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Kristi Garcia kegarcya@comcast.net

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Lesia J. Mervin Debby Steinman Connie Parchman, Editor 3420 Finnian Way #219 Dublin, CA 94568 Tel: (510) 853-5260 parchman1@aol.com

MAIN OFFICE

CCRA 65 Enterprise Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 Tel: (949) 715-4682 Fax: (949) 715-6931 staff@cal-ccra.org

www.cal-ccra.org



C C R A O N L I N E

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.

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 with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message	3	CCRA's Presence in Sacramento	13
Report of the 2013 CCRA		Ask Mr. Modem (www.MrModem.com)	15
Nominating Committee	4	CCRA Convention	18
2013-2014 CCRA Board of Directors	5		
South Coast College		Court Reporting Instrutor Spotlight	20
Career and Health Fair	7	Student Spotlight	21
Meet Your Board Members	10	Wine Tasting	21
Caption it Forward	13	CCRA Legislative Tracking Report	22



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My name is Carlos Martinez, and it's my honor to be CCRA's newly installed president. I have been a court reporter for almost 20 years. My wife is a court reporter. Her sister is a court reporter. Their cousin is a court reporter. When I was young, my best friend's father was a court reporter, which is how I initially became interested in the profession.

In the first eight years of my time in the profession, I owned a deposition firm along with my wife. After selling this firm, I became an official with the Sonoma County Courts. I have been with them for over 11 years.

I have been with CCRA for nearly 12 years off and on in some capacity, and it has been a very rewarding experience. I have been a past board member and a committee member. Most recently, I have been a part of the legislative committee. Politics, and legislation in particular, is one of my favorite subjects and a passion that I have been able to share with others that are a part of CCRA.

As the newly installed president for CCRA for the 2013-2014 term, I would like to invite you to join me on a journey that will make CCRA stronger, more vital, and continue to keep us the premier court reporting association in California.

CCRA is the largest state court reporting association in America. We have members from nearly every sector of the reporting profession: Officials, Freelancers, Deposition Reporters, CART Reporters, and Captioning Reporters. We also represent court reporting students and instructors. Such a diverse membership brings a great deal of responsibility to the Board of CCRA to represent each facet of the membership in a way that protects every reporter working with a steno machine all the while continuing to enhance these individual facets of the profession through legislation and policy changes. It's a responsibility that your board gladly accepts.

As lucky as I feel to have these exceptional board members to work with, I must let you know that the work we have to do this year we cannot do alone. We need your help. We can work to bring about the needed tweaks and changes in the profession, but we need you, our members, to do some of the heavy lifting.

Studies have shown that on average, 10 percent of a membership does 90 percent of the work. Those studies, though, do not take into account the members of CCRA. Those studies do not realize that you are not average. Those studies do not understand the strength that we have gained through our struggle to become proficient on our machines, and those studies definitely don't take into account that difficult assignments are the norm for us in our profession.

So while your dues are greatly appreciated, we are asking you to do just a little bit more.

For history buffs, I want to use a quote from one of the more famous inaugural speeches in the history of our country. On

January 20, 1961, John F. Kennedy concluded his inaugural address to our great nation by saying to the American people, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." Tonight I want you to ask yourselves, "With all of the work that CCRA has done for the profession, what can I do for CCRA?" "How can I help make a difference this year?"

Here is the answer: We are asking each member of CCRA to take on just one task each month. This task could be as little as mailing a birthday card to a CCRA member or as big as making an office visit to a legislator; but no matter what it is, it's only going to be one voluntary act a month to better CCRA and strengthen the profession. But, of course, if you would like to do more, we won't turn you down.

We have a list of things to do, and we need your help. If we increased the volunteer level to just 80 percent of the membership instead of the average 10 percent, we could blow the lid off of what CCRA can do for the profession. We could assign a mentor to every student in school, either online or in a classroom. Through this alone, we could hopefully help to bring about a higher pass rate and end the shortage of newly licensed shorthand reporters in the state.

The SOS committee, which is chaired by Gerie Bunch, is one of the strongest committees that CCRA has; and from my point of view, the task that they have is one of the most important tasks on hand, which is to ensure the vitality of the profession. Gerie and her committee have done an extraordinary job helping students get through school. Imagine how much more we can do to help her committee with 80 percent of the members helping out.

We could also reach out and connect with nearly every reporter in California showing that CCRA is the association that cares about all reporters in the profession. We could stay in touch with every legislative member through phone calls, office visits, and cards. And, most importantly, we can supply the life blood of CCRA, our committees, with members. This accomplishment alone will continue to make CCRA the go-to association in California.

So I will close by asking once again, "Ask not what CCRA can do for you, but ask what you can do for CCRA."

I look forward to working with you.

Carlos A. Martinez CCRA President

REPORT OF THE 2013 CCRA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In conformance with the CCRA Bylaws, the 2013 Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of Board of Directors members for fiscal year 2013-2014 as follows:

PresidentCarlos MartinezVice President (Freelance)Gerie BunchVice President (Officials)Brooke Ryan

Secretary/Treasurer Christy Cannariato

Director (District A) Abby Waller

Director (District B) Karen Kronquest

Director (District C)

John Terry will serve a second year

of a two-year term

Director (District D)Jorge DominguezDirector (District E)Carole BrowneDirector (District F)Saba McKinley

The 2013 CCRA Nominating Committee consisted of the following reporters/past presidents:

Lesia MervinLeigh Ann OrozcoConnie ParchmanDoreen PerkinsArnella SimsMary Ann Sweeney

Gary Cramer, Chair

A special thank you to the Nominating Committee for their two days of very hard work of interviewing and considering all of the candidates that so graciously offered to be interviewed.

To the benefit of all official and freelance court reporters, the above nominees, if elected, would result in five freelance reporters, including one providing CART services, and five official court reporters.

CCRA continues to be the largest court reporter association in California and the only court reporter association representing both official and freelance court reporters, and having done so continuously for over 100 years. We are proud to be number one in California.

