

AD INFINITUM

WINTER, 2010



President's Message

How Many Words Have Been Captured by Those Hands?

by Jill M. Layton, President

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was filled with loved ones and wonderful memories. Hopefully by this time, your holiday decorations are put away, your pictures have all been printed, and you are still true to your New Year's resolutions. How did another year come and go so quickly?

Have you ever been writing on your machine and you looked at your hands and thought, "Those cannot be my hands"?

I have looked at my hands many times as I am working and thought, "Those cannot be

my hands. Those are the hands of an old person." But, my, how many strokes have those fingers made in the last 25 years! How many words have been captured by those hands!

Think about how you used your talent as a court reporter to play a small but very important role in the lives of so many during this past year — whether court hearings for someone adopting a child, giving that child so many hopes for a wonderful life; whether a child custody battle; whether a felony matter which would

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This picture represents the dance of time — the ages of hands that touch the steno machine.

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2009-2011 ILCRA

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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)

affect the lives of the victims as well as the accused — or whether you reported depositions for cases which affected so many lives, people you heard intimate details about but they will never know your name; whether you reported hearings for developments and zonings, new ideas; whether you gave a student the ability to learn in a classroom setting; or whether you helped open the world to someone who was deaf or hard of hearing. Your hands, your talents, touched the lives of so many during the past year.

Yes, time marches on. One year just ended and a new one began. We each have different expectations and different goals in which we hope to achieve by year's end. Some of us are anxious for special occasions to arrive. Some of us are hoping

for situations affecting our lives to come to a conclusion. The new year holds so much for each one of us.

The ILCRA Board will continue to work diligently to find new ways to better serve our members. We have an exciting year ahead of us with the National convention being in the State of Illinois where a fellow ILCRA member will be installed as the President of the National Court Reporters Association!

We look forward to a year of happiness and prosperity...and healthy hands! May we all work together this coming year for the betterment of our association and our profession.

— Jill

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.

IMPORTANT ILCRA DATES

MARCH 12-14: NCRA Midyear Conference, San Francisco, CA

MARCH 20: CRS and ILCRA sponsored seminar, Oak Brook Marriott (Chicago area).

APRIL 9: CRS and ILCRA sponsored seminar, Holiday Inn City Centre in Peoria.

APRIL 10: Executive Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., 710 West Scottwood Drive, Peoria.

APRIL 16: CRS and ILCRA sponsored seminar, Fairview Heights.

AUGUST 5-8: NCRA Annual Convention, Chicago

FEBRUARY 25, 2011: CSR Exam Application Deadline

APRIL 17, 2011: CSR Exam, Carbondale and Chicago area.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

ILCRA will not be having an annual convention in 2010, but we will have our annual business meeting at the NCRA annual convention in Chicago, August 5-8. The specific date, time and place will be posted at a later time.

Be sure and check *Ad Infinitum* for details on ILCRA's annual speed contest, DSA winner, Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and Student Scholarship winner.

Policy Change Lets Official Reporters Request Time Off to Promote Profession

On October 23, 2009, the Chief Judges approved a policy for reporters to request time off for recruitment activities and/or for promoting the court reporting profession. Reporters will not need to use vacation or personal days if they want to attend high school career days, job fairs, or any other activities that would help promote court reporting, more specifically judicial reporting.

The approved policy will be incorporated into the Administrative Regulations in the next version. Requests may be approved as long as court schedules allow for the reporter to be away from work. If time permits, the reporter should report to work before or return to work after an event.

What It's Like to Be a Member of the Executive Board

by Melissa Clagg

When I was first approached to accept a nomination as Region Two Representative for the Executive Board, I was honored and excited at the chance to partake in representing an association of my peers and to give back to ILCRA for which I'd been a member of for so long. Despite the fact I had known reporters who had served on the board in the past, I had no clue what to expect or what my responsibilities would be.

The board is comprised of the President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Legislative Chair, two Region One Representatives (official and freelance), two Region Two Representatives (official and freelance), Immediate Past President, and the Education Liaison. Of course, all would be lost without the vast knowledge and experience of our Executive Director, Nancy C. Davis.

All board members are charged with the task as quoted in ILCRA's 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."

To do so takes the combined effort of the board. The wealth of information held by its composition leaves nothing to the imagination. My first board

meeting was a bit overwhelming, to say the least. It was as if I had stepped into a theater in the middle of a movie. I wondered if I would ever get up to speed.

After serving three years on the board, I learned I would never accumulate all of the information that encompasses this association. Upon talking to other board members, I was

"It was as if I had stepped into a theater in the middle of a movie. I wondered if I would ever get up to speed."

reassured I was not alone in my thinking. It would take years of experience on the board before that could ever be achieved. Hence, Nancy Davis — If she doesn't have the answer, she knows right where to get it!

In order to educate and prepare the members of the board for such a daunting task, one or two board members each year, if financially possible, are sent to training, such as Leadership and Boot Camp. These camps enable a person to obtain the knowledge and skills needed to promote and guide their association into the future and to ensure that members are getting the best possible benefit

out of their association for them and their profession. Needless to say, this training requires the board members to take time away from their family and career to attend.

What else are the board members sacrificing? Many association members do not see the behind-the-scenes of what it entails to be a board member.

Besides the everyday issues that arise for which business is conducted by phone or email, conventions and seminars are also being planned, which includes everything from contacting

guest speakers to planning the luncheon menu. It takes a good number of board members to donate their time at conventions and seminars to make them flow smoothly and guarantee the best results for attendees.

In the few years I have served in this position, I have learned firsthand what it takes to keep this association running; its members! I want to do the best job I can for our members, as does every board member.

To me, the sacrifice of time and energy is well worth the cause. Thank you, ILCRA, for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your Executive Board!



With Sympathy...

ILCRA extend heartfelt condolences to member Chris Simpson on the loss of her father, Patrick Dohack.

ILCRA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations Committee Chair LeAnn M. Hibler is now accepting nominations for the 2010-2012 ILCRA offices of: Region One Representative (Official Court Reporter) and Region Two Representative (Official Court Reporter).

As an explanation, in an effort to have alternating two-year term vacancies for the Region Representative positions, a lot was drawn during the 2009-2011 election to decide which representative in each of the two regions had a one-year term. The result of the drawing was that the Official Court Reporter positions in each region had a one-year term for the 2009-2011 election cycle. According to the "Executive Board" definitions in ILCRA's Policies and Procedures, each region must have an Official Court Reporter as a representative and, thus, this election is only open to Official Court Reporters who reside in the respective regions.

