

CCRA *online*

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**Meet Sheri Turner Gray,
New CCRA President**

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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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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: From Better to Best — To Even Better!

By Sheri Turner Gray, CSR 7350
CCRA President



Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed CCRA's annual convention in Las Vegas. We had a great time and gained a wealth of information. Carolyn Dasher, convention chair, and her committee truly outdid themselves with the excellence of the program and the great social activities. And of course it wouldn't have been such a success without our management company, The Droz Group, Jerry, Fred, Maria, and Ian, who were awesome.

I am truly humbled to be the new president of CCRA. I want you to know my feelings for CCRA and the awe and respect that I have for an association with such a fine reputation and track record. The accomplishments of this association over the past 100 years are truly astounding. The quality of leaders that have been at the helm of this organization is amazing. I don't know how I will be able to fill the shoes of the leaders I am following. Each person I have worked with since my involvement on the board over the last five years has been such an example and inspiration to me. They have touched my life and made me a better person and sparked my interest and involvement in this association. To all of them I say a huge, heartfelt THANK YOU. Robert Frost said, "The world is filled with willing people; some willing to work, the rest willing to let them." I didn't want to be one of the "letters." I wanted to be one of the "workers" and be in the presence of these great people.

I am also grateful for our NCRA President Karen Yates. I had the privilege of being in Anaheim at the NCRA convention for her inauguration, and I echo the sentiments of her speech. If you haven't already, please read it in the JCR. Her charge to the reporters of the nation is FROM BETTER TO BEST, an admirable and attainable charge for each and every one of us.

We are in a unique situation here in California, different from any other state, in that there exists more than one state reporting association. After being a member of more than one California association, and being familiar with more than one California association, it is my belief — no, my knowledge from personal observation and experience — that CCRA is the PREMIER reporting association in the state with the PREMIER reporters in the state. So let me expand Karen's charge to apply specifically to us: FROM BETTER TO BEST — AND EVEN BETTER! Even though we are the best association in California, it is possible for us to become even better, as individual reporters and as an association.

The experience, expertise, and capability of the leaders and members of CCRA was never more clearly illustrated to me than during the past many months that we have been diligently fighting the DR/ER/Budget crisis recommendation to eliminate all reporters in the state court system. I hope that you all took interest in reading the updates that were sent to you as things progressed. And thank you so very much to all of you who supported this fight with your membership, your time, your letters, your phone calls, and your money. I want you to know that the tireless leaders and task force members sacrificed much time and effort and energy saving all of our jobs. To be a part of the task force working together, diligently presenting reports, meeting with legislators and staff, working closely with our lobbyists Jim Cassie and Michelle Castro, who so expertly led the charge, I have never felt so strongly the importance of unity in our profession. Official reporters and freelance reporters worked hand in hand to combat this foe. One without the other would not have been able to accomplish what we did and what we still have left to do. WE HAVE TREMENDOUS STRENGTH IN UNITY, and I hope that you, as a CCRA member, realize that fact and share those feelings with other reporters around you who may not be CCRA members. Each and every member counts.

The thought that kept coming to my mind during this crisis is "All for one and one for all," the Musketeer motto. I want you to picture the finest-looking Musketeer that your imagination can muster up, and hold that pleasant thought as I explain to you why the Musketeer is a fitting analogy of our association.

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President's Message: From Better to Best — To Even Better!

(continued from Page 3)

Picture the Musketeer hat: The hat represents the many minds and many ideas of CCRA's members circumscribed into one common purpose. Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, and even a reporting association work.

Picture the Musketeer shield: The shield of the Musketeer is used for protection from the weapons of the adversary. This shield represents the protection of unity and solidarity of our membership.

Through our strength and unity we can withstand all the blows of the opposing forces.

Picture the Musketeer sword: I call this the sword of truth and honesty. CCRA prides itself on being the best source of timely and accurate information to our members.

Through our Cal-e-gram updates, our monthly online magazine, and our Web site, we provide you with all the information pertinent to your job as a reporter. And like the Musketeer's sword, we also use truth and honesty as our best offensive weapon. The facts about stenographic reporting vs. electronic recording

remain our best offense in the DR/ER fight. Truthful and accurate information cannot be denied or disputed. "Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts." (Daniel Patrick Moynihan)

Picture the Musketeer Cloak: This cloak represents the cloak of education, which empowers and protects our members. By educating our members, and by our members educating themselves, we are armed and at the same time protected in the realm of our profession.

Finally, picture the Musketeer's Boots: These boots give us the courage to stand firm in our position of protecting and promoting the reporting profession; what CCRA and our individual members have done for 100 years.

I bring to you, as your president, my commitment to uphold the ideals and purposes of CCRA. I have a motto that I try to live my life by. My long and complicated mission statement originally crafted years ago has been condensed into five simple words. These words are good words for me in guiding my life, and I think they will also be good words for me in guiding this association.

LIVE: "Live" is an action verb. It requires doing, as opposed to merely existing or stagnating. To live in accordance with one's values is the definition of integrity, which is something I try to always maintain in my personal and professional life.

LOVE: Do what you love and love what you do. Have passion for something. It makes all the difference in your life. I truly do love reporting. I heard it said one way: Choose your love, and love your choice. Although that originally was intended to apply to a marriage relationship, I think it applies to many aspects of life.

LAUGH: It makes life so much better! Sometimes reporting can be somewhat of a solitary profession, especially for freelance reporters who may rarely have face-to-face contact with firms they work for or with other reporters. Friendships and social aspects of life are very important to our well-being. Networking with other association members is not only fun, but beneficial to your health and your career.