* Due to unforeseen circumstances, John Terry will not finish his term. Rachel Passarella was nominated and elected from the floor. Welcome, Rachel!

2013-2014 CCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CARLOS A. MARTINEZ, PRESIDENT

Carlos has been a CSR for nearly 20 years. In the first nearly eight years of his professional career, he was a firm owner with his wife Mary. The latter portion of his career he has spent working for the Sonoma County Superior Courts as an official reporter. He is a union negotiator at the Sonoma Courts. He has been volunteering with CCRA for nearly 12 years, and has held positions on the board as well as different committee positions. He has an RPR and a CMRS license with the National Court Reporters Association. He and his wife have two daughters, one in college and one in high school. He likes to participate in crossfit, camping, reading, and spending time with his family.



BROOKE RYAN, VICE PRESIDENT – OFFICIALS

Brooke Ryan, CSR, has held the position of director with the California Court Reporters Association for the past year. She currently volunteers as the Vice Chair within her bargaining unit for United Public Employees, and has done so for five and a half years. She has served as president for the Sacramento Official Court Reporters for a total of four years. She, along with Jeremiah Van Etten, a Public Defender for Sacramento County, are raising their 2-year-old son, Oliver. Promoting the innovative skills of realtime court reporters is her passion. burgundy.ryan@sbcglobal.net



GERIE BUNCH, VICE PRESIDENT - FREELANCE

Gerie Bunch has been a reporter since 1985, primarily in the official arena, with some experience in the freelance world as well. Her first year of reporting, she worked with a depo firm in Sacramento; then a year later, landed an officialship in Yolo County. In 1989, she transferred to Plumas County as an official and has been there ever since. She and her husband Tom live in the gorgeous High Sierras where they raised their two daughters who have careers of their own. Gerie has served CCRA as a Board member, Officer and Committee Chair since 2000. She helped create the Support Our Students Committee and still chairs that committee. She also works with the Convention Committee to create the Student Track for CCRA's Annual Conventions. gerie@psln.com



CHRISTY CANNARIATO, CSR, RPR, CRR, RSA, SECRETARY/TREASURER

Christy passed the CSR 25 years ago and has divided her career almost evenly between official and deposition reporting. Christy is dedicated to education in all its forms. She had intended to leave court reporting entirely in 2007 to go into academia. She earned a Ph.D. in pursuit of that goal, but a lifethreatening illness just 10 days before graduation made her reassess her life path. She realized court reporting could give her everything she wanted in life in a way that academia could not, and dedicated herself to giving back to this great profession of ours. She still teaches college courses here and there when she has time and has convinced a couple of her college students to seek out court reporting after graduation.

Christy came up with the idea to offer an educational program for new CSRs and has been hard at work for the past year designing CCRA's Bootcamp that will train new CSRs on everything they need to know to hit the ground running in their new careers. When anyone thanks her for her mentorship, volunteering, or financial generosity on behalf of court reporters, Christy shrugs and urges the recipient to find a way to pay it forward.



KRISTI GARCIA, CSR, IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Kristi Garcia, CSR, has worked as an official reporter for Fresno Superior Court for the past thirteen years covering a variety of assignments. Prior to joining the courts she enjoyed being a freelance reporter for nine years. Kristi has been involved in her local union and has held the positions of vice president and secretary/treasurer. She currently lives in Clovis with her wonderful husband Ray. Golfing and scrapbooking are what Kristi enjoys in her leisure time. kegarcya@comcast.net

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



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ABBY WALLER, CSR, RPR, CRR, DISTRICT A

Abby Waller, CSR, RPR, CRR, began as a pro tem reporter before soon obtaining an officialship in 2007 at Yolo Superior Court, and has been enjoying her career there ever since, mainly reporting criminal matters. Her passion is spreading the word about the benefits of realtime and what it will provide for the future of our profession, especially as it relates to students who are coming out of school realtime-ready. Abby works alongside a coworker as a steward for her union and recently convinced her court to utilize realtime. All judges now are able to receive wireless realtime through an iPad. She hopes to also help fight the movement of replacing court reporters with ER in seemingly more and more courtrooms. Currently, Abby is living in the Sacramento area, but loves to travel and spend time at the beach and in the mountains with her family and her Shi Tzu dog.



KAREN KRONQUEST VANDERSCHOOT, DISTRICT B

Karen Kronquest, CSR, RPR, has been a reporter for the Napa Superior Court for over 26 years and became an Official in 1988 when the positions were created. She was a member of the committee and participated in implementing realtime for the Napa courts four years ago, has been a union steward since 2003 and part of the bargaining team for the last four court employee contracts. Promoting and protecting court reporters are some of the things Karen is looking forward to during her time on the Board. Karen and her husband have a teenage daughter who enjoys travel as much as they do. A bit of golf, needlework and exploring the back roads are a few of Karen's leisure activities.



RACHEL PASSARELLA, CSR, RPR, CLR, DISTRICT C

Rachel Passarella, CSR, RPR, CLR has been a reporter since passing the CSR in June 2011. She graduated with honors from South Coast College of Court Reporting and quickly began work as a per diem reporter in court, as well as a deposition reporter for several firms in the Central Valley. Rachel became an Official Court Reporter for Madera Superior Court starting in January 2013 and has been working in the Bass Lake courthouse reporting all matters, including civil, criminal, and traffic. Rachel hopes to bring a fresh, new perspective to CCRA as a Board member and has a passion for bringing about awareness and encouragement for high school students looking for a career, as well as current court reporting students. She also hopes to inspire all working reporters to find their enthusiasm again for this amazing career as we work to gain more and more momentum in our fight for this profession. For her "me" time, Rachel enjoys paddleboarding with her boyfriend and their two doggie-children, Harley and Rocky. She also enjoys hiking, yoga, and living in the beautiful Sierra National Forest. rachel.passarella@gmail.com



