

# CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E



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*Photo: Boot Camp Grand Prize Winner*

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California Court Reporters Association

CCRA ONLINE

## 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.

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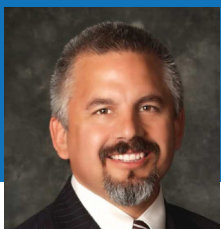
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carlos Martinez, CSR, RPR, CMRS  
President, CCRA

A lot of things have happened with the court reporting profession and CCRA in the past three months, both helpful and possibly hurtful. Let's start with the helpful.

January, we started the year off big. BOOT CAMP 2015 was another rousing success with over 170 attendees, a passel of great speakers, terrific lunch, an inaugural CSR oath, and a party bus to boot. If you attended BOOT CAMP in Burbank in January, you already know what I'm about to say, which is that the money you spent on yourself improving your professional skills was money well spent. We had terrific speakers talking about the best way to help you with your taxes, how to stay out of trouble with the Court Reporters Board, the best way to make yourself stand out in the industry, and the importance of captioning to our society. This one-day event was jammed full of information for every facet of the reporting profession. If you missed out this year, plan on attending it next January. We are tentatively setting it up for somewhere in the Sacramento area, and, yes, there will be a party bus from Southern California to Sacramento and back. You don't want to miss that ride.

Let's now jump to February and NCRA's Court Reporting and Captioning Week (CRCW). CCRA was able to secure the reading of a Resolution on the Assembly Floor by Assemblyman Mark Stone. After introduction of the Resolution, long-time ER advocate Assemblyman Donald Wagner stood up and endorsed the Resolution for CRCW, court reporting as a profession, and even went a step further in co-authoring the bill. After that, 67 Assemblymembers joined in co-authoring the Resolution which passed with a resounding yes. It was a very exciting time to be in Sacramento and watch the tremendous support that we received from the Legislature.

Not to be outdone by the old guard, though, first year reporter and CCRA Committee Chair Karly Greenshields worked for a couple of weeks and ultimately secured a spot on the morning show Good Day Sacramento inviting the show to attend the Argonaut School of Court Reporting and do a segment on court reporting for CRCW. The clips are available on the CCRA Facebook page and through this link: <http://gooddaysacramento.cbslocal.com/video/11158768-court-reporter-school/#.VOeAng5Ho7Y.facebook>. Take a little time to watch the video.

NCRA's Court Reporting and Captioning Week is all about spotlighting and promoting the profession to help get more students into the schools. Karly's work during this week paid off with the school receiving an application shortly after the airing of the show for new student enrollment.

How does this cross over to us? It's easy. Tell a friend. Tell a



*Susan A. Bonilla – Chair of the Business and Professions Committee, Brooke Ryan, Carlos Martinez, Mark Stone – Chair of the Assembly Judiciary Committee on the Assembly floor during the presentation of our Resolution for Court Reporting and Captioning Week*

sibling. Tell a stranger on the bus. Contact CCRA and have us send you the career day packets that Karly's committee have put together to enable you to visit your local high school, junior college, or career fair. Get the word out that court reporting is a great profession and is still alive and kicking. When we were at a career fair in Sacramento last year, we had a school counselor approach our booth and tell us that they had discouraged a student the week before from enrolling in court reporting school because they thought the profession was dead. This misinformation is exactly what we're fighting against. It is incumbent upon us to get the word out that court reporting not only is alive but is growing tremendously. This is the bad publicity and press that we need to stop. It's really up to all of us to make this profession strong. Working together, we will accomplish that.

So what's next for us? Well, look for us on March 19th and 20th in Los Angeles at the next state CSR test. We will be there supporting not only the test takers, but those who get you to the test: Teachers. We will have a reception after the test on Friday – you know how we like to have a party. Please be sure to look for us there. If you're a practicing reporter reading this, we can and will always take donations to help offset the cost of the reception and the suite that we hold it in. If you're so inclined, every little bit helps. Contact me at [carlos.martinez@cal-ccra.org](mailto:carlos.martinez@cal-ccra.org) and let me know that you want to help.

I hope that you enjoy this month's edition of CCRA's Online.



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# BOOT CAMP 2015: A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!



