

# CCRA *online*

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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 — More of “Enough is Enough”

By Early Langley, CSR, RMR  
CCRA President



Have you ever been stiffed by your client, sued to collect your fee and had your client smack you with a SLAPP suit that went all the way to the Court of Appeal? **BEWARE!**

The “client” claimed that the court reporting firm was intimidating him, censoring him and denying him a constitutional right to complain about the reporting fees. The reporting firm was merely trying to collect fees in the underlying lawsuit.

Well, **“Enough is Enough!”** As president of CCRA, I was contacted by San Francisco appellate lawyer Robert F. Cohen to write an *amicus curiae* letter to the Court of Appeal on behalf of the appellant to defend the interests of all court reporters in California.

Here are the **THREATS:**

1. If granted, this motion would threaten California court reporters’ ability statewide to collect fees for services rendered in court, administrative proceedings and depositions.
2. Discovery and trial court proceedings and the appellate process could be halted if court reporters’ clients need not pay for their services since they were provided while lawsuits or criminal cases were pending.
3. Even more far-reaching: Any professional’s ability to collect fees for services would be threatened as well if they were being sought for services rendered while lawsuits were pending.

To read the *amicus curiae* letter, [click here](#).

CCRA has strong concerns about the dangerous and frivolous nature of this lawsuit. We are asking for your help in fighting for our profession. Click here to [JOIN CCRA](#). Click here to contribute to our [PAC WAR FUND](#).



## From the Court Reporters Board:

### **ALERT! Potential License Denial or Suspension for Failure to Pay Taxes**

Effective July 1, 2012, the Department of Consumer Affairs and its constituent entities are required to deny an application for licensure and to suspend the license/certificate/registration of any applicant or licensee who has outstanding tax obligations due to the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) or the State Board of Equalization (BOE) and appears on either the FTB or BOE’s certified lists of top 500 tax delinquencies over \$100,000. (AB 1424, Perea, Chapter 455, Statutes of 2011).

Once it has been determined that an applicant or a licensee is on a certified list, the applicant or licensee has 90 days from the issuance of a preliminary notice of suspension to either satisfy all outstanding tax obligations or enter into a payment installment program with the FTB or BOE. Any such person who fails to come into compliance will have his/her license denied or suspended until the Board,

Bureau, Commission or Committee they have applied to receives a release from the FTB or BOE. The form for requesting a release will be included with the preliminary notice of suspension.

The law prohibits any of DCA’s Boards, Bureaus, Commission or Committees from refunding any money paid for the issuance or renewal of a license where the license is denied or suspended as required by AB 1424.

The FTB and BOE are currently expanding the certified lists from 250 to 500, but you can check if you are currently on the FTB’s certified list at: [www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/txdlngnt.shtml](http://www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/txdlngnt.shtml) or the BOE’s certified list at: [www.boe.ca.gov/cgi-bin/deliq.cgi](http://www.boe.ca.gov/cgi-bin/deliq.cgi). If you believe you are on either list in error, please call the FTB at (866) 418-3702 or the BOE at 916-445-5167.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Mark Kislingbury**  
Saturday, March 10, 2012

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The San Diego Superior Court Reporters Association is at your service once again by sponsoring in the Greater Southern California area (San Diego) perhaps one of the most dynamic and awe-inspiring steno writers of any lifetime...Mark Kislingbury on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Mark your calendars. The seminar is open to everyone.

**For more detailed and registration information, please visit our website at [www.word4word.info](http://www.word4word.info).**

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# Valentines for Our Students

By Linda Hart, CCRA Board of Directors

CCRA sent representatives to all court reporting schools with Valentine's Day treats to show our love for our future court reporters. Here are just a few of the pictures.



## We Heart Our Students!

Delivered to South Coast College. Students, Airriann Guyant and Javier Saavedra are posing with the CCRA Valentine's treats.



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## Bryan College Hosts CCRA Membership Drive

*By Linda Hart, CCRA Board of Director*

Bryan College, Gold River Campus, recently hosted a membership drive for CCRA, NCCRA, and NCRA.



Presentations on the various programs available were made for all students, both day and evening classes. CCRA Board members Linda Hart and Pam Katros made presentations to groups of students about the free online dictation program, the student mentoring program, scholarships for 160-180 wpm level students, and more. All students were encouraged to go to the CCRA website and explore the “Student” tab that highlights the different programs available. Patty McCarthy was present representing NCCRA, and Carol Nygard was present representing NCRA.

