



IL

CRA

SUMMER

2019

www.ilcra.org

ad infinitum

ILLINOIS
COURT
REPORTERS
ASSOCIATION

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President's Message



Even though it may not feel like it because currently our Illinois weather is on shuffle, the Spring Equinox has finally arrived, and with it, our Biennial Marathon seminar. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Every two years, your Illinois CSR license comes up for renewal and, with that, the requirement of 10 hours of continuing education. As a service to our members, every two years ILCRA hosts a one-day Marathon session, where attendees may receive all 10 hours of CEUs in one very long day. This year the session was in Lombard.

Our Executive Director (and NCRA Interim Executive Director) Dave Wenhold started off the day with a session about body language, which I've seen a few times and continue to benefit from whenever I've seen it.

Doreen Sutton, RPR, past president of the Arizona Court Reporters Association and past board member of NCRA, presented two seminars regarding Project Steno. Their mission statement is:

Project Steno promotes the stenographic court reporting/captioning profession through social media and community outreach, with the goal of building a robust pipeline

of students into school and graduating them in two years.

She discussed setting and meeting goals, and how Project Steno is bringing the Steno A to Z program to our military bases to help find new candidates for stenotype training.

If you are interested in hosting a Steno A to Z program, please see discoversteno.org to find out more.

Attendees were also treated to seminars about modern slang, career transitioning, reaching for the next level in stenotype skill, and CART captioning from the perspective of the deaf/hard-of-hearing consumer.

We held an ILCRA Town Hall meeting, which will be held again in Springfield this September during our annual convention.

One of two major subjects we discussed were an update on SB 2128, the Voice-Writer Reporters Act, which will add voice writing as a certified method of reporting. Voice writers will need to pass the exact same test that we do in order to obtain the Illinois CSR license. As of this writing, it has passed the Illinois

continued on page 4



LEXITAS™

For over 35 years, **Lexitas** has been providing the very best in court reporting services to our clients. To meet ever-increasing demand, we are always looking to add talented, professional, and highly motivated reporters to our team.



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PRESIDENT

Kathryn A. Thomas
217-273-5789; Caseyville, IL
stenoray1@gmail.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Georgia Long
217-259-7862; Bloomington, IL
gb.rollins17@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Deborah Cohen-Rojas
DCohen-Rojas@lakecountyil.gov

SECRETARY

Pamela Taylor
630-435-6409; Darien, IL
ptaylor054@aol.com

TREASURER

Donna Banks
dnalepka1@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Isaiah Roberts
815-993-8250; Magnolia, IL
isaiahpaul94@gmail.com

REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Ann Casale (Freelance)
mac@casalereporting.com

REGION ONE REPRESENTATIVE

Etta Jones (Official)
ettarjonescsr@aol.com

REGION TWO REPRESENTATIVE

Vacant (Freelance)

REGION TWO REPRESENTATIVE

Kim Cottrell (Official)
kimrcottrell@icloud.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Vernita Allen-Williams
847-377-3751; Lindenhurst, IL
Vallen-Williams@lakecountyil.gov

EDUCATION LIAISON

Bernice E. Radavich
630-257-3040; Lemont, IL
bercaptions@sbcglobal.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

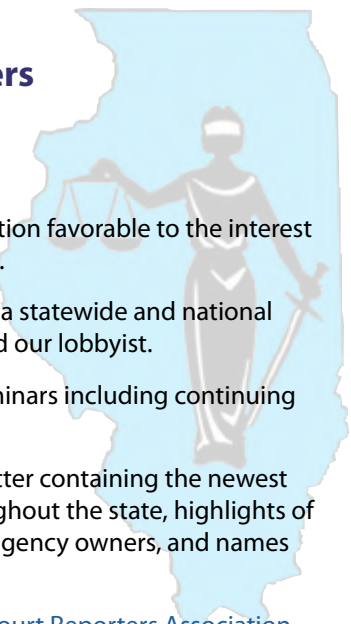
Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC
703-927-1453; Ashburn, VA
contact@ilcra.org

