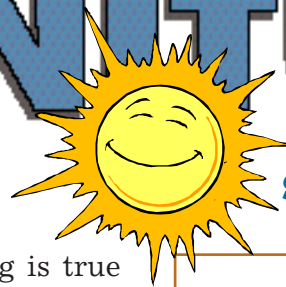


AD INFINITUM



SUMMER, 2009



President LeAnn M. Hibler
CSR, RMR, CRR, CCP

President's Message

Going Out with Pride... and Sadness

Well, the time has come for me to write my last president's message to the membership. I have to say I'm a little saddened by it which may surprise some of you who will recall that I took on the challenge of a quarterly article with much trepidation. I realize I haven't always written with finesse or used million dollar words that perhaps a person such as myself would have to turn to the dictionary to understand, but I do hope that the meaning of my heartfelt ramblings rang through to all of you who read them.

I have never been a president of an association, let alone a board member. I've never wanted to devote my free time, which is so precious to

all of us. But one thing is true of me, and that is that I'm a court reporter through and through. I absolutely love what I do for a living, whether it be working depositions, public hearings, or CART assignments. It has allowed me to network with lawyers, government administrators, my peers, and students of all types. I am one lucky person.

My term as president has been enlightening and challenging. It has required that I keep an open mind when discussing issues with my board members, and also our membership. It has required me to accept the flaws in communication which come with having e-mail conversations. It has required me to be mindful of giving constructive criticism, and not just being a critic. And it has required me to remember that Illinois is one long state from tip to tip with many differences in between, whether it be cornfields versus parking lots, high-speed Internet versus dial-up Internet, hustle and bustle versus laid back and relaxed. A president can't just come in and say this is the way it's going to be. A president has to accept that this is the way things really are.

There are many challenges still to be faced head on in our state, and your ILCRA Executive Board is a very dedicated group of people willing to take on those challenges. In going forward I remind us all that it is

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ILCRA 2008/2009 COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Auditing Committee: Carole Bartkowicz, Chair; Rita Corson, and Kelly Siska

Budget Committee: Lyn Grooms, Chair; Nancy Davis, Jill Layton, LeAnn M. Hibler, and Nancy LaBella

Continuing Education Committee: Nancy C. Davis, Chair; Dee Doubet, and Bonni R. Shuttleworth

Freelance Committee: Judy Mosier, Chair; Denise Mills, and Sarah Paszkiewicz

Legislative Committee: Dee Doubet, Chair; Stephanie K. Rennegarbe, Kathy Nielsen, and Pat Houlf

Membership Committee: Nancy LaBella, Chair; Stephanie K. Rennegarbe, Seymour Wolfe, and Glenn Sonntag

Nominating Committee: Amy B. Quint, Chair, Patricia Byers, Kent Evans, Jacqueline Timmons, Donna Urlaub

Officials Committee: Joan McQuinn, Chair; Vernita Allen-Williams, Melissa Clagg, Jenny Danley, and Mary Speed

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Bylaws Committee: *To be activated when necessary*

CART Committee: Lyn M. Grooms, Chair; Robert Griffith – ORS, Rose LaBardia, Catherine A. Rajcan, and Cindy Jenkins

DSA Committee: Jacqueline Timmons, Chair; Seymour Wolfe, and Dee Doubet

Elections Committee: *To be activated when necessary*

Ethics Committee: Amy B. Quint, Chair; Patricia Byers, Nancy C. Davis, and Lyn M. Grooms

PR/Marketing Committee: Jackie Timmons, Chair; Kris Ashenhurst, Georgia Rollins, and Kathryn Thomas

Speed Contest Committee: Bonni R. Shuttleworth, Chair; Teri Gaudet, and Theresa Hovick-Thomas

Student Scholarship Committee: Bernice Radavich, Chair; Lisa Ciarrachi, and Tana Hess

Student Mentor Chair: Joni Markel

Illinois Court Reporters Association 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.

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Issue	Pub. Date	Deadline	Issue	Pub. Date	Deadline
Fall	October 15	September 15	Spring	April 15	March 15
Winter	January 15	December 15	Summer	July 15	June 15

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

important to keep a diverse executive board made up of freelancers, officials, CART providers, and captioners. It is important to keep the diversity of men, women, and ethnic backgrounds. Everyone brings to the table a different set of life experiences, both personal and professional, and all of it will contribute to a healthy executive board and association.

I thank you for allowing me to be the president of this association. I think it has been a

great experience for me. I've enjoyed meeting all of the court reporters around the state. And I've truly appreciated all of the support and friendships. I've always been very proud to say, "I am the president of the Illinois Court Reporters Association." I guess after our annual convention in September, I'll just have to be satisfied with saying "immediate past president." Thank you for enduring my term with me.

— LeAnn

Congratulations to Newly Certified Illinois Reporters

Congratulations to these Illinois reporters who became certified as a result of the May 2009 skills tests.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS

Mark Arndt, *Belleville*
Angela Marie DiNino, *Lansing*
Amie M. Farbak, *Homer Glen*
Leslie Lucas, *Lemont*
Lisa Lyon, *Tinley Park*
Karen C. Orenstein, *Gurnee*
Catherine L. Turner, *O'Fallon*

REGISTERED MERIT REPORTER

Tana J. Hess, *Marquette Heights*

CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTERS

Ann Marie Hollo, *Litchfield*
Laura LaCien, *Chicago*
Dana Jo Rowe, *Lovington*



From left are: Judy Lehman, Melissa Clagg, and Nancy Davis at the testing in Shelbyville on May 2nd.

ILCRA Administers Examinations

ILCRA administers the RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC and CCP examinations. Those who assist are not only ILCRA Board members but also court reporter volunteers.

The skills exam was given on May 2nd at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest; and Sparks College in Shelbyville.

With Sympathy

ILCRA extends sincere condolences to our Immediate Past President **Amy B. Quint** whose father, Everett Quint, recently passed away.

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

SEPT. 25-26: ILCRA Annual Convention, Springfield

AUG. 6-9: NCRA Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.

NOV. 7: RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC, and CCP Skills Exam at McCorkle Reporting, downtown Chicago; South Suburban College, Oak Forest (Chicago area); and Sparks College, Shelbyville.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This column is primarily for reader feedback on topics published in these pages. Items published here may be edited for such requirements as available space or to avoid duplication with other submissions. Please limit your submission to a maximum of 300 words. Submitting feedback to *Ad Infinitum* does not guarantee it will be published. Send comments for publication here to the editor or ILCRA's executive director as shown in the box on [page 2](#).

Please note: we do not print anonymous submissions. If you would like your name withheld from publication, simply advise and we will do so. But you need to provide your name so we can verify that your submission is authentic.