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President's Message: From Better to Best — To Even Better!

(continued from Page 4)

LEARN: Learning is a lifelong process. Continuing your education will invigorate and re-energize you. And there is so much to learn, especially with technology in our industry increasing at such an exponential rate. I could learn forever and never come remotely close to knowing everything.

LEAD: We are each leaders in our industry. You are a leader to many people around you, including other reporters and reporting students. Lead by example. Mentor. Encourage. Pass along your excitement and passion for our profession.

John F. Kennedy said: Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.

From Better to Best — to Even Better: Our challenge as an association and as individual reporters is to constantly improve ourselves. As we do that, we will

be improving the state of our profession. What can I, as a reporter, do better this year? Can I improve in my writing skills? Can I finally become confident in hooking up realtime? Can I gain a new certification? Can I learn more about emerging technology? Can I market my skills and my services better to attorneys? Can I help a newer reporter? Can I mentor a student? Can I offer CART services for a meeting? Can I participate on a CCRA committee that interests me? What one thing can I do this year that I am not doing now? I promise you that by choosing a goal and attaining it, you will be improving yourself, our association, and our profession. It is the individual efforts that amount to great accomplishment in our field.

I hope that during this coming year I can represent you well, listen to you well, and be true to these five standards as we face the challenges ahead of us. And may we enjoy continued success together throughout this coming year as we go FROM BETTER, TO BEST — AND EVEN BETTER!



Meet Your New CCRA President



Sheri L. Turner Gray, CSR 7350
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Registered Professional Reporter

Sheri Turner Gray has been a freelance reporter in the Sacramento area for 22 years and owner of a deposition firm since 1993. And yes, that is long enough to have heard everything by now! She is a realtime reporter specializing in the areas of public law, employment law, complex business litigation, and medical and legal malpractice.

Sheri has been an active member in the National Court Reporters Association, her local Northern California Court Reporters Association, and has been on the board of the California Court Reporters Association for the past four years, serving as the Vice President Freelance and President Elect, a Director, Chair of the Public Relations Committee, and former Chair of the Depo Advisory Committee. She has taught seminars at reporting association meetings and conventions and also to associations of expert witnesses and attorneys. She has been an instructor at the Sacramento Campus of Bryan College of Court Reporting.

If all that isn't enough to keep her busy, she does try to have a personal life. She and her husband combined have 10 children, 7 grandchildren and two more grandchildren on the way. Sheri has been a professional musician; enjoys horseback riding with her equestrian daughter, waterskiing with her father and competitive brothers, hiking, and snowshoeing; and is now learning fishing skills, thanks to her patient husband.



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Congratulations CCRA Past President —Yvonne Fenner, CSR



Yvonne Fenner was selected on October 17, 2008, by the Court Reporters Board of California to act as its executive officer effective January 2, 2009. She replaces the retiring David Brown in overseeing CRB activity, from administration of the CSR exam, to school oversight and enforcement actions and investigations.

Fenner initially began working with the Court Reporters Board as a licensee member of the Board appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006. She moved from a board member to a half-time staff analyst where she was liaison to the Board and various committees.

As an active working reporter, her one regret is having to sell her court reporting business and limit her reporting activity to an occasional public meeting. "I'm going to miss reporting, but the chance to add my knowledge and experience to support the Board during the next few years as they deal with some tough issues just seemed like an opportunity too good to be missed," noted Fenner.

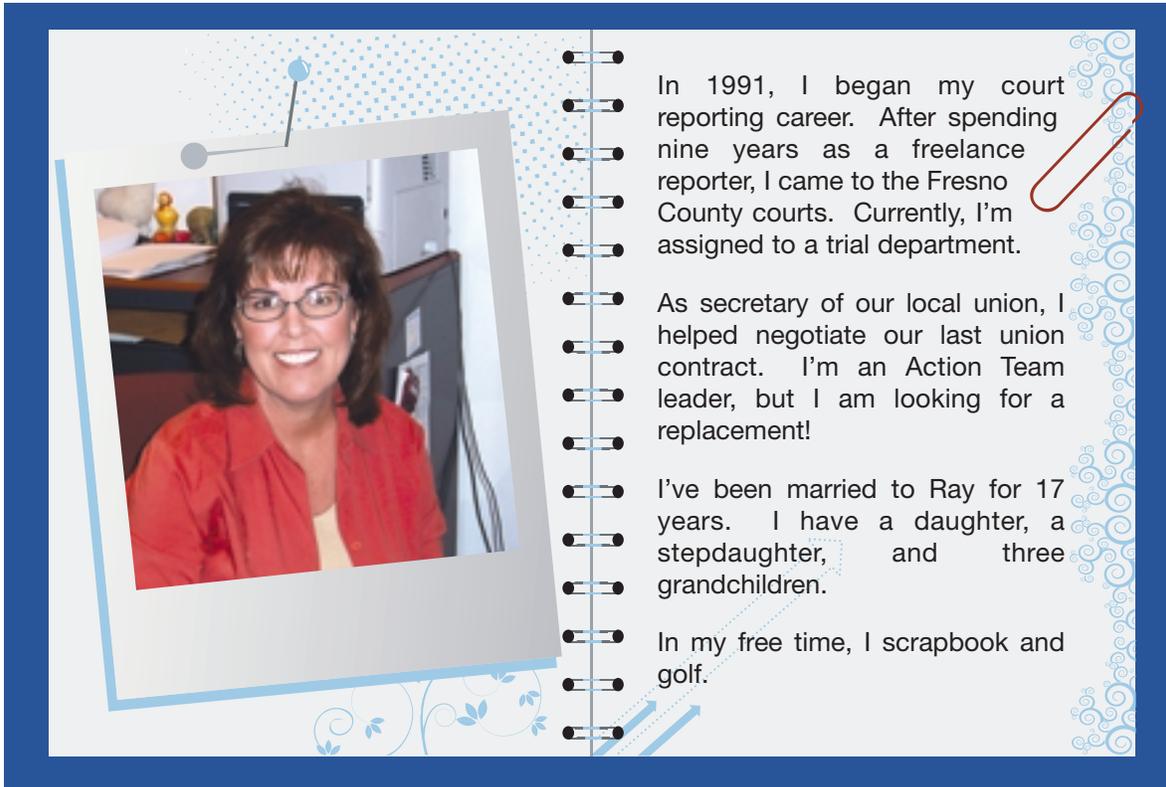
Fenner holds a bachelor of arts degree in business administration and Spanish. Her first job after

