

# CCRA *online*

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**Lesia J. Mervin, CSR, RMR, CRR**  
**California Court Reporters Association**  
**2007-2008 President**  
**& Bree Mervin, CSR, RPR**

Photography by Steve Fujimoto

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### PARDON OUR DUST!

We apologize for the delay in getting CCRA Online to you this month.

### CCRA Online Copy Deadlines

The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 2400 22nd Street, Suite 110, Sacramento, CA 95818 or call 916/443-5090. Advertising inquiries also should be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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the California Court Reporters Association

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### CCRA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

# President's Page

By Lesia Mervin

I can still remember my first board meeting. I was thinking, what have I got myself into? I'm in way over my head! I looked around the room at the wealth of knowledge, and I was lost. How would I ever know as much as the rest of the board? These people are incredible. These are the people protecting our profession. These are the movers and shakers of the court reporting community.

I was going to have to work hard to get up to speed. The people that had gone on before me paved the way and set a high standard for our profession. Looks like I'm going to have to kick it up! And kick it up I did!

I studied for hours all the acronyms I'd have to know. I read the Bylaws, committee reports, RRTF report, CR Board information. You name it, I wanted to know it. So by the time of the next meeting, my eyes weren't quite as glazed over. Years later, here I am presenting my first president's message.

CCRA is taking a new turn this year. Our executive director, Sandy Virago, is retiring after many years as our director.

Sandy has been very instrumental in the direction and leadership of this association. I'm personally thankful for her leadership and direction while I've been on the board. She will be missed.

A committee was formed to find a new executive director. Many candidates were interviewed, but one in particular really stood out: The Droz Group. After their interview, there was no question: This was the one! It certainly made our job easier when the answer was so clear. The transition has already begun, and should be complete by November 1st.

This year's annual convention at the Los Angeles Marriott was the best convention yet, thanks to convention chair Carolyn Dasher and her committee, who spent a lot of hours ensuring that every speaker and every detail was the best it could be. Three cheers to Carolyn! The evaluations are in, and we certainly accomplished that.

I can't wait to top it next year!



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Lynden Glover

#### Support Our Students

Judith Gillespie

#### Judicial Procedures

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#### Technology

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#### Legislative Advisory

Sandy Bunch VanderPol

#### Visionary

Tom Pringle

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#### Past Presidents

Sandy Bunch VanderPol

# Past President's Convention 2007 Speech

By Sandy Bunch VanderPol, CSR, RMR, CRR

**It's Been My Pleasure...** to serve this past year as your CCRA President. The pleasure really has been all mine! Thank you for your support and your vote of confidence over this past year.

Continuing to move CCRA and the reporting profession into the digital age has been a focus of mine over this past year. With the board's help, we have educated you on a monthly basis about the digital age and how it affects you. I hope you have taken the time to download and read each month's issue of CCRA Online. Our editor, Connie Parchman, claims that our online magazine has risen to the level of tops in the nation.

Moving CCRA into the digital age has culminated with a partnering relationship with the California Women's Lawyer Association. The partnership, now in the beginning stages, will grow to a relationship that potentially will showcase our reporting technology to CWL's members in seminars and at their convention. This is only the beginning of this relationship — expect many great things next year. I am hoping this type of partnering relationship will grow with other lawyer associations throughout the state.

CCRA has submitted a proposal to the Administrative Office of the Courts to realtime Web stream their business meetings on a pro bono basis. CCRA feels a partnering relationship in this regard only begets respect from the AOC/JC for our "digital" age technology — that only a reporter such as you can provide. Additionally, equal access to the courts is a focus of the AOC strategic plan, and CCRA can be a part of working with the AOC to accomplish their goal. This proposal is currently in the approval process now and we expect to hear shortly from them.

With the passage of AB 1293 last year, CCRA's bill on the transcript reimbursement fund, we took full advantage of that success, keeping our political momentum going with the passage of AB 1211. This bill amends the CCP to include language that makes the attorney responsible for payment of our products and services rather than the party. Two years ago CCRA approached DRA to work with us on this bill. So working together through our lobbyists over this past year, AB 1211 has sailed through the legislature with no opposition. A special thanks to Lisa Kaplan, our lobbyist, on her dedication and hard work on the passage of this bill. And thank you Assemblyman Price for your authorship of this bill. And a special thanks to DRA and their lobbyist for their efforts.

A very special thanks to Doreen Perkins, who was Michelle Castro's right-hand woman on the support work on AB

582, a transcript fee increase for official reporters. SEIU will be moving forward next year on AB 582, with the help of CCRA and COCRA.

Let's continue to move into the digital age by embracing our technology that vendors have made available to us. I ask you, what's the most sought after product that we provide to the litigant? Think about it. It's the digital transcript — SIMPLY PUT an ASCII file.

I propose that we have fallen behind and need to catch up with counsel in this "digital age." Counsel are uploading our transcripts to transcript repositories using the ASCII file. Third-party companies are providing transcript repositories to litigators and others — depo banking as some of us know it by. Officials' transcripts are being uploaded and being made available to the litigants and others. As you know, CCRA successfully challenged one such transcript repository company that was uploading official reporters' transcript.

As we have written about in CCRA Online, the AOC in their strategic plan states that their goal is to go paperless. Yes, it's a few years off, BUT that gives us time, OFFICIALS, to start providing your transcripts in a digital format on a transcript repository that YOU control — not the AOC. Officials, you have an untapped market out there that would be willing to pay for your transcripts, so why not provide that service and in the process increase your income.