JORGE DOMINGUEZ, DISTRICT D

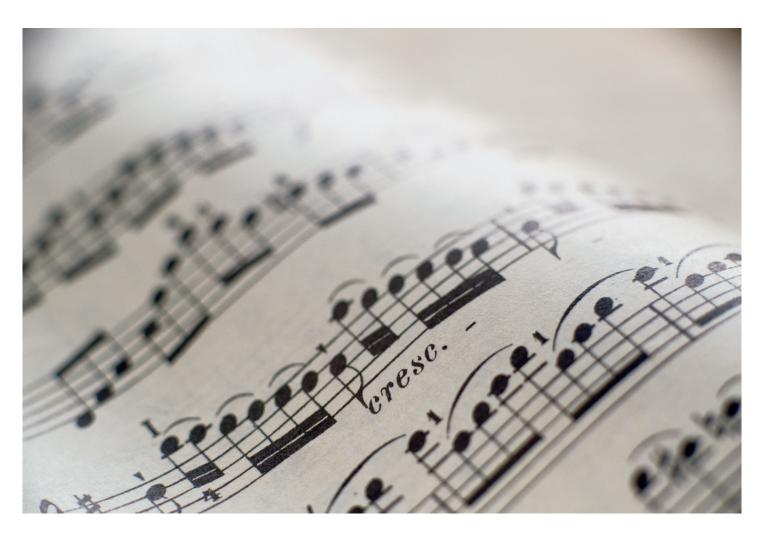
Jorge Dominguez, CSR, RPR, is the managing partner at Coalition of Court Reporters of Los Angeles (CCROLA), a full-service agency, where he is responsible for leading and managing the operations. Jorge began his court reporting career in 2001, and he has experience in the deposition field as well as the state court system, having worked as an official with San Diego Superior Court and Los Angeles Superior Court. He has been a dedicated promoter of the court reporting profession and prior to his board role with CCRA, Dominguez served on the board of LACCRA, Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association. Dominguez lives in the greater Los Angeles area with his wife, a fellow court reporter, and three children.



CAROLE BROWNE, CSR, RPR, DISTRICT E

Carole Browne, CSR, RPR, has been reporting since 1986, working in depositions, court, and public hearings. Prior to pursuing a career in court reporting, Carole attended Simpson Bible College in San Francisco, where she obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in classical organ performance. She has performed in many varied venues through the years, perhaps the most thrilling being the opportunity to perform in some of the great cathedrals of England. She also spent a year in Shibukawa, Japan, teaching conversational English to students of all ages, including corporate settings. Following the year in Japan, Carole did secretarial work for six years before deciding to enroll in court reporting school. Carole and her husband, Jeff, enjoy hiking and railroading. Carole's dream vacation is to hike along the coasts of Cornwall. Jeff and Carole own a Fairmont railroad motorcar, which they have operated on organized excursions on historic railroads around the Western states.

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SABA MCKINLEY, CSR, RPR, DISTRICT F

Saba McKinley, CSR, RPR, began reporting in 1991 as an official reporter with the Los Angeles Municipal Court. She later transferred to the L.A. Superior Court where she worked until July of 2010, when she decided to use her skills as a CART Provider, her current vocation. Saba is often asked, "How do you get started as a CART Provider?" It is her intention, while serving on the board, to be the GO-TO person in all things CART. With that in mind, she will be writing a monthly article which addresses CART inquiries. You can find these articles in the online magazine under the title "ALL THINGS CART/CAPTIONING."

Saba has served as coordinator on CCRA's SOS Committee under the "Each One Reach One Mentoring Program" since August of 2010. She has served on NCRA's CART COI (Community of Interest) committee since 2011.

She is on the Speakers Roster for both CCRA and NCRA and loves talking to students about the court reporting industry. Saba has two adult sons, of whom she is exceedingly proud, and they own her heart. Her eldest serves in the United States Air Force, with the youngest in his junior year in college. She enjoys attending her Toastmasters meetings, to which she is grateful for her leadership skills. info@divine-scripts.com



JERRY PACKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jerry Packer holds a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from California State University, Fullerton. Jerry is president of Sterling Strategic Management, an association management company based in Laguna Beach, CA. Previously, Jerry was co-owner of EXHIBITCORP, a Los Angeles based company specializing in the design, manufacturing, and logistics of exhibits and trade show displays worldwide. Jerry lives in Laguna Beach with his Golden Retriever, plays golf and tennis, and loves to travel. jerry.packer@cal-ccra.org



SOUTH COAST COLLEGE CAREER AND HEALTH FAIR

By Carlos Martinez

Christy Cannariato, Saba McKinley, Jorge Dominguez, Regina DeMoville and I went to South Coast College on October 19th for their annual career and health fair. CCRA hosted two speaking panels to a roomful of students each time. During our panel discussions, Saba was able to speak about working in the field of CART reporting, how she got started and what she really enjoys and finds rewarding about working with the deaf and hard of hearing. Regina DeMoville, our new caption committee chair, spoke to many interested in the field of captioning. She was able to answer questions about what speed level was necessary to enter the field and the different challenges of the field. Christy Cannariato spoke on the freelance/ deposition field. She talked about the benefit in a competitive job market of having as many certifications as possible from the National Court Reporters Association. She also talked about some of the jobs that she has done and some of the places that she has been asked to go and do depositions. I spoke on the official positions with the courts, what it takes to get in, the benefits given by being an employee and the drawbacks of working 8:00 to 5:00. Although the students showed interest in the official positions and doing depositions, there was an overwhelming interest in working in CART and captioning.

After each panel session, we were able to speak further with the students. We had three students sign up for student memberships, and we had nearly five pages of students sign up for mentors and the membership drawing.

Jorge and Regina are alumni of South Coast, and the college was very happy to have them come to the career day. It was a very good combination of reporters that CCRA was able to take to the presentation.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

In each issue we will be featuring personal profiles on your 2013-2014 CCRA Board Members.



