

CCRA *Connect*

SPRING 2018 EDITION



**California Court Reporters Association's
2018 Boot Camp Was a Hit!** See Page 5

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MISSION STATEMENT

CCRA continuously leads our industry through legislative advocacy, educational opportunity, and professional inclusion. We actively protect and unify the freelance, CART/Captioning, official, and student communities.

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 95656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries should also be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files at least 600 pixels x 800 pixels with a resolution no less than 150 dpi.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to CCRA Connect. We try to keep our members informed by our Website, our email correspondence and our quarterly e-magazine. Let us know a topic you'd like to hear about and we'll work on accomplishing that!

CCRA hosted a Strategic Planning Session on March 4th in the Los Angeles area. More than 20 participants talked about the various issues and challenges court reporters and students are facing. It was a great way to get together, brainstorm, and come up with solutions.

As the Action Plan unfolds, CCRA will network with our fellow reporters and law partners to move forward to promote and protect our profession.

CCRA is hoping all the March CSR test takers will become our next licensed CSRs!

CCRA is working on legislative bills to promote and protect our court reporting profession. We are energized and excited about moving forward with legislation this year!

- We are partnering up, once again, with the Court Reporters Board to get AB2084 passed. This bill authored by Assembly Member Kalra will require out-of-state firms to abide by the same rules and regulations you and I abide by.
- We hope to be successful with AB2757, our transcript rate increase bill. We feel we have a great chance with our author, Assembly Member Reyes, who understands our issues.
- We are Co-Sponsors supporting AB2354, authored by Assembly Member Rubio, which requires CSRs in family law proceedings.
- And we support Assembly Member Gallagher as he advocates for deaf and hard of hearing individuals with AB2531.

Stay tuned! These next few months will definitely be action-packed and fun-filled!



Carolyn

Carolyn Dasher, CSR, RPR, CMRS
CCRA President

LACCRA SEMINAR SERIES 2018

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Eclipse and ProCat - Fine Tuning Your Realtime

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018

E-Filing with Brian Clune and John Garnett from YesLaw and Diana Van Dyke

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2018

Steno Briefs in Every Day Writing

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2018

Case Catalyst & StenoCat - Fine Tuning Your Realtime

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2018

NCRA Online Testing and Realtime Coach

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

For additional information, please visit: laccra.org/upcoming-events

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Boot Camp Was a Hit!



“I was glad to hear from the different reporters with their tales of working in the different reporting areas. It gave me ideas and helped lessen fears. I liked being able to try out the different steno machines available from the different vendors. I always like a good raffle! And I really appreciate all the court reporters who stepped up and sponsored us. It's so nice knowing they care and support us!! :)” – **SUZANNE FIRLOTTE**

“Mike Hensley geared us up to the challenge of online schooling, but it could be applied broadly – online, on-site schooling or any schooling. He gave some great practical tools to use for court reporting students, but again, it could be extrapolated to other avenues of learning.”
– **SARAH CHUN**

“Reagan Evans gave us a fun and detailed account of the freelance world. Her personal experiences both comforted and motivated us as we embark on the freelance reporting world. And it's always great to get chocolate!”
– **ANONYMOUS**

“Jan Miller imparted his wealth of knowledge in paying off student loan debt so much so that it felt like I was drinking water from a fire hydrant! If I had a student loan (I don't because I attend Downey Adult School), I wanted to hire him outside of the conference to obtain more personalized information. Simply put, the session was money – cha-ching!”
– **SARAH CHUN**



BOOT CAMP

CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

“Informative and encouraging, Lindsay Stoker's thorough explanation of the captioning world gave me more insight into this lucrative field. Her


seminar was easy, clear, concise and motivating!” – **OLIVIA GUERRERO**

“Diane VanDyke debunked the notion that newly CSR-licensed reporters cannot work as an official reporter but instead engendered confidence and provided helpful guidelines through her workshop. Her attitude and presence could wake us up from a post-lunch coma, and that's a tough task to do!”
– **SARAH CHUN**



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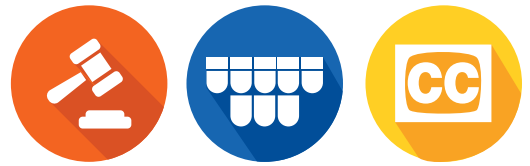
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Court Reporting and Captioning Week



