

WINTER 2015

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We are well into 2015, and at the time of this publication the ILCRA board and staff have worked hard to get the Marathon seminar in place. Our 2014 convention was one of the most successful ones we have seen in recent years, and we hope that Marathon is the same. It gives another chance for our members to gather, discuss and learn. In addition to Marathon, we are working to organize another successful convention for this year and hope to have the same strong showing in Springfield.

www.ilcra.org

ad infinitum

April and May are two very important months for the ILCRA, and that is because this is the time when we need nominations to start rolling in for board member positions. This year we will once again have openings on our board in September, and we need passionate, energetic, and enthusiastic folks to step forward and volunteer for a nomination on our board. When current and past board members approach ILCRA members about their interest in becoming a board member, oftentimes we get a response of, "I just don't have time." In all candor, that phrase makes me want to laugh. I have heard it said that being blunt comes with age, and I'll admit that sometimes I just laugh when people tell me that. We are not talking about having a child or giving a life commitment, but rather a two-year commitment to a profession that has been so good to us with no strings attached.

If you care about your profession and the future of your job, why not dig for a



ILLINOIS COURT REPORTERS

ASSOCIATION

little extra time and give board service a try? I'll admit, it's not all fun and games, but I promise you the knowledge you gain will remain with you and give you a greater appreciation for the profession. There are some instances that the board has their hands tied and face barriers, but most of the time it works together to solve issues that face each of us every day of ever year, including, among others, the current State budget crisis that is all over the media and the threat of the profession being challenged by digital recording. These are just a few of the challenges the board has, but we are in continuous contact with one another on various things that pop up.

In the next couple months give serious thought to accepting a nomination for the ILCRA board. If you have guestions and would like to know more about what we do, contact the ILCRA headquarters or one of our current board members. Each of us would love to talk with you. If we really hope to maintain a strong profession, each of us needs to take a stand. Just because you may be retiring in a couple years doesn't leave you off the hook. Don't throw the ball in someone else's court. Give a little of your time for the future and the big picture, and I promise you will walk away with a deeper appreciation for the profession and your peers. Let's stick together!

—Stephanie Rennegarbe

ILCRA OFFICERS | 2015

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

What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

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

ILCRA MISSION STATEMENT

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

Illinois Court Reporters Association Marathon Education Seminar For Court Reporters

March 21, 2015 DoubleTree by Hilton Chicago - Oak Brook 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523 630-472-6000

> Schedule subject to change without notice. 1.0 CEUs are pending approval.

Registration/Coffee/Continental Breakfast		
Seminar 1: Take the LEAD	1.5 hours	
Speaker: Shawn Preuss, Professional Life Coach		
In this workshop, Leadership, Empowerment And Discovery combine leadership practices with coaching skills to empoy and relationships you want. You will walk away with tools a you want, and set your course for 2015 and beyond!	ower you on the journey to creating the life, business	
Seminar 2: Navigating Through the Nonsense	1.5 hours	
Speaker: Kathryn A. Thomas, CSR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP		
Abraham Lincoln said, "Don't believe everything you read on the Internet." Maybe he didn't REALLY say that, but this fun and useful session introduces some red flags to help discern which Internet articles, images, and posts are good sources of information and which are rubbish. Spoiler alert: Use Snopes.com often.		
Break		
Seminar 3: Trends in Court Reporting	1.5 hours	
Speaker: NCRA President Sarah Nageotte, RDR, CRR, CBC		
What is the latest and greatest that is happening in the court reporting industry? Have you heard of the Ducker Report and the crTakeNote campaign? ILCRA is fortunate to have the NCRA President give us a global overview of the state of the profession. This is a can't-miss seminar.		
	Seminar 1: Take the LEAD Speaker: Shawn Preuss, Professional Life Coach In this workshop, Leadership, Empowerment And Discover combine leadership practices with coaching skills to empo and relationships you want. You will walk away with tools a you want, and set your course for 2015 and beyond! Seminar 2: Navigating Through the Nonsenser Speaker: Kathryn A. Thomas, CSR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CCP Abraham Lincoln said, "Don't believe everything you read of but this fun and useful session introduces some red flags to posts are good sources of information and which are rubbic Break Seminar 3: Trends in Court Reporting Speaker: NCRA President Sarah Nageotte, RDR, CRR, CBC What is the latest and greatest that is happening in the court	

12:15pm - 1:00pm Boxed Lunch

continued on page 4

Illinois Court Reporters Association Marathon Education Seminar For Court Reporters

Continued

 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 Seminar 4: Town Hall Meeting
 1.5 hours

 Speakers: Stephanie Rennegarbe, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CBC, CSR (IL) and CCR (MO) and Sarah Nageotte, RDR, CRR, CBC
 The ILCRA and NCRA Presidents will moderate a town hall meeting where the hot topics in the profession will be discussed. The Town Hall is an interactive session that encourages participation and increases awareness of

2:30pm - 3:30pm Seminar 5: The Value of Court Reporters

issues affecting court reporters.