For a listing of all **committees and current committee members**

[CLICK HERE](#)

What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

- **Works** to maintain your right to be certified.
- **Monitors, promotes, and lobbies** to pass legislation to the interest of court reporters, captioners and CART providers.
- **Monitors** legislation affecting our professions on a statewide and national basis through both our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist.
- **Sponsors** an annual conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- **Publishes** *Ad Infinitum*, a quarterly online newsletter containing the newest up-to-the-minute reporting developments throughout the state, highlights of board meetings, advertisements of vendors and agency owners, and names and telephone numbers of ILCRA officers.
- **Serves** as an affiliated state unit of the [National Court Reporters Association](#).
- **Offers** members significantly reduced rates for the conventions and seminars.
- **Awards** Student Scholarships, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator, and conducts [speed contests](#) each year.
- **Provides** resources on the ILCRA website, including the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws. It also includes officers' names and contact information as well as Committees and Committee Members. ILCRA Member Information is included on the website under "Find a Reporter."
- **Offers** an Online Student Mentor Program.
- **Promotes** student recruitment.
- **Organizes** letter-writing campaigns on issues affecting our professions.
- **Sends** representative members to legislative boot camps, leadership conferences, and the national convention for training and education.
- **Provides** reporters for demonstrations on request and attends career days throughout the state.
- **Provides** free CART brochures to its members.
- **Provides** a court reporters network through Constant Contact which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via email.
- **Serves** the membership with the phone number 703-729-4861 and a [website](#).
- **Provides** an association management company to assist members.



ILCRA MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain standards of excellence in verbatim shorthand reporting, to provide continuing educational opportunities and advocate technological advancements, and to promote a spirit of mutual assistance between the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting and its consumers.

President's Message

Continued from front page

Senate unanimously and is headed for the House.

We will continue to update our membership on the status of this bill as events happen.

The second subject was the fight against digital reporting, which affects every one of us in Illinois, as well as each board member. We on the board are full-time working reporters as well, so absolutely we are fighting the fight as well.

NCRA is collecting confirmed reports of digital audio recording failures, and they have requested each

individual state submit these reports to them, so we can aggregate evidence to help us counter common arguments that digital reporting companies make. If you hear of such failures in Illinois, please submit them to Region 2 Representative-Official Kim Cottrell. Her contact information is in the sidebar in this newsletter.

If you are on Facebook, we recently published a lovely graphic illustrating the difference between stenotype reporting and digital reporting, which was developed by Region 1 Representative-Freelance Mary Ann Casale. [This graphic is also on our website](#), so feel free to download it, share it, or print it out and include it with your marketing materials.

We had some good ideas coming out of the Town

steno vs. digital

Steno reporters and so-called "digital reporters" are being touted as like professionals doing the same thing in different ways, but nothing could be further from the truth!

academic training required
the standard court reporting program is two years

voice-to-text record
the spoken word is instantaneously displayed in realtime allowing for immediate delivery of draft or final transcript

State licensure and oversight
must follow Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act and mandatory continuing education

controls the proceedings and monitors record integrity
when simultaneous discussion occurs or someone is soft-spoken, the reporter immediately interrupts to maintain an accurate and clear record

accurate verbatim record
never worry about how the transcript will read

equipment failure
equipment failure may not be apparent until long after the proceedings have ended

adequate transcript at best
"inaudible" or "simultaneous speaking" is considered acceptable reporting, and digitals allow it

Who's doing the credentialing?
no State-accredited training programs established

transcription after the fact
audio and exhibits may pass to several transcriptionists via internet before you receive a transcript

no licensure or certification required
must apply for notary public in order to swear in witness

ILCRA

**Steno is the Gold Standard!
Protect the integrity of your record and the security of your client's information!**

Hall, such as the concept of an outreach program to the Bar and legal professionals. Ideas, however, aren't helpful unless we have enough people to implement them.

