

CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E



2016 CONVENTION WRAP-UP ISSUE

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Photo: (From Left) 270 Q&A Speed Contest 2016 3rd place winner, Chase Frazier, 2nd place winner, Tami Frazier, and 1st place winner, Denise

OFFICERS

President

Brooke Ryan
brooke.ryan@cal-ccra.org

President-elect

Matthew J. Martinez
matthew.martinez@cal-ccra.org

Vice President

Debra Bollman
debra.bollman@cal-ccra.org

Secretary-Treasurer

Rachel Barkume
Rachel.barkume@cal-ccra.org

ONLINE COMMITTEE

Christy Cannariato
254 N. Lake Avenue #224
Pasadena, CA 91101
(213) 687-5780 x1024
christy.cannariato@cal-ccra.org

MAIN OFFICE

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

www.cal-ccra.org



California Court Reporters Association

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Brooke Ryan, CSR
President, CCRA

This time of year is invigorating. We wrapped up our convention, and we are setting out the agenda for the new board. We are educating ourselves and then strategizing, formulating and then achieving!

First, let me say what a wonderful convention we had. There were so many dedicated and excited court reporters not just from all facets of our profession, but from everywhere in the state – and Alabama, too! My absolute favorite class was the talk-it-out hikes. It was fun to get outside and see the beautiful mountainside and breathe the fresh air. It really was magical.

My favorite part about the conventions, though, is always the people, our members. There was a sense of calm this year which helped setting aside time to talk with members one-on-one. We all want to be heard and when we can carve out time for people, it's time well spent. Please always know you can contact me to share news, etc.

Thank you all to everyone who came. It was a beautiful space filled with camaraderie and friendship. Thank you for sharing how much you appreciate our efforts. We are all going to get there together.

As we strategize for another robust year, I can't help but remark on where our profession is currently. Not only do freelance reporters have more and more opportunities and job offers, it is expanding! With the passing of SB 1007, we are hoping more arbitrations are in your future. We have seen more and more of you commenting not only about Saturday and Sunday depositions, but also evening depositions. The work is out there!

At least once a week I see ads for either a pro tem or official reporter in various counties. That is also very exciting for those wanting to work within the court system. At every seminar, speech and convention we let you know the retirement stats for the 12 biggest counties. There is definitely work in that arena as well.

CART and Captioning is growing by leaps and bounds. It seems as if there are new venues/job opportunities popping up every day. I have friends who are not only growing their companies but are incredibly optimistic for their future. I say it every chance I get: If you have an entrepreneurial spirit, this is your path.

It is incredibly important, now more than ever, that we work together. When you only advocate for one facet of our profession, you risk the harm of harming the others. We cannot stand for that. We must protect each other. We must protect the profession in its entirety. CCRA proudly protects and advocates for ALL!





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INTERVIEW WITH BROOKE RYAN ON STARTING HER SECOND TERM AS CCRA PRESIDENT

By Matthew Martinez, CCRA President-Elect

QUESTION BY MATTHEW MARTINEZ: This year, a completely new Board of Directors was installed. How will you be able to accomplish CCRA's goals this year with a brand new Board?

ANSWER BY PRESIDENT RYAN: One of the goals of our previous executive committees was to return to the era of robust committees from which you pull your board members. I am proud to say this is our first year that we have achieved that. Every new board member has not only served on committees, but also four of them attended our California Advocacy Team Training program. I believe that every new board member and executive committee member will work very hard to accomplish our goals.

Q. For all the Board's accomplishments last year, which make you most proud?

A. First, what I mentioned above. That alone will serve CCRA's members well. Also, as a life-long official, I could not be more proud of what we accomplished so far for freelancers with SB 270 (Mendoza) our Firm Registration Bill. I am proud that we took the giant corporations head-on and didn't back down, even when other associations did. We showed that we are not afraid of anyone.

Q. What skill and/or qualification did you rely on most this past year?

A. Perseverance/grit. Always keep working. Keep fighting. That's what you need to accomplish anything. I love how many new reporters/board members possess these qualities. It is going to be an exciting year for CCRA!

Q. What has been the most rewarding to you?

A. I am starting to see a sparkle return in reporters' eyes again. They know we are fighting for them, and they believe in us. It is an awesome feeling and a responsibility that we take very seriously. We have reporters stepping up and asking US to be on CCRA committees. And that is phenomenal!

Q. Were there any disappointments? If so, what?

A. Of course. You learn more by your mistakes, disappointments, etc. The fact that SB 270 (Mendoza) to level the depo playing field and AB 2629 (Hernandez) for a transcript rate increase didn't make it all the way is very

disappointing. I can honestly say, though, that it reignited our passion, and I look forward to this legislative year.

Q. In CCRA's 106-year history, you are only the 11th person to be installed as president two years in a row. What were your thoughts about serving a second term? What qualities do you believe you possess that allow for such an honor?

A. I'm excited for a second term. I realize the honor associated with it, and I want to get a number of things accomplished. I believe I'm a good leader. I do not let our board get distracted by shiny objects. When others go low, we do not follow. We are here to accomplish goals, and that is what we do. I am very precise with our mission, and I know that the real honor is teaching others how to lead.

Q. What do you plan to accomplish in your second term?

A. Oh, boy. I sent out the Action Plan last Friday, and the Board of Directors will meet in a couple of weeks to vote on it. It contains 62 bullet points. The most important thing that we need to accomplish immediately is creating incredibly strong committee chairs and members. We have 15 committees, seven working groups, and four task forces. I believe by the next board meeting we will have set the groundwork for this to be checked off the list so we can start getting busy.

Q. How will you achieve these plans and/or goals?

A. With an incredibly strong and vocal board as well as brave committee chairs. With a list of 62 items – which are live documents – things are added and deleted all of the time, and we need people that won't stop until whatever task they are working on is completed. As soon as that one is done, they immediately move on to the next. It reminds me of court reporting school!

Q. CCRA President can be notoriously difficult. Where might we find you after your second term?

A. On Sunday evening in Newport Beach when the new president is installed, if you want to find me, I will be on the beach, and there will be a cocktail with an umbrella in my hand!! I will be saying cheers to one hell of a ride!



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Photo: (From Left) Jennifer Esquivel, Matthew Martinez, and Richard Gonzalez

BUGS AND DIRT: YOSEMITE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF EITHER

By Jennifer Esquivel, CSR

Court reporting can be a fairly isolating profession. When you're a student, you're often desperate to seek out and find fellow students who are met with the same challenges and frustrations you are: test anxiety, failed tests, economic hardship, and the dreaded "When will you be done with school?" question. When you're a working reporter, you're often eager to find colleagues to commiserate with about things like expedites, mumbling attorneys, and the dreaded ebb in the work flow that we all experience at one time or another.