I have some good news. We can start driving this bus and take control of our digital transcript. You and only you, as the guardian of that record, can add value to that product. It's simple — add your digital signature. Not only does this give the transcript more value, it protects the integrity of the transcript and, frankly, it's best business practice to digitally sign your electronic transcripts. Who else can ensure the integrity of the digital record to the litigant? Absolutely no one. So this is our opportunity, and I think a big one.

As you know, many of our convention seminars are educating you about the digital age, how it affects us, how to incorporate products and services into your business and daily work. Additionally, your CCRA Technology Committee is sponsoring a Digital Signature Booth. Use this opportunity to sign up for your digital signature, obtain your signature certificate, and start providing your transcripts in the most professional manner available to you.

It's time for me to move on. I have enjoyed my year as president, and I will enjoy my year as immediate past president. Each of you has been a great asset to CCRA and to me personally. Thank you...I'm signing off.



## Introducing The Droz Group

*New CCRA Address — Effective November 1, 2007*

CCRA extends an enthusiastic welcome to our new management team, The Droz Group, headed by Fred Droz and Jerry Packer. Jerry will be serving as our Executive Director, managing the operations of CCRA. The company is based in the Laguna Beach area.

Jerry and Fred have extensive and impressive backgrounds in association and conference management. Individually and collectively, this team has worked with and built up a variety of associations over the years. But it doesn't stop there.

Fred is an industry veteran with foresight. In addition to running an association management company for almost 30 years, his career includes having served on President Carter's White House Staff, serving as CEO for USA for Africa's domestic hunger project, "Hands Across America," and leading Nelson Mandela's national tour of the United States.

Jerry brings over 15 years of worldwide logistics, exhibit and tradeshow experience. His work has taken him to Europe, Asia, Australia and every major convention city in the United States for clients such as Yahoo!, the U.S. Army, Price Waterhouse and Mobil Oil. Jerry has also been active in several associations during his career.



## New CCRA Address

Effective November 1st, 2007,  
CCRA has a new address



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# What's Your Court Reporters Board Doing?

*By Sandy Bunch VanderPol*

The Court Reporters Board (CRB) met on Friday, October 19, 2007, in Los Angeles for their most recent board meeting. Prior to the board meeting, the CRB Technology Evaluation Committee also met. In attendance at both meetings were four board members from CCRA: myself, Lynden Glover, Natie Alvarado and Judy Gillespie. As immediate past president, I was very proud of each of these board members for taking the time out of their busy schedule to attend and represent CCRA. Also in attendance, our new executive directors, Fred Droz and Jerry Packer.

On the CRB Technology Committee Agenda was the topic of Web Repositories and Shorthand Note Editing. The committee members included Toni O'Neill, Chair and members Carol Nygard, Jason Primuth, Bill Greenley, Judy Gillespie, Teri Wilson and Karen Gotelli. On the agenda were two items: Web Repositories and Shorthand Note Editing.

Web Repositories were explained by Jason Primuth and how they are used and by whom. The ultimate conclusion was that many transcripts are being posted to Web repositories by third-party companies without the knowledge and consent of the CSR who reported the deposition and/or court proceeding. Privacy issues as affects the consumer in regards to the posting of these transcripts to repositories and protecting the integrity of the digital transcript in general were the topics of focus as relates to this agenda item. After discussion, debate and public comment, there was a recommendation made by the committee to the CRB that they explore the requirement of digital signatures of transcripts by the CSR, a procedure potentially similar to the digital signature statute in Texas. This item will be added to the November 30, 2007, CRB meeting.

The Shorthand Note Editing agenda item focused on paperless notes and the consumer complaint process. When a consumer makes a complaint about a transcript, the CRB requests of the licensee, the CSR, the stenographic notes to be reviewed by a "subject matter expert," a CSR, and opine on whether the written transcript truly reflects what is in the reporter's notes. Since we are now in the digital age of paperless notes, understanding the CAT software and how that software creates and saves the original note files was discussed. The outcome of the agenda item was to gather information from the CAT vendors on how specifically their software creates the steno note file and whether metadata is attached to that note file – allowing accurate tracking of when the note file was created and/or whether that note file had been altered in any way.

The Board meeting commenced with the welcoming of their newest public member, Lori Gualco. Ms. Gualco is a litigator from Sacramento and is currently spending much of her time mediating. Ms. Gualco was highly recommended by CCRA to Speaker Nunez for appointment. You may find her bio at the Court Reporters Board Web site.

Karen Gotelli, a member and chair of the Board was recognized for her dedication to the profession. Karen served six years on the CRB. Additionally, Nancy Patterson was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her MANY contributions to the profession.

## A short summary of the CRB meeting is as follows:

- CRB's authority to regulate court reporting firms — a task force will be formed to discuss this topic more fully. Most likely the first meeting will be in early 2008.
- Use of Back-up Audio Media (BAM), also referred to as Audiosync — a task force will be formed to discuss this topic more fully. Most likely the first meeting will be in early 2008.
- Mandatory continuing education for CSRs — Look for language coming from the California legislative counsel. CCRA will be following this closely and will keep you updated as to its progress through the legislature over this next legislative year.
- The CRB budget was discussed — as expenses are going up and our fees are staying the same, I think we can expect in two years' time a raise in our license fees.
- Computer-based testing of the CSR written knowledge exam will commence within the next year.
- A new school of court reporting, Taft College, was approved and its curriculum accepted.
- The CRB has requested the support and leadership of CCRA and other associations to implement their strategic goal of developing a minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) course for lawyers.