What we need next are volunteers.

Each of us on the board is a volunteer, and we work full-time, and we need help to implement these ideas. If you have sustainable, actionable ideas and would like to help in the fight, please roll up your sleeves and contact the committee head of your particular area of interest. All contact information is on the newsletter sidebar.

ILCRA Secretary Pam Taylor is the Freelance Committee chair, and she is collecting ideas AND volunteers to help with the ideas for fighting digital reporting.

Region 1 Representative-Official is Etta James. She needs official reporters willing to serve as circuit representatives for ILCRA. Years ago, we had one reporter in each circuit be responsible for helping ILCRA distribute information to and from Illinois official

reporters. We're going to reinstitute this method, so please contact her if you're interested in serving and/or know of someone who could be.

If public relations and outreach is your thing, Isaiah Roberts is your contact person. He's chair of the Public Relations Committee and has done numerous school visits as well as social media outreach.

Rita Corson is head of our Contest committee, which oversees our speed and realtime contests at our annual convention, and she could always use helpers to proctor and grade the tests. Contact her at racorson@yahoo.com.

ILCRA is a volunteer organization staffed by volunteers, and the reason for our continued success and vibrancy is 100% because of our passionate members who step up and help in our mission. Thank you to everyone who's lent a hand, and thank you to those who will rise to the challenge of volunteering. We need you, and we need each other.

~ Kathryn Thomas, RDR, CRC, CSR

pd PLANET DEPOS
We Make It Happen » Anywhere™
CHICAGO-AREA REALTIME

» LED BY COURT REPORTERS

Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, President, is pleased to announce that Chicago-area Realtime & Court Reporting has been acquired by Planet Depos, LLC, a global court reporting company.
Committed to your success, NCRA-credentialed leadership team with 100+ years in the business. Unlimited opportunities to make as little or as much as you want. Experienced, friendly back-office support.

ARE YOU A CERTIFIED REPORTER DEDICATED TO PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AND INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH A LIKE-MINDED TEAM?

Contact: kathy.dilorenzo@planetdepos.com

Save the Date

The Annual ILCRA Convention will be in Springfield on September 5-7, 2019. The amazing seminars include an important legislative update from ILCRA's lobbyist, a panel of judges and attorneys on how to make a great record, how to provide captions for great events like Coachella, Have Writer Will Travel and Ethics Jeopardy from Jason Meadors, and many other great ones. This is a can't-miss opportunity to get affordable CEUs while networking with your colleagues. You will be able to sign up for convention on the new website or you can simply fill out the form attached in the newsletter here. Sign up now and send the form back to HQ.

Nominate deserving members and students for ILCRA's highest awards.

Each year, ILCRA asks you to nominate some of your fellow colleagues and students to receive ILCRA's awards given out at the annual convention.

Specifically, there are three awards that are given out to worthy candidates: the ILCRA student scholarship, the Distinguished Service Award, and the Award of Excellence that is given to an outstanding educator.

Please nominate a worthy person for these great awards. You can go to www.ilcra.org to find the forms or simply click on the links below.

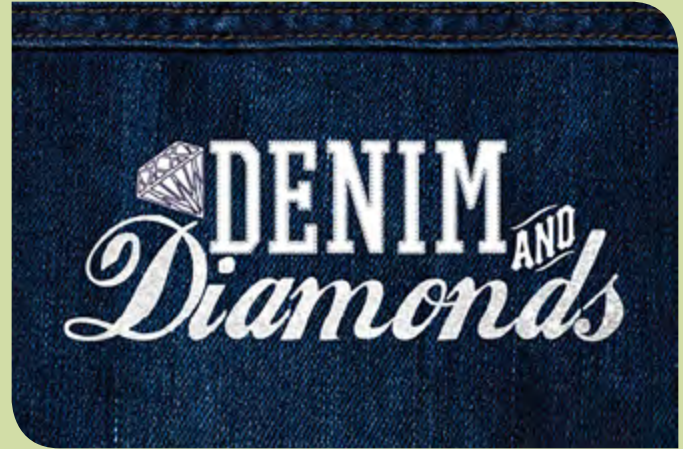
[Student Scholarship](#)

[Distinguished Service Award](#)

[Award of Excellence](#)

The ILCRA Board meeting at the Annual Convention will be held on Thursday, September 5 at 6:30 pm. ILCRA members are welcome to attend the meeting.

ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION September 5-7, 2019



Veteran's History Project Update

Grassroots and You

Ethics Jeopardy

Have Writer Will Travel

Hooking Up Realtime

State of Court Reporting in Illinois

End Users Panel on How Do They Use the Record

AND So Much More!



President Abraham Lincoln
SPRINGFIELD
A DOUBLETREE BY HILTON



**2019 ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION EARLY
BIRD REGISTRATION**
September 5-7, 2019
President Abraham Lincoln Hotel -
Springfield

Cancellations received in writing by August 1 will be refunded in full.

Refund requests received after August 18 will incur a \$50 administrative fee.

No refunds past August 31.

Lodging Reservations: 217-544-8800

Two-Day Fee (September 6-7)

- Current ILCRA Member-\$299
- Current ILCRA Associate Member-\$155
- Current Student Member-\$155
- Nonmember-\$399

One-Day Fee (September 6 or 7)

- Current ILCRA Member-\$259
- Current ILCRA Associate Member-\$130
- Current Student Member-\$130
- Nonmember-\$369

Circle one: Friday Saturday

Speed Contest Fees

- Realtime Contest (September 5)-\$60
- Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest (September 6)-\$60
- Both Contests-\$100

Convention Sponsorship:

\$ _____

Reception Sponsorship:

\$ _____

Student Sponsorship:

\$ _____

Not an ILCRA member? Join now and save! Visit ILCRA's home page at www.ilcra.org or call 703-927-1453. If you are not from Illinois and are a member of your state association, provide proof of membership and you may register at the ILCRA member rate.

Contact	Full Name for Badge (include certifications) _____
	Mailing Address _____
	_____ (City) (State) (Zip)
	Email _____
	Primary Telephone _____ Alternate Telephone _____

Payment	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> MC <input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED, payable to ILCRA (\$10 returned check fee)	Today's Date: _____	REGISTER ONLINE at www.ilcra.org Email form to dwenhold@kmgnet.com Fax form to 703-935-2266 Mail form to ILCRA at 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza Suite 152-269 Ashburn, VA 20148 <i>Check or credit card information must accompany form.</i>
	Card Number: _____	Total Remitted:	
	Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____	\$ _____	
	Name on Card: _____		
	Address of Cardholder if different from above: _____ _____		
	Signature of Cardholder _____		



Mock Trial

By Kim Cottrell

From the very first day I became a board member, I've said it was up to us to promote our profession just about any way it takes to put what we do out in front of young people. I have to thank one of my county's state's attorney, Jamie Friye, for another opportunity.

Jamie organizes a mock trial for Law Day in Adams County for elementary school students so that they can get an idea of what an actual trial might be like. The judge, attorneys, court reporter, parties, and witnesses are people from the local Bar Association and courthouse personnel who

volunteer to be actors in the mock trial. I was fortunate enough this year to be the court reporter during these proceedings.

I would not want to swear that the 45 minutes of "trial" was conducted with somberness and straight faces. We had fun. But the best learning goes on when kids are having fun. The actors tried to play their parts with stern looks, but there were a lot of antics and laughing along the way.

Afterwards, all of our actors, none of which will ever win an Oscar, introduced themselves to the students, briefly explaining their role in the judicial process. When it was my turn, I shared with them how wonderful a career in court reporting is and that there is a shortage of court reporters all across the country.