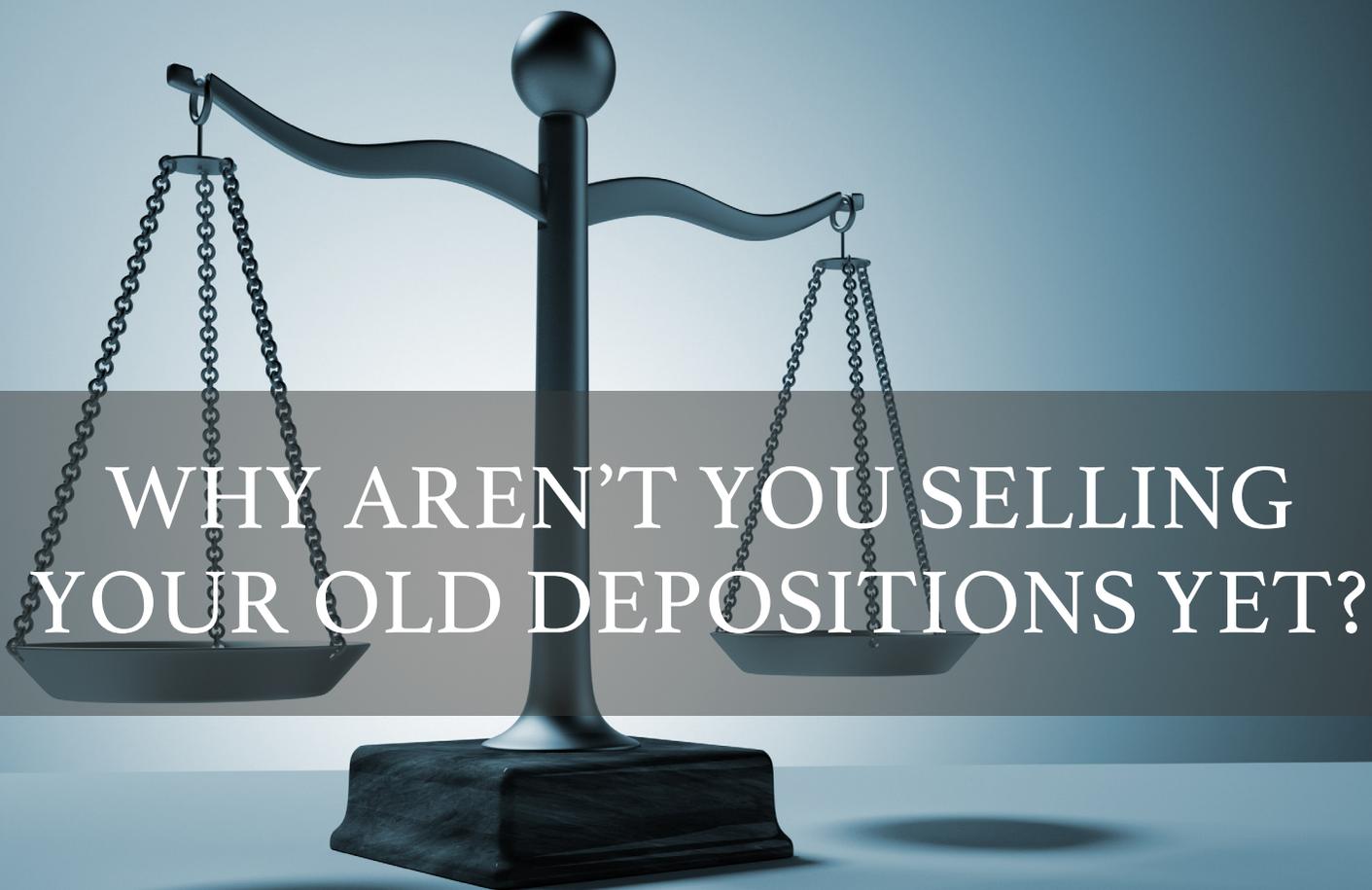
So when you get that annual e-mail telling you it's that time of the year again, time for the annual California Court Reporters Association convention, many of us welcome yet another opportunity to not only meet up with our sisters and brothers in the court reporting community, but also to attend seminars full of information about our software, best court reporting practices, and the latest and greatest in punctuation, technology, and realtime.

For me, this year was no different. I had never been to Yosemite. And while I'm not crazy about bugs and dirt, I welcomed the chance to meet up with so many of my colleagues no matter the location. The idea of celebrating another year of reporting with reporters I consider friends and, in some cases, family, motivated me to not only take advantage of the "early bird" registration, it inspired me to finish as many transcripts as possible before making my way up to the Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite for our whirlwind weekend together.

This year did not disappoint. The convention schedule was full of a variety of subjects. I made the most of each day by carefully planning out the classes I would attend and the money I would spend, both in donations and as an investment in my career. (Okay...maybe I could have planned out the money part a little bit better, but let's not dwell on that part.) Everything from learning the new tips and tricks of my latest software upgrade to finally finding a new office chair at a fantastic discount kept me busy throughout the weekend.

As a freelance reporter who is always interested in learning about the different parts of our profession, I was excited to hear Marla Arnold and Mike Babicky, the two officials from the Jodi Arias trial, speak about their experience with such a high-profile case and how they handled the preparation of the coveted transcripts.

Personally, I always leave a convention weekend feeling as though I simply passed some of my favorite people in the hallway without finding time to really visit with them. But this year was a bit different. I had the pleasure of bringing a student along with me for the five-hour drive up there and back, giving us ample time to get to know each other. Understanding the shortage our profession is about to face, I'm always excited to support our students and listen to ways we, as working reporters, can help them finish school and become licensed in our field. But sometimes they just need something as simple as a ride to a convention. So, Richard, my apologies if I talked your ear off, but I'm just so excited for you to join me in this crazy but rewarding profession known as court reporting. It's an amazing and special place you will find a sense of belonging in, just like I have.



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A STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE AT THE CCRA CONVENTION

By Brittany Coulter

I am a 120 student with Argonaut School of Court Reporting in Sacramento.

This was my first time attending a CCRA convention and, as a student, one of the things I really appreciated was the seminar concerning passing the CSR. This is a big focus for me right now, and Margie Wakeman-Wells gave such amazing advice. I was extremely nervous about the CSR before hearing what she had to say about it, but now it seems much more attainable.

Another seminar series I really appreciated was the software seminars. I personally attended Steve Kosmata's class on EclipseCat software and found it very helpful. I learned things I wasn't even aware my software could do for me, and it has cut my editing time in half!

Mark Kislingbury's seminars were phenomenal as well. His theory is very different from my StenEd Theory, but I was still able to take a lot of conceptual advice from it to shorten my writing and pass tests faster.

I also attended one of Carolyn Dasher's ergonomic yoga seminars and found it extremely relaxing and very helpful. I do end up with a lot of tension in my upper back, and she focused exactly on releasing tension.

Bob Sullivan's seminar was fantastic as well. He was a very charismatic speaker with an incredibly engaging presentation and taught the attendees a lot about internet research and how to do it as efficiently as possible.

Linda MacFarlane wrote a very interesting book about her experiences on the job in the courtroom, and attending her seminar was neat because she read a few pages out of her book, and it was nice to hear it read from the author. I am currently reading her book, *Amicus Curiae: Friend of the Court*, and it's very intriguing to a student who has never worked a day on the job.

The most incredible thing about this convention was the student support! Everyone is emphatically encouraging to students, and everyone in the field really wants to make sure we finish school successfully and find employment. It was so empowering and invigorating. I've never been so motivated to practice and finish school in my life. Networking was astronomically successful for me personally. Everyone was so willing to network with students and new reporters and everyone offered all the help they had at their disposal.

I made friends and memories I will never forget, and I cannot wait for Newport Beach next year! Thank you, CCRA, for giving me skills and friends that will stay with me for a lifetime!



