



# Arizona Court Reporters Association

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NCRA Board of Directors  
(via email)

March 3, 2018

NCRA Board of Directors,

We at ACRA are dismayed by the position NCRA has taken regarding “contracting” and urge you to reconsider. The assumptions that seem to have informed the board’s decision, as evidenced in statements by its executives, are simply and unequivocally incorrect. It is a blithe arrogance that casts aside decades of legal analysis in favor of the stunningly miscalculated assertions that “contracting” is merely a *“catch-all phrase for items and issues that fall in the category of business practices”* and *“The ability of large corporations to undercut hard working reporters on price is an unfortunate reality of the free market economy.”* This rationale misses the point so completely it is closer to propaganda than policy.

“Contracting” in the world of court reporting is, indeed, a catch-all phrase, and what the phrase has caught is an array of acts and practices that have forced state after state to implement public protections against the reporting industry. Yes, those “business practices” have made it necessary for states to enact laws that protect the public from us. The reality behind this catch-all phrase that NCRA now posits as either harmless business practice or superior business acumen is destroying the very foundation of reporting. One need only look to court filings or NCRA and state affiliate archives to see the intent behind those “business practices” and thus the truth of that prediction.

Both the “neutral” stand and its rationale put NCRA in direct conflict with its own COPE and professional ethics tenets and with its history. They create conflict and confusion with state laws that were crafted upon NCRA verbiage and with NCRA guidance. They betray the reporters that have supported NCRA with their time and money. They betray and belittle the reporters that day in and day out successfully operate in the free market without violating those ethical tenets and state laws, and ultimately they betray the consumers that depend on us to do so.

NCRA cannot remain neutral on acts that use the reporting profession to give strategic and financial advantage to one party over another. NCRA cannot remain neutral on acts that have been identified as damaging to the public trust. NCRA cannot remain neutral on acts that erode confidence in the integrity and credibility of our profession.

Arizona Court Reporters Association  
Board of Directors

  
Carolyn T. Sullivan, RPR  
President