Jamie then asked if there were

any questions from the students. I was pleased that a couple of students had questions for me and wanted to know more about "that little machine." When all the questions were asked and answered and as the students were exiting the building to continue with Law Day activities, they formed a line to look at my machine.





What really surprised me was the number of questions that came from the kids. I'm sure most of you have heard these questions: How do you do that? How do you know what keys to use when there's nothing on them? How fast do you have to be?

I told them about court reporting school, speed building, and practice. When I told them a court reporter has to attain a speed of at least 225 wpm, there were looks of disbelief that anyone could ever move their fingers that fast. I tried to encourage them and told them through court reporting school and with practice, anything was possible if it's something they really want.

I feel like it was a good experience for the students as well as me. I'm proud to be a court reporter and hope that I was able to spark an interest in these young students. Take a chance to speak to a member of your local Bar Association about participating in a mock trial or seeing who could organize one. It's another chance to provide young people with an opportunity to not only hear about what we do but actually see us doing it.



We Need Your Help to Gather Data

By Kim Cottrell

NCRA's STRONG Task Force is gathering data in order to raise awareness about the dangers and pitfalls of digital recording usage. Each state has designated a person to compile all the data for their state to provide to NCRA. For Illinois, I'm that person.

All the courthouses in my district are electronically recorded and, unfortunately, there are many proceedings that take place with no court reporter present. When I am assigned to prepare a transcript from one of these electronically recorded proceedings, there are many times I am unable to hear or understand what is being said.

This can be due to a number of factors including rustling paper, doors slamming, simultaneous speaking, or someone speaking too softly or too far away from a microphone. There are also times when someone is mumbling or speaking so fast that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to determine what is being said. In these cases, I have to insert a parenthetical, usually "indiscernible," and move on.

That's my experience as an official court reporter. I haven't had any first-hand experience with digital reporters/recorders, but I imagine it would be similar.

As a board representing all court reporters across the state, we're working hard to combat this threat. However, it can't happen without your help, and I truly need your assistance.

Anytime you come across electronic recordings that leave you scratching your heads and muttering one of those phrases I can't use here, please send me the audio clip and whatever information you can provide to kimcortrell@icloud.com. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. The more examples we can collect, the stronger our position becomes.

It doesn't matter if you are a freelance writer or in the courtroom. We're all working together to ensure a future and building respect for ourselves and the job we do.

ILCRA Nomination - ILCRA Needs You!

ILCRA is now accepting nominations for open positions on our Executive Board. If you have ever wondered "What does ILCRA do? Is ILCRA aware of this? What is ILCRA's response?" now is your opportunity to become a member of the Executive Board.

If you're a new Illinois CSR, a seasoned Illinois CSR, a retired Illinois CSR, we need you. The members of the Executive Board all volunteer their time and experience on behalf of all members of the Illinois Court Reporters Association. Fresh eyes reviewing old problems may bring about solutions.

Too busy right now to commit to the Executive Board, no problem. ILCRA also needs members for committee service. Too busy to commit to a standing committee, no problem. ILCRA also needs members willing to serve on special committees.

I look forward to receiving your nominations! [Click here for the Nomination Form.](#)

Vernita Allen-Williams
Nominating Committee Chair
vernitaaw@gmail.com

ILCRA's New Website

ILCRA will be transitioning to a brand, new website with a new look and feel. You will be able to renew your membership, register for convention, find the most recent news and get resources necessary for your job. We are always looking for more content or ideas on what you, our member, wants on the website so if you have any ideas please email them to contact@ilcra.org.

As a member you will be sent a welcome email and your NEW membership ID to sign onto the members-only area of the website. Please keep that email to refer back to. The new site should be live by June 15 so please give us your feedback on that.

Renew Your Membership NOW

ILCRA needs you to renew your membership TODAY. ILCRA works for all court reporters and captioners in Illinois to protect your livelihood but can't do it without you. Please take a moment to click on this link to fill out the [membership application](#) to ensure we have the latest information in your record. Your ILCRA membership is only 30 cents a day and that is an amazing deal to have an organization providing resources, great events, and advocacy services in the capital. Please take a moment and help make your professional organization stronger! Thank you!