Photo: (Left) Carolyn Dasher and (Center) Christine Liu



AT THIS TIME/ AT THAT TIME

By Sandy Walden, CSR

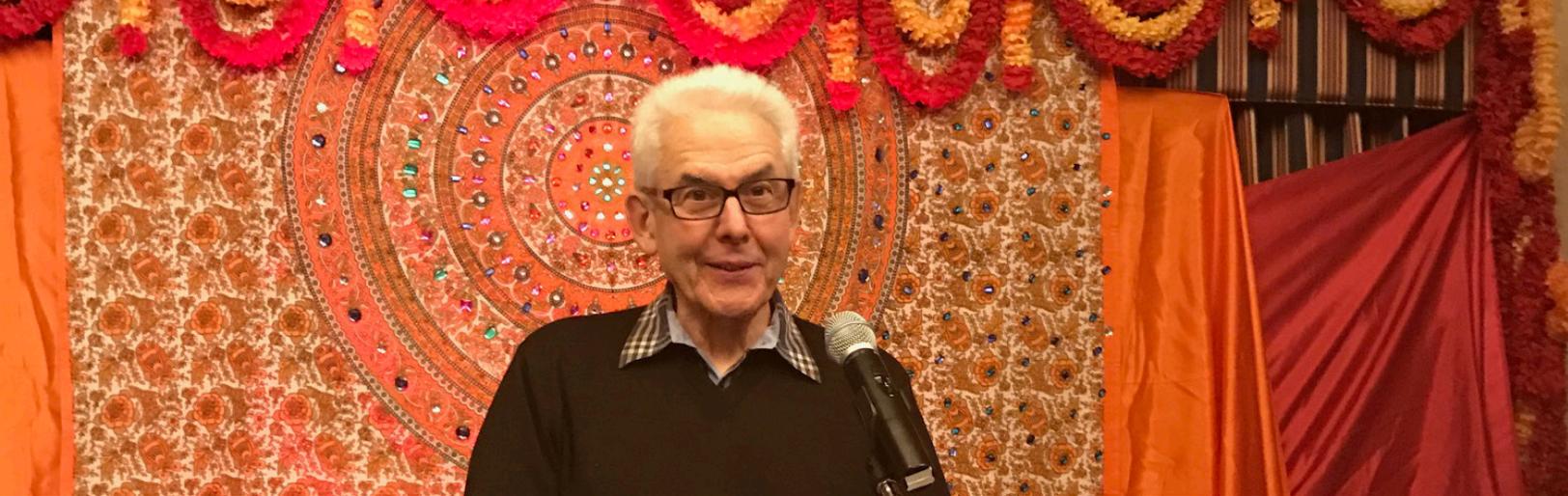
Do you brief those? Well, up until this past CCRA Annual conference, I knew the briefs but just didn't use them.

It's amazing how you feel so invigorated after a CCRA conference to return to work and implement the tips and tricks you learned from the classes, guest speakers, and fellow reporters. Going to work day-in and day-out, just repeating old habits, for me writing out the silliest of phrases, and in one-weekend, not only learning new tips and tricks, but also excited to use them. Pressing steno keys fewer times a day? Count me in. Being able to see the benefits of improving as a reporter, whether on the job three weeks to thirty years, there is a tip or trick, idea, law, rule, etc., for everyone at CCRA conferences.

CCRA events give you the opportunity to connect with reporters from up and down the state, students, officials, freelancer, and retirees (which I hope to be someday)! You never know where your career will take you.

This great profession of ours deserves a celebration, and CCRA definitely puts on a celebration.

Start planning "At this time" or "At that time," to attend the next convention in Newport Beach in October 2017. Just plan to attend. You will enjoy every moment.



GARY CRAMER VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

By Christy Cannariato, CSR, RPR, CRR, CRC

At the 106th Annual convention last month, I was extremely honored to present a special award to Gary Cramer, CCRA Past President. The Gary Cramer Visionary Leadership Award, as it says on the beautiful crystal trophy, “exemplifies exceptionally innovative and visionary excellence...in protecting and advancing the court reporting profession.” The award presentation was unannounced and a surprise to all, including Gary himself, and many of us were a bit emotional to say the least.

What follows are excerpts from the award presentation on October 8, 2016:

Good evening.

I am honored to have been asked to present a special award. CCRA, like NCRA, periodically awards a Distinguished Service Award. This award is like the DSA of DSAs. It will be bestowed rarely and to a truly extraordinary person.

The award is named for its first recipient. The recipient is here tonight and knows nothing about this. I am going to now announce the name of the recipient, and then I have a few remarks before we ask the recipient to come up.

The award is called the Gary Cramer Visionary Leadership Award (wild applause.)

But the fact that this award is for visionary leadership is just so perfect. I have known Gary over 25 years and met him almost from the very beginning of my court reporting career when I was a new official at Los Angeles Superior Court. I was always impressed at how Gary’s focus was always looking down the road 5, 10, 20 years. Better than anyone I’ve ever known, Gary always had his ear to the ground and could spot a trend and

work with our lobbyist to get protective language put into law years before our political opponents even recognized the relevance of it. California is one of the best states in the country to work largely because he was able to see far down the road. Gary was always playing three-dimensional chess when our opponents were playing checkers.

When I thought about what I would say here tonight, I thought about rattling off a long list of Gary’s career accomplishments and awards, including the Distinguished Service Awards awarded by CCRA and NCRA or Gary’s testimony before the U.S. Congress. But Gary and I recently served together on CCRA’s nominating committee, and the new board we install tonight are the results of our work. It has occurred to me that all of the board members and officers are younger than me. I still think of myself as being in my 30s, so that seems weird. And so as Gary retires after 50 years of court reporting advocacy, and as the new CCRA board and officers begin their terms, I see myself as a bridge between Gary’s generation and the current board, and I wanted to share two things Gary’s leadership has taught me over the years, advice these new leaders might want to take to heart.

“Paranoia is good.”

It’s no secret that we have political enemies. And over the years we have geared up for a fight by getting support in order, commissioning economic reports. Sometimes, for whatever reason, the fight didn’t end up happening. But Gary taught me, “It’s good to be paranoid.” And what he meant was even if that fight didn’t come to pass, another fight would be along soon, and we knew we were ready.

“None of this is personal.”

GARY CRAMER
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Gary and I fight like cats and dogs, loudly and quite rudely about what I call court reporting politics, most recently about a year ago on an airplane before a board meeting where poor Arnella Sims was caught in the middle seat while we argued and pointed over her. We are both passionate and opinionated, but even when our “debates” made others uncomfortable, they were never bitter or personal. And when I see our political opponents attack the relevance of our profession or even our integrity, I remember what Gary taught me: “None of this is personal.” And what he meant is that when you take things personally, you become less effective because you become defensive and lose focus on the big picture.

So as hard as it is for those of us who have worked alongside Gary for decades to imagine board meetings without Gary there (yelling at me!), it occurred to me how much harder it must be for him to retire and worry that others are going to screw up 50 years of your life’s work.

So as these new board members are now ready to be installed, I want to say to Gary:

You know we appreciate you.

You are irreplaceable and incomparable.

But you taught us well, and we’ve got this.

We are not going to screw it up.

We are not going to let you down.