ABBY WALLER, CSR, RPR, CRR, DISTRICT A

Abby Waller, CSR, RPR, CRR, began court reporting straight out of high school on recommendation of a family member and quickly realized it was the perfect career for her. Upon obtaining her license, she soon became an official in Yolo County working in criminal court and has been there ever since 2007.

Abby is passionate about the court reporting profession and believes it is more important than anything to "keep up with the times" in technology, especially realtime, knowing it is the wave of our future.

In her down time, Abby loves the outdoors and spending time with her family in the mountains and at the beach, skiing at Dodge Ridge with her mom or running on the beach in Aptos with her Shi Tzu dog. With her newfound interest in Pinterest, a guilty pleasure, her most recent hobby is baking and cooking.

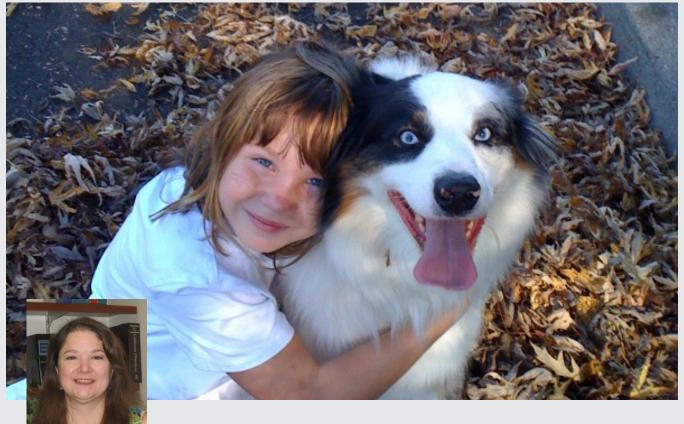
In the year to come as a board member, Abby hopes to bring awareness to students and current court reporters alike of the importance of our job as guardians of the record and our obligation to stay abreast of current technology. She also hopes to help fellow reporters stay motivated and encouraged in our profession.



JORGE DOMINGUEZ DISTRICT D

My name is Jorge Dominguez, and I've been a reporter since 2001. I was introduced to the court reporting profession when a local school visited our high school for career day and showed me my name written in steno; the seed was planted. Following a term in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, I enrolled at South Coast College, where I graduated and qualified for the state test.

In addition to freelance experience, I've worked as an official in San Diego and Los Angeles. I live in Pomona, CA, with my wife and three kids. My son is a freshman in college, while my daughters are in 1st grade and kindergarten. I enjoy watching sports and listening to podcasts ranging from comedy to business. My goal with CCRA is to give back to the profession which has been so rewarding to all of us.



KAREN KRONQUEST VANDERSCHOOT, DISTRICT B

Hello, I'm Karen Kronquest Vanderschoot. I was born and raised in Sacramento, graduating from Sacramento High and American River College before attending Argonaut court reporting school. While in school, music was my passion. I played piano, tenor saxophone in the jazz band and clarinet in marching band, honor band and the symphony. I was very good, but not enough to make a career out of it. Now I enjoy listening to music, all kinds.

I am fascinated with history and the places associated with it. I enjoy travel, and when I'm somewhere new, I like to explore historic and sacred sites. While my husband plays golf, I'm happy touring an old house, building or pile of rocks. I have been fortunate to visit Great Britain and Ireland twice, which were fuel to the fire. Castles, ruins, Celtic sites, museums – I love them. When asked if I could live anywhere in the world, it would be somewhere in the British Isles. At home I'm usually working on a project of some sort. Most of the time it's a needlepoint or cross stitch piece or a jigsaw puzzle. I also enjoy playing in the dirt, or gardening. I've been known to play a bit of golf, too. Of course, living in the Napa Valley, an appreciation for great food and wine is a second nature.

I met my husband at work, in court. He was a probation officer but is now retired. When he's not keeping a close eye on our 14-year-old daughter, he's playing golf. Most of our vacations have been to exotic and wonderful places that just happen to boast golf courses! A lot of my free time is spent with our daughter and she is a never-ending source of entertainment, wonder and frustration. We like to watch television and movies together, often with me working on a piece of needlework to keep my hands busy. The other member of our family is our Australian Shepherd. He is the best dog we've ever had, loves people and has beautiful blue eyes.



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CAPTION IT FORWARD

By Regina Demoville

My name is Regina DeMoville. I am a CSR living in Southern California. I was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, but my parents moved to California when I was 3 years old. I grew up in a few cities around Southern California and currently reside about 60 miles east of Los Angeles with my husband, my son, and my two fur babies. Life is great!

Up until my senior year in high school, I had no idea what I wanted to be when I "grew up." I had dreams of being a veterinarian or an X-ray technician. All I knew was I wanted a career where I can help people in need. I wanted a career where I can turn an ordinary job into a passion. I wanted a career with many avenues in order to broaden my horizons. I wanted to wake up every day knowing that I love what I do, and I'm making the world a better place.

When I was a teenager, AOL first launched. It was the newest "cool" thing around. I used to spend hours on the computer instant messaging my friends and spending time in chat rooms. My parents did not like this, but noticed something that would

change my life forever: I loved to type. Not only did I love to type, but I could type fast! My dad mentioned to me I should become a Court Reporter who, as he said, "Type and get paid good money." Perfect for me! I found my way to a local Court Reporting school, took the entrance exam, and the rest is history.

Soon, I was introduced to CART. I didn't know what to expect, but I fell in love with the field on my very first assignment. From the very beginning, I knew this was what I was meant to do. My skill level combined with the appreciation from my clients was enough to make my job much more than a paycheck. I did CART for about five years. I then passed the state exam, which led me to depositions. I did depositions for a while, but I never enjoyed it as much as CART. I left depositions after a year and went happily back to the CART field.

A few months went by and a new opportunity arose: Broadcast captioning. I never imagined my passion for the CART field would grow as drastically as it did. I get to work from home AND work with the deaf and hard-of-hearing community? I am beyond blessed.