This year CCRA has chosen the theme, “We can do it.” Large posters with Rosie the Riveter were made, showing the muscle. Students were seen posing by the poster at the membership drive, showing their muscle, that they “can do it.” Welcome to all our new student members!! We think you can do it too! Rosie the Riveter t-shirts are available on the CCRA Website.

A big thank you goes to June Cochrane, director of the Gold River Campus court reporting program, who coordinated the event.



## CCRA Legislation Update

For information concerning this report or the information contained herein, you may contact California Court Reporters Association, Attn. Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CSR #3032, at 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, California 92656 (949) 715-4682 or by e-mail at [RealtimeCSR@calweb.com](mailto:RealtimeCSR@calweb.com).

### AB 1208

**(Calderon, Charles [D] ) Trial courts: administration.**

**Status:** 01/31/2012-In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

**Current Location:** 01/31/2012-S RLS.

**Summary:** This bill would, among other things, delete the provisions relating to the manner in which the Judicial Council allocates funding for trial court operations, and would instead require that the amount allocated to each trial court from the amount appropriated for trial court operations be equal to the pro rata share of the prior fiscal year's adjusted base budget, except as provided. The bill would require the Legislature, based on the information submitted in the Governor's proposed budget, and prior to the allocation of funds to each local trial court in accordance with the allocation schedule adopted by the Judicial Council, to specify, in each annual Budget Act, the funding amounts to be allocated for programs of statewide concern from the total funds appropriated for trial court operations by the Legislature. The bill would prohibit the Judicial Council, or its designee, from withholding or expending any portion of the total funds appropriated for trial court operations by the Legislature for any statewide information technology or administrative infrastructure program that was not identified in the annual Budget Act, unless the Judicial Council, or its designee, first obtains the written approval of 662/3% of a proportional representation of all local trial courts. The bill would require the Judicial Council, or its designee, to allocate 100% of the funds appropriated for trial court operations according to each court's share of statewide operational funding. Existing law provides that the Judicial Council retains the ultimate responsibility to adopt a budget and allocate funding for the trial courts, as specified, and empowers the Judicial Council to authorize a trial court to carry unexpended funds over from one fiscal year to the next. This bill would delete those provisions and would instead provide that unexpended funds shall be the funds of that court, which may carry those funds over from one fiscal year to the next. The bill would prohibit those funds from being reallocated or redirected without the consent of the management of the trial court.

### AB 1582

**(Wagner [R] ) Civil actions: telephone appearances.**

**Status:** 02/17/2012-Referred to Com. on JUD.

**Current Location:** 02/17/2012-A JUD.

**Summary:** Existing law authorizes a court to permit parties to appear by telephone in designated conferences, hearings, and proceedings in civil cases and to require, at its discretion, a personal appearance in those matters if it would assist in the determination of the proceedings or in the management or resolution of the case. Under existing law, the Judicial Council was required to adopt rules by January 1, 2008, prescribing the notice for telephonic appearances and the procedure for conducting those appearances. This bill would require a court to permit a telephonic appearance by parties and their attorneys and would expand the types of hearings, conferences, and proceedings where those telephonic appearances must be permitted by the court. The bill would specify that this requirement is subject to the court's discretion, which may require a personal appearance under the circumstances specified in existing law. The bill would extend the time for the Judicial Council to prescribe the notice and procedure for telephonic appearances to July 1, 2013.

### ACR 47

**(Davis [D] ) Courts: 50th anniversary of service by African American justices.**

**Status:** 05/11/2011-From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to committee. Amended and re-referred to Com. on RLS.

**Current Location:** 05/11/2011-S RLS.

**Summary:** This measure would acknowledge the 50th anniversary of service by African American justices in the California Courts, and would encourage all Californians to share in statewide and local celebrations throughout the year to recognize the contributions and diversity of these and other judicial trailblazers. The bill would also call upon the leadership of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government, and the greater legal, educational, and

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# CCRA Legislation Update

*(continued from Page 8)*

justice communities, to sponsor and participate in educational and outreach activities that highlight the work of the justices of the California Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court.