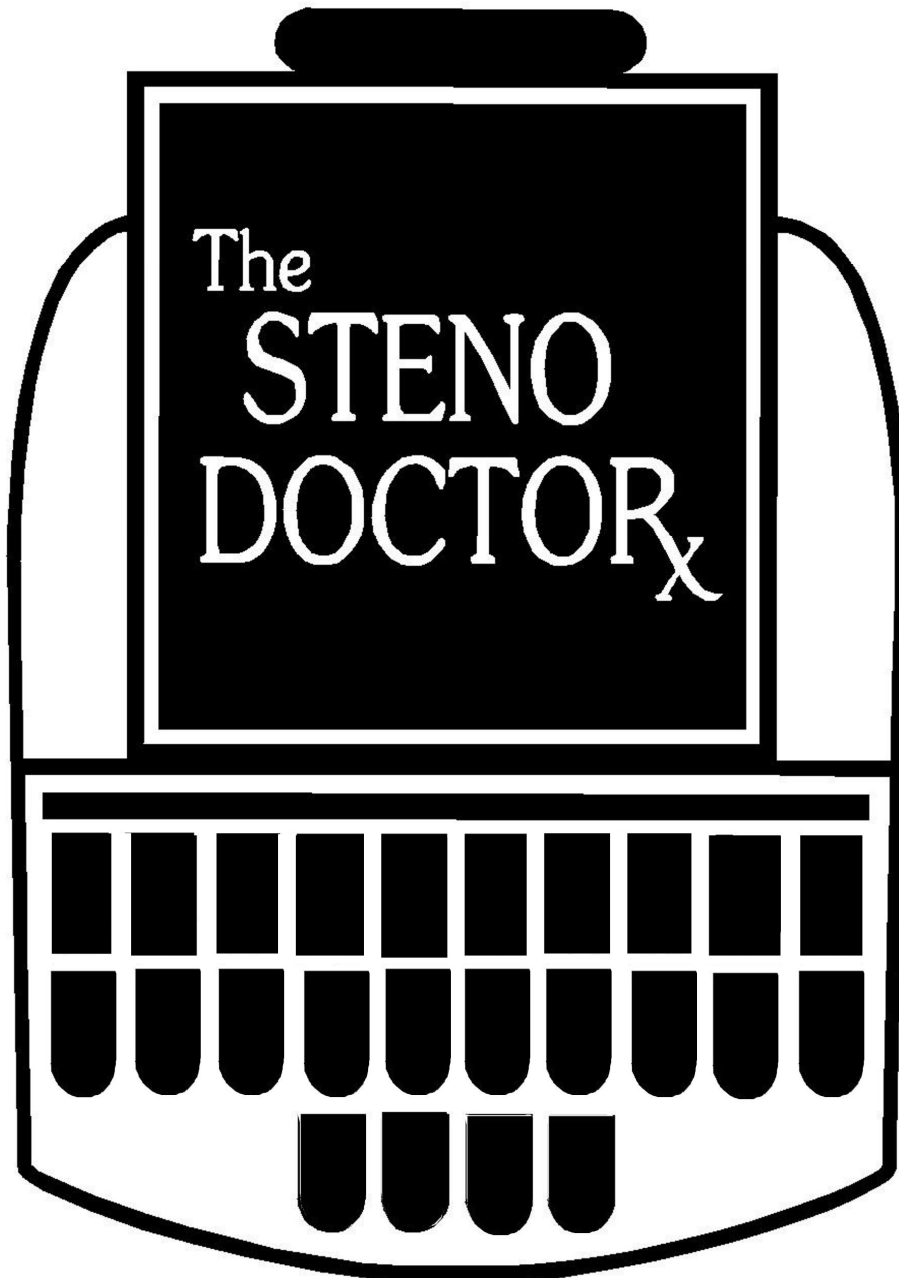
Senator Hannah Beth Jackson from Ventura proudly presented Senate Concurrent Resolution 95 (See PDF at <https://tinyurl.com/Resolution95>) announcing February 10 through 17 as Court Reporting and Captioning Week. President Carolyn Dasher, CCRA Member Karly Powers, and Past President Brooke Ryan were in attendance and received a standing ovation from the Senators on the Senate floor.

*If you've ever been interested in CART,
visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md7a791zAZU>
to listen to this testimonial from Austin Vaday*

Photos (clockwise from left): California State Capitol during Court Reporting and Captioning week; President Carolyn Dasher, CCRA Member Karly Powers, and Past President Brooke Ryan at California State Capitol; President Carolyn Dasher with Board Member Bob Sullivan at Day at the Races; LACCRA's Day At The Races kicked off Court Reporting and Captioning week.