Speaker: The Honorable Mark Levitt

This seminar will give you an insider's look at how the end users perceive court reporters and how you can work more effectively with the people who use your services. Our expert will share his experiences with court reporters and give us the good, the bad, and the ugly about how reporters can make themselves even more valuable to their customers. All rise, the Judge is in!

3:30pm – 3:45pm Break

3:45pm - 5:15pm Seminar 6: Steno Swap & Short Writing Theory 1.5 hours

Speakers: Kathleen M. Grove, CSR, RPR, CRR and Donna M. Urlaub, CSR, RPR, RMR, and CRR

Bring your machines and an open mind to the Steno Swap/Short Writing Theory seminar. It's not just about training your fingers with new outlines, it's about training your brain to start automatically shortening your writing! Donna will impart her years of wisdom gained through her never-ending quest to write shorter. Her thoughts are intuitive and easy to implement. Kathie will be available to run the equipment.

5:15pm - 6:45pm Seminar 7: Simply Indispensable

1.5 hours

1.0 hours

Speaker: Melanie L. Humphrey-Sonntag, CSR, RDR, CRR, CCP, FAPR

This session will cover a variety of on-the-job scenarios, problems, solutions, and innovative ways to keep yourself relevant and in demand in today's changing landscape. Whether an official or a freelancer, independent or in-house, your "clients" matter, and the survival of You, Inc. depends on your everyday habits and activities. Wind down the day with this interactive opportunity to learn from and share with your colleagues.

Total: 10.0 Illinois Hours/1.0 NCRA CEUs

REGISTER ONLINE AT http://ilcra.org/ilcra/data/convention/ or to DOWNLOAD the form, <u>CLICK HERE</u>

New NCRA Certifications

Congratulations to Illinois reporters with new certifications from NCRA!

ILCRA would like to congratulate members **Brittyn Higdon** of Monroe Center, who became newly certified as an RPR, and **Barbara Cash** of Paris, who became newly certified as a CRR, after the November tests, and **Laura M. O'Brien** of Mokena, who became newly certified as a CRR after the August tests.

We also congratulate Illinois reporters **Camille Suzanne Connell** of Byron, **Katie Rice** of Chicago, **Theresa Ann Vorkapic** of Geneva, and **Marcia D. Jones** of Salem, all newly certified as an RPR; **Lorie Elizabeth Mayer** of Westchester, newly certified as an RMR; and **M. D. Holly Wingstrom** of Monticello and **Beth Christine Radtke** of Tinley Park, both newly certified as a CRR. All these reporters earned these certifications after the November tests.

Congratulations to all for your achievements!

>> LED BY COURT REPORTERS



Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag, President, is pleased to announce that Chicago-area Realtime & Court Reporting has been acquired by Planet Depos, LLC, a global court reporting company. *Same familiar court reporters. Same great service. Strengthened back-office support, innovative technology, international coverage.*

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Boy Scouts Law Merit Badge Day

Vernita Allen-Williams

On Saturday, January 31, I served as the court reporter during the Boy Scouts Law Merit Badge Day at my courthouse. This year we had 131 scouts. Standing room only. The trial begins with the scouts filing in. After they are all seated - if we have enough seats - I come in and set up my machine for the day. While I'm waiting a lost and confused citizen enters asking for directions to the clerk's office to pay her taxes. I try to give her directions. Suddenly a hooded figure with sunglasses runs in, grabs her purse, and exits through the rear hallway. The deputy and the citizen chase after the hooded figure.

At this point the judge enters the courtroom and announces, "You've just witnessed a crime. Anyone who believes they saw the crime, please raise your hand." The state's attorney chooses one of the scouts to be a witness during the trial, the judge selects 12 scouts to sit as jurors, and opening statements begin. The witnesses are the victim, the scout, the deputy, and the defendant, Robin N. Hood. Mr. Hood was in the building to file papers on his first day of work at the law firm of Dooey Cheatam & Howe. You get the picture. This year the jury found Robin N. Hood guilty. If memory serves, this is my thirteenth year participating. At the end of the trial the judge has the volunteers describe what we do in the courthouse, education, years doing it, then opens the floor for questions. Over the years I have streamlined my three minutes to allow other volunteers the opportunity to describe what they do at the courthouse. Then the judge opens the floor for questions.