Someone once told me that I would never be good enough to do broadcast captioning. And for a while, I almost believed them. I turned that into more motivation to prove them wrong -- and to prove myself RIGHT! I CAN do it, and I WILL do it!

I have come far in my Court-Reporting journey, and I wouldn't change a thing! I currently work full time doing broadcast captioning, and I mentor many wonderful students. Do not give up, no matter where you are in this career! There are so many amazing opportunities that will lead you far! Just remember to love what you do! "When your work is about love, every day is payday!"

I will be publishing a monthly article in the CCRA online magazine titled "Caption it Forward." I am hoping to inspire and encourage each one of you. We are all a team working towards the same goal! Take a little time to "Pay it forward"!

XOXO Regina

CCRA's Presence in Sacramento

By Linda J. Hart

It was an honor and my pleasure to represent CCRA at a private residence for a fundraiser for Assemblyman Mike Gatto. It was a very casual, outdoor venue in a beautiful backyard. I must joke that the menu of a fabulous taco bar wasn't my idea of a \$1500 dinner, but it was about the fundraising, not the food. However, I think this was very good, strategic money spent. Kidding aside, I met Meghan's (CCRA's Lobbyist-in-training) father, Dennis Loper, head of Captital Strategies, among many other lobbyists and their clients also.

I wasn't sitting at Gatto's table for dinner but Meghan was. After dinner he came over and sat down next to me and I introduced myself and discussed court reporting. He was a lawyer before getting into politics. He was working on appellate issues at a big firm. He was unhappy with politics in California and decided to try to make a difference. He's a very genuine, easy-to-talk-to young man. He has two babies at home, one and three. He is an excellent contact to have, since the term limits have changed from 6 years to 12, making him a longer term assemblyman than would have been the case previously.

Thank you to CCRA again for letting me represent you all in Sacramento.



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Q. My grandson offered to "fine-tune" my Windows 7 computer to make it run better, though it wasn't really having any problems. He installed several programs and now I'm having problems where none existed before. Could the programs he installed be causing this?

A. I would like to cite a world-renowned, authoritative treatise in responding to your question, that being Mr. Modem's Computing Rule 47-A: "With very few exceptions, never let a spouse, friend, neighbor or computing-genius child finetune your computer. The outcome will rarely be satisfactory."

Let's examine the facts: Your computer was running fine. Your well-intentioned, semi-gifted grandchild was then granted permission for what? To make your computer run finer? The result of his diligent effort: Problems where none previously existed. I'm no Sherlock Holmes, but I'm thinking that there just might be a causal connection here.

I would suggest requesting your grandson do a bit more fine-tuning and uninstall whatever he installed. If that doesn't resolve the problem, run System Restore which you can do on your Win 7 system by clicking Start > Search and type "System Restore," (without the quotes), then select System Restore. Select a date to restore to from the calendar that appears. In this way you should be able to turn back the clock to a time prior to the occasion when your grandson worked his magic.

Q. I have an age-old question, Mr. M: Should I turn my computer off when I'm finished using it or leave it on 24/7?

A. If you use your desktop computer daily, I recommend leaving it on. I leave my computers on for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that most catastrophic failures occur during power up when a surge of electricity hits the cold, static computer components. Leaving a computer on maintains a stable, internal operating temperature which is desirable. I have 11 computers here (Mrs. Modem is destined for sainthood) and all of them run 24/7.

Space constraints do not permit an exhaustive discussion of this topic, but in general, though my computers run 24/7, I have my monitors configured to go dark after two hours of non-use. Depending on your version of Windows, you can generally configure that by going to Power Management in the Control Panel > Display > Screen Saver > Monitor Power. You will see settings for the Monitor, Hard Drive and Standby. I have my desktop computers set to 2 hours, Never and Never. In other words, the hard drives never shut down, nor does any system go into Hibernation or Sleep mode. (There are no moving parts with solid-state or SS drives, so "always-on" is a natural state -- not unlike my Cousin Norbert, the Insomniac.

www.MrModem.com

Hard drives are rated by hours between failures and a typical new hard drive today is rated at 200,000 hours. Even at 100,000 hours, that's a little over 11 years of 24/7 operation, so it is extremely unlikely that your drive is going to self-destruct as a result of being on. You do need to pay attention to any strange noises emanating from the drive, its cooling fan(s), or your gastrointestinal tract. If a fan starts to make unusual noises, you can have it replaced for approximately \$20.

If you do decide to leave your computer on, restart it once a week to clear out the memory and refresh system resources, but that's all you really need to do. By leaving my computers on, I have my anti-virus and anti-spyware programs configured to update and scan in the middle of the night.

Transmit Super-Large Files

Q. I have approximately 100 pictures from a recent vacation that I'd like to send to others. Any suggestions for a program I should use for this?

A. "Sending" photos to me means transmitting them, in which case it would be via email. One word of caution, if I may: Unless you know your intended recipients VERY well, that's a lot of photos to inflict upon anybody. In photographic circles, 100 vacation photos equal 400 non-vacation photos to anybody who did not accompany you on the trip. It's been my experience that the level of viewer interest is in inverse proportion to the number of photos being shared. Caution is advised.

The best thing to do is to compress (ZIP) those 100 photo files into one humongous file, then use a service such as TransferBigFiles.com or MailBigFile.com. Using either service, you can upload your gonzo file to a secure area. The site will then provide a link to your designated recipients that they can click to download your file, thus circumventing any ISP-based file-size restrictions. Both sites offer free and paid services, so be sure to read about each one on their respective sites.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

To compress (ZIP) all your photo files into one huge file, click to select (highlight) all the files you want to ZIP. Right-click the highlighted files and select Send To > Compressed (zipped) Folder. A .ZIP file containing all your photo files will be created. It is this ZIP file you will send. Your recipients will simply need to right-click, select Extract and select a location for the files on their computer.