The Future for Official Court Reporters in Illinois

By Tammy Bumgarner, Coordinator Court Reporting Services, State of Illinois, Office of Comptroller

An article in the *Des Moines Register* on May 12, 2009, announced that the Iowa courts are exploring the cost and reliability of electronic recording (ER) through a panel study as a potential cost savings measure over official court reporters. When bad news about ER hits other states, it is only natural for all official court reporters to worry about their own future. The Iowa news hit a little too close to home for some reporters in Illinois. The Illinois courts have had an ER program for more than a decade now. There is one very significant difference between Illinois' and Iowa's court reporting programs, however. Illinois officials are in a very unique situation because they have a separate budget devoted entirely to court reporting.

rate budget devoted entirely to court reporting.

So, what does this mean to an official court reporter in Illinois? It means that the official court reporter budget cannot be reduced or cut by anyone other than the chief judges, the legislature or the governor. The chief judges would gain no benefits by reducing the official court reporter budget. The money could not be spent on anything else in the circuits. The legislature and governor would not gain benefits by eliminating official court reporters since they would then need to increase expenditures elsewhere to provide some type of official record. The support for official court reporters by the legislature was clearly witnessed this fiscal year with the overwhelm-

ing support to restore the budget for court reporting which was cut by the former governor.

As many circuits have already discovered, there is a place for both court reporters and electronic recording in the Illinois courts. Not only should a record be available in court proceedings where an official court reporter is present, but also in proceedings where a court reporter would not normally be assigned, such as high volume traffic or small claims courts. These litigants should have the same opportunity to appeal their case with an official transcript of the proceedings.

At this time, the biggest problem facing official court reporters in Illinois is the same issue that all state employees

(Continued on page 5)

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The Future for Official Court Reporters in Illinois

(Continued from page 4)

are facing: a huge statewide budget deficit. As all agencies are being asked to tighten their belts, the Chief Judges have to proceed with caution when hiring additional court reporters or filling vacancies. Also, the budget deficit can affect other statewide programs like pensions and healthcare options.

Another problem the profession is facing is the potential for court reporter shortages in the near future. As more and more veteran reporters are nearing retirement age, it becomes harder to replace them with qualified court reporters. The state's Court

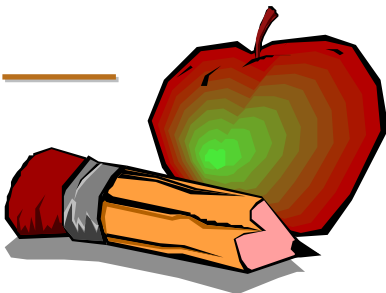
Reporting Services office is going to start evaluating court reporting resources in the state to make sure that they can continue providing quality records in the Illinois courts for a long time into the future.

As a court reporter, you can help by attending every career fair that you can to let young people know that it is a reward-

ing career that could allow them to be in high demand when they are done with school and certification. Hopefully reporters across the state may rest a little easier knowing that the need for official court reporters in Illinois remains strong. However, the future availability of reporters to fill those positions may depend on you.

STOP BY FOR A 'VISIT'

Visit the ILCRA forum at www.ilcra.org and read any of the threaded messages, reply to any of the threaded messages with your own message and/or start a new thread with a message of your own!



Do You Know an Outstanding Educator?

It is time once again to call for nominations for the ILCRA annual Award of Excellence to an outstanding educator.

The guidelines are:

1. The nominee must be or have been on the faculty of a court reporter training program.
2. Nominations must be received by August 15, 2009.

Although not listed above, it is helpful in the selection process if the nominee is an associate member of ILCRA. All applications submitted in previous years will be considered for the 2009 award.

Nominations may be submitted by students, fellow faculty, administrators, or ILCRA members to:

Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director
41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

Nomination for ILCRA Award of Excellence

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____
Street City State Zip

School of Nominee: _____

Brief description of reasons why you feel this person should receive this award:

Your name: _____ Your telephone: () _____

ILCRA Presents 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Amy B. Quint, Chair, Jacqueline Timmons, R. Kent Evans, Patricia Byers, and Donna Urlaub presents the following slate of officers for 2009/2011 Executive Board of ILCRA.

President:

Jill M. Layton

President Elect:

Nancy LaBella

Vice President:

Stephanie Rennegarbe

Secretary:

Judy Mosier

Treasurer:

Lyn Grooms

Legislative Chair:

Patrice Houlf

Region 1 Rep. (official):

Vernita Allen-Williams

one-year term

Region 1 Rep. (freelance):

Sharon Stuckly

two-year term

Region 2 Rep. (official):

Rita Corson

one-year term

Region 2 Rep. (freelance):

Debra Musielak

two-year term

Immediate Past President:

LeAnn M. Hibler

Education Liaison:

Bonni Shuttleworth

JILL M. LAYTON

Jill graduated from Sparks College in Shelbyville in April of 1981 and started as an official Court Reporter in Danville, Vermilion County, Fifth Judicial Circuit in early 1982. She moved to Robinson, Crawford County, Second Judicial Circuit in January of 1984 to follow her

soon-to-be husband. When he was transferred back, she followed and job shared in the Fifth Judicial Circuit and freelanced in the Coles/Cumberland County area. She is currently an Official Court Reporter in the Fifth Judicial Circuit and serves as resident reporter in Cumberland County. Jill currently serves as President Elect of ILCRA. She lives in Toledo with her husband of 25 years, and her 18-year-old daughter. Her 21-year-old son is a Marine, currently returning to Okinawa from a deployment to Iraq. She is a very active member of the Strasburg American Legion Auxiliary, and will soon serve as 19th District President. She and her husband are very active with local high school athletics, serving the football team supper in their home every Thursday night during football season.

NANCY LABELLA

Nancy has been an Illinois CSR since 1985, working her first year as a freelance reporter and then as a state Official Court Reporter in Cook County. She was assigned to the Criminal Division for ten years. Nancy worked as a freelance reporter and currently is employed as a Federal Official Court Reporter. She is an RMR, CRR and a Federal Certified Realtime Reporter. Nancy has held several positions on the boards of the Illinois Official Court Reporters Association and the Cook County Court Reporters Association, including co-legislative chairperson, treasurer, and vice-president. She currently

serves as Vice President on the ILCRA Executive Board.

