



This is a preliminary schedule and subject to change. CEU approval pending.

Thursday, September 10, 2026

12:00 p.m. – ~4:00 p.m. **ILCRA Board Meeting**

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **REALTIME CONTEST**

Friday, September 11, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Gary L. Sonntag Memorial SPEED CONTEST**

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Convention Registration Open

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **ILCRA Business Meeting (No CEUs)**

4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Vendor Area Open

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Tammi Sefranek & Marlene Kerr – From the Courtroom to Congress: The Role of an Official Reporter in the U.S. House of Representatives**

Gain insight into the role of an Official Reporter for the U.S. House of Representatives and how that role ensures transparency, accountability, and preservation of the legislative historical record. Hear firsthand experiences of capturing high-profile proceedings during committee hearings and legislative debates on the House floor. You will gain an understanding of how legislative proceedings ultimately become part of the Congressional Record.

Friday, September 11, 2026 (continued)

- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Don Shake – Behind the Screen: Cybersecurity for Court Reporters**
Gain the insight you need, filtered through the lens of court reporting life when it comes to potential online risk and what to do about those risks: using AI tools with confidential legal documents, ransomware and phishing threats, secure remote work, and cloud storage.
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Lisa Shake – Lights! Action! Your Money: Financial Planning Essentials for Court Reporters**
Let your finances take front and center stage! Learn the different financial planning needs of official and freelance court reporters – everything from identifying key tax considerations, to retirement and financial protective strategies - and how to apply these practices to your career and business.
- 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Golden Keys Gala – President’s Reception**
One of the "key" takeaways of attending conferences is creating and solidifying our court reporting network across the State. ILCRA recognizes the importance of bringing us all together for a number of reasons – including to have a little social fun! President Lorie Kennedy invites you to attend the Golden Keys Gala and "Step Into the Spotlight" in your best Red Carpet-inspired, Met Gala-style formalwear – although a fancy dress or suit and tie are not required to attend! We do, however encourage you to have some fun with your attire!

For Friday, 3.0 Illinois Hours or .30 NCRA CEUs available.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. **Sponsored Breakfast**
(Single Sponsorship Opportunity available NOW! Email ILCRA to secure this spot!)
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Stacy Drohosky, RDR, CRR, FCRR, CRI**
Keeping Steno in the Spotlight: Why State Associations Matter
Have you ever wondered what your professional association does for you? The answer might surprise you. Attendees will learn how association membership can impact their careers, expand their professional networks, and strengthen the future of court reporting. You'll leave with a better understanding of the value of membership, new ideas for becoming engaged, and a renewed appreciation for the power of a strong professional community.
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Kathryn Thomas – Smooth Like Butter: De-awkwardizing Your CART Jobs**
We've read articles and heard seminars on how to optimize one's writing skills for captioning. But what about everything else involved in the job, from technology to interpersonal interactions to everything in between? With a focus on onsite CART jobs, we'll discuss those sticking points, tough bits, and awkward times. We'll also trade stories and strategies to either recover from cringy moments or prevent them outright, as well as discuss tips, hacks, and ideas that will make your CART captioning job much easier and your life much smoother!

Saturday, September 12, 2026 (continued)

- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Networking and Vendor Break
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Dave Wenhold – Behind the Scenes: AI, NCRA, and YOU**
Knowledge is power. Understanding what is happening with AI in the legal setting is on everyone’s mind. This session will provide practical information to help you separate fact from fear, navigate the real impact of emerging technologies, and see how NCRA is actively advocating to ensure court reporters remain the essential, irreplaceable professionals in the record-making process.
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Nancy Davis Awards Luncheon**
- 1:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Networking and Vendor Break
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Brittan Bolin, Amy Ballinger-Cole – Legislative Update**
Join Brittan and Amy, our “keys” to Springfield, for an update on what’s been happening at the legislative level, and what you can do to stay proactive with your local representatives.
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Greg Weiland, JoAnn Losoya – Realtime Hacks from “Silver Screen” Stars**
Realtime veterans JoAnn Losoya and Greg Weiland will share some of their favorite realtime hacks to make a realtime job go more smoothly – everything from explaining what you can do to accomplish some meaningful prep work before your job starts to ensuring connectivity to attorney devices. This dynamic duo will also review the different realtime viewing platforms that are available; and you might hear a “war story” or two and some funny mis-stroke blunders. Bring your favorite hack, or share your own stories! This will be a fun, interactive session.
- 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Networking and Vendor Break
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. **Whitney Kumar – Opening Doors: Building Relationships, Reputation, and Opportunity in Court Reporting**
Whitney is no stranger to the spotlight! In this heartfelt and engaging presentation, Whitney will share the relationships, risks, and unexpected opportunities that shaped her journey -- from court reporting school to LA Superior Court, entrepreneurship, to working alongside Judge Judy! Through personal stories, humor, and practical takeaways, Whitney explores the power of mentorship, reputation, adaptability, and saying "yes" before you feel ready. You will leave feeling encouraged, connected, and reminded that some of the biggest opportunities in life often begin with one relationship, one conversation, or one brave YES.

***For Saturday, 7.0 Illinois Hours or .70 NCRA CEUs available.
Total of 10 Illinois Hours or 1.0 NCRA CEUs for Friday & Saturday.***