If, however, by "send" you mean you would like to share your vacation photos in an online album that your invitees can then peruse until their respective heads explode, any of the popular online album-hosting sites such as Snapfish. com, Shutterfly.com or Flickr.com -- and there are countless others -- will serve that purpose quite nicely.

Q. I always use the BCC field when sending mail to multiple recipients. When I later want to review the folks to whom I sent an email, my Outlook 2007 Sent Items folder only shows me as the To: recipient, but not the people I sent BCCs to. Is there some way to check BCCs after sending?

A. Double-click to display the message full size in the Sent Items folder in Outlook 2007 and you will see the BCC recipients in the header of each message.

Q. Why is it that sometimes I need to type www when going to a Web site and for others I have to type http, without the www?

A. In a 'Net shell, a Web site name is converted (using a DNS or Domain Name System server) from alpha to numeric format. In other words, the word(s) you type as the address of a Web site are translated into a series of numbers called an IP (Internet Protocol) address. This address tells your browser where on the Internet the Web site can be found. (It's a bit more technical than that, but that's close enough without lapsing into insufferable geekspeak.)

Some Web site DNS records are configured to allow you to type just the SiteName.com part of it, while others are configured in such a way that it requires the www (for World Wide Web) prefix.

Q. I know there is a great deal of medical information available on the Web, but do you know if there is anything online that can test for color blindness? Thanks, Mr. M.

A. Before sharing information of this type, I would be remiss if I didn't recommend seeking appropriate medical evaluation and consultation for definitive answers to health-related questions. I am not a doctor, nor do I portray one on television, though I did play one on radio back in the '70s — well, until an unfortunate Cease and Desist Order was issued.

With that caveat, there is a color blindness test located at the appropriately named colorvisiontesting.com Web site. The default font on this Web site is refreshingly large and easy to read.

Q. Why, when I try to type "char map" (for Character Map) in Start > Run, do I get a message saying that Windows cannot find it? How can I get to the Character Map?

A. Typing "char map" is close, but no cigar. There should not be a space in the command line entry, so type "charmap," not "char map," without the quotes. You can also get to it (depending on the version of Windows) by clicking Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Character Map.

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

Not in My Food - Hosted by a Consumers Union team of food safety advocates, this site operates on the premise that everyone has a right to know what's in the food they eat. That means knowing what foods contain carcinogens, what ingredients might be dangerous or of concern, and even if the packaging should be approached with caution. This is an excellent and informative site, particularly for those who never want to eat again. **www.NotlnMyFood.org**

Rat Race Rebellion - If you have ever searched for a work-from-home job, you probably know that there are oodles of scams, all too eager to separate you from your hard-earned dollars. This site wants to change that by offering approved, qualified leads for legitimate jobs. Start your visit by reviewing the FAQ that explains how the site works, then under Start Here, check out Today's Screened Job Leads which will take you to the newest job listings. www.ratracerebellion.com

Vehicle Fixer - Here you can release your inner mechanic and watch videos that will help you repair your vehicle. That's the theory, anyway. Start by selecting the type of vehicle or the type of repair required. The site will then display your video search results. If you scroll past the explanation of the site, you can click links to videos about the site, a link to the site's blog, news and interviews. **www.vehiclefixer.com**

The Dorcus Collection - A collection of men's fashion photography from the '50s, '60s and polyestered '70s. Caution: Some of the language on this site is a bit on the coarse side so sensitive readers, or those subject to chafing, should proceed at their own peril. **bit.ly/Tly0t**

Skillshare - An unusual site that helps visitors connect with educators in order to learn whatever skill they are interested in learning. There may be a fee associated with some classes, so be sure to review the Frequently Asked Questions in the Help area. Better safe than hysterical. **www.skillshare.com**

Song Facts - Song meanings and music trivia, including highest album and chart position achieved. The trivia is quite interesting and links are provided to view a song's lyrics, purchase the song or obtain the sheet music. **www.songfacts.com**

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CCRA Convention Cruise Student Perspectives

"A couple of weeks ago, I was lucky enough to attend CCRA's Annual Convention, which just happened to be on a cruise to Mexico. This brings a smile to my face just thinking about what an amazing time I had as well as being given a great opportunity to learn. CCRA has a student sponsorship program, and I was thrilled to be sponsored to attend this event. This is just one of the wonderful benefits that CCRA offers to its members.

After receiving the agenda, reading through the classes, and learning of the speakers that I was going to have the opportunity to listen to and learn from, I was incredibly excited. Names like Mark Kislingbury and Margie Wakeman Wells, these people are the gurus in Court Reporting, and I was going to be attending their classes. It was an experience one cannot get in a classroom.

My motivation skyrocketed after just three short days at that convention. I was able to speak with several CSRs from all over the state. Hearing their experiences on completing school and their ever-so-apparent support and advice they gave was inspiring. I really hope I will be in their shoes one day and able to motivate students like myself into staying focused and accomplishing their goal.

I would recommend to every student out there to become a member of CCRA and attend as many of their events as possible. It's hard to describe in words how motivating it was to be amongst my future peers and hear their kind words of motivation to help me finish this last leg of school. I think every student should have the opportunity to experience this. It really made a difference for me.

Thank you CCRA, the speakers at the convention, and to my sponsor. I look forward to the next event." - Candy Newland

"When I heard that the annual convention was being held on a cruise ship, the only words my brain registered were "cruise" and "ship." I had never been on a cruise, and I could easily justify the expense of the cruise as "being a good opportunity to meet others" to myself (and my husband) as to why I had to go. However, while the cruising was fun, the convention exceeded my expectations. I went in with the mindset of "I'm just a student. Do I really have a place here?" It didn't take long to get my answer.

Every single person I met offered words of encouragement. I was overwhelmed with all of the positive reinforcement these working reporters were offering: Keep it up. Don't quit. If you need anything, please e-mail me. I can't even remember how many people offered advice and their contact information – there were that many. The sessions were full of great information and taught by inspiring people. They too offered their time after the sessions were over and gave out their contact information if we needed anything.