STEPHANIE RENNEGARBE

Stephanie has been reporting since 1988 as a freelancer – doing arbitrations, trials, depositions, inquests, grand jury proceedings, and conventions. She holds the following designations: Illinois CSR, RDR, CRR, and CBC; and Missouri CCR. She serves as a member of the Advisory Board for the Judicial Reporting and Captioning Technology Program at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois. She obtained a bachelor of science degree through the University of Alabama in conjunction with the NCRA program; graduating in 1996. Stephanie lives in Addieville, Illinois with her husband, Greg, and her two daughters, Shaina and Shawn. She spends her spare time watching her daughters participate in sporting events and trying to get as much travel time as possible.

JUDY MOSIER

Judy graduated from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale in 1980. Judy freelanced in the southern Illinois area until 1985 when she moved to the Chicago area. She continued freelancing there and has owned her firm for 20 years. Judy is a single Mom of a 21-year-old daughter who is in college at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. Judy currently serves as Secretary on the ILCRA Executive Board.

LYN M. GROOMS

Lyn is a captioner/CART reporter across the state of Illinois. She is currently ILCRA's

(Continued on page 7)

ILCRA Presents 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

(Continued from page 6)

treasurer and chairperson of the CART Committee and has more than 35 years of reporting experience, serving as a State Official Reporter, Federal Official Reporter and freelance reporter. Lyn is married and lives in the Springfield, Illinois area.

PATRICE HOULF

Pat has been an Illinois CSR since 1976 working as a freelance reporter for a year and then as a state official for over 25 years assigned to various locations throughout Cook County. For the past six and a half years, Pat has been the Court Reporting Services Supervisor in the Tenth Judicial Circuit. She has held various positions in the Illinois Official

Court Reporters Association, including president and legislative chairman, as well as the Cook County Court Reporters Association. Pat was also a member of the Illinois Supreme Court's Committee on Court Reporting. She has served on ILCRA's Student Scholarship Committee and Nominating Committee, and is presently on the Legislative Committee.

VERNITA ALLEN-WILLIAMS

Vernita received her Illinois CSR in 1986. Her first Illinois court reporting position was with a freelance agency in the Chicago Loop. She did freelance work for nine years and became a Cook County official shortly before the birth of her son. In Cook County, she was

assigned to the Law Division and served on the Cook County Court Reporters Association board. Since transferring to Lake County, where she floats to all of the courtrooms, she has also had the opportunity to serve on the Court Reporter Committee and the Formbook Committee for the updated official formbook.

SHARON STUCKLY

Sharon has been an Illinois CSR since 1976. She attended Chicago College of Commerce and has been a freelance reporter in the Chicagoland area. She is married to Mark Vilimek. Sharon has two daughters who are currently attending college. She has

(Continued on page 8)



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ILCRA Presents 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

(Continued from page 7)

always enjoyed our great profession and looks forward to the opportunity to be able to serve on the ILCRA board.

RITA CORSON

Rita graduated from Springfield College of Court Reporting in 1974. She passed the CSR in November of 1974 and began working as an Official Court Reporter in December of 1974 in Havana, (Mason County) Illinois for one year, and then in Rushville, (Schuyler County) Illinois, for a year and a half. In 1976, she resigned her position and was a stay-at-home mom for seven years. She freelanced for six years from 1983 to 1989. She has been an Official Court Reporter in Rushville since

May of 1989. She is an Illinois CSR, RPR, RMR, and CRR. Rita currently serves on the Auditing Committee of ILCRA, and she has helped grade the RPR test at South Suburban College. She has mentored several court reporting students and has donated her time to the Veteran History Project. Rita is a member of NCRA, ILCRA, and the Schuyler Women's Club. She attends church at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Macomb where she is a member of the Methodist Women's Club. She and her husband have nine grandchildren, and one on the way. Her hobbies include eBaying, flower gardening, and making quilts.

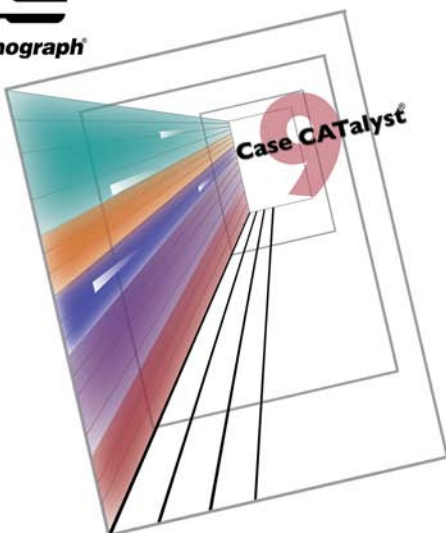
DEBRA MUSIELAK

Debbie has been an Illinois CSR since 1976. She also holds RPR, RMR, CRR and RDR certifications in addition to a Missouri CCR. She worked her first 15 years as an official reporter in St. Clair County. She was assigned to the felony division for 11 of those years and to the major civil division and various other courts for the remaining four years. From 1991 to 2000, she worked as a freelance reporter for a St. Louis agency. In 2000, she started her own freelance business serving the St. Louis major metropolitan area and has continued to build that business to this date. In addition to her

(Continued on page 9)



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ILCRA Presents 2009-2011 Slate of Officers

(Continued from page 8)

legal reporting, she has done CART reporting and broadcast captioning work. She served on the advisory board to the court reporting program at SIU-C during the 1980s and currently serves on the advisory board to the court reporting program at John A. Logan in Carterville, Illinois.

LEANN HIBLER

LeAnn M. Hibler has been a freelance reporter in the Joliet area since 1987. She has since obtained her CRR, RMR and CCP. In 2000, LeAnn launched her own agency, LMH Certified Reporting, specializing in realtime deposition services for attorneys, and communication access realtime translation (CART) for people who are deaf

or hard of hearing. She has had the privilege of working with Patricia Graves and her company, Caption First, by providing CART services to their many clients. LeAnn is a member of the Illinois Court Reporters Association and the National Court Reporters Association. She has been married to Ken, Jr. for 15 years, and is a lifelong resident of Joliet, Illinois. She loves spending time with family, friends, and the great outdoors.

BONNI R. SHUTTLEWORTH

Bonni is a Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI), Certified Program Evaluator (CPE), and a Certified Legal Video Specialist (CLVS). She is the chairperson of the Illinois

Speed and Realtime Contests and a member of ILCRA's Education Committee. She is an NCRA member and has served on the following NCRA committees: Home Study Task Force, Verification Committee, and Teachers Community of Interest. She is a certified test grader, a member and former chairperson of the Speed and Realtime Contests, and former member and chairperson of the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE).



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- Do you have computer supplies that you no longer use?
- Do you have reference books that are in your way?
- Are you looking for a certain printer cord?
- Do you need another keyboard or monitor?

Do your shopping at ILCRA's rummage sale to be held at the ILCRA Convention on September 25th and 26th in Springfield. All proceeds will go to benefit students.