The Executive Board meets approximately every six months on Saturday or Sunday in various locations throughout the state. We undertake a variety of projects with the work divided according to your ability and available time. All candidates must have e-mail capability.

You may nominate yourself or any other ILCRA member who is interested in volunteering time and talent in furtherance of the profession by filling out the form below and returning it to LeAnn M. Hibler.

Also, please include a written acknowledgement of a willingness to serve by the nominated candidate.

Special note: The current one-year terms do not count against the Bylaws requirement that these positions have a two-term limit.

For purposes of this Association and Bylaws of this Association, Region One is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago.

For purposes of this Association and Bylaws of this Association, Region Two is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Adams, Alexander, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Perry, Platt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, St. Clair, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson, and Woodford.



2009-2011 ILCRA Executive Board

This is the opportunity you've been waiting for! Give something back to the profession that has given you so much.

ILCRA NOMINATION FORM

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY FEBRUARY 15, 2010.

Submit to: LeAnn M. Hibler, 3013 Harris Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60431

I recommend the following ILCRA professional member for consideration as a candidate for the office of:

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

I support the candidacy of this individual for the following reason: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Signature: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: () _____

A Day in the Life of a Court Reporter...

By Bonnie Clark

Official court reporter Pete Shanks, 52, of rural Charleston sees the seamier side of life on a daily basis, but it's the career he chose 31 years ago, and he wouldn't change it. "It's always interesting," he said. "There's never a dull moment."

Court reporters transcribe court proceedings, providing accurate, written and legal records documenting everything said in court proceedings. Shanks is one of three court reporters at the Coles County Courthouse. Another is his wife, Mary Danley, who began work there in the early 1990s.

"When we get home, almost like clockwork, it's, 'You wouldn't believe what I had today'," Shanks said. "For the first half-

hour at home, we unload on each other. That's how we de-stress. That and having our 8-year-old daughter, Kate, around.

"We don't do misdemeanors," he added. "They usually tape those because we're so short of court reporters. So, we do all the felony hearings."

Court reporters may work in courtrooms, but also may work for businesses, government agencies and broadcasting groups, where their work can be seen as television captioning for the hearing impaired. Shanks uses a stenographic machine, which allows him to press keys to record letters, words and phrases. "Sometimes one stroke can make one word, sometimes it takes three or four strokes," he said. "And some-

times, one stroke can make three or four words."

Key strokes show up on a small display screen, as well as a paper tape, which can be read back by the recorder instantly, and are also recorded on a disc. The disc is later plugged into a computer and transcribed.

It will translate from stuff that only I can read, to stuff everyone can read," Shanks said. "My software does that. I don't have to translate it, but I have to clean it up a little bit."

According to a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics report, court reporters held about 19,000 jobs in 2006. "Employment of court reporters is projected to grow 25 percent, much faster than the average for all occupations

(Continued on page 8)

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Day in the life of a court reporter...

(Continued from page 6)

between 2006 and 2016,” the report reveals.

Shanks, originally from Taylorsville, said he attended Sparks College in Shelbyville because his girlfriend at the time graduated from high school and decided she wanted to be a court reporter. “I thought, ‘What the heck, I’ll just go along with her,’” he said. “She didn’t finish, but I did and here I am. I’ve been doing it ever since.”

Shanks said the study program is basically two years. “It only takes about two months to learn how to do it,” he said, “but it takes a long time to get your speed to where you can

pass the state test.” That requires being able to record 225 words a minute for 15 minutes at 95 percent accuracy, he said. “There’s also a literary section that’s a little slower, but it has harder words. You have to be a good speller.”

In criminal court, Shanks said, he has seen crimes that he wouldn’t have expected in a small county. “We have a lot of sex crimes,” he said, “crimes where a guy is accused and convicted of forcing himself on someone underage. Surprisingly, you see a lot of that in Coles County. When I came here from being a freelancer, that was the

most surprising thing to me. In a small community, people don’t realize it unless they come to Judge Righter’s courtroom and see what’s going on.”

“We’ve also had the meth scourge, which has kept us busy. It’s a constant and terrible thing, and it affects families all over. Seeing the saddest parts of people’s lives, he said, is the part of his job he dislikes the most.

“Juvenile court and custody battles are sad because the kids suffer. You see that so often,” he said. “Sometimes I think the parents have blinders on and can’t see the damage they’re doing to their children.”

The upside of the job is knowing he’s providing a service. “We’ve had cases where appeals have been granted and cases have been overturned. The appellate courts rely on our transcripts. That’s the only record they have. It is a heavy burden to make sure the transcript is correct,” he said. “It’s the reason you sometimes have to stop an attorney who is talking fast and say, ‘I didn’t get that.’ That’s your job, and anybody who won’t do that is fooling themselves. You want the most accurate record you can possibly make, and if you don’t get something, it’s your job to say, ‘Slow down’ or ‘Talk louder.’”

However stressful the job can be, Shanks said he finds ways to relax. Hunting and fishing trophies on the wall in his courthouse office are reminders of his favorite methods. “I do this job, so I can fish and hunt,” he said. “And I do it a lot. I have a very understanding wife.”

Reprinted from the Journal Gazette Times-Courier To view a slide show of Pete on the job go to www.jg-tc.com/multimedia/#



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Guardians of Record — and Beyond

Local College of Court Reporting grads find lucrative careers beyond courtroom

By Louisa Murzyn, Northwest Indiana Times Correspondent

Josephine Ross had spent seven years working at a license bureau and knew it was time for her to change her career when she realized she could perform her work duties with her eyes closed. “There was no chance for advancement,” said Ross, 29, of Crown Point. “You just work the counter and work with customers. It wasn’t challenging, anymore. I could be half asleep and do my job.” A friend suggested court reporting, because she worked at lightening-bolt speed. “I typed so fast on the computer. I was fast waiting on customers. I did everything fast,” she said.

She graduated this year from a three-year program of study at the College of Court Reporting and doubled her salary. She went to making \$25 per hour from earning \$12.75. *Time Magazine* ranked the industry 68th on its list of 150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs Overall.