By Christy Cannariato, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP

On January 10, 2015, over 170 industry professionals and students participated in CCRA's BOOT CAMP 2015 in Burbank, California. Building on the success of the inaugural event a year ago, this year's event attracted even more attendees, sponsors, and added several bonuses. Here are some of the highlights:

## SEMINAR TOPICS

This is one fast-paced day jammed with knowledge and shared experiences. Topics covered were Depos 101, Professionalism in the Workplace, Marketing and Networking, IRS Problem Solvers, Finding Your Comfort Zone in Court, What Is CART Captioning, and CART Technology and What You Need to Get Started.

## NEW CSR OATH

CCRA was delighted to have Toni O'Neill, Chair of the Court Reporters Board of California, administer the new CSR Oath for the first time in California.

## BUS TO BOOT CAMP

To the envy of many of us in Southern California, a group of CCRA members went on a road trip and traveled on CCRA's party bus from Northern California, with stops in Sacramento, San Jose, Stockton, and Fresno. It was BYOB. We heard from the riders the official story – that it was a great networking opportunity -- but what happens on the bus stays on the bus.

## BOOT CAMP FLASH DRIVE

Each registrant received a nifty set of CCRA dog tags in the form of a retractable flash drive loaded with seminar handouts, job tracker spreadsheets, dictation material, and a wealth of helpful resources.

## BOOT CAMP APP

A special Guidebook smartphone app allowed registrants to exchange digital business cards, take notes, and upload photos.

## GRAND PRIZE WINNER

CCRA events always have a generous amount of prize drawings. This year, all registrants were automatically entered to win the grand prize, but there could only be one winner, and that was lucky Maria Beesley, who won a trip to CCRA's 105th Annual Convention in beautiful Newport Beach to be held Oct 9-12, 2015, a prize package worth \$750.

We are already at work planning the next BOOT CAMP. We hope you will join us in the fun in 2016.

## THE REVIEWS ARE IN

Here is what your colleagues had to say about their experience at BOOT CAMP 2015:

*"This was the best one-day seminar I have ever attended. I left excited with a renewed passion for our profession, and that's saying something, as I've been reporting for over 25 years."*

*"Awesome! I absolutely loved it. Such great information. And I won a raffle prize. Great job!!"*

*"Great job. Even though I'm a seasoned reporter I still walked away with nuggets."*

*"I just want to thank CCRA for providing this BOOT CAMP. I think all new reporters and students should attend this valuable conference."*

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# CAPTION IT FORWARD:

IF YOU DON'T ASK, YOU WILL NEVER KNOW THE ANSWER! FIND YOUR VOICE!



By Regina DeMolive, CSR

I have had a few instances throughout Court Reporting School and on into my working career where I've said to myself "If you only would have asked for that sooner!" I had a few times in school where I came so close to passing a test, but thought "they'll never give me back points, so why bother?" I've also had lots of times in my career where I think I heard something right, finger spell it the way it sounds, thinking it's wrong, only to find out later I spelled it correctly (or very close). There are many times in life, not just in school, where we are too shy to speak up. We need to change our thought process and find that inner voice deep down inside and use it to our advantage!

While you're in school, do not hesitate to go ask one of your professors about something you were marked wrong on a test. A lot of times, students are grading these tests. We all make mistakes! So sometimes, there was a mistake and they will give you the points back, which could result in a pass, but you'll never know if you don't ask!

When you graduate and you're out in the field, go with your gut instinct on a spelling. For me, Court Reporting School really

messed up my spelling skills! I want to spell everything phonetically now! So usually, I go with my gut instinct on the spelling and look it up later, and I'm pretty close!

Recently, I noticed a mistake on how a company was billing me. I brought it to my company's attention and they fixed it. I would have robbed myself of money if I wouldn't have said something. FIND YOUR VOICE!

Another thing I've noticed in this industry is the lack of knowledge students have about the CART and Broadcast Captioning fields. No matter what speed you're in, if you don't know a thing about CART or Broadcast, ask someone! CART and/or Broadcast are not "jobs" you do "until you get your CSR." These are very rewarding fulfilling careers that you SHOULD learn everything you can about while still in school.

If you have a question, find someone willing to spend time with you to explain it! You DESERVE to know what this industry has to offer! These two fields need you! So ask lots of questions!