At the end of a job or a hearing, do you happen to have steno paper that you just place in a stack on your desk? Put a rubber band around your unused paper and bring it with you! What a great treat for the students in attendance at the convention to take home a sack of donated paper!

Sellers: Please continue to gather the reference books, printers, printer cords, computers, monitors, scanners, and other items that you no longer use. Bring them to the ILCRA Annual Convention. The ILCRA Rummage Sale is the perfect opportunity for you to clean out your closets and offices of the items that are still in good, working condition but that you no longer use.

All items must be in working condition. All proceeds will go to ILCRA to benefit students. You put the rummage sale price tag on the item(s). If your item does not sell, please retrieve it at the end of the convention.

Buyers: This is your chance to pick up a bargain or two. Been looking for a printer cord? You may find it at the ILCRA Rummage Sale.

Students: Make sure you shop at the ILCRA Rummage Sale! This is your chance to stock up on your reporting equipment and reference materials! (And maybe there will be donated steno paper for you to take home with you to use when you practice!)

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Layton at layton@wbnorriselectric.com or jlayton@rr1.net.

ILCRA Offers Student Mentor Program

If you are a court reporting student in an Illinois court reporting school or you are a resident of Illinois but enrolled in an out-of state school or online court reporting school, you can take advantage of ILCRA's student mentor program. You can have a working, professional reporter available to answer questions and provide emotional support.

Reporters: We need more working reporters to be mentors and advise our students. It doesn't require a lot of time and you can do it from the comfort of your own home! Help reporting students to succeed and keep our profession sound.

If you're interested in becoming a mentor or if you're seeking a mentor, email Student Mentor Committee Chair Joni Markel at jonimarkel@hotmail.com, or go to www.ilcra.org and click on the online mentoring link ([or just click here](#)).

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Call for Nominations

ILCRA Distinguished Service Award

It is our pleasure once again to seek nominations for the ILCRA Distinguished Service Award. The purpose of this award is to encourage and recognize work amounting to distinguished service for the benefit of the reporting profession by individual members of ILCRA. That may include work as a member, committee member, officer of the Association, for *Ad Infinitum*, in state or local association affairs, or public relations.

We are seeking someone who has added to the quality of our profession, improved the manner in which it is perceived by other professionals or the general public, or who has helped our fellow reporters to focus on how they can better meet the demands of technology and the changing judicial system.

Take time now to nominate that special person who deserves recognition.

ISRA/ILCRA DSA RECIPIENTS

Traci Butz (1993)

Sally Cochran (1994)

Diane Dorwart (1995)

Mae Glassbrenner (1996)

Brenda K. Carlen (1997)

Carole A. Bartkowicz (1998)

Patricia S. Byers (1999)

Nancy J. Hopp (2000)

Deb Kriegshauser (2001)

Nancy Davis (2002)

Jerry Wedeking (2003)

Judith A. Lehman (2004)

Gary L. Sonntag (2005)

Dolores (Dee) Doubet (2006)

Seymour L. Wolfe (2007)

Jacqueline M. Timmons (2008)



Nomination for ILCRA Distinguished Service Award

Name of Nominee: _____

Address _____

Nominated by:

Name _____ Phone: () _____

Address _____

Please attach biographical sketch of person nominated and your reasons for said nomination. Send your nominations along with supporting material to:

Jacqueline M. Timmons
7914A Knottingham Circle, Darien, IL 60561
The deadline for nominations is August 1, 2009.

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ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE & CONTINUING EDUCATION SEMINARS 'STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE'

SEPTEMBER 25–26, 2009 • HILTON HOTEL, SPRINGFIELD

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:00–5:00 Convention Registration

9:00–2:00 **GARY L. SONNTAG MEMORIAL SPEED CONTEST**

10:00–6:00 Visit Exhibit Displays

11:00–12:00 Sack lunches for sale in exhibit area.

12:00–3:00 **SESSION 1: TOUR OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.** This thought-provoking and entertaining permanent exhibition presents the life of Abraham Lincoln through a series of stories richly illustrated with personal memorabilia, fascinating documentary material of the Lincoln family, and engaging interactive activities for children. Attendees will be immersed in the sights and sounds of the past and introduced to the people, places and events that shaped the life of our 16th president.



12:00–1:30 **SESSION 2: CAT USER TRAINING BREAKOUTS** (CaseCATalyst, ProCAT, Cheetah, StenoCAT and Eclipse) These sessions will be conducted by trainers for the various software companies. Attendees will learn editing techniques as well as other CAT software information. Reporters will share expertise and tricks of the trade.

1:30–1:45 **Break—Beverages in Exhibit Area**

1:45–3:15 **SESSION 3: CAT USER TRAINING CONTINUED**

3:15–3:30 **Break—Beverages in Exhibit Area**

3:30–5:00 **SESSION 4: TOWN HALL MEETING WITH NCRA REP.** Bring your questions, comments, and concerns.

5:00–6:30 Visit Exhibit Area

5:30–6:00 **REALTIME CONTEST**

6:30–7:00 **MEET AND GREET STUDENTS.** Cash bar.

7:00–8:00 **BUFFET DINNER**

8:00–10:00 **DANCING TO A D.J. AND NETWORKING WITH FELLOW REPORTERS.** Cash bar.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

8:00–noon Convention Registration

8:00–5:00 Visit Exhibit Displays

7:30–8:30 Breakfast Buffet

8:30–10:00 **CONCURRENT:**

SESSION 5: THE DASH—IT IS NOT JUST FOR INTERRUPTIONS ANYMORE! (Margie Wakeman-Wells) Just for the interruption? No, the dash has other uses that relate to grammar. We will talk about this familiar mark of punctuation but will look at new ways to use it. Even the sophisticated reporter will learn some new ways to punctuate so that we turn out that perfect transcript.

SESSION 6: THE BASICS OF PROVIDING CART (LeAnn M. Hibler) Attendees will gain basic CART knowledge such as equipment set-up, display options and working with deaf/hard of hearing consumers.

10:00–10:15 **Break — Beverages in Exhibit Area**

10:15–11:45 **SESSION 7: THE BLAGOJEVICH IMPEACHMENT—REPORTING A HIGH-PROFILE CASE** (Brenda Tannehill and Gina Luordo) Have you ever wondered what it's like to report a high-profile case? Learn the pros and cons from the reporters who covered the impeachment of the Governor of Illinois.