And while I came back a student, I didn't come back the same student. I came back empowered. I came back with confidence. I came back with purpose."



2013 CCRA CONVENTION

By Raquel Robles

With the 103rd CCRA convention aboard the Carnival Inspiration having been completed, I can now breathe a sigh of relief. As a newbie to the world of event planning, the past year was filled with both fear and excitement: the fear of really messing things up and the excitement of learning how to accomplish something few people ever get the opportunity to. Unfortunately, my personality lends well to trial by fire. And this year's convention was the perfect opportunity for a newbie to learn many new skills and enhance others that often go unused in our profession.

The setting aboard a cruise ship not only made for unique logistical issues but also opportunities to create a fun and exciting educational environment. The committee sought to design a program that would ensure that convention-goers would rather go to the sessions than head to the casino or work on their tans. And I think we more than accomplished that with headliners Mark Kislingbury, the world recordholder as the fastest court reporter, and Margie Wakeman Wells, or as I like to call her, the "grammar whisperer," not to mention seminars on technology, how to think like a firm owner, and help for our aching bodies.

Oh, and did I mention the social networking events? We did wine tasting, karaoke, scavenger hunt, dancing, and met wonderful professionals from all over the great state of California, and even one from Canada. I don't know about you, but I can't think of a better way to have fun and enhance our professionally lives at the same time. All in all, it was a great experience for me, and I hope it was for all who attended.



COURT REPORTING INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT

By: Angela Pourtabib, CSR, RPR Save Our Students (SOS) Committee Member

Kristin Acredolo and Claudia Barr are instructors at the College of Marin Court Reporting program. Some of the issues we discussed during our talk were related to the challenges of instructing students in this highly specialized program, figuring out ways to get students qualified to work and any rewarding experiences they have had.

Q. Because this is a community college, what are the challenges for a program that is a work program and not a transfer to a four-year university program?

K: We're a lot more under the microscope, and we're a lot more scrutinized and challenged by the college. Enrollment is on the low side. One of our problems around enrollment is that nobody knows that we're here! An important goal of ours is to develop a good, up-to-date Web site so we can publicize the nice facilities we have here. The other thing I want to do is have a distance learning day so people don't have to come here four days a week. Three days a week, and Friday is distance learning, so maybe we would stream it.

Q. That would help enrollment because people wouldn't have to come here four days a week?

K: Yeah, that's one of the things I think is really daunting for people, when they find out they have to be here four days a week. I try to be frank with prospective students about the realities of court reporting school, and I think I've scared people away on a number of occasions.

I'm grateful that College of Marin keeps tolerating us because we're not the kind of program that community colleges like. It's not a guaranteed two years and out, with a certificate, and you can go get a job.

C. And most people don't go for their AA, and they like that, too.

K. They like the AA, but they like the certificates, too.

Q. Are you trying to figure out ways to get students qualified? Have you changed the tests at all?

C: The tests are fair. We always say we can't make you faster; you can only do that. And we say speedbuilding happens at home and you have to be practicing. At some point you really need to push through the wall and concentrate and get to the CSR exam. Sometimes people just come in with the right set of skills.

Q. What skills?

C. Just life, dexterity, and a certain amount of drive.

K. Being able to focus, being able to be here, not having a certain amount of distractions. The biggest thing, and it's not a shock, is that people don't practice enough. And so that's why this semester we started requiring people to do three hours of practice on campus. I feel very strongly that the school has a huge responsibility toward the students, and the more we have examined our responsibility toward the students over the past few years, the more positive changes we have discovered that we can make -- and are making.

C. I also want to address rewarding experiences. It's very rewarding when we see students who have a life after court reporting school and have a career. It's very rewarding because you feel like you've changed peoples' lives.

K. It's fabulous to see people who were struggling, you know, have a decent job so that they can earn a living wage in a high cost-of-living area, and they can get this training inexpensively. They don't come out with a huge debt load if they go here. It's great to see people make progress.

I feel really good about the profession right now. There seems to be more work and people seem to be busy.

Amber Aguilar is a qualifier student at the College of Marin Court Reporting program in Novato, California. She is hoping to pass her qualifying test soon so she can get ready for the state exam.

Q. Let's talk about the program here. What do you think they do to help you get to the test?

A. The teachers help us in a lot of ways. They are very encouraging. They give us, or at least in my experience, one-on-one instruction and encouragement. They have now enforced practicing three hours at school, and it is very effective to get people on their machines outside of class. We're getting used to it, and it's helpful.

I think that the teachers also help us a lot by creating CSR quizzes that have questions to help prepare us for the written portion of the exam.

I would like the morning class to be just 225. I think that would help me during the rest of the day with the qualifier. I love hearing higher speeds. I have 240, 250, 260 on my laptop and I just try and get something for everything as well. A lot of practice material is provided on tapes and you can burn them onto disks.

I recently over the summer quit my job to focus. I think in the long run, that's really going to help me so I have more time to practice and study.

Q. What are your impressions now versus when you first started school?

A. Yeah, I didn't know anything about it. It was just, come meet Tom (the previous program director) on this day. It was July when I heard about court reporting, and it was August when I went to the first class. So I just came in, was like, all right, they started teaching and sort of just got hooked. Now, it's blown me away. Court reporting is not what I expected, but I can see how it is going to be a very rewarding career.

Q: So you feel like if you pass the test, you'll want to start working right away?

A: Definitely. I don't know why anyone would wait. I possess the skills and want to use them.

Q: Are you getting any impressions about working in court versus working for deposition firms?

A: I definitely want to do depos. I do like the family that they have in court because I used to sit in court a lot. They are all close knit and they're nice, but I really like depositions because I get to set my own schedule. That's one aspect about being a depo reporter that I value. I actually do not want a 9:00-5:00, Monday-through-Friday job. That's why I did this.



WINE TASTING

From right to left, President Carlos Martinez, wife Mary, and Kimberly Foster, all official court reporters, wine tasting with NCRA's Jim Cudahy at Hopland Passport Weekend.