As Gary was handed the award and I stepped off the stage, his first words into the mic were , “She is such a pain in the ass!” And I yelled back, “Screw you, dude!”

Love you, Gary. And thank you.

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Photo: Gerie Bunch and her husband, Tom van Rossem

2016 DSA RECIPIENT GERIE BUNCH

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CCRA Past President

As a past recipient of the Distinguished Award, I have the esteemed honor to present this award to CCRA's 2016 winner.

The DSA award is conferred to a person who has been selected on the basis of demonstrated performance and distinguished service toward the improvement and benefit of the court reporting profession over a period of at least ten (10) years.

Because of what the Distinguished Service Award represents and the persons who have received it over the past 103 years of CCRA's existence, presenting it is both a privilege and an honor.

Before talking about this year's honoree, I'd like to do two things. First, a heartfelt thank you to the other members of this year's selection committee: Lesia Mervin, Chair and Members Connie Parchman, Doreen Perkins, myself, and Tom Pringle.

Second, would all the people who've received the Distinguished Service Award in the past please stand. These people are indicative of the character of CCRA's DSA, for they represent a diverse tradition of talent, and that service speaks not only to their own excellence but to the range of activities characteristic of the reporters who make CCRA their professional association of choice.

Now to this year's recipient, who truly is an individual deserving of recognition as a result of the many hours he/she has dedicated to our profession. This individual has been a court reporter for a least two decades, perhaps

more, commencing his/her career in the deposition field and later settling in as an official reporter.

Some of this person's traits can best be described as exuberant, loyal, perseverant, dedicated and has an infectious smile. Additionally, this person strives to perform at the highest levels, always with the intent to improve CCRA's services to its members and student members.

When I was president, this individual chaired a very important committee at the time (and that committee is every bit as important today too). Without HER dedication to this committee, rest assured, CCRA would be an association lacking in serving our students.

Let me quote another past president: (with a few redactions, of course) "This committee, which is chaired by this dedication individual, 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. Her committee has done an extraordinary job helping students get through school."

This reporter began her career in 1985, and 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 live in the gorgeous High Sierras where they raised their two daughters who have careers of their own.

This individual has served CCRA as a Board member, Officer and Committee Chair since 2000. She has also devoted many hours to the Convention Committee to create the Student Track for CCRA's Annual Conventions. Not to mention her thoroughness while serving on the Finance Committee and her continued work currently with California's Court Reporter's Board testing development task force.

Her leadership as chair of the SOS committee – Support our Students – has, simply put, created an environment here at CCRA that welcomes, educates, and mentors our future leaders of court reporting, our students. The committee actively engages in activities that support court reporting students, including helping to create mentoring relationships; providing speakers for reporting school programs; and encouraging, supporting, guiding and nurturing the next generation of court reporters through their school training and during the beginning stages of their new careers.

And not to be forgotten, our winner of this year's DSA is/was the contributor to our very popular Cal-E-Licious – which to this day I still love her Salmon Dip published in the 2007 E-Grams.

Everyone, please stand and give a resounding applause to CCRA's 31st Distinguished Service Award recipient, Gerie Bunch, from Quincy, CA.

GERIE BUNCH

DSA ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The following is a lightly edited transcript of Gerie Bunch's DSA acceptance speech at the convention. It is so fitting that during her speech Gerie had the students in attendance stand and be recognized by the crowd. Gerie is all about our students!

I thought you had to be a president to be a recipient, so I knew I was never in the running because I never quite made it to that spot. But I really am grateful for the recognition.

When I started with CCRA in 2000 and Jan White two years later asked me to chair this new committee, I was -- I felt like it was a daunting proposition, but I jumped in with, you know, every ounce of energy I could give it, and came up with a plan. And things progressed along, and I'm very proud of all the different aspects of the SOS committee. Especially because with SOS people being able to say it, Support our Students? Support our Schools? Support our System?

So anyway, I want to say most of all, to all of you students who are here, would you please stand?

[cheers and applause]

The SOS Committee, originally when it became a committee, each year, I had to go to the president and say "Please continue this committee" and we would. And somewhere along the line, and I don't know quite where it happened, it became a Standing Committee, so every year I didn't have to fight for it to be a committee.

And we have all of these students here that come to conventions, and we bring them under our wings, and we mentor them. And then when they become new reporters, we try to stay liaisons so that we can help them with their first years of, "What am I doing?"

Above and beyond all of that, I want to say thank you to CCRA and encourage all of you newbies or, you know, reporters that have been around 10, 15 years, and you're not quite sure whether you want to get involved with the board. There's lots of committees. You don't even have to be on the board; you could be on a committee.

But what I have found is that the network of friends that I have been able to develop throughout the entire state.



I come from this small little town in Northern California. Southern California, it's a 10 or 12 hour drive. So but I can network with these people and say "Hey, I need you to help with this mock CSR over here." And, oh, yeah, "Could you do one in Sacramento?" "Oh, and we need one in the Bay Area." And pretty soon, you realize because of coming to conventions, meeting people, networking, this is invaluable for your career as a court reporter.

So thank you, everyone, for giving me this award.

REPORTERS DESERVE MORE RESPECT: 3 REASONS WHY CCRA IS MY FAVORITE CLIENT

By Ignacio Hernandez, Hernandez Strategy Group,
Lobbyist for CCRA

Editor's Note: Ignacio did not choose the title. He'd never admit it, but of course CCRA is his favorite client! Read on to find out why. It will make you proud to be a reporter and hopefully ready to fight for what you deserve. The following is a transcript of the speech he gave at the convention. It has been edited for accuracy and length.

Good evening, everybody.

Hopefully I want to talk a little bit about the work that we've done this past year, what we anticipate working on this coming year, and hopefully give you a little bit of insight as to what we have been doing.

A couple of things about me. CCRA brought me on two years ago. My firm is based in Sacramento about three blocks from the capitol. We have three registered lobbyists, we have other staff as well. I opened the firm about 13 years ago with a very specific goal, and that was to work with organization, associations of folks that have real fire, real energy. I really didn't want to work for just corporations or just kind of the standard business model of picking up clients just to have a portfolio. I really wanted to work for organizations that want to make a difference, that want to, you know, address problems, make things better. And, you know, my background is an attorney, and I have been practicing in a number of counties in California. You know, I really respect the work that reporters do.

[Applause]

But really when I was approached to consider CCRA as a client, it was really a no brainer for me. One, I understand the work. I understand the challenge. And in particular, I understand the challenge with the legislature and with the Judicial Council. And, again, it goes back to the real theme of respect. And it was clear to me at the moment that I was interviewed and even before then that all of you do not receive the level of respect that you should.

[Applause]

Not just some folks in your courthouse, but from legislatures, from the Judicial Council. I can't tell you how often "Oh, they just sit there and kind of type. What is the

challenge of that?" I was explaining this to my kids this weekend, showing them the machines. Their minds were blown the fact of what you can do with the machine and everything.

So, to me, the driving force is how to ensure not just success in the bills we work on, but also how do we do it in such a way that it's always anchored in trying to uplift and really elevate the respect that all of you deserve.