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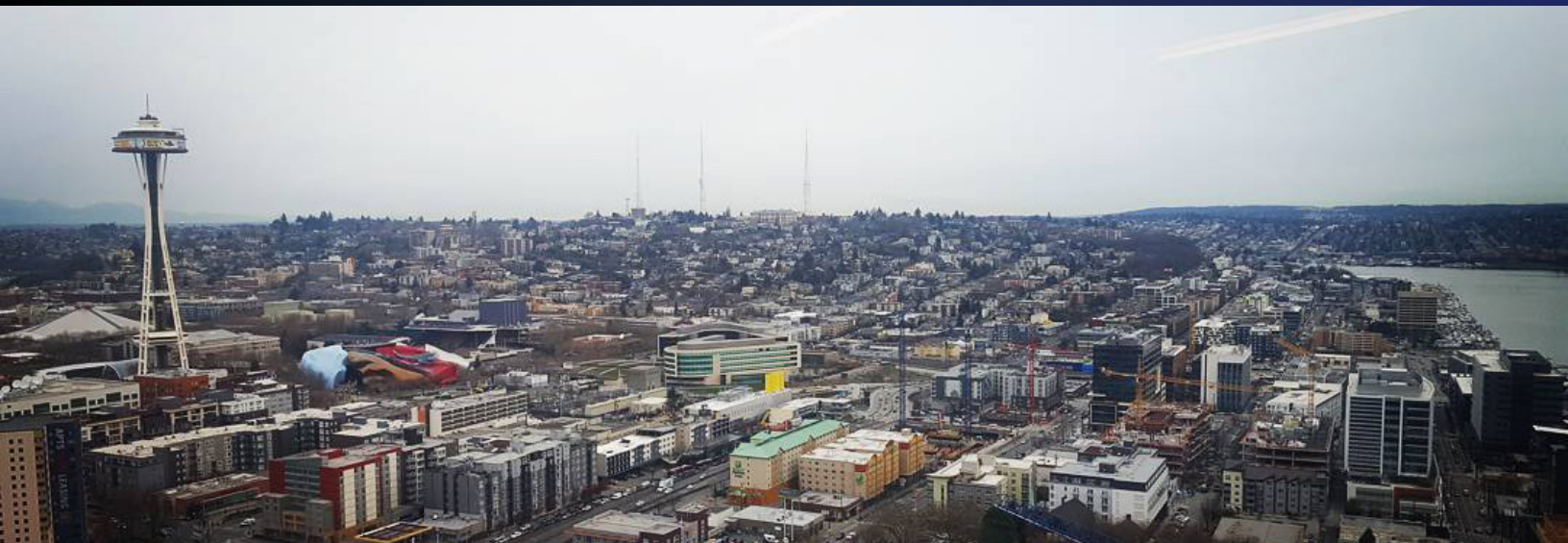
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Every Day is an Adventure



By: Rachel Barkume

During the 2018 Court Reporting and Captioning Week, many of you may have seen the daily questions being posted on NCRA's social media pages to engage conversation among reporters. One such question was, "What's the coolest thing you've ever done as a court reporter or captioner?" At that time, my response was that I hadn't really had that type of experience yet, having been a reporter for seven years. I couldn't really pinpoint anything extraordinarily exciting.

Ironically, later on that same exact day, I received a text asking if I would be available to fly to Seattle the next week to caption a training conference at one of the biggest companies in the world, Amazon. I had been waiting for a call just like this! I immediately responded, "Yes, of course" and worked out the logistics over the next few days.

That next Monday, I hopped on a plane, flew to Seattle, checked into my hotel, and prepared myself for the most exciting job of my career. On Tuesday morning, I arrived with my machine and computer in tow to one of the many Amazon buildings in Seattle. I had to be escorted by an employee at all times, and the only picture I was allowed to take was facing out the window. At the end of the training conference, one of

the Amazon employees came up to me and said, "I don't know how you do what you do, but this was so cool to have you here." Mission accomplished.

I now have my first of many adventurous stories to tell from the world of court reporting and captioning. This was all made possible by continuing to learn, investing in myself, and believing that I can achieve anything I put my mind to. I've been a judicial reporter for six and a half of my seven years as a reporter. In 2017, I ventured into a CART training course that flipped my world upside down, and now I can confidently say I am a CART Captioner. Without that specialized training, I would never have been ready to caption for such a big client, especially only six months into my CART Captioning journey. It is important to note that judicial reporting (even if you're a perfect realtime writer) is a world away from captioning. But isn't it so exciting that we can do so many different things?

Open your mind to the world of opportunities your skill can afford. You never know, you could be soaring away to your next exciting adventure before you know it!

If you have any questions about transitioning between the many fields of court reporting, please reach out to me (rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org) and let's chat! I'd love to help you make your dreams come true too!