First question: "With videotape and cameras in the courtroom, why are you still using a court reporter?" Seriously, the first question. I didn't even have a chance to respond. Judge Joseph Salvi - an associate judge for only two years - responded, and I couldn't have been more impressed. Judge Salvi told the parent who asked the question about his past experience using ER in McHenry County as a private defense attorney, his fear of having attorney/client conversations recorded or important testimony not recorded because the judge forgot to turn the microphone on, the nuances a court reporter can handle on the spot, the sophisticated equipment we use. He also educated the parent on the fact that even ER transcripts when ordered are still prepared by a court reporter. Yeah, Judge Salvi is my hero.

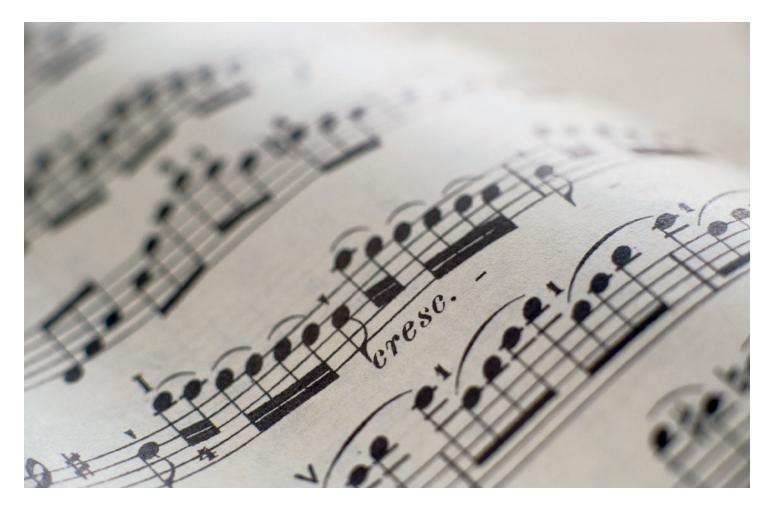
Join ILCRA

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

AD INFINITUM - our quarterly e-newsletter Discounted ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION and Seminar registration fees - a savings of \$100 BRIEFS, BRIEFS, and MORE BRIEFS COMPLIMENTARY ADVERTISING in ILCRA's Find a Reporter locator Exclusive use of the ILCRA MEMBER LOGO to highlight your professionalism MEMBER-ONLY access to the Website with the latest legislative news But wait, there is more! ILCRA members also receive the following valuable benefits:

Office Depot:15% - 25% average annual savings on select paper and office suppliesPDF-it:20% off PDF-it servicePengad:10% off all full price products from July 2014 - June 2015ProCAT:25% off WinnerXP Software; 15% off Impression Writer

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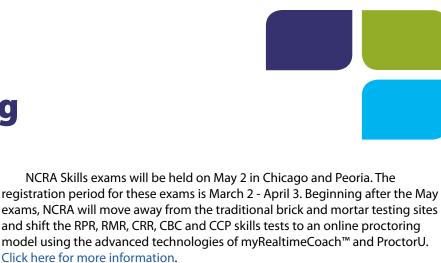
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NCRA Skills Testing



Photos on the left are from the November 1 tests at MacCormac College in Chicago. The volunteers were Mary Ann Casale, Deb Cohen-Rojas, LeAnn Hibler, Vernita Allen-Williams, Bonni Shuttleworth, and Peg Sokalski-Dorchack.

Photo below is of the proctors from the November 1 tests at Midstate College in Peoria: Teresa Ozuna, Pat Houlf, and Rita Corson.

We are grateful to these volunteers – and all the volunteers – for the many, many hours they have given to put on these tests over the years. We also appreciate MacCormac College and Midstate College for allowing the use of their facilities. Thank you all!





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Tip of the Day

Tip of the day for the rookies in the group: Do you know these three courtroom terms (and how to spell them)?

Incorrect: "preemptory" challenge **CORRECT**: peremptory challenge

(A peremptory challenge in law refers to a right in jury selection for the attorneys to reject a certain number of potential jurors without stating a reason.)