Employment is projected to grow 25 percent between 2006 and 2016, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. CNNMoney.com profiled court reporting as a “Surprising Six-Figure Job,” and the BLS reports the average wage range for trained workers is \$45,610 to \$77,700 per year. Overtime and freelancing can take earnings to \$100,000 and higher.

Court reporters continue to be the guardians of record in legal proceedings, but the biggest demand is beyond law. Communication Access Realtime Transcription has opened opportunities in education, business, broadcasting and Web casting. Ross is CART-certified and works with a hearing-impaired college student by capturing instruction and lectures and providing a transcript. Broadcast captioners use the real-time technology to convert speech to onscreen print.

Celebrating 25 years in business, College of Court Reporting founder Kay Moody, 71, of Valparaiso, began tutoring students in her house when a local school closed its doors. Today, the college occupies 5,000 square feet, which includes four classrooms at 111 W. 10th St. in Hobart.

Most students are from Lake and Porter counties, but there are some commuting from South Bend and Elkhart who have been laid off or dis-



JON L. HENDRICKS/THE TIMES

College of Court Reporting graduate Josephine Ross, center, captures real time conversations via a machine hooked up to a computer for Purdue North Central student Dianne Waters, who is hearing impaired.

placed from the recreational vehicle industry. Additionally, there are students attending classes online from across the country. Nicky Rodriguez, director of admissions, said most students are adults changing their careers, many who already have college degrees.

At one time there were four local schools, but Moody said she succeeded by reinvesting profits and keeping her overhead to a minimum. She never took a business loan and has never used a line of credit.

“We always were very conservative about overextending and buying stuff until we could afford to pay for it,” she said. “I think one of the biggest mistakes business owners make is thinking they should take their salary out first and not expenses. You can’t open up a business and expect to get rich quickly.”

The college also keeps its competitive edge by developing staff and investing in the latest technologies. “If you work hard to give the best service to your students, you will rise to the top,” Moody said. “We never anticipated closed-captioning technology would create demand in our field, so it was a pleasant surprise and a by-product of the skill a court reporter has.”

For more information about the College of Court Reporting call (866) 294-3074.



I am a
court
reporter.

No matter what my title says,

I started as a court reporter, and while admittedly it has been a little while since I took a deposition, I still know what it means to be a reporter. I understand the pressures and anxieties that come hand-in-hand with the amazing sense of satisfaction you get from delivering a great product after an all day deposition.

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esquiresolutions.com

NCRA NewsFlash...

NCRA ADDS NEW SECTIONS TO WEBSITE

In November, NCRA introduced an area of its Website dedicated to promoting stenographic reporting, realtime, and the importance of certification. There are three sections, which are Realtime: The Gold Standard of Court Reporting; Why Should You Use a Stenographic Court Reporter; and NCRA Credentials: Setting the Standard.

These sections explain how realtime is used by court reporters, why stenographic reporters should be used, the various forms of stenographic realtime, as well as highlighting the high degree of skill displayed by individuals who have earned an NCRA credential.

ILCRA Congratulates Newly Certified Reporters

Congratulations to these Illinois reporters who became certified as a result of the November 2009 RPR, RMR, CRR, CBC, and CCP skills tests.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS

Debra Bogdanich, RPR, *Burbank*
Jill Cohn, RPR, *New Lenox*
Rebecca Dalton, RPR, *Midlothian*
Sondra DeVries, RPR, *New Douglas*
Paula Erickson, RPR, *Wonder Lake*
Mary Flagg, RPR, *Chicago*
Traci Gidley, RPR, *Tinley Park*
Laura Mukahirn, RPR, *Des Plaines*
Celeste Nicolls, RPR, *Millstadt*
Margaret Orton, RPR, *Crystal Lake*
Layli Phillips, RPR, *Lindenhurst*
Shari Szerbat, RPR, *Chicago*
Jewel Williams, RPR, *Blue Island*

REGISTERED MERIT REPORTERS

Mary Lindbloom, RMR, *Rockford*
Joni Markel, RMR, CRR, *Urbana*
Martha Newton, RMR, *North Aurora*

CERTIFIED REALTIME REPORTER, CERTIFIED BROADCAST CAPTIONER and CERTIFIED CART PROVIDER! WOW!

Carla Campbell, RPR, CRR, CBC, CCP,
East Alton



Pat Graves Wins Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award

“**S**ince 1989, I have been providing communication access real-time translation (CART) services and I have never looked back. In my heart, I feel this work is what I was meant to do with my life.”

— Patricia Graves, President, Caption First, Inc.

HELPING PEOPLE WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS — COMMUNICATION ACCESS REAL-TIME TRANSLATION

I was privileged to receive the Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award at the 18th TDI Biennial International Conference, which took place in Washington, DC, United States, on 30 July–1 August 2009. It was in recognition of my “pioneering contributions in Communication Access Real-Time Translation (CART) over the years.” CART involves two main processes: the translation of spoken English into machine shorthand, and the translation of machine shorthand into written English that appears as captioning on a screen. It is a technology that helps people with hearing impairments to play a full part in society and the workplace.

As I sat waiting to receive this award, I reflected on my own professional journey. I started my career as a court reporter. I loved the work, and the field was challenging and rewarding. As technology evolved and software was developed that would take my stenographic notes and translate them into English text, I was challenged to hone my professional skills so that the text was instantly readable. Once I had achieved this, I chose to work with people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing. Since 1989, I have been providing CART services and I have never looked back. In my heart, I feel this work is what I was meant to do with my life.

There is deafness in my family. My brother went to the Colorado Deaf and Blind School many years ago. I remember him learning sign language, wearing hearing aids and learning to lip-read. The philosophy of the time was not one of simultaneous communication. As a family we did not learn to sign, although my brother became fluent in American Sign Language.

(Continued on page 12)

The Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award is given every two years by Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI) — an advocacy organization in the United States focusing on addressing equal access issues in telecommunications, media, and information technology. The award recognizes an individual, organization or company that has made an outstanding contribution to improving the accessibility of telecommunications, media and information technology for people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or deaf-blind.

Before instant messaging via computer, or texting on mobile phones, people with hearing impairments relied on a device called the teletypewriter, or TTY, connected to a phone. This device came into being because of Robert H. Weitbrecht (1920–1983), who was born deaf and grew up to become a physicist and a licensed amateur radio operator.