What I've really enjoyed about Brooke and everyone else on the Legislative Committee is that it's kind of go big or go home. That's kind of what we decided to do the last couple of years, and in particular this year. So we took on a number of issues. So we had sponsored bills, and I hope everybody understands when it's a sponsored bill, it's us. We're on the line. We're on the front lines. CCRA makes the decisions, good or bad, the political decisions, the strategic decisions. If things go well, it's on us. If things don't go well, it's on us. And it really shows the legislature how active all of you are. Because you're so active on the ground with training and helping one another. They need to that needs to be reflected in the state capitol. So we thought it was really important to sponsor these bills.

So let me just mention a couple of bills briefly because there were a lot of bills that we worked on both behind the scenes, up front. But let me talk about two of our sponsored bills this year, one of which was a carryover from last year, and that was Senate Bill 270 dealing with primarily out of state firms who, you know, contract with all of you or some of you to do work here in California for depositions.

But the goal of the bill -- let me be very clear about this -- was really to ensure the respect for the reporters. So why is it that an out of state firm can do things, and if there's a problem, why is it that the Court Reporters Board can come after you but not go after the firm that actually violated the law; right? I mean that's what the challenge has been. And really the core of it is respect for all of you. Okay? The firms know well enough to hire all of you because you're professionals, you do a great job. But they don't respect you well enough to say "You know what? We will follow the same rules that you have to follow."

MY FAVORITE CLIENT
CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

MY FAVORITE CLIENT
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

The good news is this. Of the legislators who did vote in favor of SB270 throughout the process, there was one common thing: They were absolutely blown away that you do all of this work, and for those of you in depos, your license is on the line if you break the law. But if somebody contracts with you, and they play funny business, they're not on the hook. They don't get in trouble. Each and every legislator on our side said that that is absolutely wrong.

So the fight is not over. It takes a while sometimes. We're going to get there. Okay? We're coming back. It's not a secret; right? Because that's also...

[Applause]

Respect isn't just given; it's earned. And if we gave up now, we would lose all of the respect we already gained in the legislature. So we're coming back strong, as strong. It's not a weaker bill. It's the same bill right now.

The other bill I want to mention is AB2629, and that has to do with increasing the transcript, the statutory transcript fees; right? We all know the issue. Short version is our game plan was, again, go big or go home. Okay? We're not going to be shy about the fact that each and every one of you who's in a courtroom deserves an increase because that hasn't happened since 1991. "Silence of the Lambs;" right? Yeah, believe it or not, that was the last year of the statutory increase; right? There was potential opposition from the beginning, but we got them off it. Only one entity opposed, and that was the Judicial Council. Okay? Shocked; right?

This year, we made it to the Governor's desk. And I can tell you this. It was very, very close to the governor signing it. He did not sign it. Okay? So in that regard, we didn't get that victory, and there's a reason for that. But I can tell you this: The day of the veto, the governor's office called us and told us they believe the reporters deserve a raise as part of the budget, not just in one county but the entire state. And the main victory we got this year is that the legislature sent the signal not just in words but in their votes that this increase must happen. There was no question about it happening. And it was a 30% increase, so, you know, again, we went big. It's good. There's absolutely no question about that.

Let me close on this. You know, I've worked with a lot of clients over the years. I don't want to say it's my favorite client because the client never believes that. You know, 13 years of lobbying. I've practiced law. I've worked in the capitol as a chief of staff. I was a committee consultant, you know. I taught political science at a university. I've done a lot of different things over my life. And working with all of you really brings – it kind of meshes it together all of the different principles that I like to focus on as a lobbyist, because I can bring all of that experience with me.

If you're not fully invested as a lobbyist, if you don't believe what you're fighting for, you're not going to fight as hard. These are the three things I look for in a client:

1, I have to believe in what I'm fighting for. You guys really make a convincing argument about how important your work is. You are your best advocate. Let me be very clear. Your Legislative Committee is without a doubt your best advocate. So that's 1. So I'm right there with you, but all of you are really with this.

2, It's not me; it's you. And I mean that. Any victory, it's not me. It's all of you. And that's all of the work that I do with all of my clients. If the client's not willing to do the work, then how could they expect me to do it? So all of you, the Leg Committee, the late night calls, oh, let's start the meeting at 10:30 or whatever it was at night thanks to my kids in the room already falling asleep. I sit outside in a special place where my cell phone actually works for those committee calls. We're going back and forth, "Oh, that's a good approach" or "No, that's a bad approach." That's the best part of it because you're all in for it for a change. Speak for yourself. That's a key principle for how I work.

3, The third thing is just fight. You know? That's what I like about lobbying. We believe in fight. If it's that important, you fight for it. You don't give up. We don't care what people tell you. Don't say "Well, you're never going to win." You know what? They've told me that a lot of times. I've had 15 bills on the governor's desk. We got 12 signed. We're going to get your guys' bills signed next year, too.

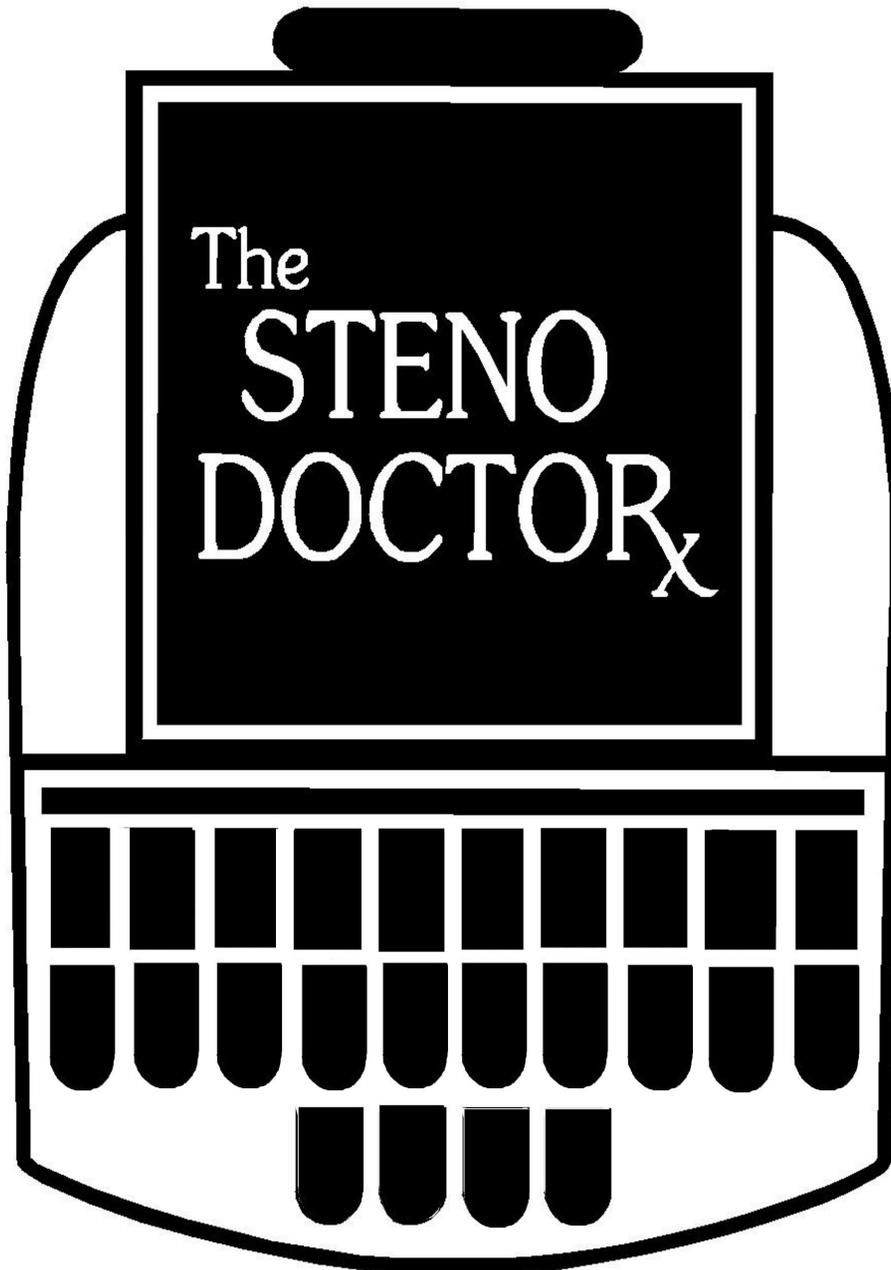
So I want to thank Brooke and everybody on the Legislative Committee for all of the work that you've done and each and every one of the members who sent e mails, letters, showed up at the capitol, didn't get scared off when you received e mails from other folks telling you that how bad 270 was. Good work on their part, but it didn't work. They have to be a little bit more creative. That's my thought.