Feel free to contact me! I'm happy to answer any questions you have! [rdemolive@hotmail.com](mailto:rdemolive@hotmail.com)



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## LACCRA REACHES OUT TO ITS MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC DURING THIS SPECIAL WEEK HONORING OUR PROFESSION

Cynthia Rosales, Los Angeles Official

Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association's National Court Reporting and Caption Week Celebration was held at historic Los Angeles City Hall. This year the Public Outreach Committee, chaired by Diana Van Dyke, and the Member Outreach Committee, chaired by Cynthia Rosales and Camille Marquez, along with our President, Rose Nava, planned this event to honor our profession and include many professionals who work beside us and with us on a daily basis. Our Treasurer, Diana Whitesel, also designed buttons for all reporters to wear this week at work and also for this event.

Councilmember Gil Cedillo's dedicated staff made it possible

for us to use this beautiful venue. It was a catered event with a volunteer photographer and a DJ. We received a lovely proclamation from Councilmember Gil Cedillo, but unfortunately, his schedule did not allow him to attend. Several other attendees included the President of SEIU 721, Bob Schoonover, Ron Brown, Los Angeles County Public Defender, judges, deputy public defenders, alternate public defenders, deputy city attorneys, City council office staff, Saba McKinley, CCRA board member and captioner, and of course, many, many, Los Angeles official reporters.

Everyone enjoyed this event very much, as you can see from the photographs.



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# CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

By Karly Greenshields

Walking up to the big white building in the heart of my beloved state felt very different on February 19, 2015. The last time I was at the Capitol was with my court procedures class in court reporting school. My experience that day was much different than the experience I had as a member of CCRA. Instead of taking a tour of where the magic happens, I actually witnessed the magic that happens. Instead of seeing the Assembly Floor and wondering what it looked like full of Assemblymembers, I actually experienced a Floor Session full of Assemblymembers and even got to meet some of them and their staff.

Meeting Assemblyman Stone was very nerve-racking. After hearing from our lobbyist,

Ignacio Hernández, at the last CCRA Board Meeting that Assemblyman Stone was going to author ACR20, our Resolution, I had no idea I would actually have the opportunity to meet him. We met Assemblyman Stone before heading to the Assembly Floor. Hearing the support he had for court reporters and for our profession was exciting. I felt like I was hearing Paul McCartney tell me I was an amazing guitarist, and that my profession as a musician was important. After Assemblyman Stone left for the Floor Session, we were all given our official badges for entry and then escorted to our designated areas.

Our Resolution was read a little after 9:00 a.m. Hearing Assemblyman Stone read our Resolution and speak about our profession in such a powerful way was pretty incredible. After the Resolution was read, Assemblyman Donald Wagner spoke in support of ACR 20 and the importance of our profession. Seeing the light board go entirely green, in a matter of seconds, for our Resolution was awe-inspiring. CCRA's Resolution was unanimously passed with 67 Assemblymembers joining as co-authors. After our Resolution passed, Assemblyman Stone



introduced CCRA President Carlos Martinez and President-elect Brooke Henrikson as guests on the floor. He then acknowledged Linda Hart and me in the Gallery above as court reporters representing our profession in support of the Resolution.

After all of the Resolution fun, Hernandez Strategy Group had arranged several meetings with Assemblymembers' staff and aids. This opportunity was my first legislative experience through CCRA. I feel fortunate that Carlos and Brooke had enough faith in my representation of CCRA to be present during these meetings. Having the chance to be a part of these important conversations with extremely influential people was incredible. I cannot stress what it felt like to understand the importance of meeting these powerful individuals face-to-face and building relationships with them so that they have a positive interpretation of the representatives of our profession. Seeing firsthand how to speak, act, and be remembered in this big white building was an experience that is irreplaceable. I can happily say that I've caught the legislative bug. And I am so proud to be involved in this association full of hard-working individuals who represent our profession well and work tirelessly to protect it because they love it.

## NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

By Jennifer Esquivel

It doesn't happen in every profession -- an opportunity to share the gorgeous view from the top of a mountain others are still climbing. But last week, I jumped at the chance to do just that. The invitation to speak to the court reporting students of Sage College, from Theory all the way up to Qualifying, was unexpected and quite the honor. As I made my way slowly to the finish line -- we're talking a snail's pace -- I was extremely fortunate to have many working reporters cheering me on, and I was eager to pay it forward much the same way.

