kane’s Forty Deuce (Mandalay Bay), Pure (Caesars Palace), Rain in the Desert (Palms), Red Square (Mandalay Bay), Studio 54 (MGM Grand), Tao (The Venetian) and Whiskey Bar (Green Valley Ranch). Tryst (Wynn Las Vegas) is one of the newest, while Drai’s (Bill’s Gamblin’ Hall) is one of the nightlife pioneers. With hip surroundings, signature drinks and an “anything goes” attitude, ultra lounges have redesigned Vegas nightlife, providing a new way to party on the Strip.



Your Winning Hand!



At A Glance

Friday, October 10, 2008

- 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Registration
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Marketing Tips for the Reporter
8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

Saturday, October 11, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT — Vendor Sessions**
1. Case Catalyst
2. Eclipse
3. Procat
4. StenoCAT 32
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Student Track — **MOCK CSR: Written Knowledge Test**
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Student Track — **MOCK CSR: Written Knowledge Test — Medical/Legal Review**
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Exhibits Open and Lunch
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Keynote – The Real Nevada CSI**
3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Student Track — **MOCK CSR: English Review**
2. CRR Tips and Tricks — **MOCK CRR**
3. The Wireless World
4. Bulletproof Your Kids
5:15 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Break in Exhibit Hall
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Student Track — **The Official World**
2. Through a Detective's Eye
3. Realtime Troubleshooting
4. The Flip Side: Where NOT to Put Punctuation
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Reception in Exhibit Hall

Sunday, October 12, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast with Exhibits
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. **NCRA Town Hall Meeting**
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Student Track — **MOCK CSR**
9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Break with Exhibits
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. CART — Our Brightest Future
2. Timeless Strategies to Create Financial Independence
3. Machine TLC
4. Going Green!
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Annual Meeting
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Break with Exhibits
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. Great Gadgets & More
2. Student Track — **The Depo World**
3. Digital Signatures - II
4. Lobbying 101
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
1. The Ethics of Using Backup Audio Media (BAM)
2. Officials Bring it to the Table
3. Freelancers Bring it to the Table
4. Stenoswap
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. **The Comedy of Court Reporting!**



CCRA's 98th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Attendee Registration Brochure



Winning Schedule

Friday, October 10, 2008

12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. **Registration**
 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Marketing Tips for the Reporter**
.2 CEUs
Karen Goodman

This course provides an insider's view from the client's perspective of quality and timely services. Marketing is more than gifts, it is about providing exemplary service. Conducted by a California trial lawyer, this course provides insights on developing and implementing a successful marketing plan and will help the busy reporter focus on what the client really wants and how to deliver it.

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Welcome Reception**

Saturday, October 11, 2008

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Registration**
 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT — Vendor Sessions**
.4 CEUs
Case Catalyst **laptop recommended**
Sandi Starbuck

This is a hands-on workshop that will help scopists and reporters become proficient with keyboard maps, globaling shortcuts, finish 'em, user definitions in spell check, hotspots, print to PDF, font colors in defines, managing external hard drives for backing up, and other new features in Version 9. You will receive a booklet with detailed instructions, but it would be beneficial to bring your laptop and USB.

Eclipse **laptop recommended**
Steve Kosmata

Isn't life challenging enough without fighting your software on a daily basis? Bring your laptop, an open mind, as well as your solutions to situations you've encountered, and share them with your fellow Eclipse users. Learn how to make Eclipse's magic work for you and reduce your stress level.

ProCat **laptop recommended**
Bob Bakva

ProCat is a leading software in the reporting profession — whether CAT, CART or Captioning. Come learn the new functions of the ProCat software in this fun and informative session!