Legislative Advocacy is the New Brunch!

By Gareth Briscoe

The birds are chirping, the flowers are blooming, and – wait... Was that an election ad I just heard on the radio? In March? Why, yes, it was! It's that time again when legislators, always with an eye to political survival, are preparing for the California State Assembly elections, and it's the prime time to get current and prospective legislators on board with CCRA's legislative agenda.

Your CCRA team is ready to pounce and is gearing up for a busy summer of advocating for our profession all over the state. We have our board and lobbying team fired up and ready to go, and we have a plan. What we need is a little help from YOU to make 2018 a legislative success. We have five bills on our radar at the moment, and we're going to do everything we can to push each one of them across the finish line and signed into law. Every single member can make a difference, and we'll arm you with the knowledge and material that you need to feel good about advocating for your profession at whatever level you feel comfortable with.

Let's start small. **WE NEED YOUR CURRENT HOME ADDRESS!!!** To update, visit: <https://ccra.memberclicks.net/login?servId=7740> Why? In the course of revising our renewal process, we found that a number of our members have address listings that are either out of date or attached to a non-home address. Why does that matter? We need to be able to match up key lawmakers to their constituents within CCRA's membership, and we need to be able to do it quickly.

Don't worry! You won't be hearing from us every week, nor will we be asking you to go outside your

comfort zone. If you feel comfortable writing a letter, excellent! That's exactly what we need from you. If you feel comfortable dropping off a gift at a legislator's holiday toy drive, fabulous! That kind of brief, face-to-face interaction with legislators goes a long way at the capitol. If you feel comfortable going out for a special event and schmoozing with some big shots in Sacramento, give us a call as soon as possible! There really is something for everyone to help us succeed, and CCRA will be at your side every step of the way.



As always, a great way to contribute to our legislative push is by making a donation to the PACCRRA fund by clicking on this [link]. PACCRRA, CCRA's Political Action Committee, specifically raises money to go towards our legislative aims, and the more we have in the coffers, the more effective we can be in making our voices heard in Sacramento.

However you choose to help, we at CCRA feel privileged to have a membership of excellent reporters, CART providers, captioners, and folks who understand the importance of advocating for our profession. We have a true grassroots organization here – small, but nimble – and we intend to deploy every tool we have to get the results we want to see in 2018 at the capitol. We can get it done with your help.

**And, one more time, WE NEED
YOUR CURRENT HOME ADDRESS!!!**

To update, visit: <https://ccra.memberclicks.net/login?servId=7740>



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- › **AB 2354** (Rubio) co-sponsored by CCRA and the Family Violence Appellate Project, requires court reporters in certain family law matters. This bill was heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee on 3/20/18 and unanimously passed, enjoying bi-partisan support. We will update you once it is set for the next hearing.
 - › **AB 2084** (Kalra), sponsored by the CRB and supported by CCRA, will be heard next week in the Assembly Business and Professions Committee.
 - › **AB 2757** (Reyes), CCRA sponsored language regarding a transcript rate increase, will be heard towards the end of April. Please watch for blasts as we will soon start a social media and letter campaign.
 - › **AB 2531** (Gallagher), CCRA sponsored language regarding CART Captioners, will be heard towards the end of April. We are still working out the language, so please stay tuned.
 - › **AB 2664** (Holden) is language regarding freelance reporters working in civil courtrooms. We will be meeting with the Author's office soon to discuss language.
 - › **AB 2641** (Kiley), while mainly focusing on civil motions, does include language raising the official reporting fees under Government Code Section 68086(1) from \$30 to \$60. Again, we will meet with the Author's office soon to discuss language.
-

SAVE THE DATE



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OCTOBER 5-8, 2018

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Eclipse Users Group Annual Conference

By Aimee Edwards-Altadonna

The Eclipse Users Group Annual Conference has been the best place to get in-depth training on Eclipse software straight from the horse's mouth (aka Jeremy Thorne, the programmer behind Eclipse) and some of the best trainers and power users of Eclipse. This is the only place where you can dig into the software for three whole days and learn how to make it work for you. Each year, they offer the latest version of Eclipse and tell you about all the new goodies in the latest update. I have been going to this training since I was a student, then a scopist, and finally as a working reporter. There is always something new to glean and take home to make your working life just a little easier.

The convention is held in Las Vegas every April at Bally's hotel, which is connected to the Paris hotel. This year the dates are April 20 through 22, a Friday through Sunday, the perfect long weekend in Las Vegas. You can register for one day or all three days. John Everhart has offered a fabulous discount exclusively for CCRA members to save up to \$75 off their registration.