So as I stood behind the podium in Room 6, looking out at the students, I took the very same advice I was about to give them -- I put my best foot forward. Impressing upon them the importance of representing yourself and the profession in a positive way,

I addressed everything from dressing the part to commanding respect in a room full of attorneys wearing \$1,000 suits. I told them they would be hard-pressed to find a greater feeling than that of learning you have successfully passed the licensing exam and tried to prepare them for the large tidal wave that would wash over them once they had that license in hand.

And then I shared with them the key to becoming a successful student and reporter: networking. "How do we do that?" they asked. And that's when I felt a smile come to my lips as I thought of all of the memories I have made over the last few years. "Find a way to join your associations and attend as many conventions and seminars as possible," I told them. "Introduce yourself to this profession and make sure you put your best foot forward."

Thank you, CCRA, for helping me do just that. I owe you one!



# SAVE THE DATE!

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# COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK SACRAMENTO OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

By Brooke Ryan, President-elect

There were numerous discussions, e-mails and blog posts asking the question: What was your group going to do to celebrate National Court Reporting and Captioning Week (CRCW)? I put out an e-mail to the Sacramento court reporters listserv asking for ideas. This was the chance to let the court reporters shine, and we, as a group, decided to take advantage of it.

It was agreed that we would ask our Presiding Judge, Robert Hight, to administer the CRB's oath to our reporters. He quickly agreed. Next, out went an invitation via e-mail asking the reporters to attend. I was overwhelmed by the responses. The replies ranged from "I'm honored" to "This is amazing." Nearly two-thirds of our office was in attendance when the oath was administered.

We had the soiree -- as I named it -- catered. We started with lunch so we could give the court reporters in the outlying facilities a chance to attend. A number of judges were in attendance which gave us the opportunity to chat with them a little as well. Presiding Judge Hight gave a speech expressing the entire Bench's respect and appreciation of our profession. He then read a few lines from CCRA's Court Reporting and Captioning Week Resolution, and then it was "show time."



The oath was a rousing success. Presiding Judge Hight did a great job administering it, and the reporters were thrilled to be able to take part. The reporters expressed their gratitude over and over again. It turned out to be the perfect way of celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week in Sacramento. I can't wait to see what we come up with next year!

## FEBRUARY IN HAWAI'I

By Steven Kosmo Kosmata

I remember opening my email early one day a few months ago and reading the subject line that read something along the lines of "seminar in Hawai'i." Well, that certainly sounds as though it could be promising, as many other getaways sound. Before I clicked on the email to see who was teaching and how many points were available, I had to have my first cup of joe and put my sack lunch away in the refrigerator. After doing my early morning chores to prepare for work, I decided to finally open this email about "seminar in Hawai'i" and see what this was all about.

As the email was coming on my screen, I decided to top off my coffee cup. Well, thank God I did. This email wasn't about going to a seminar in Hawai'i, but I couldn't believe what I was reading. It was an opportunity to visit Honolulu in February and teach eight hours on Eclipse software. So I thought to myself, would I like to go to Honolulu in February over Valentine's weekend and teach a class? I had to read the email a second time because I wanted to make sure of what I was reading because who wouldn't like to go to Diamond Head, Waikiki

Beach, the North Shore, Pearl Harbor, and -- oh, yeah -- teach a software class? Duuuuuh!!

So I responded immediately and couldn't type fast enough to reply "yes," "yes," "yes." Well, of course, I was still several months away from going to Hawai'i, but had to start preparing my materials and purchasing some Hawaiian Tropic so I could have that golden tan when I came back to the mainland in wintertime.

All of the hours and sacrifice on the weekends, time at night, and any other times that I could squeeze in at work to prepare my materials was all worth it. The minute I stepped off the plane at 11:00 pm and it was still 70 degrees at the Honolulu Airport, I knew I had arrived at paradise.

And as a bonus, I had some vacation time banked away at work. So I was able to add on a few extra days on either end of my Eclipse seminar, so we stayed for a week soaking up the tropical sun and enjoying the Trade Winds every day.

Oh, and the Eclipse seminar you ask? It went fantastic.

So the moral of the story is: I got to go to Hawai'i, and you didn't.