StenoCAT 32 **laptop recommended**
Tim Brunk

New 5.8 Features on Display! Learn about automatic number conversion, InSync utilities, plus new Job options. Brush up on editing tips and tricks, including using Global Keys, new 32 SmartKeys, using fields, and creating SmartKeys and macros.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Student Track — MOCK CSR: Written Knowledge Test**
Nancy Patterson

Come take the Mock Written Knowledge Test (WKT)! No matter what state exam you're preparing for, this class will help you practice test taking on a larger scale! Gain the experience that will give you confidence to pass your state exam.

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. **Student Track — MOCK CSR: Written Knowledge Test – Medical/Legal Review**
.2 CEUs
Nancy Patterson

Nancy Patterson, a reporter, school owner, and teacher, will review the WKT with you. You'll be able to ask all the questions you have to alleviate your concerns about taking the written test. Practical tips and pointers will be given to help you pass THE TEST!

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch with Exhibitors**
 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Keynote — The Real Nevada CSI**
.15 CEUs
Dr. Gary Telgenhoff

Come hear Dr. Gary Telgenhoff, Forensic Pathologist and Deputy Medical Examiner for Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada. Dr. Telgenhoff has been a consultant for the CSI show since its inception. Listen and learn as he shares his background and knowledge in forensic medicine during this riveting, highly informative, and entertaining keynote session.

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**
Student Track — MOCK CSR: English Review
.15 CEUs
Margie Wakeman-Wells

Be a Smart Test-Taker! Know-Your –Stuff!
 Pick up tips on how to do a good job of test-taking on the academic as well as the machine portion of the state exam. Also, we will review the rules and principles covered on the mock English test.

CRR Tips and Tricks — MOCK CRR
Lesia Mervin
 writer & laptop recommended

Can't pass the CRR? It's the easiest test you'll ever fail...or so they say. Not anymore! You can do this! Come and learn how you can pass the CRR. Join us for mock CRRs and test your test-taking mettle.

The Wireless World
Mike Miller

Join Mike Miller, webmaster of Depoman.com, for a preview of the latest in wireless technology for reporters. The session will be equal parts humor, technobabble, and questions from the audience. Topics will include using and abusing wireless networks, broadband cards from your cellular company, the many ways to connect a realtime feed without the wires, along with plenty of other tips, timesavers, and free downloads. Handouts will be available online after the session.

Bulletproof Your Kids
Bailey Gillespie

How do busy court reporters with constant deadlines teach values to their children and bulletproof them against at-risk behaviors in this changing world? Bailey Gillespie, a university professor and specialist in Youth and Family values, gives insight and some easy-to-follow suggestions.

5:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
.1 CEUs

Break in Exhibit Hall
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Student Track — The Official World
Debby Steinman

Learn the tricks and tips for surviving in a fast-paced courtroom that you may not learn in school. It's not necessarily survival of the one with the most skill but the one with the most ingenuity! Working in court is fun and exciting. Come and learn the elements of courtroom procedure upon which to build a solid foundation. All aspects of court proceedings and reporter responsibilities will be covered so that you can perform with confidence as an official or pro tem reporter.

Through a Detective's Eye
Mark Lillienfeld

How do court reporters affect the outcome of murder cases? Using details from his vast experience, Detective Lillienfeld will illustrate how homicide cases cause changes in our society and the legal system as a whole. He will also discuss how high-profile murder cases affect supporting agencies, including prosecutors. You won't want to miss this exciting and informative class!

Realtime Troubleshooting
Sandy Vander Pol
writer & laptop recommended

Are you hooking up your client or your judge to realtime? Are you worried about the stress of hooking up? Join this seminar and learn the ins and outs of troubleshooting the most common issues that arise during realtime. Leave this seminar with the confidence you need to ensure realtime connectivity!

The Flip Side: Where NOT To Put Punctuation
Margie Wakeman-Wells

We know the rules for where to use punctuation. It is just as important to know where NOT to put punctuation. We will explore some common errors on where punctuation should not be used. Even the most sophisticated will pick up some tips on punctuating the transcript.