college was selling English as a Second Language textbooks for Oxford University Press in Mexico City. She went on to work as a field coordinator for a national seminar production company and then to spend almost ten years in association management.

Her sister brought the field of court reporting to her attention, and Fenner went on to graduate from Argonaut Court Reporting School in Sacramento, where she has worked primarily as a freelance reporter, although her reporting experience also includes pro tem work in local courthouses as well as substantial public meeting reporting. "As soon as I received my license, I promised myself I would never say no to a job because it was too early, too late, too far away or too hard, only turning it down if I knew I didn't have time to get the transcript out," said Fenner. As a result of reporting basically anything and everything that came down the line, she was able to improve her dictionary and writing skills and move into the realtime writing arena. "I can point to lots of landmarks in my reporting career, but the highlight would have to be providing interactive realtime feeds to attorneys and interpreters in a technical case in Paris, France. I truly felt like I'd entered the Major League."



Meet Kristi Garcia



In 1991, I began my court reporting career. After spending nine years as a freelance reporter, I came to the Fresno County courts. Currently, I'm assigned to a trial department.

As secretary of our local union, I helped negotiate our last union contract. I'm an Action Team leader, but I am looking for a replacement!

I've been married to Ray for 17 years. I have a daughter, a stepdaughter, and three grandchildren.

In my free time, I scrapbook and golf.



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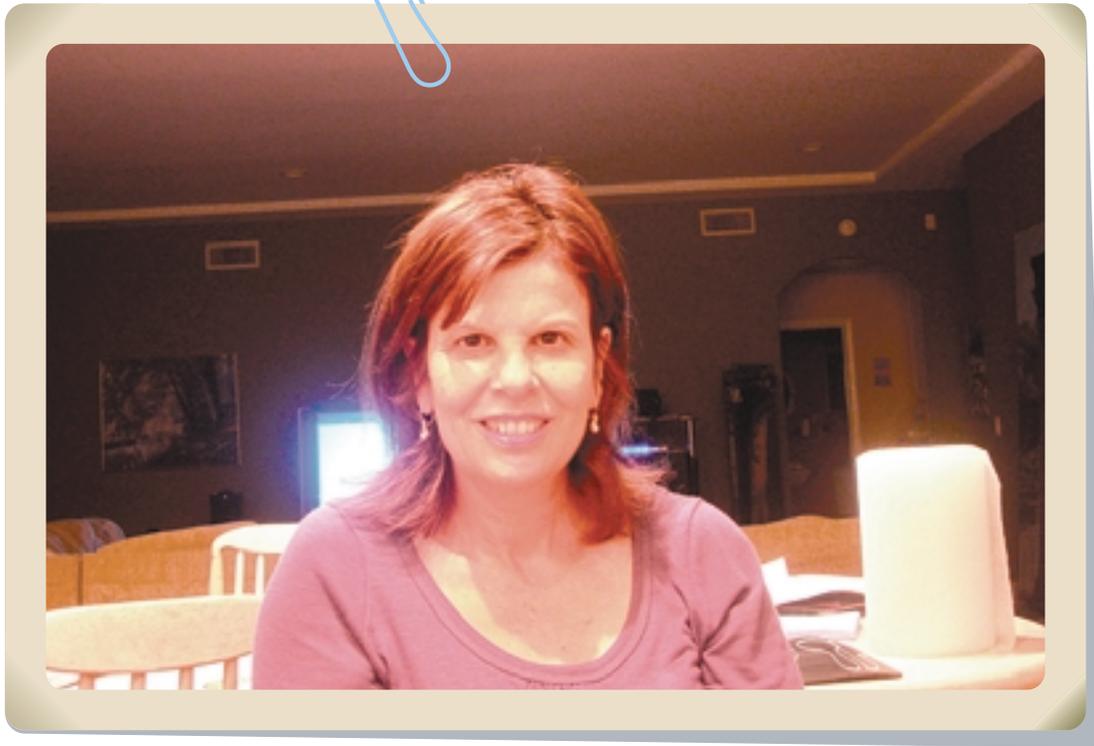
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Meet Robin Seligman



First I want to say I'm thrilled to be on the board of the California Courts Reporters Association. I have been a member of this wonderful organization practically since I started court reporting. The work they have done for our profession is immeasurable. Following is a short synopsis of my experience.

I have been a court reporter since 1979. After a brief time as a deposition reporter, in 1981, I became a full-time official reporter for the Los Angeles Superior Court. I was a pioneer in Computer Assisted Technology [CAT] and its application in criminal and civil trials, including "dailies."