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# GOOD DAY SACRAMENTO BROADCAST

By Karly Greenshields

To end National Court Reporting and Captioning week with a bang, CCRA organized a news broadcast with *Good Day Sacramento* at Argonaut Court Reporting School. On Friday, February 20, 2015, Cody Stark with Good Day made a very early visit to my alma-matter. The classroom was full of students and everyone was so excited to get started.

At 7:30 a.m., Cody was ready to learn and full of energy. Cody and I had been talking for a little over a month about his ideas and excitement for the broadcast, and I couldn't wait to meet him. My goal was to do a broadcast that highlighted our career and education positively. Personally, I feel court reporting is always represented in such a serious light -- not that that's a bad thing. Our job is incredibly important and completely necessary, yes, but we also have FUN doing it. As a spectator of Good Day Sacramento for many years and a Cody Stark fan, I knew they would be the perfect station to run this piece with.

The teachers at Argonaut gave Cody Stark a costume judge's robe promptly changing his name to "Honorable Cody Stark." Every time we filmed live, he corrected his coworkers on air to use his new name. The first segment Honorable Cody Stark filmed with us went over the actual process of court reporting and the many career options within the profession. He learned how to

use a steno machine, what steno was, and the evolution of our machines. Cody made good use of my wonderful peer, Kristen Cruz, and asked her to read back several funny sentences he'd say on air. And she did so flawlessly with a great sense of humor.

The second segment Honorable Cody Stark filmed was his attempt at writing steno. During a break in between our live segments, he had tried his hand at learning our language. He was given a cheat sheet steno keyboard so he could try to use the letters as a reference. Cody had this idea to try to write the clip from *A Few Good Men*, where Jack Nicholson is on stand at trial and screams, "You can't handle the truth." We played the clip and all wrote along to it with Honorable Cody Stark. After the attempt, Kristen and I read back what we had and then Cody did. He ended up with a lot of red on his writer and the words "Yellow Light." He was amazed at our skill and showed that through some good humor.

I am grateful to have been able to show our profession in such a positive light. I truly believe in representing our profession in a way that shows who we are as people. Cody Stark loved the school and career so much that he will be doing a segment with CCRA every year during Court Reporting and Captioning Week. He also has many ideas brewing for more segments to do regarding court reporting as a whole. I can't wait to continue this relationship and represent you all in this way.



# FRESNO MOCK CSR

By Amanda Scott, CCRA board member

This past Valentine's Day I got to share the love with some court reporting students at the CCRA's mock CSR. I helped coordinate our Central California location, which was held at Sierra Valley College in Fresno. Although we didn't have a big turnout for the Fresno location, the students we did have made it so worthwhile.

We started the day with two written knowledge tests, and then had court and depo speed tests at 200 wpm four-voice. Most of our students were in the 180 speed, so the test was a stretch but still excellent practice. From there, we watched a short video on the minimum transcript format standards put out by the Court Reporters Board.

Next we had a Q&A session with our panel of speakers. I spoke about being a freelance reporter, Rachel Passarella was there to speak as an official reporter, and Melissa Gum was there to share her wealth of knowledge as a CART, official and freelance reporter. Since it was such a beautiful day and we had a smaller group, we took our chairs outside to enjoy the weather and have a more conversational session. This was my favorite part of the day! I loved hearing from Melissa and Rachel and learning from their experiences myself, and the students had so many questions for all of us. It was so rewarding to be able to answer their questions and share their excitement!

The one complaint I heard from the students was their difficulty with getting the depo hours they need for school. I would encourage all depo reporters to please reach out to students in your area and invite them to sit in with you! You could give your contact information to a local court reporting school. It would make a great difference and be so appreciated by the students!

We ended our event with lunch and a raffle of prizes donated by the CCRA, Advantage Software, StenoCAT, StenEd, Phil Liberatore and Carolee Freer. The vendors were so generous, in fact, that we had more prizes to raffle off than we had students there, so everybody won at least one prize! It was a great note to end on, and although I started the day feeling discouraged that we didn't have more students at my location, I left feeling very appreciated and encouraged by the wonderful students I met. I am confident they will be very successful in their futures as court reporters.

# FEBRUARY 14 MOCK CSR

By Brooke Ryan, President-elect

On Saturday, February 14, I attended the CCRA's Northern California mock CSR. That day I held two positions: One, my first time as a reader, and, two, as a panelist.