So thank you for letting me be your lobbyist. Thank you for letting me work for you. And we're going to keep fighting because this was the year of the court reporter. There's more respect for court reporters in the state capitol than in years before, so let's just keep it going.



"So, to me, the driving force is how to ensure not just success in the bills we work on, but also how do we do it in such a way that it's always anchored in trying to uplift and really elevate the respect that all of you deserve."

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CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTING SPEED CHAMPION 2016!



Photo: 2016 Speed Champ Tami Frazier

CCRA's California Court Reporting Speed Contest is back! Last contested 10 years ago at the 100th Annual Convention, CCRA brought the speed contest back this year.

The contest consisted of two 5-minute dictations at 270 wpm Q&A and 220 wpm Legal Opinion.

The 2016 California Court Reporting Speed Champion is: Tami Frazier! Tami is an official with Riverside County Superior Court and a regular top finalist in NCRA speed contests.

SPEED CONTEST RESULTS:

270 Q&A

1st place: Denise Alday

2nd place: Tami Frazier

3rd place: Chase Frazier

220 Legal Opinion

1st place Tami Frazier

2nd place: Debra Bollman

3rd place: Naren Jansen

A Note from California Court Reporting Speed Contest Champ Tami Frazier:

Thank you, CCRA, for doing all the hard work it takes to put on a speed contest. I was so happy to hear you were bringing the contest back. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all your hard work! Thank you to all who commented, liked, loved, and wowed. I've lost count how many contest legs I've failed since 2000 when I entered my very first speed contest. Trust me when I say if I can be declared a speed champ, ANYBODY can.

Matthew Martinez, you ROCK!! I know I hugged you over the legal limit, BUT I appreciate all you did to bring back the CCRA speed contest and all your devotion and hard work. Thank you, MaryBeth for making the grading process feel seamless from our end. I know you must have dedicated many hours to it. It could not have been as easy as you made it seem. Thank you, Brooke Ryan, for all your help and encouragement too.

Thank you to my fellow competitors. You all are AMAZING! CCRA could not have a speed contest without us. Let's at least double our numbers next year!

And a special thanks to Chase Frazier. What a thrill it was to share the "stage" with you. Great job on your third place finish! Momma gotcha this time!

1st place 270 Q&A

If you were in attendance at the awards presentations, you remember what electricity went through the crowd when the 1st place finisher of the 270 Q&A was announced. Denise Alday is an official with Fresno Superior Court and had never competed in a speed contest before. Was she surprised at how well she did? "I was extremely surprised. I actually felt I had bombed the whole thing." Asked if she would be competing again at the convention in October, 2017, and did she have any advice to others entering for the first time, Denise modestly replied, "I do plan on competing next year. I don't think I'm the best person offering advice as part of me still feels this was a fluke." Will she repeat her feat?

Maybe YOU are a speed champion and don't even know it. Start practicing now for the 2017 Speed Contest in Newport Beach!

SAVE THE DATE



CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

107th Annual Convention

OCTOBER 6 - 9, 2017 • NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA

TURNING YOUR GREAT IDEAS INTO LEGISLATION

By Carolyn Dasher, CCRA Past President and 2016-17 Legislative Committee Chair

CCRA has been in existence for over 100 years promoting and protecting stenographic reporters. Throughout the years, CCRA has sponsored a plethora of legislation designed to enhance and protect the careers within judicial reporting - both in and out of the courtroom.

Now with CART providers and captioners as CCRA members and members of our Board of Directors, CCRA has you covered no matter what aspect of our career you derive your income from now or in the future.

At its quarterly board meeting in Sacramento on November 19-20, 2016, CCRA will convene the first Legislative Council meeting for the 2017 legislative year. At that time, individuals and representatives of local associations from all over the state will huddle with CCRA lobbyists, Ignacio Hernandez and Morgan Carvajal, to discuss possible legislative endeavors to recommend to the CCRA Board of Directors for their vote. Decisions this big are ultimately made by your fellow stenographic professionals, your elected board representatives, a role that they take very seriously because their decisions may affect our profession for decades.

Your ideas matter! For example, one year, a member of the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association brought to Legislative Council the idea to prohibit our rough drafts from being quoted or used in attorneys' briefs. CCRA then introduced legislation that was signed into law by the governor, and now that bright idea is CCP 273(b) now protecting your work product in California.

I challenge you to talk with your colleagues and come up with a legislative idea. Either in consultation with your local association or on your own, send an email to carolyn.dasher@cal-ccra.org using the outline below and submit your great idea.

CCRA continues to thrive as it has for over 100 years because we listen to our members. We are stronger together. We are looking forward to another exciting and productive legislative year!

CCRA LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL 2017

Proposal No. _____ of _____

Presented on behalf of: _____
(YOUR COUNTY, COURT, FIRM, OR ASSOCIATION NAME, OR YOURSELF)

This Proposal applies to OFFICIALS/
FREELANCERS/CART OR BROADCAST
CAPTIONING: _____

Proposal Rationale: (State your idea and how it would benefit the profession)

(Optional) Proposed Amendment to: (List pertinent Code Section)