# CLRC Comments to Technical and Minor Substantive Statutory Corrections

*References to Recording Technology (April 2007)*

**PC Sections  
1346, 1346.1, 1347 & 1347.5**

June 26, 2007

CALIFORNIA LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
4000 Middlefield Road, Room D-1  
Palo Alto CA 94303-4739

Re: Comments to Technical and Minor Substantive Statutory Corrections:  
References to Recording Technology (April 2007)

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached please find our comments to the above-referenced proposed amendment to PC sections 1346, 1346.1, 1347 & 1347.5, which provide for the videotaping of a victim's testimony in criminal cases when the victim is in a special class and the defendant is charged with a specified crime.

Sincerely,



Sandra Bunch VanderPol, CSR #3032  
President  
California Court Reporters Association

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# CLRC Comments to Technical and Minor Substantive Statutory Corrections

*References to Recording Technology (April 2007) — continued from Page 7*

The Commission proposes technical and minor substantive revisions to generalize and modernize existing statutory references to audio or video recording.

Specifically, references to the use of a “tape,” “cassette,” “audiotape,” or “videotape” would be revised to instead refer in a generic manner to any recording technology.

The Commission invites comment whether recording using technology that “does not record on an easily identifiable and segregable medium” is a substantive change to those PC sections. Specifically, if such technology is used would it be more difficult for the court to control access to the recording increasing the likelihood of a breach of privacy.

The California Court Reporters Association (CCRA) believes the Commission should be very concerned.

## Rationale:

The following is an excerpt from an article written by Robin Springer for SpeechTechMag.com, posted May 1, 2007:

In the mid-1970s, audio recordings were entered into evidence primarily in the form of magnetic audiotape recordings. If an individual was going to falsify the evidence, he might splice a tape or make a new recording from the original recording. To remove portions of the tape or to add new tape, the falsifier would make a physical cut in the tape, add or remove the segment in question, and then put the tape back together with splicing tape. If the falsifier attempted to introduce this recording into evidence, upon examination, the splice would be visible or there would be a resultant dropout of sound, making it difficult or impossible for the falsifier to convince the court that the recording was genuine.

“If the falsifier doctored the original recording and then transferred it to another tape to circumvent the problems associated with splicing, he would have other issues with which to contend. This rerecording or copy tape would be, at minimum, a second-generation recording, and deterioration in the quality of the recording would be expected. This deterioration, depending on the extent, might be an indication of tampering.

“Additionally, the copy tape would not have the expected magnetic artifacts, called event signatures, that are caused by the energizing and de-energizing of record and erase heads on an audiotape recorder. These event signatures could be used by an expert to determine if a recording was made in a manner consistent with the protocol described by the person who made the recording, and could provide clues as to whether the recording had been edited during production.

**With digital audio recordings, however, event signatures are weaker in amplitude, if they exist at all, and with editing software, the artifacts can be removed entirely. Digital recordings also obviate the need for splicing. Because digital information can be so easily manipulated without physical signs of tampering, producer Michael Perna believes we have entered an era in which, ‘you can’t believe anything you see or hear anymore.’**

As the proliferation of digital technologies continues, it may become increasingly difficult to distinguish between fiction and reality. Many current editing programs include tools such as spectrograms—the same tools used by experts to determine if an audio recording is authentic. As these products become more sophisticated, we can only expect the problem to become more pronounced.

**In response, courts may find that, because digital audio recordings lack the indicia of trustworthiness magnetic audiotape recordings have, the probative value of digital recordings is so diminished, their introduction into evidence should be curtailed.** Attorney Richard Weissman believes part of the solution may lie in requiring the proponent of the recording to provide stronger foundational evidence before an audio recording is deemed admissible. Fausto Tito Poza, an audio forensic consultant, believes the types of expert witnesses may evolve from those with linguistic backgrounds to those with backgrounds in computers, sound engineering or editing, and computer hacking.”

Additionally, CCR’s experience as a participant on the Reporting of the Record Task Force revealed that there is a serious gap between the absolute requirement for security and integrity of the record and the court’s appreciation of the potential for mischief when dealing with digital recording.





# President's Convention Speech

*By Lesia J. Mervin, President*

*There were two lumberjacks chopping trees in the forest. One man had been a lumberjack for years. He knew how to get the job done. The other lumberjack was young and energetic and had just started the profession. The younger lumberjack is using an ax to chop his tree. He's just chopping away, over and over and over. He's not making much progress, but he's getting the job done. It may take him three days to chop down this tree, but he's going to get it done.*

*The old lumberjack comes up to him and says, "You know, if you sharpened that ax, you'd get the job done a lot easier."*

*The young lumberjack says, "I don't have time to sharpen the ax, I'm too busy chopping down the tree."*

I tell you that illustration because it's a perfect illustration of our profession. You may be getting the job done, but is it the most efficient way of doing it? Is there an easier way to do it? We get so busy sometimes with the "business" of reporting, that we don't sharpen our skills, because we're too busy "chopping down the tree." A simple word of advice from a more experienced professional can make all the difference in the world in our day-to-day activities.

The landscape of reporting has changed dramatically. With technology today, many professionals today work for people they've never personally met. In the good ol' days, you knew everyone in the office you worked for. You actually personally knew the owner and had relationships with other reporters. You were able to interact with reporters on a daily basis, go to lunch together, socialize with each other. It's not like that today. Unless you're an official, where you have other staff reporters in the workplace, you may rarely have personal, face-to-face interaction with other reporters in your firm. Reporters may work for many firms and aren't tied to one single firm.

You receive your calendar assignment over the phone or your Blackberry, e-mail your jobs in after completion, receive a payment for those services, and may have never met anyone face to face from the office. This lack of personal contact is really a disservice to our profession. There is so much we can learn from each other.