It is always so much fun to meet the test-takers as well as the speakers. The readers were Bonnie Comstock, Kay Reindl, Linda Hart and myself. The panelists were Denese Harlan, Christina Lannon, Linda and I.

When I walked in to Argonaut the number of student attendees caught my attention. It's encouraging to see that many students so close to taking the CSR. They were taking the written knowledge examinations. After they finished those tests, next came the mock deposition and court speed tests.

Let me start by saying I was as nervous as could be to read! I repeatedly had to tell myself it would be okay. I get that it's not the real test, but I was so afraid my inexperience could ruin someone's confidence. The best part was after the mock test the teachers talked about the real CSR test and how fair it is.

The Q and A session is my favorite. I always learn something. Inevitably I walk away laughing about our Type A personalities. The panelist members' insight is worth every penny you spend to get there. Their knowledge base is amazing. It's continuously fascinating to find out what led people to our profession. I really enjoy hearing everyone's journey. I am also equally impressed by the questions from the students.

After the mock CSR and the Q and A session, lunch was served. After that, it was time with the vendors. The vendors included Stenograph, ProCAT, Sacramento Legal Video Center, Advantage Software, and Personal Touch Steno. All of the vendor representatives seemed to be enjoying themselves interacting with the students.

All in all, it was a great way to spend Valentine's Day. I wish all of the test-takers the best of luck in achieving your goals! I will be cheering you on at the CSR.

## GADGET OF THE MONTH

By Ashala Tylor, CSR, RPR, CRR, CLR

**PocketTalker Pro:** This device from Williams Sound, [www.williamssound.com/](http://www.williamssound.com/), is my most important gadget for reporting. I have used this device for years. This is the perfect answer for mumbling deponents and/or attorneys. I think most of the stress of reporting comes from straining to hear in a deposition or courtroom setting. This little device will change your world of reporting. If you're not straining to hear every muttered and muffled word, you will be less tired at the end of a long day. It is almost as good as having an audio feed in a video deposition. **Amazon.com: Pocket Talker Pro System (with EAR 014 Dual Mini Earphone) \$130.**





# ASK MR. MODEM

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

## Windows XP: Let it Go

**Q: I know you're probably sick of hearing from us XP user/whiners, but it is such a good operating system, I just don't want to move to something else. I have heard that Microsoft was losing money on XP, but why can't they just charge XP users and continue supporting it?**

A: Microsoft was not losing money on XP. In fact, it was one of their most successful products ever. But as an operating system, it simply ran its course and it was time for the company to move on -- exactly as it had announced years in advance. The same will hold true for Windows 7 and Windows 8. At the time of each respective release, it was announced that extended support would terminate for Windows 7 on January 14, 2020 and for Windows 8, January 10, 2023, so mark your calendars. Technology is destined to move ahead with us or without us, whether we want it to or not. That's just a harsh reality of computing life.

**Q: I have a program that is asking me to log into Windows 7 as Administrator. How do I determine if I am already logged in as such and if not, how do I do that?**

A: To check if you are logged into Windows 7 as a user with Administrative privileges, go to the Control Panel, open User Accounts and click Manage Another Account. (You can also go to Start > Search and type in User Account.)

All user accounts will be listed with each account assigned a status, such as Administrator, Standard User, etc. Make sure that you are logged into Windows under an account with the status of Administrator. If you are not sure under which account you are currently logged in, go to the main User Accounts page. The current user will be displayed on the right-hand side of the page.

**Q: What is the red arrow that shows up on occasion at the top-left corner of an Excel spreadsheet? The cells in question are filled in. I can usually get rid of the arrow if I erase the cell's contents, then rewrite it, but not always. Thanks, Mr. M.**

A: That little arrow is a "formula error indicator." In other words, that arrow indicates that the formula within that cell contains an error that will prevent it from calculating properly. The IRS will not accept that as a reason for miscalculating your taxes, by the way. You might have better luck with, "My dog ate my tax return."

**Q: I use Windows Live Mail. Some newsletters I receive are always classified as "Undesirable" and placed in my Junk folder rather than in my Inbox where legitimate email should go. How can I change this?**

A: Open one of the miscategorized newsletters located in your Junk folder and select the Not Junk check box in the upper left. From the drop-down menu, make sure you mark Add Sender's Domain Name and Add Sender's Name to Safe Sender list. Then click the big green check again.