Weitbrecht became interested in Morse code in order to communicate with hearing people via radio. In 1950, he obtained a radio teletypewriter that could receive messages. He was able to modify it so that it could also send messages by radio.

Deaf people who knew about his work asked him to adapt the radio teletypewriter so it could be used with a normal telephone. After years of work, he developed an acoustic coupler that allowed the TTY to be used with a telephone. In May 1964, Weitbrecht made the first long-distance phone call with a TTY.

Pat Graves Wins Robert H. Weitbrecht Telecommunications Access Award

(Continued from page 11)

When I chose to go into this new field of access to communications, only a handful of my peers were involved. The company Caption First, of which I am president, had its beginnings in 1989 in Chicago and our focus was on captioning for television news. But after receiving a Federal grant for providing this service, the news broadcaster decided not to go forward with the project



Realtime captioning helps people at conferences.

and we never had the opportunity to use the grant money. This turned into a blessing ultimately, as I was then able to focus on helping people directly. The company focused on making a difference in people's personal and work lives through communication access real-time translation.

In the beginning, the CART technology consisted of an overhead projector and a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel, a tripod screen, and text enlargement software that ran with a DOS program. Time went on and the technology changed. The ability to support people remotely was a huge step forward. To do this, telephone lines were used initially, but now we are able to send text through the Internet at lightning speed and with a high degree of security.

The real-time text can be viewed by one person on a computer, or by several people in different locations at the same time. And for groups of

people, the text can be projected onto a large screen. The latest breakthrough is the ability to have the audio sent to the CART provider and have the text delivered back to the same handheld device almost simultaneously. This allows users to go to parties, exhibition halls, dinners — wherever — and to have communication access anywhere, any time, in an inconspicuous manner. Everyone has a mobile communication device in their hand nowadays!

The ability to merge real-time text with webcasts has been maturing and evolving. This technology is also leading to on-demand playback at the consumer's convenience, as well as to an explosion of archived media becoming accessible.

A personal journey

Over the years I have had the privilege to witness people's journeys with hearing loss, whether it was sudden, progressive or from birth. I have been a part of people's lives as they learned sign language, adapted to hearing aids and received cochlear implants. I have witnessed communication failures, and I have had the privilege of helping communication to flow.

Because of this, I have learned lessons about adapting, planning, asking for support, acceptance, and finding humour in difficult situations. These life lessons have helped me in my personal journey, and with the substantial loss of vision that I have recently had to deal with. Because of the experiences of my deaf friends and colleagues, my journey has been made easier, and I am grateful.

Why was I chosen to receive the Robert Weitbrecht Telecommunication Access Award? I would like to believe it is because I listen carefully to what is needed and then I find a way to "make it happen." I would like to believe it is because I am an advocate for equality. I believe in a level-playing field, so that the users of CART and captioning can fail or succeed based on their own skills and expertise. I would like to believe I was chosen for this award because I stay ahead of the technology, always looking for ways to make the words flow smoothly to wherever consumers need to see them. I would like to believe I was chosen because of my dedication and passion for quality and professionalism.

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March 20: Oak Brook • April 9: Peoria • April 16: Fairview Heights

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:00-9:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30 CONCURRENT Sessions (Select One):

STATE OFFICIALS' INFORMATION

SESSION (Tammy Bumgarner) This session will have information updates on court reporting services' issues. Registrants for this session should submit any questions in writing prior to the seminar on the form included in the registration packet.

FREELANCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

(Judy Mosier) ILCRA Board Members' Panel. The panel will be discussing topics having to do with our changing profession, new trends in the industry and what you would like to see the ILCRA Freelance Committee work on next.

INSIDE THE INDIGENT APPEAL

Oak Brook Only (Office of the State Appellate Defender) This session will discuss the role of the Office of the State Appellate Defender in the appeal process and the workings of the Appellate Court by representatives from their district office.

10:30-Noon CONCURRENT Sessions (Select One):

STATE OFFICIALS INFORMATION

SESSION (Cook County) (Tammy Bumgarner) **Oak Brook Only** This session will have information updates on court reporting services' issues pertaining only to Cook County. Registrants for this session should submit any questions in writing prior to the seminar on the form included in the registration packet.

INSIDE THE INDIGENT APPEAL (Repeat)

(**Peoria:** Nancy Vincent, Appellate Defender) (**Fairview Heights:** Johannah Weber, Appellate Defender) This session will discuss the role of the Office of the State Appellate Defender in the appeal process and the workings of the Appellate Court by representatives from their district office.

TRIVIA, SPELLING, VOCABULARY CHALLENGE BEE

(Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag) This session is designed to test your knowledge of general spelling, vocabulary and trivia.

12:00-1:00 Group Lunch

1:00-2:30

THE FUTURE OF THE COURT REPORTING PROFESSION

(Panel—Moderator, Tammy Bumgarner) This session will be presented by a panel of court reporters which will discuss how you can play a role in ensuring the future of the profession.

2:30-4:00

CANINE OFFICERS (County Sheriff's Police Department K-9 Unit) This session discusses the important role of canines as working partners in the police force.

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PLEASE NOTE: Pursuant to NCRA requirements, entry into seminars will not be permitted 15 minutes after session begins. Seminar attendance cards will not be punched until the end of each seminar.

(Continued on page 15)

Continuing Education Seminar *(continued from page 14)*

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____ March 20 Oak Brook (Deadline March 1)

____ April 9 Peoria (Deadline March 15)

____ April 16 Fairview Heights (Deadline April 1)

Check all that apply:

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March 20: Marriott, Oak Brook (630-505-0900)

April 9: Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria (800-315-2621)

April 16: Four Points by Sheraton, Fairview Heights (618-622-9500)

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ILCRA will not be having an annual convention in 2010, but we will have our annual business meeting at the NCRA annual convention in Chicago, Illinois August 5-8. The specific date, time and place will be posted at a later time. Be sure and check *Ad Infinitum* for details on ILCRA's annual speed contest, DSA winner, Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and Student Scholarship winner.

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Fear the Middleman

By Heather Scott, CSR, RPR, CRR. Freelance Court Reporter

When hiring a court reporter for an out-of-town deposition or other meeting, law firms often turn to the Internet. A quick online search for a reporter in any given area will deluge the user with advertisements for nationwide firms (hereafter referred to as “The Middleman”) that claim to have court reporters available all across the country. “Give us a call and we will handle everything. Need a videographer? Need a conference room? How about a translator? We will get it all set up for you at no additional charge.”