There are 7 different speakers and 20 seminars covering the basics through intermediate and advanced tracks. Margie Wakeman Wells will even be there to pop in and give you a refresher on commas like only she can. Plus

you can earn up to 2.2 NCRA CEUs/PDCs, or 15 NCRA CEs at the lowest cost per CEU training of any event! If you want to get into town early and take advantage of some tech support, they will be setting aside time to install the latest Eclipse version, V9, so that you can fully utilize the training and play around with the great new features.

Personally, I am super excited to hear Keith Vincent's seminar on proofreading. He worked closely with Jeremy to create a new feature that is quite revolutionary. It has the potential to be a game changer like Translation Magic. As someone who is working towards realtiting, I am also giddy to hear about realtime editing from the writer in a seminar called "Macros ex Machina" that will be of great interest to those who do realtime and want to edit from the steno machine.

On Sunday Steve Kosmata is tackling automatic indexing. He's doing a two-step seminar on understanding and creating an auto index, and then is winding up the day with a seminar on building job dictionaries to get better translations.

If you want to check out the full lineup and schedule, go to
http://events.eclipseusers.com/#schedule_sec

ESP Network 

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FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON
THE EVENT SCHEDULE, SPEAKERS,
HOTEL, PRICING, AND MORE.



ECLIPSE VERSION 9

JEREMY THORNE

Along with six other speakers, Jeremy will be at our 26th annual conference. He'll be covering new Eclipse v9, along with several other topics, and we'll be installing this new version throughout the event for users who need assistance.

Nearly thirty years ago, Jeremy Thorne began writing the first version of Eclipse CAT software. That was in the days of DOS, when computers were huge and smart phones weren't even a gleam in Steve Jobs' eye. Today we are up to Version 9, which he will cover in great depth during the Advanced Track on Friday. There is so much new goodness it's hard to believe he'll fit it all in: Support for Google Translate (holy cow, realtime translation into another language!); the CART window has been radically rewritten to make it much more flexible, automated, and, yes, attractive; Tran Magic, a feature many captioners avoid, has now been made available on-demand so you can use it as needed; and . . . we could go on, but we'd spoil it for you. Just be there and buckle up.

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What do I love about my Diamante?

"It's like they have created your personal writing machine. The keys adjust incrementally for your perfect touch, the tension settings are limitless to your writing style, and all stacking has been eliminated. And I love how light it is."

Jan Schmitt, RPR, CSR, CCR
Schmitt Reporting & Video, Inc.

What does my firm love about the Diamante?

"We want our reporters to use the Diamante because it reflects the high standards at YOM. The touch and reliability are second to none."

Cheryl A. Mangio, CMRS, CRR, RMR, CCR
Yamaguchi Obien Mangio (YOM) Reporting & Video



What do I love about my Diamante?

"Over the past 50 years, the one constant in my court reporting career has been using Stenograph writers, and without doubt, the Diamante is the finest yet. My writing differs from morning to afternoon, and the new profile settings let me adjust the writer on the fly to handle the changes. No matter what I throw at it, it just works!"

Rick Greenspan, FAPR, RMR, CRR, FPR
U.S. Legal Support

What does my firm love about the Diamante?

"The reporters at Wood & Randall love the new Diamante because of its light touch, its great audio backup, and how quick and easy it is to set up with or without being hooked up to a laptop."

Christine Randall, CSR, RPR
Wood & Randall—Owner and President



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National Disaster Search Dog Foundation Update

By Aimee Skochko

Those of you who came to our Convention in October 2017 in Newport Beach will surely remember the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) whose mission it is to strengthen disaster response in America by rescuing and recruiting dogs and partnering them with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. Many court reporters support SDF in the name of our fallen colleague, court reporter Julie Brandau. Julie Brandau was a seasoned court reporter with a 25-year professional history when she was shot and killed, along with three others, in a downtown Atlanta courthouse by a suspect awaiting trial in 2005. California court reporter Jan Lopez was moved to start the Julie Brandau Community Service Memorial Project, partnering with the Search Dog Foundation to raise funds in Brandau's memory.

Since our convention in October, our beloved search dogs have been busy! On January 9, 2018, deadly

mudslides devastated the beachside community of Montecito, California, killing 21 people and injuring 163. A total of 18 Canine Disaster Search Teams trained by SDF were on the scene immediately. These incredible search dogs and handlers searched tirelessly despite immense challenges with debris, rock and mud covering much of the approximately 30 square miles affected by the torrential downpour and ensuing mudslides. The SDF teams did everything they could to help rescue victims trapped in the mud, and sometimes their own homes, as well as give closure and comfort to families and rescuers alike. When authorities finally transitioned to recovery operations and ceased rescue efforts, the SDF teams returned home, exhausted but confident they had completed their mission.