You can also choose to add the sender's address as a Contact. Click the Contact option in the upper left of the Inbox, then add the address. This will work for any mail that's mistakenly going into the Junk folder. It may not work the first time, but keep trying and your persistence will be rewarded. That's the theory, anyway.

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

**Amazon Smile** – Go to Amazon Smile and log into your Amazon account. You will then be given the opportunity to select a from an extensive list. Each time you purchase something through this Web site thereafter, a small percentage of that purchase will be donated to your designated charity. You will not pay any more for your purchase. [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

**Ripe Track** – Wouldn't it be great if you could search by a fruit or vegetable you crave to determine if it is in season? Or perhaps browse a list of what is currently in season? Well, dreams do come true, my fruit-loving friends! When you arrive on this site, use the Search field to type in a fruit or veggie. Beneath the Search field is a tiny link you can use to view a list of products categorized by state of ripeness. Red is out of season, yellow is in-between seasons and green is in season. [ripetrack.com](http://ripetrack.com)

**MosaiCulture** – Every three years an international competition in horticultural sculpture is held, called "mosaiculture." The focus is creating sculptures out of living plants. The greatest horticulturalists in the world submit plans a year in advance, then in late May, travel to Montreal and plant more than 3 million plants at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. Visit this site to view the blooming results. (And I thought my geraniums were something special.) [tinyurl.com/m3vgpnc](http://tinyurl.com/m3vgpnc)

**Use Promo Code MODEM when entering your six-month subscription to Mr. Modem's award-winning weekly computer-help newsletter and receive one month for free! Visit [www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com).**

# BEING A TECH SAVVY REPORTER IN A WORLD OF MOBILE DEVICES

By Jami Raye

Realtime transcription is the process whereby the spoken word is recorded by the court reporter and delivered instantly as text to a computer screen or mobile device. It allows lawyers and other litigation professionals to review the text as the deposition is taking place. There are many advantages to conducting a realtime deposition and with today's technology, it has never been easier or more cost effective for reporters to send their live feeds.

Not so long ago, "realtime" was synonymous with LiveNote, which required the attorney to be hardwired to the court reporter's computer using cables and proprietary software installed on their computer. Now, your clients no longer need bulky cables, fancy hardware or expensive equipment to receive realtime. With almost every legal professional owning a tablet or smartphone, deposition attendees can wirelessly connect to your realtime feed on any device.

Most local realtime systems provide a router, which allows the reporter to create their own Local Area Network

(LAN). Onsite attendees are then able to access the reporter's router/LAN and review the realtime feed from their iPad, smartphone or tablet. With today's technology, it is now easier and faster to hookup and view the realtime feed than ever before. Products like CaseViewNet, LiveDeposition, Bridge Mobile and Steno Cast all allow the reporter to offer realtime wirelessly on different devices.

Streaming realtime is also becoming more common. Streaming is when the reporter sends their realtime feed through the Internet to offsite or remote attendees. This allows the attorney to monitor or reside over the deposition, or even ask questions and participate, if they cannot be present. They can attend the deposition from their smartphone or tablet while they are out on the go, or from their computer at home or in their office.

By providing realtime, you can offer an immediate rough of the transcript, allow your clients to keyword search the transcript during the deposition, and really showcase yourself as a tech savvy reporter. Realtime also allows users to privately mark up the actual testimony so that critical action items can be remembered at a later time. This can all be done without divulging strategy to opposing counsel.

It is becoming ever more common for realtime reporters to invest in a couple tablets to carry around so they are equipped to offer realtime "on the fly", even if an attorney did not request it prior to the deposition. If you are not already a "Realtime Reporter," or are in the process of becoming certified, I would highly recommend adding "Realtime Reporter" to your resume and list of skills.

Not only does offering realtime make you a better writer, it also helps you secure higher paying jobs, as well as save on time required afterwards for editing. With the latest technological advancements, it is easier now than ever to offer realtime. Attorneys are requesting it more and more and those reporters who are not "realtime ready" may miss out.