The truth is that almost every court reporter or firm will offer those services at no additional charge. One call to a local is all it takes, too, and you just might find that the service is far superior. And whether you realize it or not, you either choose to work with the locals from the very beginning, or you call The Middleman and he will schedule with the local firms. These nationwide scheduling firms do not, as they make it appear, have court reporters on staff in every nook and cranny of the world.

So what difference does it make to you, the hiring party, as long as someone shows up with their mysterious little machine and soon thereafter you have a transcript? As a matter of fact, you might add: “The Middleman offers huge discounts; The Middleman will give me a free iPod when I schedule a deposition; The Middleman promised to beat everyone else’s price by at least ten percent!”

As is true in every aspect of life, “There is no such thing as a free lunch.” The Middleman spends tremendous amounts of money to direct you to his site or 1-800 telephone number. How is that money recouped? There are only two places it comes from; out of the hiring party’s pocket or the court reporter’s (or both). And once The Middleman corners the market in a reporter’s town, the court reporter faces taking the assignment on the firm’s terms, or having no work at all.

Let’s take a look at an example. When talking to The Middleman or browsing his website, you will find that he promises users will pay a frac-

tion of the cost of hiring a local reporter or firm. That sounds good, right? But what does The Middleman tell

court reporters to encourage them to take assignments from him? He tells us that he does not negotiate our rates, and that we may charge him what we are accustomed to billing. So if we are to believe both of those statements, The Middleman is selling the end product for less than he paid for it. And he miraculously has money left over, because he also tells court reporters that he spends hundreds of thousands of dollars per year advertising our services.

If The Middleman truly adhered to those principles, he would be out of business after the first deposition. He is an excellent salesman; he has to be. He must use smoke and mirrors to convince the consumer that he is essential to the process. He isn’t.

There are many strategies the nationwide firms employ to increase profit. One particularly distasteful practice is reformatting of transcripts. It goes like this: The local court reporter takes a job for The Middleman. That reporter then emails their transcript file to The Middleman’s office, where the transcript is produced and distributed. The file the reporter emailed may be 100 pages long, and that’s what The Middleman pays the reporter for; unbeknownst to both the reporter and the purchaser, The Middleman then uses software that reformats the margins, making them wider and stretching the transcript. So the client receives and pays for, say, a 130-page transcript. The extra 30 pages are pure profit to The Middleman.

Another tactic these firms practice is advertising the lowest page rate possible, but then billing the client for things the client never requested. Some firms charge for delivery/postage at a much higher rate than they actually pay. They might

(Continued on page 17)

‘One call does it all!’

Fear the Middleman

(Continued from page 16)

also have exorbitant office/paper fees. They often charge a full-page price for word indexes and condensed transcripts, even if you didn't want that service. Exhibits are copied at rates of \$1.50 a page or more. The list of potential trappings could go on forever.

It is bad enough to be the party that hired The Middleman, but heaven forbid you find yourself in a situation where you are on the other side of litigation or proceedings where your adversary hired The Middleman. The Middleman might have made a few concessions to the party that hired him, but if you choose to purchase a copy of the product, all bets are off! You will pay a large chunk of his profit, and often pay more than the hiring party.

The logical next question leads to ethics. Is what The Middleman is doing legal? Is it ethical? Court reporters are governed by the state and national boards that license them. Many states have laws regarding court reporters engaging in

contracting, which is offering one side of litigation a reduced price, or other advantage, that is not offered to the opposing side. The National Court Reporters Association also has guidelines regarding reporter ethics and inappropriate client gifting (i.e. the iPod) used to entice hiring parties. The problem with The Middleman is that he is not a court reporter, but rather a business owner, so he cannot be held to the same ethical standards, nor does he risk losing a court reporting license.

It must be made clear that by no means does this writing intend to encourage hiring parties to always use an individual court reporter and never use a firm or agency. There are lots of wonderful, ethical court reporting agencies (usually owned by court reporters themselves) that service their area of the market with their own staff. Most of the nationwide scheduling firms do not even have reporters on staff, and therefore cannot truly be called court reporting firms.

(Continued on page 18)

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Fear the Middleman

(Continued from page 17)

All hiring parties are looking for ease and convenience. So how do you manage to cut out The Middleman without adding research time into your already packed schedule? There is at least one website that is free for users to browse and search for court reporters all over the nation. And the reporters that are members of the site are not permitted to advertise more than 120 miles away from their home base, so you get a local right from the beginning. I choose not to give the name of that website in this article, because I own it and I don't want my words

herein to be discounted as an advertisement. I merely want hiring parties to be aware that it is just as quick and simple to use a local reporter/firm as it is to call one that practices nationwide scheduling, and it's usually much more cost-effective.

Regardless of what method you use, take steps to cut out The Middleman, and you'll soon wonder why you ever paid him a penny.

The author intended this to be an informative article for distribution to attorneys and insurance companies. — Ed.

CHECK OUT OUR BRIEFS

By Nancy LaBella, ILCRA President-Elect

For this quarter's article, we are reprinting – with permission, of course – some brief forms passed on to us by Court Reporter Extraordinaire, Jerry Kelley, Federal Official Court Reporter, Eastern District of Texas (I guess this should be renamed “Check Out Jerry's Briefs”). Thanks, Jerry. Does anybody have a topic they would like to see covered for our next issue? Let us know.

affidavit.....	AFD	illegal	EULG
American.....	AEPB	illegal activity	EULGT
appeal	AOEL	ineffective assistance of counsel	KWROUPB
ATM	TAPL	know what I mean	TPHOEUPL
chain of custody	KHUBGD	know what I'm saying	TPHAOEUPLS
confidential.....	KFL	may I approach	PHOEFPP
confidential source ...	KFLS	nerve	TPHEFR
confidentiality	KFLT	nervous	TPHUFRS
conspirator	KAOERT	paragraph.....	PRAF
co-conspirator.....	KAOERBGT	patent	PAEPBT
conspiracy	KAOERS	pattern	PARPB
counterfeit.....	KOUFT	peremptory challenge	PREBG
counterfeiter	KOUFRT	professor.....	PROFR
degree	TKAOEG	Spanish.....	SPEURB
bachelor's degree	PWAOEG	standard	STAUPBD
master's degree	PHAOEG	subpoena duces tecum	STK-T
deport	TKORT	SUV	SAOUF
DVD	TKFD	voir dire	SROEURD
felon.....	TPHROPB	voir dire examination	SROEURBG
fundamental	FUPLT		



By Richard A. Sherman

WINDOWS 7 TIPS

Q. Now that Windows 7 has been released, what's your impression of it and do you have any new-user tips?

A. I've been using Windows 7 since its initial beta version and I remain impressed. I would characterize it as Vista, but without the quirks. (I'm being diplomatic.) Bottom line, Windows 7 is a good, solid operating system and at least at this stage, Microsoft appears to have redeemed itself from its V-word debacle.