## **SB 326**

**(Yee [D] ) Court records: public access.**

**Status:** 09/01/2011-From committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.

**Current Location:** 09/01/2011-A APPR.

**Summary:** Existing law requires the Judicial Council to adopt rules of court to establish the standards and guidelines for the creation, maintenance, reproduction, and preservation of court records, and requires that these standards and guidelines reflect industry standards for each medium used, ensure the accuracy and preserve the integrity of the records, and ensure that the public can access and reproduce the records. Specifically, unless access is otherwise restricted by law, court records created, maintained, preserved, or reproduced under specified provisions are required to be made reasonably accessible to all members of the public for viewing and duplication, and electronic court records must be viewable at the court, whether or not they are accessible remotely. Additionally, rules of court require courts to provide public access to electronic records, as specified. This bill would require the Judicial Council, in consultation with stakeholder groups, and within 18 months of the date of enactment of this act, to adopt a rule of court to require courts that have fully implemented the California Case Management System to provide the public, to the extent possible and practicable, with same-day access to case-initiating civil and criminal court records, as defined.

## **SCR 38**

**(Price [D] ) Courts: 50th anniversary of service by African American justices.**

**Status:** 05/02/2011-Referred to Com. on RLS.

**Current Location:** 05/02/2011-A RLS.

**Summary:** This measure would acknowledge the 50th anniversary of service by African American justices in the California Courts, and would encourage all Californians to share in statewide and local celebrations throughout the year to recognize the contributions and diversity of these and other judicial trailblazers. The bill would also call upon the leadership of the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government, and the greater legal, educational, and justice communities, to sponsor and participate in educational and outreach activities that highlight the work of the justices of the California Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court.



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# Realtime in the Courtroom

*By Christine Taylor, CSRDirector, District*

While reading the recent writer blog about the installation of Jefferson Audio Video Services recording equipment (jAVS) in the San Francisco Superior Courts, what comes first to my mind is the inability of this type of system to produce realtime, an instantaneous realtime verbatim record, certified by a licensed court reporter.

Starting today, in all of the courthouses throughout the state, each court reporter who writes realtime for their bench officer needs to spread the word to fellow reporters, who currently do realtime only for themselves, to provide it to their bench officer. For those reporters whose bench officer claims to be “old school,” provide your realtime to them for a couple of weeks, and show everyone what a fabulous tool they are missing. It is up to us to show our judges how useful realtime is.

Realtime writing is something only court reporters can do; the audio recorders and the video recorders cannot provide it and never will. I can't, for the life of me, understand why all of us, every single reporter everywhere, official and freelance, is not playing this card. It is our ace!

I know it's scary, downright frightening sometimes, to be so transparent, performing at a high level for all to see. But you learn to relax by doing it, just as we all learned how to write by doing it. All who view the realtime screen, including fellow reporters, think realtime and you are incredible, even when you are not perfect! You become better and better the more you write realtime.

I get it that when there are no dollars, regardless of whether the record is verbatim with a certified court reporter, or merely adequate, as can easily happen with a recording, the bottom-line dollar in the budget can be what trumps, but without every reporter writing realtime every day for their judge, we engage in battle short on ammunition.