## About the Author

Jami Raye is an Account Executive for LiveDeposition, a provider of universal onsite and webbased remote realtime delivery solutions. For more information on LiveDeposition please visit their website at [www.livedeposition.com](http://www.livedeposition.com) or give them a call at (888) 3376411.



# TECHNOLOGY TIPS FOR THE COURT REPORTING ROAD WARRIOR



U B E R



By Ashala Tylor, CSR, RPR, CRR, CLR

As a realtime writer, I am finding myself on more and more multi-day jobs in cities other than my own. As an accomplished court reporting road warrior, I have some suggestions for making your out-of-town job easier. With the help of technology, being a traveling reporter is an easier task these days.

**Airbnb:** Airbnb is perfect for the traveling reporter. With this app, you can go online and immediately have access to private rooms or guest houses in 190 countries. I utilize Airbnb almost exclusively for business or vacation travel. Not only is there a cost-saving factor, but I prefer it to a sterile hotel room. Every element of a booking—the reservation, payment, communication between host and guest, and review—takes place through Airbnb's online platform.

When on business, I book a guest house or room with private entrance and private bath. I make sure there is a desk and wifi. As many of my jobs are multi-day jobs, this gives me the comfort of a large, comfortable space to work. Best advice is to check the comment review section and view comments from prior travelers prior to booking. [Airbnb.com](http://Airbnb.com)

**Waze:** Waze is my favorite app for driving to a deposition and getting there on time. Waze is an interactive device that will not only guide you around the traffic jam ahead but will warn you of speed traps. It allows you to bypass that traffic accident a mile ahead by rerouting you through the side residential streets and to your destination quickly. I find it superior to the Garmin, which I also have. This is a free app for your smartphone. [Waze.com](http://Waze.com)

**Uber:** Great app for getting from place to place if you do not want to drive in a city. Uber is an app-based transportation network and taxi company. [Uber.com](http://Uber.com)

**Verizon Jetpack MiFi:** This tiny device gives immediate high-speed internet access to all your devices wherever you are. It has worked flawlessly when writing with Connection Magic on a daily or if I find myself in an area where I need immediate internet access. It also works very well in a courtroom or deposition room where a fast WiFi connection is not available. [Verizon.com](http://Verizon.com)

**LiveDeposition Streaming:** A wireless router based system that allows you to send realtime to onsite attendees without using any special cables or Bluetooth technology and without the need for Internet access. By bridging your CAT software to the LocalRealtime™ software using the StenoDirectPlus plugin, you are able to output data to any PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android smartphone or tablet for the attorneys. Stream realtime text, video and audio to deposition attendees across the globe in a safe, secure environment.

**iPad Air 2 Tablet:** Weighs less than a pound. These are perfect devices for delivering realtime to the attorneys. It is much easier than lugging around all those extra laptops for counsel.

**Handy Scanner App:** I use this app on my smartphone all the time. It is great for a quick scan of the caption or that one document that was read at 350 wpm. Just take a quick scan of the document on a break and email to yourself and/or your scopist.

**Dropbox:** Immediately after the depo, before packing up, I upload my files to Dropbox for safekeeping and/or for my scopist's immediate access. Great for uploading large audio files or sending a rough draft link to the attorneys. [Dropbox.com](http://Dropbox.com)

**McKenzie Lumbar Super Lumbar Roll:** This is a tiny lumbar back pillow that I never leave home without. This will save your back when sitting through a long day of reporting. It is small and easily packed with your machine. It simply straps to the back of any chair. If flying, will fit easily in your suitcase. This can be found on Amazon for \$30. [Search Amazon for OPTP Original McKenzie Super Lumbar Roll - #708](http://Search Amazon for OPTP Original McKenzie Super Lumbar Roll - #708)

**Headset:** Spectra SP-VC5 3.5 mm Mono/Stereo Dual Speaker Transcription Headset with Volume Control. I have used this headset for many years now. Crystal clear sound and lightweight. Will easily connect to your videographer's feed. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

**Printer:** This HP LaserJet Pro P1102w Wireless Monochrome Printer (CE658A#BGJ) can be found on Amazon.com for \$87.00. It is small and compact, and it prints wirelessly from an iPhone, iPad or iPad Mini. I have used this model for a couple years and it has worked flawlessly. Great if I am out of town on a multi-day depo and need a printer while staying at an Airbnb. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

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