

THE RECORD IS IN OUR HANDS



KYCRA

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Lexington, Kentucky 40579

March 3, 2018

Christine Willette, President
National Court Reporters Association
12030 Sunrise Valley Drive
Suite 400
Reston, Virginia 20191

In re: Kentucky Court Reporters Association Position Statement on NCRA's Proposed "Neutral Stance" on Contracting

President Willette:

NCRA must continue to promote high ethical standards to ensure the integrity of the profession and the public faith in a court reporter's role as the impartial guardian of the record. These standards are set forth in the Code of Professional Ethics (COPE).

Preferential contracting agreements promote the interests of one party at the expense of an opposing party who was not part of the negotiations and is unaware of the terms, receives no benefit, yet is bound by these contracts. This appearance of impropriety and bias must be guarded against in our legal system. NCRA cannot remain "neutral" on contracting without deviating from the organization's core values set forth in COPE.

NCRA's Government Relations team provides the continuity of knowledge and experience to support state legislative initiatives, and this knowledge and experience is vital for states to level the playing field against well-funded opposition that seeks to destroy protections for the public for the sake of profit and nothing more. NCRA should continue to exercise its rights under the Noerr-Pennington doctrine, and it should not be dissuaded from doing so for the sake of special interest or fear of retaliation.

For these reasons, the Kentucky Court Reporters Association believes multiple prior board resolutions should remain in effect regarding NCRA's position on contracting.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clarice H. Howard".

Clarice H. Howard, President
Kentucky Court Reporters Association