I'd like to share another illustration with you. When my daughter, Bree, was four years old, she wanted to learn to ride her bike just like her big brother Josh. She wanted the training wheels off. So we decided to give it a try. We took off the training wheels. I placed my hand on the back of

her seat, and away we went. There was lots of wobbling at first, but I continued to run along beside her, holding her seat. Eventually I was able to let go for short periods of time without her knowing it, keeping my hand next to the seat in case she started wobbling again and I could steady her ride if she had problems. Finally, I wasn't holding on at all, and away she went on her own.

Years later, I had the joy of teaching my daughter this profession. I had her come in every day for six weeks on my lunch hour and we'd go over another lesson. It was a lot of work, no denying that. It was just like teaching her to ride her bike. There was a lot of wobbling, but once the training wheels were off, still lots of running alongside. What a joy to see her enjoy and love this profession as much as I do. That's a treasure.

But a funny thing happened along the way. In teaching her, I became a better reporter. You see, she had a different take on things, a fresh look.

You know how kids are. "Why? Why? Why, mom?" "Because I'm the mom and I said so," takes on new meaning. Teaching your daughter court reporting is no different. She'd questioned me. "Well, why do you write it that way? Wouldn't this way be better?"

Well, you know what? Sometimes it was better that way, I had just never thought of it. I tell you that story to show you that we can all learn from each other. We'll never know everything. I learn every day. I learn from the reporters in my courthouse that call me for computer questions. I may not know the answer, but it forces me to find the answer. I remember it next time. Without interaction with other reporters, you miss out on that.

Let's go back to the lumberjacks. The young lumberjack goes into the hardware store to get his ax sharpened. He goes up to the salesman and says, "I'd like to get my ax sharpened." The salesman says, "Well, you know, you could buy a chainsaw and you wouldn't have to do any chopping at all." The young lumberjack says, "Are you kidding? I'll take it."

That salesman just saved him hours and hours of work. He's keeping up with technology. Have you kept up with technology? Technology is the key to our very survival. Technology is what's saving your jobs today. What does your equipment look like? Remember dictating? Notereaders? Typing all night? Then giant computer systems? Now today's laptops? We must keep up.

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# President's Convention Speech

*continued from Page 9*

Realtime skills are vital today. Where realtime was once voluntary, some courts today are making it mandatory. Some counties will only hire realtime reporters. Are you up to the task? The hours spent in editing time alone is worth the time spent honing your realtime skills. Even if you're only doing realtime for yourself, you will only get better and better as you see the text come up on the screen. We must keep up.

A couple days later, the lumberjack goes back to the store to talk to the salesman. He says, "I need to return this chainsaw. This didn't make my job any easier. There's something wrong with it."

So the salesman says, "Let me check it out and see." He pulls the chord to start it up. You hear the VROOOOOM sound of the chainsaw starting up!

The lumberjack says, "What was that noise?"

What kind of reporter are you? Do you have the latest equipment and don't know how to use it? I challenge you to **LEARN YOUR SOFTWARE**. The technology is there, but the majority of people don't utilize it. There is all kinds of artificial technology, shortcuts, macros, realtime shortcuts, all there for the asking. You just have to learn it. I challenge you to network with other reporters. Form users groups. Have a brown-bag lunch every month with other reporters, teach each other things you've learned. Attend CCRA functions like this one where you can interact, learn, socialize with other reporters. Make it your goal. You will make your job easier. Don't be afraid to ask questions of each other.

## **KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.**

We have a whole group of new reporters coming out every three months. I'd challenge each and every one of you to make it your goal to help each other. The new professionals need the help of the experienced reporters. When a call goes out for mentors, become a mentor. It's one of the most rewarding parts of my job. The students are sponges, eager to soak up everything they can from us. They make you feel like a Superstar! Take the time. We're all busy.

There's not a single person in this room that didn't have help from someone else to get to where you are today. We didn't pass the CSR and become instant realtime reporters. We learned it along the way. There's a wide gap between a new CSR and a "good" reporter. We need you to help fill that gap. We need mentors for students. We need mentors for new professionals.

## **I'm asking you to kick it up!**

CCRA has a very exciting year ahead of us. We're embarking on a new journey. We've been blessed with Sandy Virago as our executive director for many years. We are thankful for her leadership. Now as Sandy embarks on a new phase of her life in retirement, CCRA will embark on a new journey as well. We are excited to have The Droz Group as our new management company. The Board will be working very hard to come up with innovative ideas for our profession and our association, strategizing for the future.

## **We're going to kick it up!**

I want to close with this quote I found from a journalist for the New York Evening Sun newspaper in the 1890's.

**When nothing seems to help,  
I go look at the stonecutter  
hammering away at this rock  
perhaps a hundred times without  
as much as a crack showing in it.  
Yet at the hundred and first blow,  
it will split in two. And I know it  
was not that blow that did it,  
but all that had gone before.**

That's what CCRA does for you. CCRA is you. CCRA is not just the board of directors sitting up here in front of you. CCRA is you. We are made up of all our members, and each one of you is a part of what makes this association so great.

You may not see all the hundreds of times we've hammered at the rock, but you see the effects of all that have gone on before. CCRA is committed to strategic planning to promote this wonderful profession. We can only do that through you, our members.

Thank you for making that commitment to our profession.

**So let's KICK IT UP together!**



# TWO THUMBS UP! FOR CCRA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION — "HOLLYWOOD IN REEL TIME"

*By Sheri L. Turner, President-Elect/Vice President Freelance*



## **IT WAS LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION AT CCRA'S 97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 6-8, 2007, AT THE LOS ANGELES MARRIOTT HOTEL.**

Convention Chair Carolyn Dasher outdid herself in the planning and preparation of the most stellar convention yet, along with the help of the board and our executive director and management company. The Walk of Fame included a cast of outstanding seminar presenters, all with very timely, informative, educational, and entertaining classes. If possible, Academy Award presentations would be given to all who participated in the convention, including our best and brightest stars — YOU, our members!