If you are using Windows 7, or if it's in your future, I added a new Windows 7 section to my weekly "Ask Mr. Modem!" newsletter (www.MrModem.com). Heading into its tenth year of publication, each week I deliver helpful, easy-to-understand tips for all versions of Windows, as well as prompt, personal responses to subscribers' questions by email.

As far as Windows 7 tips, here are four little "teaser tips" from my newsletter:

1. The Show Desktop feature that was used to minimize all open windows in XP and Vista has been replaced by Aero Peek. Peek is enabled by mousing over a "glass" rectangular area in the lower right-hand corner of the screen, to the right of the time display. When you

mouse over this little panel, all open windows are hidden and replaced by window outlines. If you prefer the older style "Show Desktop" effect, click the little panel instead of mousing over it and all open windows will minimize.

2. Gone, too, is the Quick Launch bar in Windows 7, but the new Taskbar effectively serves the same function. If your Win 7 Taskbar is taking up too much room because of its large icons, right-click the Start orb, click Properties > Taskbar > Use small icons > OK.

3. If you drag one window to the left side of the screen and another to the right, the windows will instantly resize, each filling half the screen, so you can easily use them side by side. Love it!

4. Windows 7 includes a number of new keyboard shortcuts. A few of my favorites include: The Windows (Logo) Key + G displays gadgets in front of other windows. The Windows Key + Up maximizes the current window, while the WinKey + Down minimizes the current window. The WinKey + Spacebar causes all windows to become transparent so you can see through to the Desktop, and the WinKey + (+ or -) will zoom in or out.

Q. I downloaded a font that I like, but I can't figure out how to install it in my word processor. I followed instructions, but

the font doesn't appear in the list of available fonts. Can you help, Mr. M?

A. In this instance, don't install your new font into the word processor itself, install it in Windows where other programs can then access it. To do this, using Windows Explorer, for example, copy the font file into your C:\Windows\Fonts folder, or whatever folder is appropriate for your system if it's configured other than in this manner, which is typical.

Then go to Control Panel > Fonts > File > Install New Fonts. In the Add Fonts dialog box, navigate to the C:\Windows\Fonts folder, or whatever folder is appropriate on your system. Double-click to open the folder.

Under "List of Fonts," click to select your new font, then click OK. Restart your computer and the font will then be available for use in all Windows programs, including your word processor.

Q. I understand there are methods and devices that can transfer 35mm slides to a hard drive or CD. What can you tell me about them and where can they be purchased?

A. There are a number of methods for converting slides to digital images that are described in detail in the following articles: "Converting Your 35mm

(Continued on page 20)

Ask Mr. Modem

(Continued from page 19)

Slides to Digital Format,” at <http://tinyurl.com/tze8j>, and “How to Convert 35mm Slides to Digital,” at <http://tinyurl.com/yjofg6j>.

There are also devices that can perform the conversion (<http://tinyurl.com/yl6oedl>), or you can use any number of professional services, such as Larsen Digital Slide Scanning at www.slidescanning.com/slides.htm.

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

ROADSIDE PEEK Get comfy and enjoy an open-road journey back through time. Travel old routes (including the legendary Route 66) across America. See the old motels, bowling alleys, drive-in theatres (remember drive-ins?), neon signs, petrol pumps, tacky tiki villages, and other roadside treasures. The site’s default font is a bit small for my trifocals, so if you want to enlarge the font, click View > Text or Zoom in your browser or press CTRL and the + sign. www.roadsidepeek.com

SHAKESPEARE INSULT KIT

Shakespeare was, of course, a brilliant writer, but he also had a cutting wit that could skewer an adversary faster than you can retort, “Says who, thou fobbing, earth-vexing dewberry?” Use this site to create your own Shakespearean insults. Choose an entry from each of three columns, string them together, precede the phrase with “thou,” and you’ve got an insult worthy of a 17th century poet, thou calumnious, muddy-mettled mumblemeaws.

<http://tinyurl.com/yez5m9v>

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Veterans' Stories Not Forgotten

By Dave Fopay, Staff Writer

MATTOON— The truce ending the Korean War came while Tom Logue was on a ship in the Pacific Ocean en route to the conflict.

Logue didn't see any fighting but has plenty of stories to tell about prisoner releases, being watched by Chinese troops and the oppressing feeling that the shooting might start again.

"You could cut the tension with a knife," he said of the atmosphere along what had been the front lines of the war. "But, a month later, I was on my way home."

Logue describes his experiences as "just a story [that] could be any one of a thousand

people." Still, they were worth recording alongside the stories of other veterans, Mary Danley and Pete Shanks believed.

Danley and Shanks are a married couple who work as court reporters, transcribing proceedings in Coles County courtrooms. When they heard Logue, a Mattoon attorney, talk about his time in the service during a dinner they all attended, they thought he was a perfect fit for a project in which they're taking part.

Shanks interviewed Logue and Danley transcribed his story for the Veterans History Project, which archives service people's experiences for the Library of Congress. The National Court

Reporters Association became involved because the wife of one of the congressmen who sponsored the enabling legislation was a member and thought the tales could be taken down word for word. While some veterans are hesitant to talk about their war experiences, Logue said he was readily agreeable to Danley's and Shanks' request.

"It's something they asked me to do," he said. "So many guys gave so much more but I was there, right on the front line."

Logue was a law school student, married with two children and an ROTC member when he was called to active duty in

(Continued on page 22)

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Veterans' Stories Not Forgotten

(Continued from page 21)

1953. In his interview, he said the "big thing" during his time in Korea was a prisoner exchange on Jan. 21, 1954, when some of the nearly 90,000 Chinese prisoners who were released chose not to return to their own country.