After some nine years in court, I returned to the private sector. I worked the next 16 years as a deposition reporter in Los Angeles and Orange County, specializing in realtime hookups. Most of my depositions involved complex business and medical witnesses.

Since January of 2006, I have worked exclusively as a closed-caption reporter for television stations around the country. I caption all kinds of live shows from sports, news, entertainment and religion.

I've been married 25 years to Hyatt, a L.A. Deputy District Attorney, and have three children: Adam, 24; Rhea, 22; and Samantha, 16. I also have two wonderful stepchildren: Brandie, 28 and Todd, 26. I just recently moved to Huntington Beach and love it here.

Because of my unique history of working in the arenas of court, depositions and closed captioning, I feel I have a broad perspective on the needs of court reporters across the full spectrum of this wonderful profession.



Post-Convention Report

By Carolyn J. Dasher, Convention Chair

Thanks to all who attended the 98th Annual CCRA Convention in Las Vegas this past Columbus Day weekend! Vegas is always hopping, so it was an energy-filled conference!

At the end of each conference, we look forward to picking up the evaluation forms. We're looking for information from the attendees. The Continuing Education Committee would like to know what CCRA members want to learn so we can tailor the next convention on member needs. We strive to make our conventions educational and packed with fun! But we really want to give you the classes you need to further your skills as a reporter!

During the site visit in Vegas, my first thought was the hotel was old. With the economy the way it was, we decided to keep the lodging costs low for our attendees. The casino itself needed some help, I'll agree. But the conference center was clean, the rooms were new, and the banquet food was good. I do appreciate all of your comments, positive or negative, and keep up the communication! We can't fix it if we don't know what your thoughts are!

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Telgenhoff, was a little dark in his presentation. If you are an official, you were probably used to his "humor" and perception. If you are a freelancer, it gave you some insight into what the officials deal with on a daily basis. Our job is challenging on many levels. We really are a qualified group of professionals.

Many attendees appreciated the included four-hour CAT training that we had on Saturday morning. We extended the hours so you could really learn something. And the price was right!

The Distinguished Service Award was given to Bill Greenley by last year's recipient, Toni O'Neill.

Learning about our technology will not only keep our profession viable, but make our individual jobs easier. With the continuing education units necessary for all official reporters in the state, CCRA is striving to help you keep up with the demands of your jobs.

Feel free to contact me with any input you'd like to impart! And remember, what happened in Vegas, we all took back to work with us!



Hyphenating Letter-For-Letter Spelling

By Margie Wakeman Wells, College of Court Reporting

Most of us know that we hyphenate letter-for-letter spelling. These rules talk about the capitalization and what it looks like when the spelling is started mid-word or in interrupted and then picked up again.

HYPHEN RULE: Hyphenate letter-for-letter spelling.

I spoke with Mary Donnell, D-o-n-n-e-l-l.
It is 438 Sepulveda, S-e-p-u-l-v-e-d-a, Boulevard.
It is sumatriptan, s-u-m-a-t-r-i-p-t-a-n, that she used.

HYPHEN RULE: When spelling letter for letter, follow the way the word looks normally in terms of capitalization and spacing. In other words, the word would be correctly written if the hyphens were removed.

My name is Richard McCall, M-c-C-a-l-l.
W. J. De La Vega, D-e L-a V-e-g-a, was the leader of the project.
I submitted it to van de Mere, v-a-n d-e M-e-r-e.

HYPHEN RULE: When only a portion of the word is spelled, put the hyphen in front of the first letter. The hyphen has to go with one letter or the other. It goes with the letter that follows it.

Is that -f-f-e or -f-f-y?
It was George Marant, and that is -a-n-t.
That word ends in -o-r.

HYPHEN RULE: When the spelling is interrupted, leave the last letter with no hyphen after it, and put a hyphen in front of the first letter when it picks up again. When “sample” words are used for the letter, put that word in quotes.

It is Carrigan, C, as in “cat,” -a-r-r-i-g-a-n.
It is spelled R, as in “Roger,” a-t, as in “Tom,” -t-a. It is Ratta.
It is after the character Abelard, A-b, as in “bravo,” -e-l-a-r-d, as in “dog.”



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Plug it in, Plug it in, Plug it in!

By Vickie M. Main
Stenograph, L.L.C.
Development Product Manager

If you aren't using your élan Mira or STENTURA fusion, you should plug it in. You will not harm the battery by having it plugged in. If you are going out of town for a few days, plug it in before leaving.

In addition, you should use that extra battery you received with your steno machine. A very good practice is to cycle the battery usage. For example, remove your current battery, insert the extra battery, charge it, and use it for a few months. Then grab your original battery, charge it, and use it for a few months, continually rotating the batteries to get most out of both of them.

Contrary to popular belief, batteries do have a limited life span of approximately a year to a year and half. As the battery ages, so does its capacity to hold a

charge. So a fully charged, new battery will provide approximately 12 hours of realtime writing, but a battery that is a year old and fully charged may only provide six hours of realtime writing.

Check the age of your battery by removing it from your steno machine, looking at the bottom for the stamped four-digit number. The first two numbers represent the week, and the second two numbers represent the year your battery was made. For example, 2206 tells you that the battery was made the twenty second week of 2006. Don't be caught with an old, tired battery when your job depends on it.