The people's choice award goes to our CAT software trainers for the opening session classes. We can never get too much software training! We were charmed and mesmerized by our keynote speaker Mark Geragos, attorney to the stars. From there on out there were so many terrific classes it was hard to choose which ones to attend. There was no scarcity of celebrity sightings, including NCRA President Kathy DiLorenzo teaching us about captioning and NCRA Board Member Jason Meadors enlightening us with his popular "Faster, Faster, Faster" on making the record and stenomask v. stenograph. Techno-gadget queen Candis Bradshaw showed us the latest and greatest and taught us about

digital signatures, and attendees were able to obtain digital signatures on site. Our very own Glen Mervin saved the day and taught us all about Windows Vista. We got helpful tips about taxes, accounting, and financial planning. We explored issues regarding audiosync and transcript repositories. We "talked it out" with officials and freelancers and had an NCRA town hall meeting. We learned how to balance our lives from Diane Saunar and were thoroughly informed and entertained by Dan the Magic Man. And after our yoga stretches we even got glamorous makeup tips and watched our very own Sandra Bunch VanderPol get "glammed up" before our very eyes.

The student/apprentice track, directed by Debby Steinman, taught our students all about the world of court and depositions. They participated in a mock CSR and raved about an encore performance by our all-time favorite Margie Wakeman-Wells for her expertise with English, punctuation, and handling the written portion of the CSR test.

Thanks again to Kathy DiLorenzo for installing our four new board members. The Honorable Joseph Kalashian installed our new President Lesia Mervin. Congratulations to her! And accolades to our very hardworking outgoing president Sandra Bunch VanderPol. The CCRA Board are truly fine reporters and visionary, passionate, dedicated workers worthy of emulation. Rest assured that the governance of CCRA is safe in their hands as they move us forward into the future generations of reporting.

We were privileged to hear from Assembly Member Curren D. Price, author of our successful legislation AB1211, and we presented him with a framed copy of the bill signed by CCRA members thanking him for championing our cause. We look forward to working with him again with our future legislative needs. We introduced our rising stars, our new association management, Fred Droz and Jerry Packer, and said a fond and grateful farewell to retiring Sandy Virago and her staff.

The after-parties continued late into the night in the Presidential Suite, complete with food, libations, and live musical entertainment each night. Thank you to President Mervin's "people," the official reporters in Tulare County. They really know how to throw a party!

Credit cards were flying around the vendor area as we purchased everything from Depobooks to Stenovations' Lightspeed writer, and many thanks to volunteer Iris Menke-Smith for her expert handling of the silent auction. The mezzanine was a happening place all throughout the

*continued on Page 12*

# TWO THUMBS UP! FOR CCRA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION — "HOLLYWOOD IN REEL TIME"

*continued from Page 11*

convention. The food was great and the hotel staff very courteous and helpful.

There are far too many people to thank by name who helped to make the convention such a rousing success with a record number in attendance, but THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Stay tuned next year for the convention sequel that you definitely won't want to miss!



*"This was one of the best conferences I've attended —Saturday was great —  
I left with a great feeling about being a CSR..."*

*"I belong to three associations and this was my first weekend seminar. I thoroughly enjoyed it."*

*Most valuable component of the convention...*

*—“As a teacher, I'd say the apprentice track. If you continue it, I'll make sure I have students here next year.”*

*Most valuable component of the convention...*

*—“interfacing with complete strangers that love their jobs as I do.”*

*Most valuable component of the convention...*

*—“apprentice track. They gave necessary information in an interesting manner.”*

*“Had a great time and met wonderful people.”*

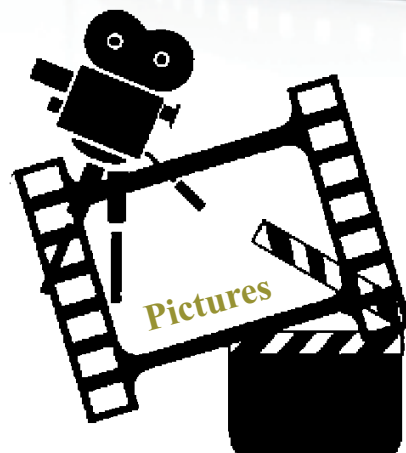
*“Best in the last 10 years!!!!!!”*



*continued on Page 13*

# TWO THUMBS UP! FOR CCRA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION — "HOLLYWOOD IN REEL TIME"

*continued from Page 12*



## Labor Talks Continue

September and October were busy months on the labor front. If you will recall, CCRA issued an alert in September, after receiving information that the Administrative Office of the Courts was soliciting bids from freelance reporters in case of a possible strike in several counties. The AOC proposed freelance reporters submit bids for possible videoconferencing of hearings. A big thank you to the freelance reporters for resoundingly refusing to cover any of those courts! The officials appreciate your support.

At the time of this writing, in the four counties that were specifically targeted by the AOC for a possible strike situation (Sonoma, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, and Fresno), three of the counties have reached satisfactory tentative agreements and are awaiting ratification of their contract. Fresno's tentative agreement appears to be a matter of contention. We will update you when we have further information on the situation.