To read more about what the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation dogs and handlers have been up to, please visit our SDF friends at their website: www.searchdogfoundation.org



Software Tips:

Do You Know All of the Functions of Your Software?

By Erin Spence

We've asked reporters in California what their favorite editing functions are with their particular software. There is so much to know about your software! With updates coming every few months, it's hard to keep up with all the new technology. Here we share some of the software tips and tricks from some of the best in the industry to make the job easier and more efficient.

CCRA Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Esquivel's Case CATalyst favorites are:

1. Live Suggestions: My software will give me suggestions for words and phrases that I'm frequently writing during a deposition. I double stroke the suggested brief and ta-da! I now have a much easier way to write "lump on his lip"!

2. Seating chart: I do depositions that often have several attorneys and parties present in the room. Many of them are people I have worked with before; however, for those I am not familiar with, it makes it so much easier to glance up and see the name of the person sitting at the end of the table to my left right there in color on my screen as a quick reminder. You can also manipulate it to include your stroke for that speaker.

These aren't secret tips, but I do know many realtime reporters who don't know about Live Suggestions!

CCRA President Elect Rachel Barkume on StenoCAT shares:

My favorite function is my Auto-Index, which allows

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

me to insert a stroke (For ex. 1/AOEUD/AOEUD) that puts in my (Exhibit 1 was marked for identification) blurb, as well as an index marker for the Auto-Index right in the transcript as my job is going on, which I can use to fill in the description while editing. At the end of the job, all I have to do is insert the index and it fills in the exhibit number, description, and page number for me.

My second favorite function is a realtime Macro that already existed but then I adapted. We all have a built-in stroke of "TR-N/TR-N" to take the last word we wrote and fill it into the last untranslated. I found I needed to be able to do this with phrases, so now I also have "TRAON/TRAON" to do this with two words, "TRAEN/TREAN" for three words, and "TROUR/TROUR" for four words.

CCRA Board Member Regina Demoville shares:

I am on Case CATalyst and I have the BCS (Broadcast Captioning Suite) version. One of my favorite functions BCS does is the auto scripting. When a client gives us a script, we can upload that script in and feed it out line by line. It makes things like graduation ceremonies a lot easier!

My second favorite function is the Brief It pane. Brief It will suggest a brief for a word or phrase if you continue to stroke something over and over. I never used to like it because it would just mess me up while I was writing, but I've learned that you can edit the suggested brief. It has been such a help on jobs!

CCRA Member Becky Sebesta on Eclipse says:

One of my favorite features is an editing feature called AutoReplacements. When we are typing in text or making corrections quickly, it's very easy to make a mistake. AutoReplacements will automatically fix these without you having to do anything. For example, if you type "defendnat" it will change it to "defendant" on the spot. The software comes with some commonly repeated typos built in, but you can also modify or add to apply your own common errors.

CCRA Member Christina Rodriguez on Case CATalyst says her favorite function is:

EZ Keys! You assign functions using F4-1, F4-2, etc. For me, I use F4-1 to be colloquy for the attorney on my left and it will automatically put the name of the attorney I assigned it in EZ Speakers during translation. I do the same for the attorney on the right with F4-2. You can assign the F4 key with any number to instantly put in

whatever function you find yourself doing repeatedly during editing. This is just a shortcut around a lot of editing finger work. Just go to your System Functions file to assign and the tab is called EZ Text.

CCRA Board Member Aimee Edwards-Altadonna shared:

I am on Eclipse and I couldn't think of anything mind shattering to share. I do use a feature that I don't think many use, though. Under our "production" drop down menu is something called "list errors." I use it after proofing and spellchecking as one final check over a transcript before I export it out to submit. List errors basically lists everything funky in your transcript in alphabetical order after going through numbers first. If you scan down and past all the numbers and symbols used for auto indexing and such, you make your way to a beautiful alphabetical list of anything that spellcheck would have stopped at or that is a proper noun and even double words. You can use this list to make sure that you didn't spell a name differently. It's especially helpful when you have a ton of names and maybe you just defined something on the job to be readable and then forgot to finalize the name change throughout or if you write it differently and your global didn't catch them all. You can click on any word in the list and Eclipse will pop over to that instance in your transcript so you can check it out and correct if necessary.

And my personal favorite on Case CATalyst...