Cal-e-licious

By Gerie Bunch

Spaghetti Squash Italian Casserole

- 1 spaghetti squash, baked or microwaved until tender
- 1 lb. fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced
- 1 16 – 18 oz. jar of your favorite pasta sauce butter
- 5 Italian sausage links (hot or mild) cooked and sliced
- 5 – 8 fresh basil leaves, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 c. grated Parmesan cheese

Cut the squash in half, lengthwise. Bake the squash @ 350, cut side down in oblong pan for 45 minutes or microwave in appropriate dish covered for 12 minutes or until tender. Let cool enough to handle. Using a fork, shred the insides of the squash from side to side. It will look like spaghetti.

Butter an oblong 9x13 inch dish, place half the shredded squash in the bottom, then layer with sauce, 1/2 of the sliced sausage and 1/2 the mozzarella. On the next layer, be sure to put several pats of butter on the squash, then remaining sausage, sauce and top with mozzarella. Cook 1/2 hr. @ 375 until bubbly, then remove, top with fresh basil and Parmesan, return to oven for 5 minutes longer.

This is a great alternative to all the carbs that regular spaghetti contains.



Continuing Education Legislation – Where Are We?

*By Carolyn J. Dasher, CSR, RPR
VP Officials/President Elect*

Did you know that the Court Reporters Board (CRB) voted in August of '07 to mandate continuing education credits?

Did you know that Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed the requirement in October of '08?

Did you know that the courts in California now require eight CEUs every two years?

If you're a freelance reporter and work in court, are you getting your CEUs?

THE PROPOSAL WAS:

Business and Professions Code 8024.8, "To require mandatory continuing education as a condition of license renewal. Continuing education providers shall be approved by the Board. The Board in its discretion may exempt from the continuing education requirement any licensee who for reasons of health, military service, or undue hardship cannot meet these requirements."

Members of NCRA know what it's like to have the requirement to gather CEU's. I know in our workplace, it's difficult to think of doing one more thing like education. But, really, where would our profession be if we stopped learning? Dictation. Carbon paper. No CAT software. No realtime. No realtime bonus. No thumb drives. No laptops. Well, you get the drift.

Having CE requirements puts reporters on parity with other licensed professionals who are required to stay up to date, such as lawyers, doctors, paralegals, realtors, and others, thereby solidifying our position as professionals as opposed to a misperceived clerical position.

The requirements still need to be determined by regulation after public input, but would not be

burdensome for the reporter to obtain. We're talking about a requirement of approximately four to six hours per year; but that is not currently set. Many of the complaints and enforcement issues that the CRB deals with could be solved by reporter education. I truly believe — I know I'm a broken record — that the only way we can keep our profession alive is by keeping ahead technologically. It's really beneficial in Sacramento, when we're fighting the DR battle, to say our members maintain continuing education standards. And I hate to say it, but it's actually fun going to classes with other like-minded professionals!

This bill was sponsored by the CRB and had the full support of both CCRA and DRA, and passed through both houses without any opposition. The Governor decided to blanket veto all continuing education legislation, so that's where we stand today!



Stenograph is honored to introduce Michelle McLaughlin as our new District Sales Manager for Southern California.

Michelle comes to you as a former court reporter and realtime writer and a long line of reporters in the family. Her aunt and her sister are both freelance court reporters. In addition to her California CSR license, Michelle is also an RPR.

Before joining the Stenograph team, she worked as a freelance reporter in the Southern California area. Michelle lives in the Temecula area with her husband and their two children.

Michelle will be an asset to the Southern California court reporting community and looks forward to providing you superior service and keeping you informed on all that Stenograph has to offer.

Michelle can be reached at 1.800.323.4247 x 6284 or e-mailed at mmclaughlin@stenograph.com.

Help Me Buy A New Laptop!

By Candis Bradshaw, CSR

The flurry of technological terms in recent years is quite mind-numbing, with terms like Dual Core, Core 2 Duo, Athlon, and Turion. Then you have to figure out how much memory you need, whether or not you need a CD-RW, DVD, or DVD±RW drive, how many USB ports you need...bring on Happy Hour to ease the pain!

Every computer has eight basic components. When selecting these components, follow this basic rule: *Purchase as much as you can afford and what fits your needs.*

1. Processor

The processor is the computer's "brain." In the past, processor names were easy: Pentium I, II, III, or IV. With the advent of dual-core processors (two processors on one chip, or "core," working together), the naming became exceedingly complicated.

Intel manufactures two varieties of dual-core chips:

- *Pentium Core™ Duo (aka Dual Core):* The first-generation dual-core chips. Core Duo chips use are denoted by T+lower numbers (e.g., T2000) or E+lower number (e.g., E2140, E2160). These chips are commonly less expensive and do not run as efficiently as Centrino Core™ 2 Duo chips.
- *Centrino Core™ 2 Duo (aka Core Duo):* The second-generation dual-core chip. Core™ 2 Duo chips are denoted by T+higher number (e.g., T7400), E+4000-6500 (e.g., E4400), or U+higher number (e.g., U7000). These chips run faster and use less power than Core™ Duo chips.

Intel's main competitor, AMD, also sells dual-core processors. AMD processors are generally more affordable than Intel processors. However, AMD processors have different names:

- Turion™ 64x2: AMD's dual-processor built for laptops.
- Athlon™ 64x2: AMD's flagship dual-core processor.

Whichever manufacturer you chose, purchase the fastest processor you can afford. I have a Centrino Core™ 2 Duo, 2.0 GHz processor, which is more than adequate for my needs.