11:45–noon Visit Exhibit Displays

Noon–2:00 **BUSINESS MEETING, AWARDS LUNCHEON**

2:00–3:30 **CONCURRENT:**

SESSION 8: BRIEF THAT (Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag and Amy B. Quint) For every troublesome word or phrase, there has to be a brief form, right? Our presenters will be tasked with the responsibility of inventing a steno brief on the fly for every word or phrase suggested from the audience, whether it be for your job dictionary or your personal dictionary. Bring a list of problem words and test the brains of these self-proclaimed brief form junkies!

SESSION 9: ADVANCED REALTIME TROUBLESHOOTING (Judith Lehman and Nancy Hopp) This seminar will be primarily technical in nature and is for the more advanced realtime writer who seeks to learn more about various ways of hooking up for realtime, streaming text to the Internet, and assigning numbers to USB COM ports. Computers and steno machines are not required.

3:30–3:45 **Break—Visit Exhibit Displays**

3:45–5:15 **SESSION 10: PROFESSIONAL BREAK-OUT SESSIONS** (Freelance, Agency Owners, State Officials, Federal Officials, Students, Instructors, Captioners, Scopists) These sessions will include open discussions about the issues important to each group.

5:15–5:30 **WRAP-UP, EVALUATIONS, DOOR PRIZES.**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ CSR# 084-00 _____
Address: _____
City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail address: _____
Nickname for badge: _____ ILCRA Member: _____ Yes _____ No

Please check one:

Freelance Reporter Federal Official
 Agency Owner Teacher
 Student Scopist
 State Official Captioner

Please check if you plan to attend the following:

Meet and Greet Students
 Session 1: Tour of Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. (Family members or guests may join the tours for an additional \$10.)
 Session 2: CAT Training Session
 Session 3: CAT Training Session (continued)
 Dinner and entertainment

If you will be attending the CAT Training Sessions, please indicate which session you will attend:

CaseCATalyst _____ Cheetah _____
ProCAT _____ StenoCAT _____
Eclipse _____

CONCURRENT SEMINARS: Please check one

Session 5: The Dash
 Session 6: The Basics of Providing CART

CART CONCURRENT SEMINARS: Please check one.

Session 8: Brief That
 Session 9: Advanced Realtime Troubleshooting

WIN A TRIP TO LAS VEGAS!

By registering for the ILCRA Convention you are automatically qualified to win a trip for two to Las Vegas! The winner of this trip will be announced at the end of convention on Saturday, September 26, 2009. (Need not be present to win.) Additional raffle tickets may be purchased for \$5 each and will be available during the Convention. This raffle is open to the public.

Raffle tickets are available to sell to your friends, family and co-workers. If you would like to receive tickets to sell or would like to make a donation, contact Nancy C. Davis at ilcraoffice@aol.com Proceeds of raffle will go to ILCRA PAC fund.

Please note: Silent Auction items this year will consist only of steno machines from exhibitors.

All inclusive registration (Prior to September 1, 2009)

ILCRA Member (\$225)
 Non-Member (\$275)
 ILCRA Dues (\$95)*
 Speed Contest (\$60)
 Realtime Contest (\$60) *or*
 Both Contests (\$100)
 Assoc. Member/Guest (\$100)
 Guest's Name: _____

One-day registration (Prior to September 1, 2009)

I will attend: Friday Saturday
 ILCRA Member (\$175)
 Non-Member (\$225)
 ILCRA Dues (\$95)*
 Speed Contest (\$60)
 Realtime Contest (\$60) *or*
 Both Contests (\$100) (see more info on [pgs. 14-15](#))
 Assoc. Member/Guest (\$75)
 Family member for tours (\$10)
 Guest's Name: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Late/On-site registration *additional* \$75

\$50 cancellation fee after September 20, 2009

*Join ILCRA now and attend convention at member rate.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED/CHARGED \$ _____

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:
ILCRA, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
Phone: 1-800-656-2467 FAX: 618/242-2143

Register online at www.ILCRA.org (Dues and Fees) *or*

Visa MasterCard Expiration Date: _____
Card# _____

Signature: _____



ABOUT THE HOTEL:

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A block of rooms has been reserved for the ILCRA annual conference until September 3, 2009. Reservations made after that date will be subject to availability. Mention ILCRA Conference for special rate of \$99 for single and \$114 for double. Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. Earlier check-in may be arranged subject to availability of guest rooms and/or suites. Check-out time is 12 noon.



ATTENTION ALL FAST FINGERED FOLKS! ANNOUNCING ILCRA'S ANNUAL SPEED CONTESTS

ILCRA Annual Realtime Contest

TESTING CRITERIA: Five minutes of literary material dictated at 180 words per minute.

ELIGIBILITY: Any writer of shorthand who is a member of ILCRA in good standing and who has attained at least RPR, CBC, or CCP status.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES BARRED: Contestants must give to the committee satisfactory assurance that they have not received, directly or indirectly, any remuneration or promise of remuneration of whatever character for entering or winning any part of this contest.

ENTRY FEE: Please register on [page 15](#) or use the convention registration form on [page 13](#). The fee as stated on the registration form shall be paid by the registration deadline. Fee to be paid prior to contest.

SEATING ARRANGEMENT: Seating shall be at the discretion of the chief examiner of the Realtime Contest.

QUALIFYING: Only one transcription will be permitted of each test. 95% and higher qualifies. In order to qualify, contestant must write realtime into a computer and, without editing, at the direction of a testing monitor, create an ASCII/text file on a 3.5" diskette, CD, or jump/travel drive. Those unable to produce such a file on a disk, CD, or jump/travel drive within five minutes of such request may be disqualified, at the discretion of the contest chair. After verification of ASCII file, contestant will be required to delete all components of the file, including audio, from hard drive and recycle bin. Realtime may be in either ALL CAPS or mixed case. No transcript will be eligible for consideration with less than 95% accuracy.

AWARDS: Winners and qualifiers will be announced during the Annual Conference business meeting and awards session. Medals will be awarded for first, second and third place, and an appropriate certificate to those who attain 95% or higher. The contest committee will publish/announce only names of qualifying contestants.

CEUs: Per NCRA, qualifiers are eligible to receive .4 CEUs. An individual may only receive a maximum of .5 CEUs per 3-year NCRA cycle for any contests.

ALL COMMITTEE DECISIONS FINAL: The decisions of the committee made under these rules, or such supplementary rules as may be found necessary at the time of the contest, shall be final.

CONTEST MEDIA: All submitted disks, paper notes, and printed transcripts become the property of ILCRA and will not be available for participant review.

GRADING: Contestants will not be permitted to be present during the grading process. Transcripts will be marked for identification and corrected in such a manner that it will be impossible to know whose work is being examined until after the grading has been completed. A check-off list shall be maintained indicating the submission or non-submission of a disk from each contestant.