### A big shout-out to Sacramento for securing an excellent contract!

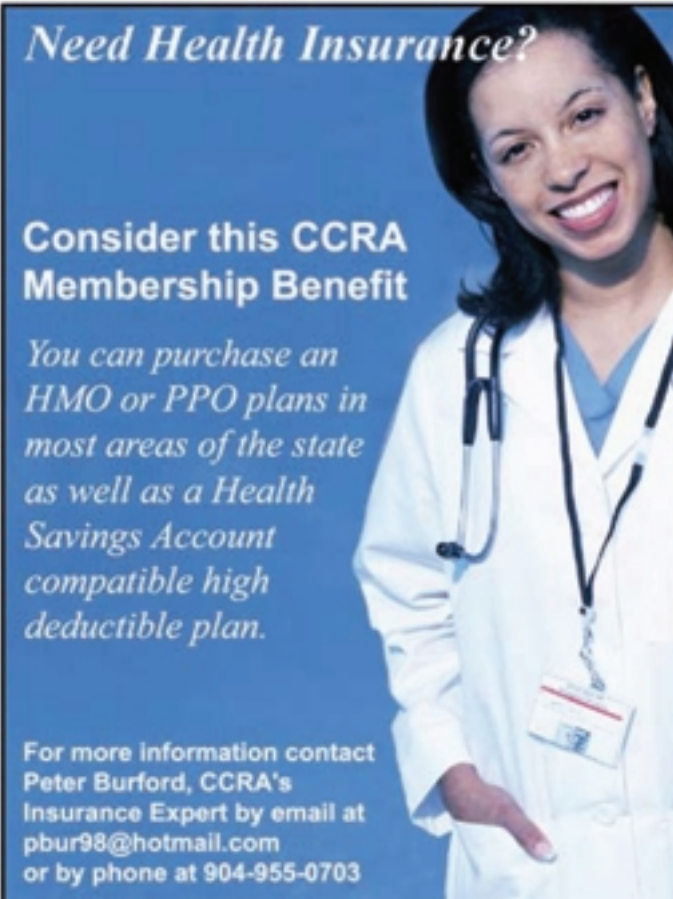
Here are a few highlights of their contract.

- **5% salary increase- retro active to July 1, 2007 (to be paid on separate check by pay period 24).**
- **5% salary increase effective July 1, 2008.**
- **6% salary increase effective July 1, 2009.**
- **\$1500 contribution to employees deferred comp account on Jan 2, 2008 (employees may elect to have as cash in lieu of deferred comp) .**
- **Realtime differential increased to 5% non certified; 10% certified (currently 3% / 5%) .**

Health insurance subsidy:

- July 2010 - Court to pay 100% of any health plan premium increases pending negotiations for the next contract. (the next contract will begin 10/1/2010).
- Orthodontic benefit increases to \$2500; Vision insurance remains 100% paid by Court.
- Court paid life insurance increase to \$50,000 for employee (currently \$15,000) keeps \$5000 for dependents.
- New employer-paid Long Term Disability coverage for employees who work 1/2 time or more.

- Education/Tuition Reimbursement: Increased to \$2400 per year, pro-rated for part-time employees.
- Transit Subsidy: 80% of cost up to maximum of \$110 per month.
- One new floating holiday per year, paid off in cash if not used by pay period 24.
- Court Reporter Transcript pay on separate checks/ reported on 1099s.
- Two days of Paid Transcript Preparation time between now and March 31 with plan to work out rest of year.
- At least five Court Reporters at a time on vacation from now through March 31.



*Need Health Insurance?*

**Consider this CCRA Membership Benefit**

*You can purchase an HMO or PPO plans in most areas of the state as well as a Health Savings Account compatible high deductible plan.*

For more information contact Peter Burford, CCRA's Insurance Expert by email at [pbur98@hotmail.com](mailto:pbur98@hotmail.com) or by phone at 904-955-0703

# Oops! Oversight Eliminates Four Panels

## Governor's veto means end to a fifth consumer board.

By Lesia Mervin, President

This was the headline in an article in the Sacramento Bee on October 16. The article alleged that the Court Reporters Board was set to sunset in July of 2008 and could not be reinstated without legislation until sometime in the 2009 legislative session.

*"Four state consumer boards could die next year after state lawmakers neglected to pass a crucial bill during a frantic September final night in which both legislative houses raced to adjourn amid rancorous politics. Workers in those industries may experience licensing inconveniences as their boards transform into smaller bureaus run strictly by the Schwarzenegger administration.*

*By the final night of session, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians, Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, Dental Board and Court Reporters Board had not had their tenure extended beyond next June.*

*The Assembly gutted and amended Senate Bill 797 by Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas, D-Los Angeles, to ensure that four of the boards would continue to exist. The Senate crafted a separate bill, Assembly Bill 1545, that would ensure that all five boards continue.*

*By the end of the night, tensions flared during negotiations over a new California Correctional Peace Officers Association contract. That came after a week in which both houses grew uncooperative over how quickly they were approving each other's bills. After the CCPOA contract talks broke down, both houses rushed to adjourn, stranding SB 797 and AB 1545."*

After a day filled with a flurry of e-mails and phone conversations with the various stakeholders involved, it was determined the article was **incorrect**. The sunset of the Court Reporters Board is not affected by the failed passage of SB 797 and AB 1545.

State consumer boards are scheduled to periodically expire, or "sunset," a provision that enables lawmakers and the governor to review their performance before extending their terms. The Courts Reporter Board is not set to sunset until 2009. The information regarding the other boards listed in the article that are scheduled to sunset and convert to a "bureau" instead of a licensing "board" is correct.

What is affected is the CRB executive director's salary and position. There are remedies for continuing the position of the executive director of the CRB and steps are being taken to rectify that situation.

CCRA will continue to monitor the situation and work with all the stakeholders to resolve the issues contained in the legislation.