Incorrect: "prima facia"/"prima fascia" **CORRECT**: prima facie (Prima facie means legally sufficient to establish a fact or a case unless disproved; e.g., prima facie evidence.)

Incorrect: "parole" evidence **CORRECT**: parol evidence (The parol evidence rule is a rule that oral evidence cannot be used to contradict the terms of a written contract.)

The Veterans History Project

page on the ILCRA website has been updated with easy-to-follow directions and current forms.

Please consider supporting this program!



Lawyer and Friend to ILCRA Passes Away Christmas Day, 2014

Judy Lehman & Beth Rollins, as told to Georgia Rollins

William Anthony Sunderman, better known as Tony to those close to him, was an avid supporter of the Illinois Court Reporters Association. But his dedication went beyond that of just being an associate member of ILCRA for decades. He was directly involved in matters that affected reporters across the state. He assisted with bylaws revisions and rewrites and Roberts Rules of Order - an area in which he had much expertise. Tony assisted with proper procedures when there were contested elections. He also advised on legislative procedures and contacts to assist with issues in Illinois.

He attended many of Illinois' annual conventions, often volunteering to be a speaker for seminar sessions. He talked about the lawyer/court reporter relationship, offering an insight into how we are viewed by the legal community. Tony talked about ethics, and rightfully so. Tony's ethics were recognized by many, for he served as Chair of the Judicial Inquiry Board for years.

Tony was a record-conscious attorney, the kind that court reporters dream of. One reporter early in her career recounts this story of Mr. Sunderman: "My first medical malpractice trial involved Tony as counsel for the doctor/defendant. He was so kind to a novice reporter, asking the medical experts to slow down, repeat and often spell medical jargon for me - always with a sense of humor. 'Well, Doctor, I'm certain our court reporter understood what you said, but could you repeat that answer and spell it for the record?' Answer: 'We call those cells polymorphonuclear leukocytes.' Awesome."

And that's who Tony was. He was awesome. He had a largerthan-life appetite for not just living, but living a truly good life. He was a managing partner at Brainard Law Office, a firm that is rated 5 stars by peers and clients alike. He volunteered as attorney for Charleston's Habitat for Humanity chapter, dedicating his time to those in need. Tony was very active in his church as well, at St. Charles Borromeo, where he was an usher and also served on the Finance Committee.

He served on Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center's Board of Directors, and served a term as Chair; he also served on the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation board and was an active supporter and fundraiser for the hospital. Tony and his wife, Judy, founded the Robbie Sunderman Endowment Fund at SBLHC in honor of their son, Robbie, to fund research and to help support children with special needs and their families.

But even more than his service and dedication to all of these affiliations, Tony will probably be best remembered for his wit and his practical jokes. He was certainly a master of his craft, as almost any east central Illinois court reporter could explain.

Tony is survived by his wife, Judy, one daughter, Emily, and one son, William Richard (Rick) Sunderman. One son, Robbie, preceded him in death. If you'd like to make a donation in his memory, memorials may be made to the Robbie Sunderman Endowment at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, the Murray Parent's Association, or Habitat for Humanity, and mailed to Adams Funeral Chapel, 2330 Shawnee Drive, Charleston, IL 61920.



JOIN 685 MEMBERS IN THE CONVERSATION

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Illinois-Court-Reporters-Association/ 147418091950835



Dear Nancy

Nancy Varallo, FAPR, RDR, CRR, owner of The Varallo Group, offers customized business development and administrative services to court reporters and reporting agencies. Nancy has been a court reporter since 1979, has trained hundreds of court reporters, and has fielded thousands of questions from reporters. Please ask your question at www.dearnancy.com.

Dear Nancy:

My state association has filed a bill with the legislature which would require us to be licensed. Or is it certified? Our members say licensing and certification interchangeably. Do they mean the same thing? Signed, Grandfather Me In!

Dear Grandfather Me In:

I wonder if some state legislature granted Agent 007 his license to kill? I've wished I had one too as some fast-talking expert tied my fingers in knots for hours on end. I'd have M rig up special exhibit labels for me that, when affixed to a document, released an invisible odorless neurotoxin just strong enough to slow down a fast talker's speech. Never know what hit 'im! But I digress.

A license is a permit granted by a governmental body. It can be revoked if you fail to do something really important, such as pay your annual fee. A certificate is a credential you earn, such as your RPR. It can expire if you do fail to do something really important, such as meet your continuing education obligations.