ERRORS: Errors shall be determined by the current "What is an Error?" handout of NCRA realtime skills testing.

Incorrect or missing punctuation: Tell me what you did sir. (half point off).

Incorrect capitalization: I telephoned Mrs. stone. (half point off)

Untranslates or phonetics that are probably readable (by a layperson): I had an ace of /HARTS. (half point off) But she had an ace of /TKAOE-UPLDZ. (one point off) Her name was sinder ella. (half point off)

Wrong homophones: Did you eat the plumb? (half point off) I herd the doorbell ring. (half point off) Did you eat the /PHRUPL? (one point off)

Incorrect compounding or spacing: She grows roses in a regular green house. (half point off) The car would breakdown often. (half point off)

Word or words otherwise misspelled but can be deciphered or understood by a layperson: Did the rabbit eat the care ot? (half point off) Did the rabbit eat the indicator? (one point off)

Conflicts showing up will be a full point off: Was [there/their/they're] any cake left? (one point off) Yes, but [I/eye/aye] couldn't see how much. (one point off)

Gary L. Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest

1. Eligibility: Any writer of shorthand (pen or machine) who is a member in good standing of NCRA and ILCRA is eligible.
2. Tests: Five-minute tests will be dictated as follows:

TEST	SPEED	TRANSCRIPTION TIME
Literary	220 wpm	90 minutes
Legal Opinion	230 wpm	90 minutes
Testimony	270 wpm	90 minutes

3. Number of transcriptions permitted: One of each take.
4. Professionalism barred: Contestants must give to the ILCRA Board satisfactory assurance that they have not received, directly or indirectly, any remuneration or promise of remuneration of whatever character for entering or winning any part of this contest.
5. Entry fee: \$60.
6. Pre-registration: All contestants must submit their contest registration forms at least 30 days prior to the contest to ensure availability of adequate transcription facilities and familiarity with contest rules.
7. Awards: The contestant who qualifies on the three above tests with the highest average for the three shall be awarded the first-place plaque. Second- and third-place plaques will be awarded to those contestants who place second and third overall. Appropriate certificates will be awarded to any contestant who qualifies in any of the three speeds.

The contestant who qualifies in the three above tests with the highest average of those contestants who reside in Illinois will be awarded the Sally J. Cochran Traveling Cup. In addition, the first-, second-, and third-place overall winners will receive a medallion memorializing Gary L. Sonntag, as well as a certificate. No transcript will be rated that has more than five percent of errors.

8. Transcribing: A printer will be provided for contestants to use in transcribing. Otherwise, equipment for transcription is the responsibility of the individual contestant. Contestants are responsible for producing their own transcripts without assistance from another person. Those who type must type their own transcripts; those who use computer-aided transcription must perform their own translating, editing, printing and proofreading functions. In every sense, the contest transcripts must be the work product of the individual contestant. Any activities that call into question the integrity of a transcript may be reason for permanent disbarment from the Speed Contest.
9. Decisions: All decisions of the Speed Contest Committee and the ILCRA Board made under these rules, or such supplementary rules as may be found necessary at the time of the Contest, shall be final.
10. Continuing Education Credits: .4 CEUs are allowed by NCRA for each section of the speed contest in which the contestant qualifies. Qualification is based on transcription at 95% accuracy.



Speed Contest and Realtime Contest Registration Form

Hilton Hotel, Springfield IL • Friday, Sept. 25

Gary L Sonntag Memorial Speed Contest, 9:00 a.m. • ILCRA Realtime Contest, 5:30 p.m.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Bus. Ph: () _____ Hm. Ph: () _____

Deadline for Registration is September 1, 2009

Registration fee for each contest is \$60 or \$100 for both. Please submit this form to ILCRA, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 or you may include your contest registration fees with your convention registration.



By Richard A. Sherman

AOL: IS THERE LIFE BEYOND TIME WARNER?

Q. Is it true that AOL is going out of business or is going to just disappear?

A. Not exactly, but it is important for all AOL users to be aware of what's happening. Last month, Time Warner announced that it will jettison its AOL subsidiary by the end of this year.

Attempting to put a positive spin on the unceremonious dumping of AOL, Jeffrey Bewkes, Time Warner CEO, said (with a straight face), "We believe AOL will have a better opportunity to achieve its full potential as an independent Internet company." Sure it will.

AOL today is a mere shadow of its former self. In 2002, users peaked at nearly 27 million. Currently, AOL has approximately six million subscribers, and this announcement is expected to result in a spike in migration as AOL users flee to greener digital pastures.

If you are currently using AOL, you effectively have two choices: You can stay with AOL and see what happens (last one out, please turn off the lights), or you can join the tens of millions of former AOL users who have moved to other Internet access providers. I'll be providing additional information and updates about this ongoing development in my weekly newsletter (www.MrModem.com).

Q. I received two .PUB files, which I assume are Microsoft Publisher files. I don't have Publisher, and I don't want to buy it, so is there some way I can convert the files into Adobe .PDF format, which I can then open?

A. Yes, .PUB files are Microsoft Publisher files and the good news is that you can easily convert them to the .PDF format by using PDF Online (<http://tinyurl.com/pj22k8>). When you go to the site, select the .PUB file that you want to convert, enter your email address, and click Convert to PDF. The converted file will be emailed to you within minutes.

Q. When I'm using the Google search engine with Internet Explorer on my PC at work, after I type in the first few letters of my search term, a drop-down list appears. If I entered the same information before, I can select it from the list. My computer at home, however, does not provide this drop-down list. How can I get a similar list to appear on that computer?

A. The feature you are referring to is called AutoComplete. To view the settings for AutoComplete, in Internet Explorer, click Tools > Internet Options > Content tab, then the Settings button in the AutoComplete section. Click the check boxes for some or all of the options you want to use. In your case, be sure to select Forms, but you may also want to select Web Addresses, Username and Passwords on Forms, and Prompt to Save Passwords, as well. Click OK twice to save your changes and exit.

Q. I have Windows XP, Outlook Express and Office 2007. I speak English, but I can only get French in the spell-check. How can I get an English spell-checker?

A. When you install Office 2007, spell checking in Outlook Express works very well — as long as you want to spell-check in French. That's because Office 2007 initially replaced old files that spell-checked in English, Spanish and German. According to Microsoft, the new version of these files contained within Office 2007 are incompatible with OE-6. (Isn't that just peachy?) The easiest way to resolve the problem is to install a third-party Spell Checker for OE (<http://tinyurl.com/k2xcv>). This problem was resolved in a subsequent Office 2007 update.