2. Operating System

Currently, Windows-based laptops come with a choice of two operating systems: Windows XP or Vista. Microsoft currently plans to discontinue producing XP on June 30, 2008. If you want XP, buy a computer sooner rather than later. XP can run on a single-core or dual-core processor chip, whereas most versions of Vista require a dual-core processor chip.

Vista is the "filler" operating system between XP and the new Windows operating system code-named Windows 7 or Windows Vienna, which is slated to be released in mid 2009. Four version of Vista are available for non-enterprise users: Home Basic, Home Premium, Business, and Ultimate. Some who use Vista have no problems; however, others have had innumerable issues. If you purchase Vista, purchase a Core™ 2 Duo processor.

Both Vista and XP come in 32-bit and 64-bit versions. As very few drivers are available for the 64-bit operating system, it is likely your CAT software will not be supported on a 64-bit version of XP or Vista. Either purchase the 32-bit version or check with your CAT vendor (and the vendors of any other software applications on which you rely) before considering a 64-bit operating system.

3. Memory (aka RAM)

RAM is the computer's short-term memory. Purchase the most you can afford and/or as much as the system will permit. Many resources recommend a minimum of 1GB for XP and 2GB for Vista.

4. Hard Drive

The hard drive is the computer's long-term storage. Again, purchase the largest capacity you can afford. If you plan on storing photos or music on your computer, purchase at least a 100GB hard drive.

5. Optical Drive (aka CD or DVD drive)

At the bare minimum, purchase an optical drive that can burn CDs. If you can afford the added

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Help Me Buy A New Laptop!

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cost, purchase an optical drive which can burn both CDs and DVDs. DVDs store almost six times the data of a CD. Having the option to store more data on the same size media is an added bonus.

6. USB/Serial Ports

Most laptops come with two USB ports. However, the more USB ports that come with a computer, the better. If you only have one USB port, you will have to purchase a USB hub to connect all of your equipment (i.e., software key, writer, USB microphone, etc.).

Serial ports are not standard on most laptops today. If you do not want to use a USB-to-serial converter to either connect your writer to your computer for realtime or output to litigation support software, you may have to special order a laptop directly from the manufacturer.

7. Sound Card

Every computer comes with a sound card integrated into the motherboard of the computer. Sometimes manufacturers will give you the option to upgrade the integrated sound card. Upgrade only if you can afford it and if you have heard bad reviews about the integrated sound card. If you are not happy with the integrated sound card, use a USB device such as one from Sound Professionals (<http://tinyurl.com/28wj3j>) or Andrea Electronics (<http://tinyurl.com/2grhlw>).

If you want to listen to the proceeding as it is being recorded, look for a full-duplex sound card. Most integrated sound cards are half-duplex. This means that the sound card can either record or play back sound, but it cannot do both at the same time.

8. Graphics Card

For court reporters, this is not the most critical component. However, if you plan to use Windows Vista, most professionals recommend you purchase a graphics card that has enough memory to support the Windows Aero interface

and give you a good visual experience (minimum of 128 MB).

Here are a few additional items you should consider:

- New hardware/operating systems may not support older peripherals or software. For instance, most systems do not have 3.5" floppy drives. If you use a writer that uses 3.5" disks or if you have old jobs stored on floppy disks, ensure you can retrieve that data.
- Some older software and peripherals (e.g., printer, keyboard, mouse, router, scanner, speakers, external drives, etc.) may not work with Vista. Check with the specific manufacturer about compatibility with Vista.
- Consider how you plan to use your computer. If you fly frequently or use your computer in places no electrical outlet is available, consider purchasing a longer-life battery. If you plan on using the keyboard built into the laptop, ensure you are comfortable with the key arrangement.
- Purchase the best warranty with the longest coverage period you can afford. Also consider what service options are available. Will you have to send it in? Will a technician be sent to your home or office? Make sure you can get help fast if you run into a problem.
- What brand of computer should you purchase? Every computer manufacturer has good and bad reviews. Research other court reporters' experiences with various computer companies. Find out how receptive the company was to fixing a problem and if tech support helped solve their problem in a timely fashion.
- Before purchasing a laptop, ask your CAT vendor for any specific recommendations or guidance.

Once you know what components you need, laptop shopping can be lots of fun!

Candis would like to thank Cindi Hartman, Stenograph's Training Manager, for her assistance preparing this article.



Legislation Update

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CSR #3032

AB 1569 (Mendoza [D]) Court reporters: rough draft transcript.

Status: 09/27/2008-Vetoed by Governor
Current Location: 09/27/2008-A VETOED

Summary: Existing law provides that the report of the official reporter or official reporter pro tempore of any court, as specified, when transcribed and certified as being a correct transcript of the testimony and proceedings in a case, is prima facie evidence of that testimony and proceedings. Existing law specifically provides that the report, when prepared as a rough draft transcript, shall not be certified and cannot be used, cited, or transcribed as the official certified transcript of the proceedings. Existing law also provides that the rough draft transcript may not be cited or used to rebut or contradict the official certified transcript and that the production of a rough draft transcript shall not be required. This bill would provide, until January 1, 2016, that the instant visual display of the testimony or proceedings, or both, shall not be certified and cannot be used, cited, or transcribed as the official certified transcript of the proceedings. The bill also would prohibit the citation or use of the instant visual display of the testimony or proceedings, or both, to rebut or contradict the official certified transcript of the proceedings.

AB 1925 (Eng [D]) Franchise Tax Board: professional or occupational licenses.