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Reception in Exhibit Hall

Sunday, October 12, 2008

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
.1 CEUs

Registration
Continental Breakfast with Exhibits
NCRA Town Hall Meeting
NCRA President Karen Yates

Freelancers and Officials will meet together to discuss topics facing reporters country-wide at NCRA's Town Hall Meeting with NCRA 2009 President Karen Yates.

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Student Track — MOCK CSR
Ned Branch

What's your goal? Passing your machine exam for your license? Come and take a mock CSR exam that will help you work out the jitters and put you oh so much closer to your goal.

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
.15 CEUs

Break with Exhibits
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
CART — Our Brightest Future
Karen Yates

Communication Access Realtime Translation is a specialty within court reporting that promises vast possibilities for expansion of demand. Get an insider's view of tips and tricks to prepare you for a career change that is challenging and rewarding. Among the topics covered in this presentation are: Adjusting your writing style, introduction to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, and hardware and software needs for every CART situation.

Timeless Strategies to Create Financial Independence
Nona Belous

The content of this presentation will be financial planning, along with more specific information regarding the benefits available to CCRA members. In general, the financial planning portion will touch upon the following: current position, cash flow and net worth; protection, disability, life and long-term care insurance; investments and accumulation; taxes; retirement and financial independence; and estate planning. We'll also address the major shift in outlook from accumulation — all those baby boomers saving for retirement — to distribution and figuring out where that 30-year retirement paycheck will come from.

Machine TLC **Machine Recommended**
David Hanley

Adjusting your Élan Mira or Stentura to your writing style is as important as adjusting your car seat in order to reach the accelerator. One of the most important adjustments is the key contacts. It is a simple process once you understand the concept of key contact. Spending the time now to adjust your steno machine means writing cleaner with less untranslates and maximum performance of your writer. If your writing is STACKING, DRAGGING or DROPPING, this meeting is for you. A little TLC can make all the difference. By design, the Élan Mira is much easier to adjust than a traditional writer like the Stentura. Regardless of which writer you have, you will benefit from this training.

Going Green!
Candis Bradshaw

Greenhouse gases, carbon emissions, water pollution — these are examples of mankind's assault on nature. We all must do something now to stop this destruction before it's too late. This interactive seminar will discuss various ways that reporters can go green and help save the environment — both at work and at home. Bring your suggestions and stories of how you have gone green. Come and learn how you can help save our planet!

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
.15 CEUs

Luncheon and Annual Meeting
Break with Exhibits
CONCURRENT SESSIONS
Great Gadgets & More
Eric Johnson

- Learn how to effectively and safely back up your files.
- Learn how to set up an inexpensive, unlimited wireless realtime system.

laptop recommended

Explore some of the most useful gadgets that we, as court reporters, can use on a daily basis, plus an open forum discussion on "gadgets" that others may be using that we have not discussed, and an open question-and-answer session.

Student Track — The Depo World
Sheri Turner

What really goes on at a deposition? Learn everything you need to know to be an ace freelance reporter where you are in charge of making the record. Learn how to have the upper hand in handling your responsibilities with confidence and important information about dealing your career and playing your cards right with depo agencies so that you will always be in demand as a winning reporter.

Digital Signatures – II
Candis Bradshaw

laptop recommended

You came to the seminar on digital signatures at the CCRA convention last year, and you've read lots of material about digital signatures. But how in the world do you, the common reporter, get a digital certificate and use it to digitally sign documents!

Come to this seminar to learn how to use digital signatures — hands on! For the first portion, Candis will explain what a digital signature does and how it can benefit you and your clients. The second part of the seminar will be highly interactive — bring your laptop and wireless card (if applicable). Learn how to obtain a digital certificate, which is needed before you can digitally sign documents, and then explore all the different ways in which documents can be digitally signed. When you leave this seminar, you will be digital signature ready!

Lobbying 101
Jim Cassie & Michelle Castro

Join CCRA Lobbyist Jim Cassie and SEIU Lobbyist Michelle Castro as they present Lobbying 101. How do things really work behind the scenes at the capitol? Do phone calls and letters really work? Come listen to first-hand accounts of the DR battle and how YOU made a difference.