For plain-English answers to your questions by email, plus great computing tips, subscribe to Mr. Modem's award-winning newsletter. Subscribe using Promo Code 4022 and receive TWO free months with your 12-month subscription! To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com.



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

CONGRESSIONAL VOTES Hosted by washingtonpost.com, here you can browse an extensive database of every vote cast in the U.S. Congress since 1991. You can search by aggregate votes on a given issue or by individual member of Congress to determine if your representative is truly representing you, or if he or she is asleep at the switch. The site is updated several times each day. <http://tinyurl.com/px7zh9>

FLIGHT STATUS This was created for Palm-type, hand-held computers, but I use it as a no-frills, cut-to-the-chase, bare-bones, stop-with-the-hyphens, flight-information center to enhance my going-nowhere-in-a-hurry lifestyle. Here you can quickly obtain flight status, departures and arrivals, flight alerts, airline and airport information, security wait times, and current airport delays. If you prefer the full-frills version, visit www.flightstats.com. <http://tinyurl.com/y6g7gm>

UNIVERSAL LEONARDO No, not DiCaprio, the other Leonardo. This unusual site is a celebra-

tion of the genius of Leonardo da Vinci's work. Through a series of linked exhibitions and scientific investigations, new dimensions of the "El Da-Vee" (as he was known in the 'hood) legacy are revealed. From the home page, click Browse, then meander through Paintings, Manuscripts, Inventions, and Drawings. One can easily spend hours on this site, so get comfortable, and it wouldn't hurt to have a few snacks standing by. www.universalleonardo.org

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NCRA Issues You Should Know

HOT TOPIC - TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF NONMEMBER COURT REPORTERS

There has been a lot of concern as of late among the membership of the National Court Reporters Association with regard to a motion that the NCRA Board of Directors has approved. Said motion having passed at their November Board Meeting, NCRA will now begin investigating whether or not the stenographic profession would be better served if NCRA tested and certified non-member court reporters, with an eye towards investigating whether or not testing and certification should be extended to other methods as well.

NCRA members across the country have raised their voices in opposition of this motion and will be supporting their own motion to rescind the Board of Directors' actions at NCRA's Annual Business Meeting to be held at this year's convention. The meeting will be held Thursday, August 6, in National Harbor, Maryland. You must be present to vote!

There has been much Internet activity regarding both sides of this debate. In order to get better acquainted with the issue, please go to the websites listed below. These are just but a few samples of where to look for a discussion about the topic.

www.ncraonline.org/memberresources/knowledge
(requires NCRA member ID)

www.motiontorescind.wordpress.com

TWO ILCRA MEMBERS VIE FOR NCRA OFFICE

Another important issue, particularly to Illinois and its court reporters, is the fact that Illinois has not one, but two "locals" vying for the position of NCRA's President-Elect. Ms. Judith Lehman and Ms. Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag are both interested in continuing their Board service beyond their current positions of Board of Director and Vice President, respectively. The Illinois Court Reporting Association is very proud that both candidates call Illinois "home" and wish the best to both during their campaign.

To learn more about the candidates, visit their websites:

www.vote4jude.com

www.melanieforncra.com

NCRA members will be able to participate in this election via NCRA's newly-implemented online voting. This is the second year for this method of voting which now allows every NCRA member to vote whether present at the convention or not, but you must register to vote. Visit www.ncraonline.org for more information.

NCRA NewsFlash...

CALIFORNIA DEFEATS ER MEASURE.

In the wake of disparaging remarks made by the governor, California court reporters have scored a huge victory. On June 10, the Budget Committee rejected the Legislative Analyst's Office's proposal to replace official court reporters with digital recording and removed the language from the budget proposal.

.....
"Ya know, some things are unnecessary and can be cut completely. For example, court reporters. We don't need court reporters. We can do everything digitally now. So, ya know, court reporters can get cut in the majority of cases and save the state a lot of money."
.....

— CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
June 8, 2009, NPR Radio
.....

As is the case in many state, budget concerns have hounded California. Governor Schwarzenegger took to the NPR airwaves on June 8 to voice his distress about the budget and to cite examples of measures that could be taken to reduce the budget shortfall. Included among his ideas was a comment that court reporters could easily be replaced by digital means. Despite this public belittling of the profession, court reporters in California continued to fight the proposal to replace official court reporters with digital recording and have scored this impressive victory.

DELAWARE JUSTICE VACATES CONTRACTING RULE, DISBANDS CSR BOARD.

On May 12, Delaware Chief Justice Myron T. Steele rescinded Administrative Directive 132,

(Continued on page 19)

NCRA NewsFlash...

(Continued from page 18)

which contained provisions prohibiting third party contracting for court reporting services. The anticontracting rules had been challenged by Esquire Deposition Services in federal court, but the chief justice rescinded the order before the federal court ruled on the case. As an apparently unintended consequence, Chief Justice Steele's action went beyond the challenged anti-contracting language and vacated the entirety of Delaware's Administrative Directive 132 (amended), including the rules establishing the Delaware Certified Shorthand Reporter Board and specifying the stenographic method.

WANT TO VOTE? SIGN UP NOW.

NCRA's constitution and Bylaws permit members to vote in contested elections and on bylaws amendments via secure, online means even if you can't attend the Annual Membership Business Meeting at the convention. The business meeting this year is Thursday, August 6. Online voting will take place for 12 hours beginning within two hours of the end of the business meeting. To exercise this right, you must have an active e-mail address on file in NCRA's membership database. This will let NCRA tell you when a contested election or amendment is coming up for a vote and how to register and vote online. Members who are eligible to vote but not in attendance will be able to sign on to the secure Web site, review the transcript and video feed for the meeting, and vote through a private, secure link during the 12-hour voting period. Results will be verified by a third party.

ILCRA Welcomes Three New Members

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:

Jennifer L. Crowe, *Springfield*

Jennifer Farnsworth, *Edwardsville*

Patricia A. Mache, *Glen Ellyn*



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COURT FUNNIES

Recently, we had dissolution matter. The attorney was questioning his client, the Petitioner. She began to cry. Here is what followed.

Q. You're upset?

A. Yes.

Q. We'll take a breather. And while you're breathing, I'll ask you a few more questions.

Submitted by Jill Layton

Official Court Reporter, Cumberland County, IL

Pet Corner

by Amy Quint, Immediate Past President

Have you ever had an excruciating day in court, a depo, a classroom, or on the air? For those of you with four-legged furry friends, sometimes their greeting at the door is all you need to make a bad reporting experience seem like a distant memory.

In the last issue of *Ad Infinitum*, we pictured nine reporters with their beloved dogs. Now, let's hear from the cat people!