Executive Director of the CRB, David Brown, stated, "The CRB current sunset date by Business and Professions Code Section 8000 is set for July 1, 2009. That has not changed by the non-passage of Senate Bill 797. As Mark Twain said, '...the report of my death was an exaggeration.'"

To read the full article, copy and paste the following link into your Internet browser.

<http://www.sacbee.com/111/story/438670.html>



### Apple Butter Pumpkin Pie

#### Ingredients:

1 c. canned pumpkin puree  
1 c. apple butter  
1/4 c. light brown sugar  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon and nutmeg  
1/4 tsp. salt  
3 eggs beaten  
1 c. evaporated milk  
1 9" unbaked deep dish pie crust

#### Streusel Topping:

3 tbsp. Butter  
1/2 c. flour  
1/3 c brown sugar  
1/2 c. chopped pecans

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350.  
In a large bowl, combine pumpkin, apple butter, 1/4 c. brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Stir in eggs and evaporated milk. Pour into prepared pie shell. Bake for 50-60 minutes. Sprinkle streusel topping over the pie and bake for an additional 15 minutes. To make streusel topping: In a small bowl, combine butter, flour and 1/3 c. brown sugar. Stir until mixture resembles course crumbs. Stir in pecans.



# Recently Asked CATalyst Questions

By Cindi Hartman, Training Program Manager



**Stenograph, L.L.C.**

## 5 – Dictionary or Edit – use <Orphan Control> with definitions of items that should be on same page

*Q. The firm I work for says that if any kind of EXAMINATION appears on the last line or second to last line of a page I have to push it to the next page and put // on any blank lines on the previous page. I've been spending a lot of time searching through my jobs when I'm finished, moving them down by pressing Enter, then typing in slashes and then if I change something they move and I have to check again — it's a pain! Is there any way to make this happen automatically?*


**A. Absolutely! All you need to do is add the <Orphan Control> symbol after the paragraph style format symbol that precedes EXAMINATION!**

There are a number of methods to bring in EXAMINATIONS — some folks use a dictionary definition, some use include files, others use EZ Text entries. Whatever your method, here's how to use Orphan Control:

1. Position your cursor after the <New Line Paragraph> or <Centered Paragraph> before EXAMINATION (or DIRECT or CROSS- or whatever the text is).
2. If you're in a dictionary entry or EZ Text entry, click the FS button (or press Alt+f). If you're in the text of an include file, click the FS icon on the toolbar or press Shift+F4. Then press O to move to format symbols beginning with the letter O, and select Orphan Control.

You'll be prompted to tell CATalyst the number of lines that should be kept together on the same page. If EXAMINATION should be kept together with the next line (e.g. a by-line) on the following page, type or select 2. If EXAMINATION should be kept together with the next two lines (e.g. a by-line and the first line of the following question) type or select 3. Then press Enter (or click OK).

To automate adding text such as // on the “blank” lines created by Orphan Control, go into any file in Edit, click Tools (or press Alt+t) then Options (or press O), then click Orphan Control Options (or press O). If you want text on the blank lines, click the check box next to “Show characters/text on empty lines created by Orphan Control.” Then type the text you prefer. // is fairly commonly used, so that's the default text in that dialog box. However, some folks prefer something like (Intentionally left blank.) Type whatever you prefer. One more option: select the paragraph style that should be used to dictate what body text font and margins should be used for placement of // or your preferred text. Then press Enter or click OK.

By the way — if you have multiple line blurbs/parentheticals and want to make sure that they are not split over page breaks, you can use Orphan Control with those blurbs. Same technique as described above — just position the cursor between the paragraph format symbol and the first word in the blurb/parenthetical and tell CATalyst how many lines should be kept together on the same page. 



# Letter from Sage College



August 27, 2007

Dear California CSR,

As you know, the court reporting profession can be a very small world at times, so we wanted to take a minute to connect with you and share some news about Sage College.

At Sage College (Formerly California School of Court Reporting), we have been teaching court reporting for over 30 years and have many graduates out there working in the profession in many various capacities. For this, of course, we are extremely proud.

Throughout the year when each new quarter begins, inevitably, we have several students who are embarking on this exciting career because one of you has recommended that he or she follow in your footsteps.

We wanted to take a moment to say thank you. Thank you for supporting your profession, for encouraging others to join you, and for believing in the institutions who strive to provide excellence in education.

Sage College now has campuses in Moreno Valley and in San Diego, and we are very excited about our new online program. The online program is the best available as our instruction is delivered using a virtual classroom environment and live interactive instruction. We're the only online program with the ability to provide 4-voice dictation at all speeds which, as you know, is critical to success as a court reporter and at the State Exam.

We also wanted to share that Sage College now offers the option of earning an AA degree in court reporting, so if any of you wish to pursue this additional credential, you can do so by completing the General Education requirements and add the AA credential to your CSR status. Classes are currently taught at our Moreno Valley campus, but we're looking to offer them online, should we learn that there is a need out there.

I encourage you to visit our website, [www.sagecollege.edu](http://www.sagecollege.edu), to learn more about Sage College, and again, we thank you for your referrals, and we appreciate your support. If you know of anyone looking to pursue a career in court reporting, we hope you consider the educational opportunities provided at our Moreno Valley, San Diego, or Online campus.