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
.1 CEUs

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
The Ethics of Using Backup Audio Media (BAM)
Bill Greenley & Toni O'Neill

Learn how to ensure the integrity of the record while using BAM. Ensure that your BAM is not recording off-the-record conversations. Discuss NCRA's Public Advisory Opinion 38 outlining guidelines for using BAM. Should .wav files be provided to parties as a value-added service? If so, what is the reporter's role and what is the agency's role in providing this type of service? During the session, you are invited to participate in an open discussion of your experiences, concerns and comments about this technology.

Officials Bring it to the Table
Panel

This could be the most valuable 90 minutes of your conference experience. The information exchange format will cut to the real issues, including what REALLY happened with the digital recording battle this year. You won't want to miss this lively discussion.

Freelancers Bring it to the Table
Panel

An information exchange for freelance reporters and firm owners. Come chat with your colleagues from the western states to learn what's new in our profession. Bring your questions and concerns as well as your innovative ideas!

Stenoswap
Gaye Limon & Barbara Reed

CCRA premiers this ever-popular Stenoswap class! Come learn handy time-saving strokes — how to write times, fractions, dollar amounts, and dates. Input witness set-up from your writer. Learn how to implement briefs on the fly. Handy-dandy briefs that are sure to make you a winner!

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
.1 CEUs

The Comedy of Court Reporting!
Kathy Taylor

Come laugh and be motivated by retired LA Superior Court Reporter Kathy Taylor as she delights you with her informative tips and humorous reporting anecdotes! Kathy's credits included television, film, theater, and stand-up comedy. This class is a sure-bet way to go home a winner!

Please print or type information. Submit a separate registration form for each registrant.

CCRA REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Rates apply to registration forms postmarked/faxed on or before 5:00 p.m., September 19th, 2008. After September 19, 2008, a \$25 late fee will be charged. Students pay a \$15 late fee. Returned checks will be assessed a \$25 processing fee. Cancellation policy: Cancellations must be received in writing (fax or e-mail accepted) by 5:00 p.m., September 28, 2008, to qualify for a refund. There will be a \$10 processing fee for all refunds. No refunds for cancellations received after 5:00 p.m., September 28, 2008.

Name _____ NCRA# _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone (_____) _____ Name for Badge _____

E-mail Address _____

Registration Fees

Circle Appropriate Fees

	Member		Non-Member		Student Member		Student Non-Member	
	Before 9/19/08	After 9/19/08	Before 9/19/08	After 9/19/08	Before 9/19/08	After 9/19/08	Before 9/19/08	After 9/19/08
Full Registration (includes Seminars, Breaks, Business Meeting, Luncheons, Exhibits, and Friday & Saturday Receptions)	\$295	\$325	\$395	\$425	\$140	\$155	\$200	\$215
Saturday ONLY Registration (includes Saturday's Seminars, Breaks, Luncheon, Exhibits, and Events)	\$200	\$235	\$250	\$285	\$75	\$90	\$90	\$105
Sunday ONLY Registration (includes Sunday's Seminars, Business Meeting Luncheon, and Exhibits)	\$200	\$235	\$250	\$285	\$75	\$90	\$90	\$105

If your registration includes meal functions, please indicate which events you plan to attend:

FRIDAY:

Reception

SATURDAY:

Reception

Lunch

SUNDAY:

Continental Breakfast

Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon

Additional:

Guest Registration \$150

LACCRA Members

Deduct \$100 from Full Registration or \$50 from Partial Registration



TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ _____

Check (Make Check Payable to **CCRA**)

Check # _____ Amount Paid \$ _____

[] Visa [] MasterCard [] American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Cardholder's Name as it appears on card (Please Print) _____

Cardholder's Signature _____

Check Here if you have a disability and require any auxiliary aid or services in order to participate in this meeting.