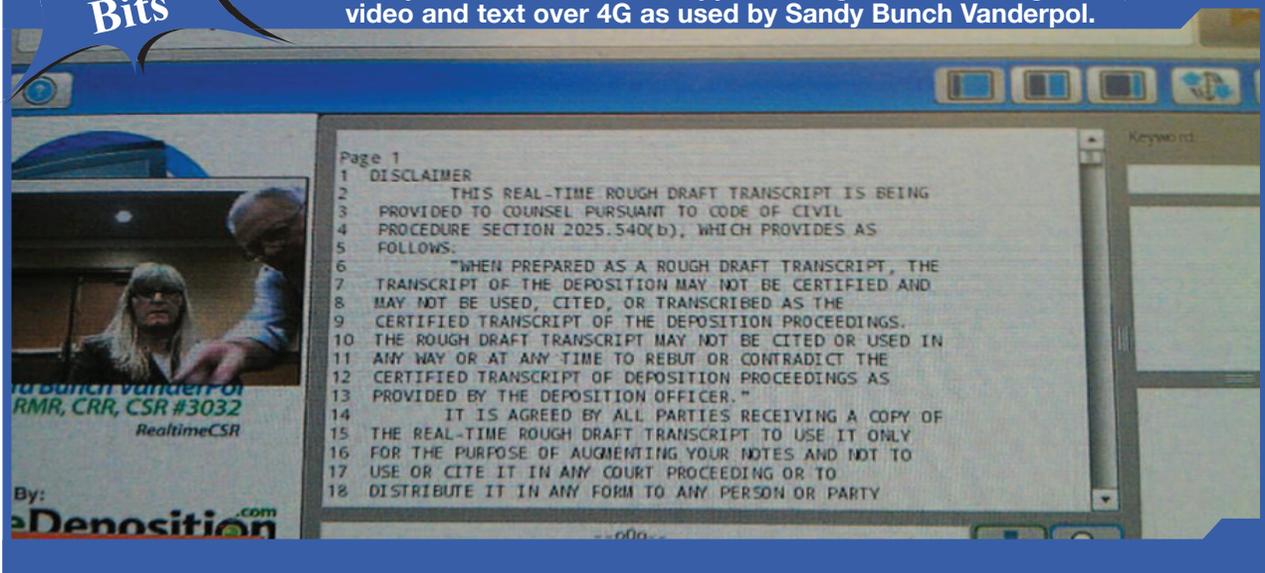
It is tempting for those who dole out the funds to view only the surface cost of producing the court's record and not dig below the surface. Therefore, CCRA's task is to educate our legislators and others through bona fide studies and demonstrations of realtime writing.

**Our task as court reporters is to be Realtime, Realtime, Realtime all the way!**



**Tech Bits**

**Live Deposition on the Droid App! Works great! Streaming audio, video and text over 4G as used by Sandy Bunch Vanderpol.**





### Manage Your Kindle eBooks

**Q. I love my Kindle that I got this past Christmas. I've read a lot about it, but I can't figure out how to use something called collections. Can you explain that, Mr. M?**

A. If you store a lot of content on your Kindle, you can create collections to facilitate your ability to find books and articles faster. A collection is just a fancy-shmancy name for a category you create on your Kindle Home screen. You can then move your eBooks, audiobooks, and personal documents from the Home screen to the collections you create.

To create a collection, click Menu > Create New Collection or select Create New Collection from the Home screen menu. Type in a name for your collection, then select Save using the 5-way controller.

To rename a collection, select the collection name as it appears on your Home screen, then move the 5-way controller to the right to display Collection Options. Select Rename and follow the on-screen instructions.

If you decide at some point to delete a collection, the process is virtually identical to renaming a collection, except instead of selecting Rename, select Delete, then again follow the on-screen instructions.

When you delete a collection, the content on your Kindle doesn't change. In other words, items previously added to a collection that are stored on your Kindle will appear on the Home screen after the collection itself is deleted, so you are not wiping out your purchased books in the process.

For lots of additional Kindle tips, "Mr. Modem's Top 50 Kindle Tips," Volumes 1 and 2, featuring 50 easy-to-understand, useful tips in each volume, is available at [amazon.com/dp/B006OO3T6S](http://amazon.com/dp/B006OO3T6S) or go to [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and search for "Mr. Modem" to review my priceless eBook collection.

**Q. What is the proper way to uninstall a program which will not budge using Add/Remove Programs in the Control Panel? Thank you, Mr. M.**

A. Sometimes programs take up residence and like a bad house guest, won't take a hint when it's time to leave. (Are you paying attention, Uncle Rudy?) Whenever you want to uninstall a program, the first thing to do is to look within the program itself to determine if it has its own uninstaller. So go to Start > Programs, highlight the program and if there is an uninstaller, it will display as a sub-menu that you can then click to execute. If it doesn't have its own uninstaller, then proceed to the Control Panel > Add/Remove Programs.

If that doesn't work, then Revo Uninstaller ([www.revouninstaller.com](http://www.revouninstaller.com)) is a powerful uninstaller that will be able to evict your stubborn digital tenant. Revo is easy to use: Download then double-click to run it. A list of all installed programs will be displayed. You can then click to select whatever program you want to remove, press the REMOVE button, and it will be gone with the wind.

*continued on Page 13*

*(continued from Page 12)*

**Q.** I've been using Internet Explorer 8 since it came out and while I generally like it, it's getting awfully slow. I also have Firefox and I've been trying Google Chrome, which you mentioned was much faster. I don't mind abandoning IE, but I'd like to find out what's causing it to be so slow. Any ideas?