Status: 08/31/2008-Failed
Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(17).
(Last location was REV. & TAX on 07/03/2008)
Current Location: 09/24/2008-S DEAD

Summary: This bill would require a state governmental licensing entity, as defined, including the Court Reporters Board, issuing professional or occupational licenses, certificates, registrations, or permits to provide to the Franchise Tax Board the name

and social security number or federal taxpayer identification number of each licensee of that entity. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board, if an individual licensee fails to pay taxes for which a notice of state tax lien has been recorded, as specified, to send a preliminary notice of suspension to the applicable state governmental licensing entity and to the licensee. The bill would provide that the license of a licensee who fails to satisfy the unpaid taxes by a certain date shall be automatically suspended, except as specified, and would require the Franchise Tax Board to mail a notice of suspension to the applicable state governmental licensing entity and to the licensee, and would provide that the suspension be cancelled upon compliance with the tax obligation. The bill would require the Franchise Tax Board to meet certain requirements with regard to such a suspension, and would make related changes. To prevent financial hardship, Section 19265 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, as added by this act, grants a delinquent taxpayer the opportunity for an additional hearing for financial hardship prior to the suspension of a professional or occupational license. The bill would make implementation of its provisions contingent upon appropriation of funds for that purpose in the annual Budget Act.

AB 2189 (Karnette [D]) Shorthand reporters: continuing education requirements.

Status: 09/28/2008-Vetoed by Governor
Current Location: 09/28/2008-A VETOED

Summary: Existing law provides for the certification and regulation of shorthand reporters by the Court Reporters Board of California in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and provides for the regulation of shorthand reporting schools by the board. Existing law provides for the renewal of a shorthand reporter's certificate if specified

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requirements are met. This bill would require the board to establish, on or before July 1, 2009, minimum approved continuing education requirements for renewal of a shorthand reporter's certificate, with certain exceptions, and would require the board to establish a procedure for approving providers of continuing education courses, as specified.

AB 2299 (Silva [R]) Maintenance of the codes.
Status: 09/27/2008-Vetoed by Governor
Current Location: 09/27/2008-A VETOED

Summary: Existing law establishes the California Law Revision Commission. Existing law authorizes the commission to recommend changes in the law as it deems necessary to modify or eliminate antiquated and inequitable rules of law and bring the law into harmony with modern conditions. This bill would make changes to the terms used to describe recording technology to effectuate the recommendations of the commission to CCP 2025.560 and B&P 8027. The bill would make additional technical, nonsubstantive changes.

AB 2357 (Duvall [R]) Courts: private information.
Status: 08/31/2008-Failed
Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(b)(17).
(Last location was DESK on 08/07/2008)
Current Location: 09/24/2008-S DEAD

Summary: This bill would require the Judicial Council to develop and implement policies and procedures for the protection of personal information, as defined, maintained by a superior court and processed or stored by private service providers, consistent with the best interests of the public. The bill would require the council, as part of the process of developing these policies and procedures, to consider, among other things, the effect and advisability of prohibiting the outsourcing of data entry services outside the United States.

AB 2448 (Feuer [D]) Courts: access to justice.
Status: 09/27/2008-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 462, Statutes of 2008
Current Location: 09/27/2008-A CHAPTERED

Summary: This bill would, beginning July 1, 2009, revise and recast these provisions to provide, instead, that an initial fee waiver shall be granted by the court at any stage of the proceedings at both the appellate and trial court levels if an applicant meets specified standards of eligibility and application requirements. The bill would authorize the court to reconsider the initial fee waiver and to recover fees and costs that were waived under specified circumstances. Among other things, the bill would impose a lien in favor of the court against any settlement, compromise, award, or other recovery in excess of \$10,000 by a party in a civil case whose court fees and costs were initially waived in the amount of those waived fees and costs. The bill would require the Judicial Council to adopt rules and forms to establish uniform procedures to implement these provisions, and would require applicants for an initial fee waiver to complete application forms under penalty of perjury. (By the court being able to recover fees that were previously waived, it helps maintain the portion of the filing fees that are charged by the AOC to offset the court reporters in civil.)

AB 2619 (Calderon, Charles [D]) Civil actions and proceedings.
Status: 09/25/2008-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 303, Statutes of 2008
Current Location: 09/25/2008-A CHAPTERED

Summary: This bill would expand the actions or special proceedings that may be treated as limited civil cases by increasing

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the limit on the amount in controversy to not exceed \$50,000. (2) Existing law sets forth numerous provisions governing discovery in civil actions and proceedings.

SB 797 (Ridley-Thomas [D]) Professions and vocations.

Status: 06/23/2008-Chaptered by Secretary of State — Chapter No. 33, Statutes of 2008

Current Location: 06/23/2008-S CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law authorizes the Court Reporters Board to, among other things, appoint an executive officer and employ other employees as may be necessary. These provisions will become inoperative on July 1, 2008, and be repealed on January 1, 2009. This bill would extend those dates, making the provisions inoperative on July 1, 2011, and repealing them on January 1, 2012. Other consumer boards are included in this bill.

SB 823 (Perata [D]) California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2008.

Status: 09/30/2008-Vetoed by the Governor

Current Location: 09/30/2008-S VETOED

Summary: The Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 generally sets minimum standards of instructional quality, ethical and business practices, health and safety, and fiscal responsibility for private postsecondary and vocational educational institutions, INCLUDING PRIVATE COURT REPORTING SCHOOLS, as defined. The act establishes in the Department of Consumer Affairs the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, which, among other things, is required to review and investigate all institutions, programs, and courses of instruction

approved under the act. This bill would recast, revise, and reenact the provisions of the Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 as the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2007. The bill would establish the Board for Private Postsecondary Education in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and would provide that the board would generally succeed to the duties assigned to the bureau under the 1989 act. The bill would repeal the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2007 on January 1, 2015. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 963 (Ridley-Thomas [D]) Department of Consumer Affairs: regulatory boards.