Keep it Brief

By Georgia Long

USING THE F AS THE S

address DRAEF

manifest MAEF

deposit DPOFT

dressing DREFG

mechanism MIFM

WHEN THE SPWR IS ALL USED UP, GO TO KPWR

improve KPWROEF

impulse KPWRULS

import KPWRORT

imprint KPWRINT

imprison KPWRIZ

TO GET YOU THROUGH TESTIMONY

Not that I know of NOIFN

Not that I recall NAIRL

Not that I remember NAIRM

Not that I'm aware of NAOIFR

I Went to Boot Camp and Survived!

By Kim Cottrell

Bring on the HEAT!

Every so often we get caught in a situation where you just don't know what you're getting into. For me, that was last month as I headed off to my first-ever NCRA Leadership and Legislative Boot Camp held in Washington, D.C.

We were all divided into groups which would be tasked with a scenario of asking members of Congress for reauthorization of a bill. I had no idea what that meant, but okay. Also, everyone in my group was a stranger to me. Out of my comfort zone. And by this, I mean "what is the first plane I can get on to take me home" panic mode. Little did I know that by the end of the boot camp, these would be some of my favorite people.

Most of the first day was spent pretty much like any seminar you might attend: listening to presenters speak and having discussion on different topics. Some of the topics included Politics 101 and the issue of electronic/digital recording. There were a lot of questions and answers throughout the day, which was great. I don't think a single question went unanswered. I thought, No problem. I've got this.

Then towards what I thought would be the end of the day, ILCRA's Executive Director and NCRA's Interim CEO and Executive Director, Dave Wenhold, introduced the scenario and instructed everyone how to develop the game plan for the meetings and hearings we would participate in the next day.

What's this you say?! You mean I'm going to have to participate actively? I can't just sit back, listen, and learn? Talk about being out of your comfort zone! This was way beyond that for me. What gate is my plane leaving from?

Bring on the HEAT: Higher Education Action Team. This is what my group decided to name our task force. We all worked well into the evening that first night



developing our plan, including characters. My task force consisted of Councilwoman Frugal; a one-handed, deaf college student; a Spanish mom with a deaf child; Harvey Wallbanger, an elderly and late-deafened gentleman; a representative from the office of emergency preparedness; Mary Poppins, a representative of teachers; and a chopper pilot and hard-of-hearing veteran. Each of us created a backstory of why accurate captioning is so important.

All the next day was spent meeting separately with nine different role players of "members of Congress" and other professions (who were actually some of NCRA's Board Members) to gain their support for the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act ("HEA");



the day we went to Capitol Hill to speak with the actual members of Congress from each of the states. Again, beyond my comfort zone. To say I was nervous would be an understatement. While I was not fortunate enough to be able to meet with the members themselves, I was able to meet with their staff and discuss the reauthorization of HEA and why it's so important. I met with staffers in the offices of Representative Darin LaHood, Representative Tammy Duckworth, and Senator Richard Durbin. Each office was very welcoming and treated me as if my concerns were also important to them. I received positive feedback and came away feeling they would be supporting the reauthorization of the HEA training for realtime writers grant.

I am so grateful I was able to attend Boot Camp. I am armed with the tools I need and have gained the confidence and courage to be able to approach city- and state-level legislators to discuss important issues in court reporting. I am able to help to lead our profession in the right direction. And the friendships forged during the intensive three days of Boot Camp will be everlasting. If you ever get an opportunity yourself to attend Boot Camp, I would highly encourage it. Step out of your zone. Take a chance. You'll surprise yourself and have some fun along the way.

specifically, the training for realtime writers grant. After each meeting, we were able to have a discussion on how we can improve and things to remember to say and do. After all the individual meetings, we also presented at a committee hearing in front of four role players. During each meeting and at the committee hearing, the Board Members were tough on us and asked questions we weren't always prepared for.