Please send us a photo of you and your pet (cat, dog, bird, fish, or?) for the next Pet Corner. Just email a photo and your pet's name to me at amyrmr@yahoo.com.



The Executive Director's grandcats Sydney and Jackson await her arrival.

CHECK OUT OUR BRIEFS

By Nancy LaBella, ILCRA Vice President

So this is what happens when a court reporter agrees to do an article for a quarterly newsletter and then starts a trial: She forgets about her article. The trial involved a timely topic that many of you may encounter down the road. It was a civil action of securities fraud claims involving a financial institution. So taking the easy way out, here are some briefs my colleagues and I came up with for this trial. We hope some of them help you some day.

affirmative defense	AEFD
Arthur Andersen	STPHAPBD
audit	AUD
audit committee	AUBG
bank	PWA*PBG
bona fide	PW-FD
branch	PWRAFRPBLG
consumer	KPHUR
consumer lending	KPHURL
credit card	KRARD
delinquent	TKHREUPB or TKEUPBT
delinquency	TKHREUPBS or TKEUPBTS
district	TKREUBGT
divest	TKW*EST
divestiture	TKW*ES/TUR
due diligence	TKAOD
economic	KPHEBG
economical	KPHEL
exchange	SKA*PBG
foreclose	TPOERBG
foreclosure	TPROERB
inextricably intertwined	KP-PBD
KPMG	KPH-G
mortgage	PHORPBLG
pension plan	P*P
predatory lender.....	PR-L
predatory lending.....	P*L
real estate	RAELS
reserve	REFRPL
SEC	S-BG or S*BG
Securities and Exchange Commission	S-BG/S-BG or S*BG/S*BG
shareholder	SHOELD
stockholder	STOELD
scienter	S*EPBT
vicariously liable	SR-L
vicarious liability	SR-LT

My Experience Reporting a Tuberculosis Hearing

Part 2

by Melissa M. Clagg, Region Two Representative

Part 1 appeared in our Spring 2009 edition. The purpose of the hearing, which took place at a public health building, was to determine whether a non-compliant TB patient should be isolated and ordered to take medication. [ed.]

Since the negotiation process was taking so long, the nurse advised us that we could take our masks off while we were waiting, but a lot of us didn't even want to take the chance. I wanted to take mine off so I could breathe some cool air, but I didn't dare chance it. Instead, I continued to breathe my hot air.

During the time I had my mask on, I realized when I would talk in a normal tone, people couldn't hear me. I almost felt as if I were yelling in order for my voice to be heard outside of the mask. At this point, I wondered if I would be able to hear well enough during the hearing. If not, I wouldn't be able to read anybody's lips while they were covered with a mask.

We finally got word that the respondent would agree to be isolated and we could go in to take his stipulation, but we first had to deal with the question of the media's attendance.

The nurses asked if we all had our masks on properly and could feel no air escaping. I started in a panic mode thinking maybe mine wasn't sealed properly. Maybe I had somehow messed it up during the time we were waiting.

Again, I wish I would have worn my glasses in order for me to check it the easy way — by noticing if my lenses "steamed" up — but, I had to trust the test with my hands. I don't know if I felt any air. I don't think I did. Then again, maybe

it was just my imagination.

I just knew I was warm, so I was hoping that meant the mask was sealed properly. Ready or not, we all entered the conference room where the respondent was waiting for us. I went in and set up hurriedly, thinking the faster we got started, the faster we'd get out of there.

It was a fairly large conference room with a head table for the judge to use as his bench, two tables to be used as counsel tables, and chairs for

"The nurses asked if we all had our masks on properly and could feel no air escaping."

the audience to sit in. There was a podium in between the counsel tables and the judge's so-called bench, which blocked my view of the respondent. That was fine with me. All of a sudden, I noticed a smell. This room had a smell to it that I had not smelled in the previous room. Did that mean my mask wasn't sealed properly? I couldn't stop things now. I had to go on. I told myself not to take a deep breath or breathe too heavy. I really think somebody had turned the heat up in that room. I was really warm, but I knew I needed to keep going.

The judge called the hearing to order. I looked around the room with approximately 15 to 20 people in attendance,

and it struck my funny bone; everyone was masked. What a sight. I had never had a hearing like this before.

We first took up any objections to the presence of the media. There were objections. That part of the hearing actually took longer than the stipulation from the respondent. The judge ruled the media were allowed to sit in, but referred to the respondent throughout the entire hearing by his initials instead of using his name.

I heard the respondent cough a few times, and I kept reminding myself not to breathe deep or touch my mask. Actually, I didn't want to touch anything, not even my machine. My thought process then went to cleanup efforts after I walked out of the room. "Would I have to get rid of my clothes? Maybe stripping down in my garage when I got home and heading straight to the shower would be a good idea. But wait! I had to pack up my machine.

Oh, my poor machine. Would I have to clean it thoroughly? I had to drive home. I had to touch the steering wheel. Would I have to clean the entire car because of my exposure? Oh, what a mess! The additional stress was making me even warmer, if that was possible.

The hearing finally concluded, and I couldn't leave that room fast enough. Thank goodness I didn't pass out from the heat.

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My Experience Reporting a Tuberculosis Hearing

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Once outside the door to the conference room, I was instructed how to remove my mask. As I did so, I asked the nurse what type of cleaning needed to be done to me personally and my machine. She assured me everything would be fine and that I only needed to wipe off my hands and the keys to my machine. Seemed all too simple for what we had just gone through, but she was the expert.

Unfortunately, once I left the building and was on my way home, I felt so dirty I didn't want to touch anything, even though the nurse assured me everything was fine. I think I washed my hands a hundred times that night once I got home.

Since then, it was recommended that everyone involved in the hearing should be tested to at least be informed of our own health status and to form a baseline for any future exposure.

At our courthouse, we've now established what we are calling a TB team, a group of three reporters who have volunteered to take any future proceedings regarding a TB issue. Hopefully, we won't have to take too many of these hearings, but the possibility does exist. At least now I know what to expect if there is a next time.

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A letter from TDI's executive director, Claude Stout, explained, "We selected you for this year's award in recognition for your contributions over the years in the field of providing Communication Access Real-Time Translation services. You were one of the early pioneers in this field, and with your leadership and support this profession has successfully developed and grown to what it is today. Thanks to your substantial efforts, CART services are recognized on their own as an accessibility service that is essential for effective communication and information exchange for many deaf and hard of hearing Americans."

The organization presented her with the 2009 Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award. This award is given biennially to an individual, an organization, or a company that has made an outstanding contribution by any means to improving the accessibility of telecommunications, media and information technology for its constituents.

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