CCRA LEGISLATIVE TRACKING REPORT

(short) as of 10/1/2013 (Compiled and prepared by Sandy VanderPol, CSR #3032)

AB 80 (Committee on Budget) Courts.

Current Text: Amended: 6/12/2013

Introduced: 1/10/2013 Last Amend: 6/12/2013

Status: 6/27/2013-Ordered to inactive file at

the request of Senator Leno.

Location: 6/27/2013-S. INACTIVE FILE

AB 186 (Maienschein R) Professions and vocations:

military spouses: temporary licenses. Current Text: Amended: 6/24/2013

Introduced: 1/28/2013 Last Amend: 6/24/2013

Status: 7/12/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10)(SEN). (Last location was B., P. &

E.D. on 7/1/2013)

Location: 7/12/2013-S. 2 YEAR

AB 251 (Wagner R) Electronic court reporting.

Current Text: Amended: 4/2/2013

Introduced: 2/6/2013 Last Amend: 4/2/2013

Status: 5/3/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was JUD. on

/9/2013)

Location: 5/3/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 291 (Nestande R) California Sunset Review Commission.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/11/2013

Introduced: 2/11/2013

Status: 5/3/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was A. & A.R. on

3/11/2013)

Location: 5/3/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 365 (Mullin D) Court reporting.

Current Text: Amended: 4/3/2013

Introduced: 2/14/2013 Last Amend: 4/3/2013

Status: 5/31/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(8). (Last location was INACTIVE FILE

on 5/16/2013)

Location: 5/31/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 376 (Donnelly R) Regulations: notice.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2013

Introduced: 2/14/2013

Status: 5/3/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was A. & A.R. on

3/11/2013)

Location: 5/3/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 566 (Wieckowski D) Courts: personal services contracting.

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/25/2013

Introduced: 2/20/2013 Last Amend: 9/11/2013

Status: 9/25/2013-Enrolled and presented to

the Governor at 4:30 p.m.

Location: 9/25/2013-A. ENROLLED

AB 648 (Jones-Sawyer D) Court reporters.

Current Text: Chaptered: 10/1/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013 Last Amend: 9/6/2013

Status: 10/1/2013-Signed by the Governor Location: 10/1/2013-A. CHAPTERED

AB 655 (Quirk-Silva D) Court reporters: salary fund.

Current Text: Amended: 6/14/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013 Last Amend: 6/14/2013

Status: 8/30/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR. on

6/25/2013)

Location: 8/30/2013-S. 2 YEAR

AB 679 (Fox D) Fees: official court reporters.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 5/10/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was JUD. on

3/4/2013)

Location: 5/10/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 772 (Jones R) Consumer affairs: intervention in state agency or court proceedings.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 5/10/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on

2/21/2013).

September 9, 2013 status update was an error

on LegInfo per Asm Jones office. Location: 5/10/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 788 (Wagner R) Court transcripts.

Current Text: Amended: 6/24/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013 Last Amend: 6/24/2013

Status: 7/12/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10)(SEN). (Last location was JUD. on

6/24/2013)

Location: 7/12/2013-S. 2 YEAR

AB 866 (Linder R) Regulations.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/21/2013

Introduced: 2/21/2013

Status: 5/3/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was A. & A.R. on

3/4/2013)

Location: 5/3/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 894 (Mansoor R) Consumer affairs.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/22/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Status: 5/10/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on

2/22/2013)

Location: 5/10/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 1017 (Gomez D) Incoming telephone calls: messages.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/22/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013

Status: 5/3/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was B.,P. & C.P. on

/7/2013)

Location: 5/3/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 1057 (Medina D) Professions and vocations: licenses: military service.

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/9/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013 Last Amend: 6/3/2013

Status: 9/9/2013-Enrolled and presented to

the Governor at 3:30 p.m. Location: 9/9/2013-A. ENROLLED

AB 1127 (Chau D) Legal aid: court interpreters.

Current Text: Enrollment: 9/26/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013 Last Amend: 9/6/2013

Status: 9/26/2013-Enrolled and presented to

the Governor at 4:30 p.m. Location: 9/26/2013-A. ENROLLED

AB 1313 (Donnelly R) Judgeships: allocation.

Current Text: Amended: 4/29/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013 Last Amend: 4/29/2013

Status: 5/10/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was JUD. on

5/7/2013)

Location: 5/10/2013-A. 2 YEAR

AB 1352 (Levine D) Courts: destruction of court

Current Text: Chaptered: 9/9/2013

Introduced: 2/22/2013 Last Amend: 6/26/2013

Status: 9/9/2013-Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 274, Statutes of 2013. Location: 9/9/2013-A. CHAPTERED

SB 75 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review Courts.

Current Text: Chaptered: 6/27/2013

Introduced: 1/10/2013 Last Amend: 6/12/2013

Status: 6/27/2013-Chaptered by Secretary of

State - Chapter 31, Statutes of 2013. Location: 6/27/2013-S. CHAPTERED

SB 123 (Corbett D) Environmental and land use court.

Current Text: Amended: 5/2/2013

Introduced: 1/18/2013 Last Amend: 5/2/2013

Status: 5/24/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR.

SUSPENSE FILE on 5/23/2013)

Location: 5/24/2013-S. 2 YEAR

SB 176 (Galgiani D) Administrative procedures.

Current Text: Amended: 8/7/2013

Introduced: 2/6/2013 Last Amend: 8/7/2013

Status: 8/30/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(11). (Last location was APPR.

SUSPENSE FILE on 8/30/2013) Location: 8/30/2013-A. 2 YEAR

SB 315 (Lieu D) Civil actions: telephonic appearances.

Current Text: Amended: 4/30/2013

Introduced: 2/15/2013 Last Amend: 4/30/2013

Status: 8/16/2013-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(10)(ASM). (Last location was JUD.

on 7/2/2013)

Location: 8/16/2013-A. 2 YEAR



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