I love coming up with Macros. A Macro is a series of editing commands rolled up into one editing function or one realtime stroke. For instance, on my new machine when I hit the Q stroke sometimes there are keys that "stick" or re-hit. So my transcript will come up with "Q Is it where did you get the gun?" The "is it" shouldn't be there. So the series of editing commands would be Home (to go to the beginning of the line), highlight "is it" and Delete. I now have a Macro that I defined to do all that in one stroke or, if editing on the computer, one editing function.

Obviously there are many more software versions out there and many, many more "goodies" on each version. Going to your software company's seminars at conventions is a great way to stay on top of what is new and improved on your version. And I know this is a stretch and we all have very little spare time, how about getting out your software manual once a month and learn one new function? It might be the one that saves you more time in the future!

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Grin and Bear it – Pfft!

By Jennifer Esquivel, Freelancer by Day, Night, and Even on the Weekends

I've always hated that phrase "grin and bear it." I even looked it up once to learn how that phrase came about. The Collins Dictionary lists it as: "If you grin and bear it, you accept a difficult or unpleasant situation without complaining because you know there is nothing you can do to make things better."

What a crock. Seriously. Why would we not only bear something, but grin while bearing it? That makes no sense to me. It's like tasting someone's cooking for the first time and pretending you like it. Why would you encourage a bad cook to keep recreating a terrible dish? And, trust me, this is from experience – I'm a terrible cook. Please don't pretend my chicken is delicious when you'd rather eat glass. And definitely don't feel obligated to smile while chewing it!

I'm a freelancer – have been ever since I became a licensed CSR four years ago. It's tough. There are a lot of challenges we face as freelancers: low rates, lack of payment, contracting. But I think the most surprising one came when I would meet with agencies about potential work and, upon countering their offer of a low rate, hear "We can't do that right now. The region won't allow it. It's just how things are."

Now, please don't misunderstand me. I won't profess to know exactly how certain page rates or payment terms came to be the norm in our field. Frankly, I have a feeling a lot of this happened well before my time as an adult, let alone a working reporter. And I have surmised that a lot of this happened in an effort to keep court reporting a profession. And I do understand competing in a certain region may mean staying within what the market may bear at that moment. But here's the problem: no one has really tried to change the market. I found myself

recently standing among a group of agency owners who really weren't sure how to go about raising their rates with their clients in a way that wouldn't jeopardize their client continuing to give them business. It was akin to a "rock, paper, scissors" game to see who would be the one to do it first, but nobody wants to win.

I can remember having a conversation years ago with the president of a company I was working for at the time who spent a good 20 minutes bemoaning the work his profession's state trade association was doing on behalf of their membership. Once he had listed all of his complaints, I said to him, "Maybe you should run for president, then. If you don't like what they're doing, it sounds like you should give it a try." I'm pretty sure there was about five seconds of silence before he agreed. Because we can all sit around and complain about our circumstances, but maybe some of us should write those complaints down and then take action to change things for the better. Because we don't need more sitting; we need more doing. We need court reporters to DO more. (And I mean that in the literal sense as well – our backs will thank us!)

I know. You're already busy. Well, so am I. And we can spend our time comparing our to-do lists to figure out who is busier, or you can email me and say, "This is what I can make time for to help change things for the better." Because, honestly, we all know there's never a convenient time to do something when you're a freelancer. It's a running joke that as soon as you pack for your family vacation, that transcript from three days ago will suddenly expedite and they need it tomorrow.

So here's what CCRA needs from us freelancers: Don't feel like you need to grin and bear it. Call us. Send us an email. Tell us what you want changed and what you can do to help us change it. I will make time to hear and read them all. Because nobody should have to eat my chicken with a smile.

Why become a Student Member of CCRA?

By Karly Powers

When you're a student in court reporting school, the odds can sometimes feel like they are stacked against you. Oftentimes, as students, we search for support and understanding of the craziness that is court reporting school. This is where CCRA comes in. We LOVE our students, and we think of your futures every single day.

Students are the future of our court reporting profession. Our Support Our Students Committee and Board of Directors work on your behalf all year round to ensure you and your teachers have all the information you need regarding trends in the profession and any upcoming events that help you on your journey to becoming a court reporter. Our Support Our Students Committee and its Chairs, Karly Powers and Bob Sullivan, are extremely passionate about students in our industry.

As a student member of CCRA, you'll have access to many great opportunities. We have a robust mentor program where we pair you with a mentor that has similar interests to you in your area. These mentors will help you and guide you throughout your ups and downs of your school journey. Our mentors have been through and seen it all and have so much to offer you in support, kindness, and constructive criticism to help you reach your goals.