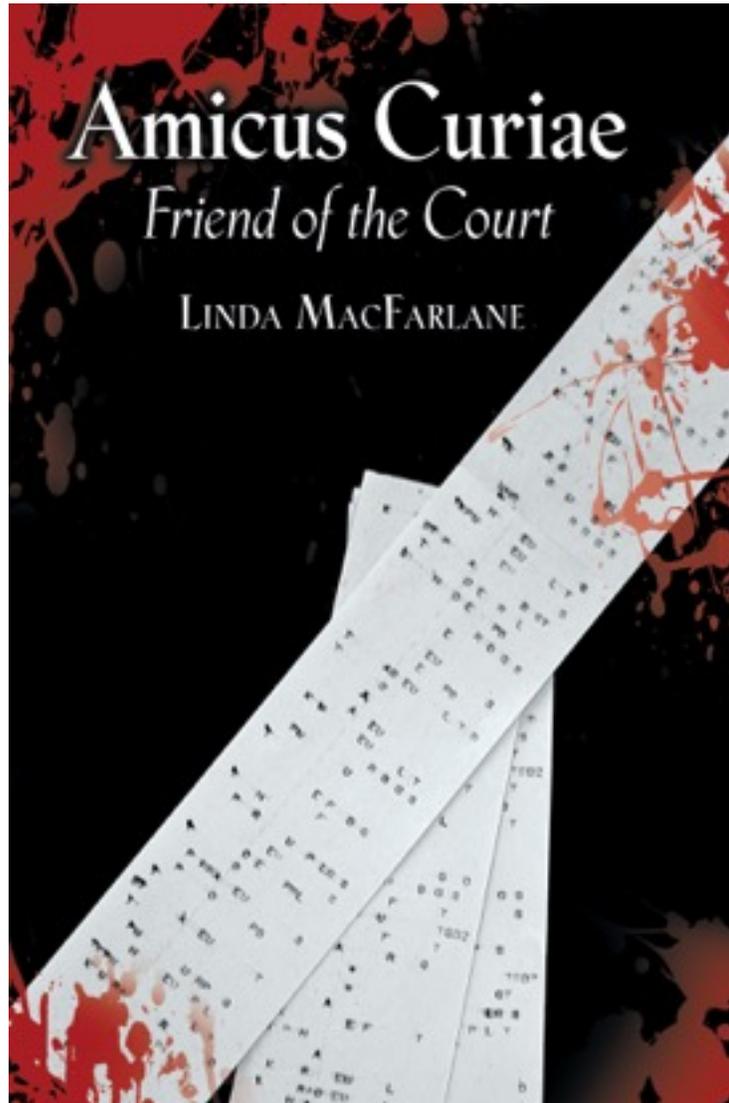
(Optional) Suggested Language for Amendment: (Add proposed language for your concept)

Email to: carolyn.dasher@cal-ccra.org

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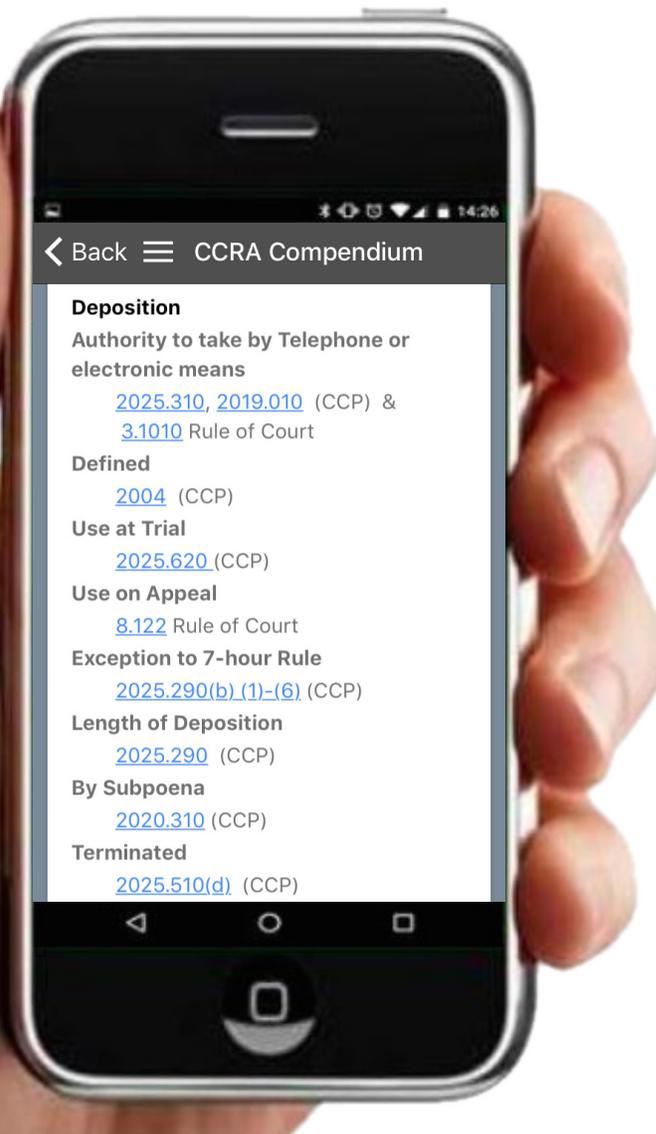
CCRA COMPENDIUM IS NOW AN APP!

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CCRA is proud to break new ground by becoming the first court reporters association in the nation to launch an e-Compendium, offering exactly the same high-level content as our yearly paperback publication now in electronic form.

Use it like Google. Simply plug in keywords, and voila, your info is delivered in search results. But better than Google, you can simply plug in a general topic to instantly get a list of topics.

The app includes a tutorial.



PRO TIPS:

Type in "Deposition Crucial Information" and you get the verbiage of all the oaths, the Federal Court Read-on, a deposition checklist, and links to best practices for depositions. Perfect for reporters new to depositions. Faster than asking Facebook. It's like a mentor in your phone.

Type in "Deposition," and you get an alpha listing of common codes

Type in "Fees" to get all of the codes that apply to fees instantly

Type in "Electronic Recording,"

ALSO INCLUDED:

JURY INSTRUCTIONS (Links to BAJI AND CALCRIM)!

We have consolidated the Freelance/CART and Official compendiums into one easy-to-use app, so now for the cost of one or the other, you now have both!

The CCRA e-Compendium is available for iOS and Android platforms and can be downloaded on all mobile devices. Search for "CCRA" in your app store to download the app and begin your subscription.

You can also subscribe on your desktop at <https://ccracodes.com>, and then download the app onto all of your handheld devices; whichever is easiest for you.

New Pricing! Subscription for non-members is \$99 annually. Members save 40% and pay only \$59 annually – one more perk of being a CCRA member!

Please contact our office for questions about bulk purchasing for schools and students.



BOOT CAMP

CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017
9:00 AM TO 5:30 PM**

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FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER PLEASE VISIT WWW.CAL-CCRA.ORG



GETTING READY FOR BOOT CAMP 2017!

By Karly Powers, CSR

**SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 28, 2017, IN BURBANK, CA
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

When most people hear the words "boot camp," it oftentimes doesn't create a positive thought. For court reporters and myself, hearing "CCRA's BOOT CAMP" creates immense excitement. BOOT CAMP is now in its fourth year, and since taking over the planning of BOOT CAMP last year, I've grown to love what this event brings to our profession. BOOT CAMP isn't just a day full of networking and learning about our profession; it's so much more than that. BOOT CAMP resonates with CCRA's goal of being there for you in every step of your career. We are there for you as a student, new reporter, and as a working reporter through your preparation for retirement.

BOOT CAMP has something for EVERYONE. Sometimes life throws curve balls at us and we may need to change our career path, while other times we simply crave change. Well, when your time comes to change gears as a reporter, we want you to feel prepared and confident. Whether you're a freelancer taking on court work, or vice versa, a pro tem reporter applying to become an official, a student trying to make a good name for yourself, or maybe you want to retire and become a Broadcast Captioner or CART Captioner – well, all the information you could possibly need is at CCRA's BOOT CAMP.