The last day of Boot Camp was the BIG day,

Are You Making Time to Promote Court Reporting?

By Vernita Allen-Williams

Greetings, ILCRA members.

As some of you know, I am very passionate about our court reporting students. Since becoming a licensed court reporter, I have made a point to visit high school students promoting court reporting as a career choice, and I visit the court reporting schools in Illinois yearly. For the first time in 30-plus years, I literally don't have time to schedule a visit.

I recently accepted a federal official relief court reporter position, which has changed my availability. So how do I make time to encourage students in court reporting school? What can I do? I've mentored in the past, and I'm hoping to mentor going forward via the Internet. It takes seconds to respond to a text message. It takes minutes to sponsor a student for convention.

You're invited to join ILCRA in reaching out to the court reporting schools in Illinois, leaving your contact information, and make time to mentor a court reporting student.

LEO J **WORTH** BUSINESS EQUIPMENT

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Chicago, IL 60641
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9 North County St., Suite 102 • Waukegan, IL 60085

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Spread the word!

Encourage someone you know to explore court reporting, captioning, and CART as a career. Ensuring that qualified reporters are in the field is the only way to protect the profession and to fight digital technologies from taking over our industry.

Local Court Reporter Training Programs

College of Court Reporting*

111 W. 10th Street, #111, Hobart, IN 46342
866.294.3974 www.ccr.edu

MacCormac College*

29 E. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60602
312.922.1884 www.maccormac.edu

Midstate College*

411 W. Northmoor Road, Peoria, IL 61614
309.692.4092 www.midstate.edu

South Suburban College*

16333 S. Kilbourn Ave., Oak Forest, IL 60452
708.596.2000 www.southsuburbancollege.edu

**NCRA Certified*

Join ILCRA

**Membership with the Illinois Court Reporters Association has its privileges!
As a member, you receive exclusive benefits, including:**

AD INFINITUM - our quarterly e-newsletter

Discounted **ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION** and Seminar registration fees - a savings of \$100
BRIEFS, BRIEFS, and MORE BRIEFS

COMPLIMENTARY ADVERTISING in ILCRA's *Find a Reporter* locator

Exclusive use of the **ILCRA MEMBER LOGO** to highlight your professionalism

MEMBER-ONLY access to the Website with the latest legislative news

But wait, there is more! ILCRA members also receive the following valuable benefits:

Office Depot: 15% - 25% average annual savings on select paper and office supplies

Pengad: 10% off all full price products from July 2018 - June 2019

ProCAT: 25% off WinnerXP Software; 15% off Impression Writer

RepAgencyWorks: 25% discount off the set-up fee for RepAgencyWorks Court Reporting Management Software

Reporting Solutions: 20% off PDF-it service

[JOIN or RENEW ONLINE](#) or click here for **[MAIL IN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#)**

ad infinitum

Ad Infinitum is published quarterly by the Illinois Court Reporters Association, 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, 152-269, Ashburn, VA 20148. ILCRA assumes no responsibility for statements or claims made in Ad Infinitum. Subscription is included in annual membership dues paid by a member.

Statement of fact, opinion, and all advertisements are the sole responsibility of the author or advertiser alone and do not express the opinion or endorsement of ILCRA or anyone connected with ILCRA.

Editor: Innovative AMC, 43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, 152-269, Ashburn, VA 20148.
Ph: 703-729-4861, Email: dwenhold@kmgnet.com.

Advertising information:

Illinois Court Reporters Association,
43150 Broadlands Center Plaza, 152-269
Ashburn, VA 20148
Ph: 703-729-4861
Fax: 703-935-2266
Email: contact@ilcra.org

ISSUE	PUBLICATION DATE	DEADLINE
Fall	October 15	September 15
Winter	January 15	December 15
Spring	April 15	March 15
Summer	July 15	June 15