"That's when everybody thought the war would restart," he told Danley and Shanks. "Nobody thought that the Chinese would ever let us get away with all the guys, but they did."

Logue seemingly downplayed the importance of his role in the war with expressions like "It's just a story," but Shanks said he and Danley were grateful that he was willing to take part in the project.

"Everybody's got their own story," he said. "They're meaningful to someone. Tom's a good subject. I could sit and listen to him again."

Danley said the court reporters' association has transcribed more than 35,000 veterans' stories since 2003. Some of those have been from tape recordings, and she said she has done three others that way, but none of those were stories from local veterans.

"I would encourage anyone who knows a veteran to interview them with a tape recorder," she said.

The Library of Congress has information and materials online to help people interview

or take part in the project. Danley said court reporters interested in participating can contact the national association.

Shanks added that he and Danley will also do the best they can to schedule interviews with older, local World War II veterans who want to tell their stories, and anyone interested can contact them through the Coles County Court Administration Office at (217) 348-0538.

"That's one thing I wish we could do, because if those stories aren't memorialized, they're lost," Shanks said.

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ILCRA Executive Board Meeting Highlights

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009 • HILTON HOTEL • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Present: Jill Layton, President; Nancy LaBella, President-Elect; Stephanie Rennegarbe, Vice-President; Judy Mosier, Secretary; Lyn Grooms, Treasurer; Patrice Houlf, Legislative Representative; Sharon Stuckly and Vernita Allen-Williams Region One Representatives; Rita Corson and Debra Musielak, Region Two Representatives; LeAnn Hibler, Immediate Past President; Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director; Bonni Shuttleworth, Educational Liaison. *Also present:* Mark Renzi, NCRA Director; Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, Member; Glenn Sonntag, ILCRA Past President.

MINUTES of board meeting held April 4, via tele-conference were approved as submitted.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Presented by Nancy Davis. Membership letters reported on.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented by Lyn Grooms, approved as submitted.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Presented by Patrice Houlf.

EDUCATIONAL LIAISON REPORT: Presented by Bonni Shuttleworth. Students Scholarship discussed. Career days discussed. NCRA to provide marketing plan to states through NCSA for student recruitment.

CART COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Lyn Grooms. Grooms submitted resignation as Chair and as member of the committee. Resignation was accepted by the board. LeAnn Hibler accepted the position of Chair of CART Committee.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Nancy Davis. Current convention results not final. 2010 Annual Meeting and Convention discussed. 2011 Annual Convention planned as a four state convention to include Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. 2011 ILCRA will hold a one-day marathon seminar at South Suburban in March.

(M1) Nancy LaBella makes a motion that in 2010 ILCRA not have two-day convention and ILCRA's annual business meeting to be held in conjunction with the NCRA Annual Convention, as well as ILCRA's speed contest. Lyn Grooms seconded. Motion carries.

FREELANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Judy Mosier. Membership requirements discussed. Bylaw change discussed.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Nancy LaBella. Board will make reminder calls for non-renewals. Non-member fees for conventions discussed. State affiliate will be charged member fee.

OFFICIALS COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Jill Layton.

ETHICS COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by LeAnn Hibler. NCRA Ethics first logo discussed. Code of Professional Ethics discussed

PR/MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Vernita Allen-Williams. College of Lake County possibly looking into a court reporting program.

SPEED CONTEST COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Bonni Shuttleworth Speed contest in 2010 will be held in conjunction with NCRA Annual Convention.

TASK FORCE COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee charged with looking into Nancy Davis' replacement in four years.

NCRA-RELATED ACTIVITIES: November 7th testing sites will be McCorkle Reporting, Chief Examiner for CRR will be Bonni Shuttleworth and Melanie Sonntag for the RPR. Sparks College, Chief Examiner will be Judy Lehman for RPR and CRR will be Nancy Davis. South Suburban, Chief Examiner will be Don Dalton for RPR and Nancy LaBella for the CRR. August 2010 Leadership will be in Chicago. NCSA will be in Chicago. Discussion of ILCRA board members to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Form Book/Rule Book. CRS Seminars 2010 discussed. Dates and locations are not decided yet.

NEW BUSINESS: Ad Infinitum Online discussed. Committee appointed for website revamping. Judy Mosier and Sharon Stuckly will start work.

BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT: Presented by Lyn Grooms.

(M2) Nancy LaBella makes a motion that ILCRA hold a cash raffle at the 2010 NCRA Annual Convention in order to balance the budget and that we accept the proposed balanced budget with changes made to the income and expenses to reflect a change from car raffle to monetary prize raffle. Judy Mosier seconds. Motion carries.

MEETING ADJOURNED

That's FUNNY!

First Graders Put New Spin on Old Proverbs

A first grade teacher gave her students part of a proverb and asked them to fill in the rest. Here's a sample of what they came up with:

As you make your bed so shall you...mess it up.
Better safe than...punch a 5th grader.
Strike while...the bug is close!
It's always darkest before...daylight savings time.
Never underestimate the power of...termites.
You can lead a horse to water but...how?
If you lie down with the dogs, you'll...stink in the morning.
The pen is mightier than the...pigs.
An idle mind is...the best way to relax.
Happy the bride who...gets all the presents.
You get out of something what you...see pictured on the box.
Don't bite the hand that...looks dirty.

No news is...impossible.
A miss is as good as a...mister.
You can't teach an old dog new...math.
Where there's smoke there's...pollution.
A penny saved is...not much.
Two's company, three's...the Musketeers.
Don't put off tomorrow what...you put on to go to bed.
Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and...you have to blow your nose.
Children should be seen and not...spanked or grounded.
If at first you don't succeed...get new batteries.
There is no fool like...Aunt Eddie.



ILCRA Welcomes 11 New Members

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS:

LeAnn Clodi, *Bourbonnais*

Tracy Grott, *Quincy*

Donna Kazaitis, *LaGrange Park*

Stacy Jozwiak, *Bartlett*

Sandra Tennis, *Winfield, MD*

Holly Wingstrom, *Monticello*

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Mary C. Gaal (Vendor)

Sally M. Greb (Student)

Katherine McCorkle (Agency Owner)

Dania Scpahrokh (Student)

Laura S. Thoman (Student)

Check Out [Briefpedia.com](http://www.briefpedia.com)

Court Reporter Johnny Jay Jackson has developed a Website that will translate English into steno. Just type the word you wish to search for in the text box, click the Search button or press enter to view the steno suggestions.