We also host three Mock CSR opportunities throughout the year close to the time of the actual CSR exam. These Mock CSRs are opportunities to test your skills and get a feel for how the CSR exam is run and set up. There's nothing like getting your nerves in check by taking a Mock CSR exam to help yourself prepare for the most important exam of your career. The Mock CSRs are offered at a school near you once a year, as well as at the Annual Convention and BOOT CAMP. The opportunities for the Mock CSR at BOOT CAMP and the Convention will have real CSR exam readers, and the one at our schools will be read by our wonderful teachers and volunteers.

CCRA's Student Scholarship Opportunity is offered once a year for all students in California. The award is \$1,000 for the winning essay chosen by our Support Our Students Committee. If you are in 160 WPM to Qualifiers, a student CCRA member, and in good standing with your school, you are eligible to submit your application and essay entry for this great opportunity. The question

is different each time and is chosen by the Committee. The winner is announced at the CCRA convention and given acknowledgement by all attendees. We do not require attendance for receipt of the reward, but encourage it.

Along with the mentor program and the Mock CSRs, we offer great opportunities for you to network with working reporters and other students. We host a BOOT CAMP every year where you can take the day to learn all about the different ins and outs of our profession. You will hear from many different speakers about their experiences in their jobs as CART Captioners, Broadcast Captioners, Freelancers, Officials, and Government Reporters. You will be provided lunch, light breakfast, and refreshments. We also provide you with a thumb drive full of tips and tricks from each speaker who presents. Don't miss your chance to mingle with vendors and see the newest technology available to you. The Mock CSR is also included in this registration as a Student for BOOT CAMP!

Each year at the Annual Convention, we don't stick our students in their own track and leave them with each other all weekend. We LOVE to include our students on everything and give them different choices for whatever they want to learn about that weekend. We like you to feel included and confident that you are a future reporter and not like you're stuck in certain student-oriented classes. We truly believe that you being able to learn aside a working reporter is incredibly valuable, and you deserve that chance. We love to mingle with our students at conventions, and you will have ample opportunity to network with everyone and create meaningful relationships to help you in the future.

CCRA prides itself on inclusion. We love our students and all of our reporters in this industry. You are the future of court reporting, which makes you the most important part of our profession. We love to support you on your journey and help you as you complete your education. By offering strong mentorships, Mock CSRs, a scholarship opportunity, BOOT CAMP, and an inclusive Convention, we hope you feel supported along the way. We will try our hardest to run sponsorship drives to sponsor many of you to these events. We love to come together as an association and profession to support our students and give back to you! We hope that you come join our CCRA family and start getting the support that you deserve.



On Mentoring

By Erin Spence

One of my greatest rewards is mentoring a student. In a school environment where it sometimes feels like you are all alone, it is encouraging to have someone by your side. I don't know if there's a better feeling than knowing you coached someone all the way to the CSR or RPR and they passed it!

With the increasing number of online schools, there is less and less one-on-one teaching of real-life skills. It is more important than ever to encourage our future court reporters through to their goals.

Way back in the day when I was a student in court reporting school, the only question I heard was, "So when are you going to be done?" It sure would have been reassuring to have a working reporter reminding me I'm going to get there. And we all get there when we get there! One of the best court reporters I know took the CSR seven times! What determination!

If you feel inspired to be a mentor, I have 16 students who are looking for you. All you need is to foster encouragement (and maybe a little pushiness!) and let them know they can do this.

The profession needs you and the profession needs these students. Sign up to be a mentor at cal-ccra.com. We have a student waiting for you!

From a Student's Eyes...

By Samantha Frutos

My experience with my amazing mentors helped me so much! I was struggling to pass the CSR dictation exam and I had taken it a few times. After trying and applying all I learned in school, I thought why not reach out to a mentor and maybe they can help me improve my skill and motivate me. I got lucky and had two amazing mentors. They would text me frequently and keep me on track. When I would get home tired or didn't feel like practicing, they would text me and motivate me to practice. When I had questions or wanted to know something, they were there and answered all my questions. I would sit out with them and they would show me things I didn't learn in school, such as transcribing tricks, briefs, and so much more. I sat out with them frequently and learned more and more.

When it was time to take the CSR dictation exam, I took all the skills they taught me and everything I learned from school and applied them. I was in tears when I found out I PASSED!! I would recommend getting a mentor to every student out there. Court reporting school is hard enough and sometimes it's hard to talk to people that don't understand. It's nice to have someone that went through everything you did and has been working. They understand and support you. You learn so much from them. I'm very thankful and blessed I got these two amazing mentors!! The mentor program is an amazing program!!