Each state with licensing has different requirements. Typically, when licensure is passed, reporters are "grandfathered in" and don't need to be tested. The state won't put people out of a job who are already working. Reporters who don't have a CSR or RPR might have to prove they've worked as a reporter in that state. Once the grandfathering grace period has passed, any new applicant must meet the requirements of that state's licensing laws. Most states require that you possess the RPR. There may be continuing education requirements as well.

If you have any other questions, my name's Bond, Nancy Bond.

Dear Nancy:

I took a deposition in which neither attorney in the case ordered a transcript. The expert medical witness is, two weeks later, demanding to sign the transcript. He is not willing to pay for my time or expense of transcribing it. He's threatening to sue the owner of the firm if she doesn't send him a copy. Does the witness have that right, if neither party to the lawsuit wants it transcribed? Can I be forced to work for free? Signed, What to do with a Whacky Witness

Dear What to do with a Whacky Witness:

Hmm. Wish you had that license to kill too, huh? Lacking that solution, check out the Rules of Civil Procedure in your state. They probably say that once the transcript is prepared, the witness has 30 days to read and sign. If that's the language in your jurisdiction, tell the witness you will follow the rule. Put it in writing, and refer the witness to the attorneys in the case if he has further questions.

Don't be bullied.

If your local rules are ambiguous, talk to the attorneys in the case. It's their problem, after all, not yours. You aren't required to work for nothing – and you don't work for the witness. Maybe you would feel more sure of your ground if you consulted a lawyer. It's a legal question, and legal advice is what lawyers get paid for. We are court reporters; we get paid for our transcripts. And we don't have to work for free.

Dear Nancy:

In court the other day an attorney, trying to make his way through dense medical testimony, told the doctor he was "nummah than a hake" when it comes to medical words. Say what? Isn't a hake a fish?

Signed: Buffaloed in Maine

Dear Buffaloed in Maine:

A hake is a food fish, similar to cod, found in the waters of the North Atlantic off the coast of New England. It lives in really cold waters, hence it's numb. According to MollySmiles at www.citydata.com/forum/maine, the expression "number than a hake" means "really, really stupid". (Gotta love my quality references, eh?)

"Number than a hake" is a regionalism; you'll probably only hear it in Maine. But it loses its local color if you ignore the wonderful Maine accent that produces "nummah than a hake." As the downeasters say it, the accent is on num and the ah kinda trails off. Try it. With a little practice, you can even sound authentic yourself: "You can't get theyah from heeyah." The accent is on they and hee and the ah trails off. And can't rhymes with want.

Local dialects can be fun to hear, but how should we transcribe them? A recent JCR article advises using the proper English spelling -- unless the speaker was intentionally making a point of his mispronunciation, like Gotcha. You wouldn't transcribe that as "Got you" cuz that'd miss the point and, frankly, look silly. So I'd opt for "nummah than a hake" in my transcript, because "number" just doesn't cut it.

I'm sure the locals in Bah Habbah would approve!

Court Reporters: Making Words Fly and Earning a Decent Salary

Reprinted from the November 8, 2014 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times

Imagine starting pay that averages \$43,000 a year and reaches \$91,000 a year for top performers in a job that requires a two-year associate's degree — and in a field where salaries are expected to leap 14 percent through 2020.

That's the outlook for a court reporter — the person who sits near the judge in a courtroom, peering over a funny-looking machine and taking copious notes.

Projections call for 5,500 fewer court-reporter candidates than job openings by 2018. Illinois ranks third in

forecasted demand for court reporters, with an estimated 260 new jobs becoming available by 2018, bringing the total number of court reporters in Illinois to 1,990 at that time, according to the National Court Reporters Association, in a report done in partnership with research firm Ducker Worldwide.

Illinois is among the top four states that use nearly half of all court reporters nationwide, ranking behind California and Texas and ahead of No. 4 New York, the data show.

Yet like many of today's "skills shortages," such as assembly-line jobs that require math and computing skills, meeting the growing demand for court

reporters is more complicated than teaching students to type guickly and accurately.

A court reporter must master a 23-key machine, which requires thumb-strokes on the four vowel keys. The state exam requires a dictation speed of 200 words per minute for five minutes at 95 percent accuracy, plus a two-voice testimony speed of 225 words per minute for five minutes at 95 percent accuracy.

To ensure speed, a court reporter must learn shortcuts of each specialty, such as how "itis" at the end of a medical term refers to a form of inflammation.

"It's like learning another language," said Deralyn Gordon, who earned her continued on page 14



www.jensenlitigation.com

associate's degree in court and convention reporting from Triton College in 1994.