Click on the steno from the results to view a table of possible conflicts for that steno. You may also click on the English from the possible conflicts to do a search for that English. You can even click on the add button to add your own entries to the list. www.briefpedia.com

Thanks to Deb Garver of OCRA for sharing this site.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY

OPENING FOR FULL-TIME OFFICIALSHIP in the Fifth Judicial Circuit. The Fifth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Vermilion, Edgar, Coles, Cumberland and Clark Counties. The opening is for Clark County, Marshall, Illinois.

Please contact Chief Judge Tracy Resch at Clark County Courthouse, 501 Archer Avenue, Marshall, IL 62441; 217/826-3943; fax 217/826-5513.

VENDOR NEWS

STENOGRAPH ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH LEXISNEXIS

On November 18, Stenograph announced an agreement with LexisNexis to further enable the transfer of data between the CaseViewNet application and LexisNexis TextMap transcript summary solution. Now, CaseViewNet will automatically be installed when TextMap is purchased by users. The two applications will remain separate but will have the ability to function together.

CASE CATALYST UPDATE COMPATIBLE WITH WINDOWS 7

Stenograph has announced that its most recent CaseCatalyst® update, version 10.06, is compatible with Microsoft Windows® 7. Free tips on transitioning to Windows 7 are available on from the HelpDesk on Stenograph's website www.stenograph.com.

NEW LOCATION FOR STENOGRAPH

Stenograph moved from its Mount Prospect location to a new building in Elmhurst, IL. in November. The choice to change location and move into a more suitably sized space was a logical one, says John Wenclawski, president of Stenograph. "Over the years, we've embraced technology. We've developed more efficient products and drastically cut down on the need for paper. With the recent changes to our business that this has brought about, our building size requirements are far less than they were in the past," said Wenclawski. According to Wenclawski, Stenograph will have the same staff in Elmhurst that they had in Mount Prospect.



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ILCRA Student Scholarship Competition:

Attention Students!

Would You Like to Win \$1,000?

ILCRA will be awarding its student scholarships in conjunction with the NCRA annual convention, which is being held in Chicago in August 2010. We will be presenting a \$1,000 grand prize.

The winner will also receive a complimentary registration to the NCRA convention and become a member of the ILCRA Student Scholarship Committee for the following year. Other prizes will also be awarded.

Watch for details about how you can apply for these scholarships in the spring issue of the *Ad Infinitum!*

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!

ILLINOIS COURT REPORTER TRAINING PROGRAMS

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Just click this link or go to the ILCRA store at
www.ILCRA.org

Come Home to a Hot Meal

Here's another easy recipe to put in the crock pot in the morning before you leave for work. When you return...the evening meal will be ready for you and your family!

Place pieces of cubed steak on bottom of crock pot. Peel and slice potatoes. Mix four packages of brown gravy. Pour brown gravy over potatoes and cubed steak. Cook on low six to eight hours. (Use the amount of cubed steak and potatoes for the size meal you are serving.)



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WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS CARD!

SURE! I'd be happy to place my name prominently before my fellow ILCRA members and drum up a little business while showing support for my state association. Please display my business card in the next four issues of Ad Infinitum. Enclosed is my card and a check made payable to ILCRA for \$100.

Name: _____ Ph:() _____

Address: _____

Mail to: Nancy C. Davis, Executive Director, ILCRA, 41 SW Crescent Drive, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864.

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618-242-2142 . 800-656-2467 www.ilcra.org

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please type or print)

Please check address preferred for mail: Home Business

Name: _____ Date: _____

Home: _____
(Street Address) (Apt. #) (City) (State) (Zip)

Courthouse or Business: _____
(Name) (Street Address) (Suite #) (City) (State) (Zip)

Business Phone: () _____ Home Phone: () _____ FAX: () _____ E-Mail Address _____

Female Date of Birth Previous ILCRA Member? If yes, by what name?
Male / / Yes No _____

PROFESSIONAL MEMBER -- FOR COURT REPORTERS -- DUES \$95/YR

Primary Reporter: Freelance State Official Federal Official Captioner Hearing Legislative Industrial Commission

Primary Shorthand : (check only one) Machine Pitman Gregg Other _____

Support Services: Computer-Aided Conference Litigation Realtime Video Video Closed
Transcription Room Support Translation Conferencing Captioning

Certifications: RPR RMR RDR CLVS CMRS CRR CRI CPE FAPR CBC CCP
CSR State(s) _____ CSR# _____ Other: _____

Speed Contest Participant: ISRA/ILCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion
NCRA Literary Legal/Jury Testimony Champion

Degrees: Associates Associate of Business Associate of Science Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Business Adm. Bachelor of Science
Master of Arts Master of Business Adm. Master of Science Doctor of Philosophy Other: _____

Nonreporting Specialties: Attorney Notary Public

ASSOCIATE MEMBER -- DUES AS INDICATED (check one) Instructor - \$35 Student ---- \$25 Vendor ----\$45
Retired -----\$25 Other -- \$45 _____
(Occupation)

The dues year is July 1 through June 30. Annual dues, payroll deduction card or credit card information must accompany application.

Check enclosed, payable to ILCRA (\$10 fee for returned checks) DISCOVER
VISA Exp. Date Acct. No.
MC _____
AMERICAN EXP _____

Name on Card Signature of Cardholder

REFERRED BY: _____ (ILCRA Member)

WHAT ILCRA DOES FOR ILLINOIS REPORTERS

- Works to maintain your right to be certified.
- Administers the RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CBC, and CCP examinations and publishes the dates of the tests in Ad Infitum.
- Monitors, promotes, and lobbies to pass legislation favorable 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 two-day conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- Publishes the Ad Infitum, 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.
- Co-hosts and pays for NCRA continuing education units for the three Court Reporting Services Seminars. ILCRA also provides personnel in connection with those continuing education credits.
- Awards a Student Scholarship, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator and conducts speed contests each year.
- Provides on the ILCRA website, a Resource Manual which includes the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of 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 Member Listing
- 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 our ListServe program which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via e-mail.
- Serves the membership with an 800 phone number, 1-800-656-2467 and a website www.ilcra.org.
- Provides a full-time staff person, our Executive Director, to assist members.