Status: 09/27/2008-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 385, Statutes of 2008

Current Location: 09/27/2008-S CHAPTERED

Summary: Under existing law, excess funds, as specified, generated by the initial certificate fee collected by the Court Reporters Board of California are used to provide shorthand reporting services for indigent persons, as defined, and are transferred from the Court Reporters' Fund into the Transcript Reimbursement Fund for expenditure for that purpose. Existing law provides that these provisions become inoperative on July 1, 2009, and are repealed on January 1, 2010. This bill would change the dates on which these provisions are to become inoperative and repealed to January 1, 2011. This bill also extends the sunset of the Court Reporters Board to January 1, 2011.

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SB 1182 (Ackerman [R]) Trial courts: restructuring.

Status: 07/01/2008-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter No. 56, Statutes of 2008

Current Location: 07/01/2008-S CHAPTERED

Summary: Existing law provides for the restructuring of the trial court system, including the abolition of municipal courts, the unification of those courts with superior courts, and state funding of trial courts. This bill would delete provisions that have become obsolete as a result of that trial court restructuring.

SB 1407 (Perata [D]) Court facilities: financing.

Status: 09/26/2008-Chaptered by the Secretary of State, Chapter Number 311, Statutes of 2008

Current Location: 09/26/2008-S CHAPTERED

Summary: The Trial Court Facilities Act of 2002 establishes the State Court Facilities Construction Fund and provides that moneys in that fund may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, construct, or finance court facilities, as defined, and to implement trial court projects in designated counties, as specified. This bill would extend the purposes for which moneys in that fund may be used to include the planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, replacement, leasing, or acquisition of court facilities. The bill would establish the Immediate and Critical Needs Account of the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, the proceeds of which would be used for the planning, design, construction, rehabilitation, renovation, replacement, or acquisition of court facilities, for the repayment of moneys appropriated for lease of court facilities pursuant to the issuance of lease-revenue

bonds, and for the payment for lease or rental of court facilities. The bill would require the Judicial Council to collect and make available information regarding moneys in the account, as specified, and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature for projects based on its determination that the need for a project is most immediate and critical, as specified. The bill would authorize the Judicial Council to acquire sites for the replacement of deficient court facilities in four specified counties and would appropriate up to \$61,584,000 from the State Court Facilities Construction Fund to the Judicial Council for this purpose. The bill would require any moneys remaining in, or that would otherwise be payable into, the Immediate and Critical Needs Account of the State Court Facilities Construction Fund, to be transferred to the Controller for deposit into the State Trial Court Operations Trust Fund, as established by this bill, upon the retirement of any bonded indebtedness that may be incurred in connection with immediate and critical trial court projects, the proceeds of which would be available upon appropriation by the Legislature only for trial court operations. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

SB 1583 (Corbett [D]) Employment: independent contractors.

Status: 09/28/2008-Vetoed by Governor
Current Location: 09/28/2008-S VETOED

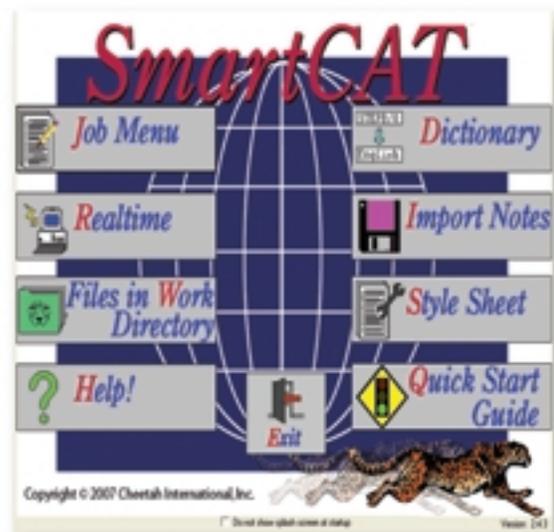
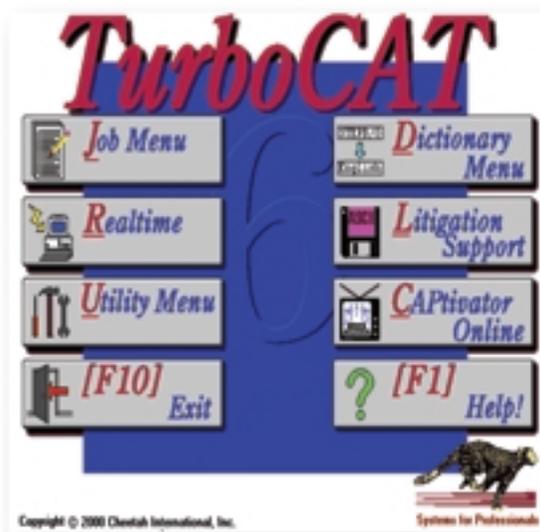
Summary: Existing law creates a rebuttable presumption that certain workers performing services for which a license is required are employees rather than independent contractors. This bill would provide that a person who, for money or other valuable consideration, knowingly advises an employer to treat an individual as an independent contractor to

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avoid employee status for the individual shall be jointly and severally liable with the employer if the individual is not found to be an independent contractor. This bill would exempt from the provisions regarding joint and several liability a person who provides advice to his or her employer or an attorney who provides legal advice in the course of practicing law.



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