**A.** Add-ons are often the cause of IE sluggishness, particularly if everything else is running normally. You can check it out by going to Tools > Manage Add-ons. Check "Load Time" in the right-hand column and you will immediately know which browser extension is the offending culprit.

## **Modern Ruins**

Elegant photography that contains starkly beautiful images of modern ruins, including abandoned factories, hospitals, orphanages, train yards, jails, mines and other architectural relics of recent history. If you're feeling upbeat and happy, but concerned that your life is lacking a sense of hopelessness and despair, this site will quickly remedy that situation.

<http://oboylephoto.com/ruins>

"Mr. Modem's Top 50 Computing Tips," and "Mr. Modem's Top 50 iPad Tips" are available on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Each life-altering volume features 50 of Mr. M.'s all-time favorite tips.



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

### **Causes.com**

This site was founded on the belief that anyone can participate in change by informing and inspiring others. No, seriously The site provides tools for people to mobilize their friends for collective action, to spread the word to friends of friends and acquaintances, and eventually launch movements. Whether you are an activist who wants to protect baby asparagus or a nonprofit that promotes literacy, Causes.com can help you achieve your objectives and spread your message. Launched in 2007, today it has more than 170 million participants who have raised more than \$40 million for more than 500,000 causes.

[www.causes.com](http://www.causes.com)

### **Con-Artist Awareness**

Courtesy of the State of Ohio Dept. of Commerce, you will find a great deal of practical information here that can help you avoid scams, cons, flim-flammers and bamboozlers. Included are the articles, What is Investment Fraud? How to Spot a Con Artist, How to Check your Broker, and a File a Complaint link. Though geared to Ohio residents, the information is excellent no matter where you reside.

<http://conartist.ohio.gov>



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## Earn Professional Development Credits

*By Gerie A. Bunch, Support Our Students Committee Chair and  
Saba McKinley, Mentoring Program Coordinator*

Did you know that you can receive NCRA continuing education credits (Professional Development Credits, PDCs) for being a mentor to a student or a speaker at one of the 16 CR schools in California?

What are Professional Development Credits, you ask? In a nutshell, it is credit for performing worthy activities such as promoting the profession to external audiences (career days, presentations at law schools and for judges' associations, etc., including court reporting schools) and involvement in a formal mentoring program such as ours.

[Click here](#) to download NCRA's CEU PDC brochure for a complete explanation of how to get credit for being a mentor or a speaker.

To obtain a PDC Credit Request Form from NCRA, [click here](#) or visit [www.ncra.org](http://www.ncra.org). To maintain NCRA certification, you must earn a minimum of two (2) units of formal CEUs and you are limited to one (1) PDC during your three-year cycle of credits.

We want to thank you again for being a part of these worthwhile programs. Your participation contributes to their success.



## CCRA President Early Langley attended the Crab Feed sponsored by Senator Mark DeSaulnier, representing CCRA



# Capturing the record is critical in litigation

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Digital recorders can't play the part of a stenographic reporter. The many failures of digital recording systems in our nation's courtrooms are getting top billing in the headlines, and digital reporters are also making walk-on appearances at depositions. Inaudible testimony and recording failures will leave your record on the cutting room floor.

Stenographic reporters capture every word of testimony and instantly record it as text. A digital recorder's only record is the audio, a mere backup for stenographers who utilize every available technology to ensure your record is right with Take 1.



As director of the proceedings, make sure the best producer fills the seat in your next deposition or trial:

## A Stenographic Reporter

# Happy CARTing!!!

*By Saba McKinley, CSR No. 9051*

*CART Provider Dejour*

*Reprinted from NCRA's Journal of Court Reporting*

In some ways, the transition from Court work to CART work was not a big difference, but in other ways the ride was quite different.

I have been a CSR since January of 1991. I worked in L.A. County Municipal and Superior courts, with more than 14 of those years spent in Superior Court. During that time, I often pondered on the idea of working in the classroom environment.

So, after raising my children, I decided it was the perfect time to spread my wings.

I've been a CART provider since August of 2010, a bit more than a year. It has proven to be a very, very rewarding experience. I have always been quite friendly by nature and this has helped me to ease into this new arena. I find that I get along easily with the students to whom I've been assigned to CART for. I am quite flexible with their various differences in style of learning. I have come to understand and continue to learn that each of them view using this service in a myriad of ways.