Yes, I Want to Sponsor a Student

I want to financially sponsor a student to attend the 2008 CCRA Convention.

Donation:

\$140 Registration

Donation for Lodging, Travel & Registration \$ _____ ANY AMOUNT

I wish to sponsor a specific student (name of student) _____

(Please have named student register with your name in Credit Card box.)

I wish to sponsor any one student requesting assistance.

Please share my contact information with student.

Yes, you may list me in CCRA publications as a Sponsor.

I wish to remain anonymous.

My donation will be included in my registration total.

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY:

Entered: _____ Ch#: _____ Auth. No.: _____ Amount: \$ _____

SIGN-UP Online at www.cal-ccra.org or Mail or Fax with payment information to:

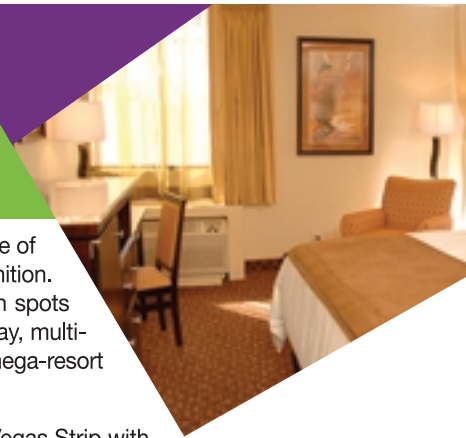
CCRA 2008 Convention • 65 Enterprise • Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 • Fax: (949) 715-6931

Fees, Hotel and Transportation

Convention Hotel

The Riviera is located in the heart of the Strip, close to fine dining, shopping, museums and theater and combines old-world Las Vegas service with contemporary Las Vegas.

Riviera Hotel & Casino
2901 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, NV 89109
Toll-free (800) 634-6753
www.theriviera.com



The Riviera Hotel and Casino enjoys a legendary past as one of the first top-notch Las Vegas hotels in the State of Nevada, known for its big name entertainment and friendly hospitality, as well as its worldwide name recognition. Having celebrated its golden anniversary in 2005, the historic Riviera is one of the State's premier destination spots offering the passion and excitement of nostalgic Las Vegas and the Rat Pack Era, combined with a modern day, multi-million dollar remodeling of rooms and convention facilities, bringing the property up to par with today's mega-resort competition.

Over 2000 refurbished oversized rooms offer maximum comfort and breathtaking views of the glittering Las Vegas Strip with its western scenic panoramas. Each accommodation has been attractively decorated, including all the important amenities Las Vegas has to offer.

CCRA is receiving a convention rate of only \$139.00 a night, single or double.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, September 10, 2008.

Please make your reservations by calling the Riviera Hotel toll free at 1-800-634-6753 and request the California Court Reporters Association Special Conference Group Rate. Or register online at: <http://www.rivierahotel.com/resnet/roomres.asp?ID=233>

Please note: Only those registering with the hotel through the CCRA CONVENTION rate will receive the newly remodeled, upgraded rooms!

Conference Registration

Mail or fax in registration form or register online at www.cal-ccra.org

EARLY-BIRD SPECIAL — Save money by registering before September 7, 2008!

Transportation

Las Vegas is serviced by most major carries into McCarran International Airport (LAS). The flight is an hour or less from most California cities. Ground transportation is available by taxi or shuttles.

TurboCAT

- Job Menu
- Realtime
- Utility Menu
- [F10] Exit
- Dictionary Menu
- Litigation Support
- CAPticator Online
- [F1] Help!

SmartCAT

- Job Menu
- Realtime
- Files in Work Directory
- Help!
- Dictionary
- Import Notes
- Style Sheet
- Quick Start Guide
- Exit

Why Gamble- Move to SmartCat

(Come see SmartCAT for Windows w/Bonus features... but only if you want to use them)

Cheetah International

www.cheetahinternational.com • 1.877.333.2287