The 41-year-old Logan Square resident, a native of Roselle, exudes the traits that allow a court reporter to excel: She is bilingual, an avid reader, excellent speller and a former flute player with dexterous fingers. Gordon has earned a higher salary than the top 10 percent of court reporters nationwide.

"It's definitely deadline-oriented," she said of her work. She is one of 35 to 50 court reporters who work, as independent contractors, with Victoria Legal & Corporate Services on behalf of the business' 6,000 clients worldwide.

Pay has many variables: the type of job, how quickly it is finished, the number of hours one is willing to work, and the ability to work online, in real time and in other formats.

For example, a mundane U.S. court hearing where a witness fails to show pays \$75 for the day. Live-streaming translation on the Internet for a group of attorneys can pay \$3,500 a day. And a two-month assignment recording a series of depositions in Nigeria on a Monday through Saturday schedule for four straight weeks, followed by four weeks of editing the transcripts, can pay about \$25,000.

A court reporter must pick up subtle cues that no robot could, such as ensuring that each person speaks one at a time or that a question be rephrased in order for a trial record to be as clear-cut as possible. After transcription, the court reporter must pick up on errors ranging from putting a period in the right place in a dollar amount that could be in the millions, to avoiding errors like "getting the notary nude" instead of "getting the note renewed."

Colleges, firms adapt

New federal rules took effect early this year aimed at improving the quality of TV captioning, so demand is high for trained broadcast captioners. The Federal Communications Commission also will require online video clips to be captioned starting Jan. 1, 2016.

Many court reporters have flocked to those jobs because they can do them from home, but real-time captioning requires that the applicant demonstrate a 98.5 percent accuracy rate.

Victoria Rock, who founded her court reporter and transcriptionist business 33 years ago, had to downsize after several industry shifts, including electronic transcripts replacing multiple paper copies; insurance firms buying from nationwide services rather than allowing local law firms to choose a reporter; young lawyers hiring their own court reporters rather than the ones the law firm chose; and a recessionary trend of plaintiffs and defendants choosing to settle disputes rather than go to trial.

"It was rough," said Rock, a resident of Western Springs who started her career as a legal secretary. Her company went from nine employees in 2008 to five today. Electronic transcripts replaced paper transcripts and she partners with and refers business to smaller, local firms all over the country.

Off the radar

Chicago is home to 110-year-old MacCormac College, home of the oldest of 130 court reporting programs in the United States.

MacCormac boasts 100 percent placement of its graduates each year, with many getting multiple job offers, President Marnelle Alexis Stephens said.

The private, not-for-profit college, which is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, is supported 90 percent by its \$12,000-per-year tuition.

Under Alexis Stephens' term, the college started programs to stimulate interest in court reporting, including a high-speed typing contest called Chicago's annual Ultimate Type Race Challenge; a college-wide fundraiser, Learn 2 Laugh, featuring local and national comedians; and the Center for Academic Personal and Professional Excellence to help students deal with classroom demands.

"We are the only court-reporting school in the city of Chicago," she said. "We are right in the heart and thick of everything downtown, and our courtreporting graduates find flexible and highpaying jobs in their field."

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SPREAD THE WORD!

You can make a difference.

Encourage someone you know to explore court reporting, captioning, and CART as a career. Ensuring that qualified reporters are in the

field is the only way to protect the profession and to fight digital technologies from taking over our industry.

Local Court Reporter Training Programs

College of Court Reporting*

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

MacCormac College*

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

Midstate College*

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

Prince Institute, Great Lakes*

1300 E. Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL 60173 847.592.6600 www.princeinstitute.edu

South Suburban College*

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

*NCRA Certified

ad infinitum

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

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



Illinois Court Reporters Association

43150 Broadlands Center Plaza Suite 152-269 Ashburn, VA 20148

ILCRA 2015 DATES

March 21, 2015 ILCRA Marathon Seminar DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, Chicago-Oak Brook

April 25, 2015 CSR Examination Chicago area and Carbondale

May 2, 2015 NCRA Skills Examinations MacCormac College, Downtown Chicago and Midstate College, Peoria

July 30-August 2, 2015

NCRA Annual Convention & Expo Hilton New York Midtown New York, NY

August 15, 2015 CSR Examination Chicago area and Carbondale

September 11-13, 2015 ILCRA Annual Convention Springfield

December 12, 2015 CSR Examination Chicago area and Carbondale