One of the schools I currently CART at requires that the class notes are sent to both the student and the liaison. This particular student doesn't want the CART provider sitting near him. My assumption is he feels some sort of stigma attached to his inability to learn via spoken language. He has a cochlear implant which, I suspect, increases his ability to hear; however, it is not so distinct that he can maintain the level of learning that he desires. So as friendly as I might be, sometimes the client does not desire personal contact.

Another interesting experience is finding out how challenging it can be to capture the spoken word from someone who speaks English as a second language. Imagine; a Zen monk for over 40 years, very passionate about his topic, Buddhism, speaking at rapid-fire speed, throwing in multi-syllabic dead languages (Sanskrit etc.) oh, and did I mention heavy far-east accent? None-the-less, he is one of the most genuinely loving instructors I have run across to date.

However, this service is not always being used as it was intended; for realtime. Occasionally, I am in essence a professional note-taker.

My previous experience has trained me to be a verbatim writer. My mind still functions that way, even as a CART provider, and some students seem to absolutely appreciate that, as they continue to specifically request to work with me. Once you're mind is trained this way, it is a challenge to try to reprogram it.

When I am writing for the student, my mind is reminding me that he/she needs the notes, so, as trained, I try to capture as many of the multi-syllabic dead-language words that I can, only to find that it is quite challenging mentally. I am listing these words just to give you a bit of flavor for what I'm speaking about. Remember, spoken at 225 or faster, heavy accent; here we go:

**Mahaprajnapramitasutra,  
Saddharmapundarikasutra,  
Pratitya-samutpada,  
Mahasamghika and  
Annuuttavasamyaksambodhibhumika.**

Whew!!

Fun, huh?

I had been in this class for six weeks, and it was still taking me an hour to an hour and a half to work through the notes to my professional standards, which remember, I was a verbatim reporter and produced transcripts for many years. Preparation of a transcript has been a part of my DNA for more than 20 years. My mind just works that way.

So, for all of you who are thinking about transitioning into CART after many years as a verbatim, realtime-writing perfectionist, when it comes to editing and proofing your notes...take peace in knowing, you only need to allow yourself 15 minutes per hour of writing, and let that suffice. You have been warned.

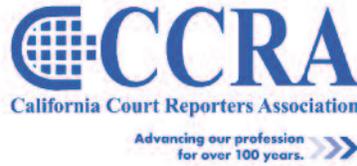
**Happy CARTing!!! It is indeed a blast.**

**Life is sweet!!!**



# AB1208 (Calderon): CCRA Support Letter

*This was the letter sent by CCRA in support of this piece of legislation that would change the way the courts are funded.*



January 25, 2012

The Honorable Charles Calderon  
State Capitol, Room 319  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**AB1208 (Calderon): SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Calderon

The California Court Reporters Association is in support of your proposed legislation, Assembly Bill 1208.

The budgetary affairs of the Judicial Council of California have been grossly mismanaged for years by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), a statewide entity whose current fiscal policies have been called into question by the legislature. AB 1208 places the financial decisions in the hands of the legislature and governor to decide on funding levels for the trial courts. It removes the AOC as the middle man.

The AOC and Judicial Council have shown time and again irresponsibility by continuing to raid the Trial Court Trust Fund which was meant to solely fund court operations. Court operations must be the main thrust of the Trial Court Trust Fund.

While the AOC budget has quadrupled over the past twelve years and outrageous spending continues on a defunct computer system, local trial courts cannot continue to provide vital services to the public. Something must change and AB 1208 is a step in the right direction.

While court reporters and other court employees are being laid off, courtrooms and courthouses are closing. Unless there is a significant change in court funding, there will continue to be drastic cuts in services that will impact all programs, units and court locations..

Access to a competent record and timely judicial resolution of disputes are fundamental to our system of justice. Thank you for carrying this legislation. AB 1208 will help stabilize trial court funding and trial courts will get relief from the constant raids on operational funds.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Early Langley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Early Langley, President  
California Court Reporters Association



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“This conference was fabulous.  
The location and staff were excellent.”

“In the top few. All aspects were superior to some  
conventions. Will definitely attend again.”

“Beautiful location, fun, informative.  
Good mix of subjects (nutrition, style, technology).  
I give it a high rating.”

“Top notch! Loved the spa.”



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