FREELANCE DEPOSITION REPORTING

During our Freelance session, you'll hear what firm owners want from new reporters and reporters transitioning into

the freelance workforce. You'll learn all about what being a freelancer entails and how to be efficient and successful through all phases of the job. Realtime tips for more efficient transcript preparation will be discussed by the speaker. This session will cover the importance of dressing the part and how to maintain professionalism at all times. Provided to all attendees will be the speaker's interview tips for face-to-face meetings with a firm owner and how to make a positive impression. The speaker will provide any briefs or realtime writing "musts" to be the best freelancer possible. Also provided will be a list of all the basics of taking a deposition, from equipment to asking the client of their transcript needs and more.

NETWORKING AND MARKETING YOURSELF

Lesia Mervin will be at BOOT CAMP to present her seminar, "How Marketable Am I?" She'll be covering how she went from an official with a set retirement plan/goal to a world of new opportunities. She will be going into what is necessary to get the most out of your reputation and how to make solid networking relationships. You'll learn all about what it takes to build your brand and market yourself so you'll have all the opportunities in the world when you want and need them. Lesia will share her success and what's necessary for your transitioning into other areas of the court reporting field.

CART CAPTIONING

Speed contest finalist Chase Frazier will speak about how he went from a student straight into his dream job as a CART Captioner. Chase will be telling us all about CART from how to land the job, doing the job, and what comes after the job. We'll learn tips on writing styles that work for him and the things that are most important for being a top-notch CART Captioner.

BROADCAST CAPTIONING

Learn from Debra Bollman what it takes to be a broadcast captioner. Debra will be speaking about the job duties require for this career and the qualifications necessary for it. She will cover efficient writing styles and what she has done to get her writing up to par for her career. Job options for this profession will be covered and the benefits of being self-employed vs. an employee. You'll hear all about the job opportunities that are available in this career and how to obtain them. Since Debra has done many different jobs within the court reporting profession, she'll also be covering how to transition into this job from being a verbatim reporter. Attendees will be provided realtime writing tips and necessities, dictionary building tips, on-the-job advice, and any networking advice she has for transitioning into this profession.

**BOOT CAMP 2017
CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**

OFFICIAL REPORTING

Brooke Ryan will be covering the duties of an official and official pro tem. Brooke will go over the rules of a pro tem, including freelancers working in court, and all that you're responsible for. She will be speaking about the importance of networking and creating positive relationships with court staff. The topic of interviewing and applying for a job as a pro tem for an officialship will be covered in great length and what she believes makes a great official and pro tem. Provided to all attendees will be a sample court resume. Also provided will be interview tips and knowledge, trigger words to remember during an interview, and potential questions to ask the interviewer.

NETWORKING IS PRICELESS!

Bring your business and resumes with you for a great networking opportunity. Need some advice on your business card or resume content and style? CCRA will have a networking booth where you will have the opportunity to get advice from Karly Powers (yours truly) on fine-tuning your resume to make your career history stand out from the pile and discuss options best for you and your career goals.

Stay tuned for more information by liking CCRA's Facebook page, California Court Reporters Association. Our website, www.cal-ccra.org, will also be updated with registration and hotel information as the event gets closer. See you all on January 28, 2017 at Pickwick Gardens in Los Angeles! We can't wait!



SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS COMMITTEE'S UPCOMING CAREER FAIRS

By Karly Powers, Chair

The primary goal of CCRA's Support Our Students Committee is to support our beloved future: the students. In addition to supporting our students, it is our mission to bring new students into this profession to fill the seats of all those retiring soon.

There are a number of career fairs coming up in the Spring of 2017 that we plan to attend. As members, we love your support and greatly appreciate your time in helping us in this endeavor. If you'd like to be part of any of these career fairs, I'm available to talk with you anytime. Please feel free to email me at karly.powers@cal-ccra.org.

CCRA has developed a great "Career Day Kit" that we are able to email to any member wanting a copy. It's full of helpful information on how to have the most successful career day possible. The CDK contains printable CCRA charts and brochures detailing our profession and the possible job opportunities in court reporting. We also provide you detailed example photos and a checklist of suggested items to bring with you. CCRA would love your help in promoting our profession and spreading the word about the need for reporters in the near future.

Here is a list of the locations and dates for our future career fairs:

- Alhambra Unified School District @ Alhambra High School, Los Angeles, February 23, 2017, 2pm-5pm.
- El Dorado School District @ Union Mine High School, El Dorado, Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 6:30-8:30 pm.
- SacSTEM Fair @ American River College, Sacramento, Saturday, March 25, 2017, time TBD.
- Sacramento State College Fair @ Sacramento State, Sunday, April 30, 2017, time TBD.
- Willits Chamber of Commerce Career Fair @ Willits High School, Willits, CA, May 18, 2017 8:00 am - 2:00 pm.

We may learn of more career fairs in the near future, so please let us know if you'd like to be added to CCRA's list of speakers/presenters. As always, your membership dues are hard at work with events such as these. We truly enjoy representing our members at these career fairs and take great pride in the opportunity.

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Jan Schmitt, RPR, CSR, CCR
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What does my firm love about the Diamante?

"We want our reporters to use the Diamante because it reflects the high standards at YOM. The touch and reliability are second to none."

Cheryl A. Mangio, CMRS, CRR, RMR, CCR
Yamaguchi Obien Mangio (YOM) Reporting & Video



What do I love about my Diamante?

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Rick Greenspan, FAPR, RMR, CRR, FPR
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What does my firm love about the Diamante?

"The reporters at Wood & Randall love the new Diamante because of its light touch, its great audio backup, and how quick and easy it is to set up with or without being hooked up to a laptop."

Christine Randall, CSR, RPR
Wood & Randall—Owner and President



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PAY FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES USING CCRA MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS!

Current CCRA members, we have an exciting offer for you.

For every new member you get to join CCRA, we will give you \$25 in membership dollars. This also extends to any unrenewed member that you get to rejoin. The membership drive will run for a full year.

There is no limit to the amount of membership dollars you can; however, membership dollars can only be used to reduce the price of your own CCRA membership renewal dues.

Be sure that each person you get to join or rejoin lists your name in the "Referred By" section when they sign up online so that you get your membership dollars added to your account.

Membership dues received by CCRA support all of our legislative efforts to protect our profession. CCRA offers freelance and official reporters, CART providers, and broadcast captioners an awesome network of professionals that understand the challenges we all face in this profession. CCRA will continue to support you, and we are excited to launch this membership drive to grow our network of talented and dedicated professionals.



HOLIDAY CHEER WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

The holidays are upon us. What this means is that you can be proactive meeting with your legislative representatives in a way that will help CCRA help your profession in the coming legislative year.

Follow this link to find your Assemblymember and Senator:

<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>

Peruse their website and sign up for their newsletters. You'll get information regularly about the issues they care about and when their holiday party is.

Try something new and attend your legislators' holiday parties. You can go with another reporter, your family, a neighbor. Introduce yourself as a court reporter official, freelance, CART provider or Captioner and let them know how happy your family and neighbors are that your chosen profession helps so many people by providing the most accurate record.

Or simply send them a holiday card mentioning that you're a court reporter.

Help CCRA help you. Let us know at info@cal-ccra.org when you've done this. Thank you for being proactive to help your profession!