Sincerely,

Lauren Somma, CSR, B.A.  
Executive Director

Professional Legal Careers  
Fully Licensed and Accredited  
[www.sagecollege.edu](http://www.sagecollege.edu)

MAIN CAMPUS  
12125 Day Street, Building L  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-6720  
951 781 2727 F: 951 781 0570

BRANCH CAMPUS  
2820 Camino del Rio South, Suite 100  
San Diego, CA 92108-3821  
P: 619 683 2727 F: 619 683 27

# Request for Amicus Curiae Brief

*By Jack Veth, Esq.*

CCRA has been forwarded the following letter from the Second Appellate Court by Jack J. Veth, an attorney representing Coast Court Reporters in Orange County. CCRA is still in the process of gathering information in this regard, but we felt it was necessary to alert our members to the possibility of an appellate court making a decision in regards to pricing of deposition copy transcripts. At issue is the deposition reporter's ability to charge expedited fees on copies. In addition, the court has expanded the issue to address whether the superior court judge has the authority to determine the amount of a "reasonable fee" for any transcript.

**Court of Appeals Web site link:**

[http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=2&doc\\_id=1132156&div=3&doc\\_no=B193502](http://appellatecases.courtinfo.ca.gov/search/case/mainCaseScreen.cfm?dist=2&doc_id=1132156&div=3&doc_no=B193502)

Jack Veth, Esq.  
(949) 981-8250,  
jackveth@yahoo.com.

-oOo-

Court of Appeal  
State of California  
Second Appellate District  
Los Angeles, CA

Edward Idell, Esq  
Law Offices of David B. Bloom  
3580 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1045  
Los Angeles, CA 90010

John L. Dodd, Esq.  
17621 Irvine Blvd, Suite 200  
Tustin, CA 92680

John J. Veth, Esq.  
1278 Glenneyre, #413

Re: Porfino Serrano v. Stefan Meril Plastering Company, Inc.; Coast Court Reporters  
2d Civ. No. B193502, (LA county Super.Ct. No. Bc324031)

Dear Counsel:

As you know, the court has vacated submission of this matter due to the novelty and difficulty of the issues raised. The Court is concerned primarily with the questions whether a trial court has the authority to require a CSR acting as a deposition officer to provide a copy of a deposition transcript to a party in a pending action for a reasonable fee, and whether such authority includes the authority to determine the amount of a reasonable fee for that purpose. The court intends to invite persons and organizations interested in these questions to participate in this appeal as amici curiae, and seeks the parties' assistance in identifying persons and organizations who might wish to file an amicus curiae brief.

Please provide the names and addresses of persons and organizations that you believe would be interested in participating in the appeal as amici curiae. For each organization that you list, please provide the name and address of a contact person. Please ensure that the Court receives such names and addresses by November 16, 2007. The Court will compile a mailing list from your suggestions and other sources and will send a letter inviting the persons and organizations on the list to file an amicus curiae brief answering certain questions. In addition, the court will entertain applications from any other persons or organizations to participate in this appeal as amici curiae. The Court will specify a time for the parties to this appeal to file an answer to any amicus curiae brief, pursuant to rule 8.200(c)(5) of the California Rules of Court.

Very truly yours,  
Joseph A. Lane, Clerk



# Et Cetera

By Margie Wakeman-Wells

The word *et cetera* is written out and is always surrounded by punctuation.

*Et cetera* is a Latin word meaning “and others” and “and so forth.” The word *et* means “and” in Latin, is not an abbreviation, and is not transcribed with a period.

Following the rule that says reporting does not transcribe an abbreviation when a word is said — with a few standard exceptions like *Mr.* — the word *et cetera* should be written out.

Commas surround *et cetera* when it follows a list of any kind whether or not other commas are needed in the list.

Records, reports, abstracts, et cetera, are needed.  
Books, papers, et cetera, filled the room.

Records and reports and abstracts, et cetera, are needed.  
Books and papers, et cetera, filled the room.

This holds true even when *et cetera* follows just one item.

Records, et cetera, are needed.  
Books, et cetera, filled the room.

The words *and et cetera*, *and so forth*, *and the like*, and *such*

NOTE: The addition of the word *and* to the front of *et cetera* might change the punctuation for the word.

If there are internal commas within the series, then these elements take commas around them.

Records, reports, abstracts, and et cetera, are needed.  
Books, papers, and the like, filled the room.

If any one of these combinations follows a list that has no other commas in it, then there are no commas anywhere.

Records and reports and abstracts and et cetera are needed.  
Books and papers and so forth filled the room.

If any one of these combinations follows just one item, there are no commas anywhere.

Records and the like are needed.  
Books and such filled the room.

Margie Wakeman-Wells  
Online Education Consultant  
College of Court Reporting  
Email: [mwakemanwells@ccredu.com](mailto:mwakemanwells@ccredu.com)  
Web Site: [www.ccr.edu](http://www.ccr.edu)



[www.cal-ccra.org](http://www.cal-ccra.org)

Shop at the  
CCRA Store!



Mini Mouse = \$25



Paper Holder = \$5



Travel Mug = \$15



Keychain = \$25



Highlighter = \$4



Mouse Pad = \$15



Wall Clock = \$20



Freelance & Official  
Compendiums = \$25



Sunshade = \$15

### Employment Opportunities - Freelance Reporters

September 6: Reporters needed in the Modesto area. Please contact us at (800) 830-8885 or via email [depos@depobook.com](mailto:depos@depobook.com) or online [www.Depobook.com](http://www.Depobook.com) Court Reporters

Reporters needed in Bakersfield/Kern County for very busy freelance firm. Looking for experienced reporters with 2+ years experience. Realtime experience a plus. Full-time work with employee benefits. Limited travel. Fax resume to 661-393-0851. Contact Jean Keleher or Ted Kent at 800-635-6044.

### Employment Opportunities - Official Reporters

August 29: COURT REPORTER: Monterey Superior Court. \$4,927 - \$6,408/month + excellent benefits. This position requires a license as Certified Shorthand Reporter issued by the State of California. Please visit our website at [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov), email [courtsjobs@monterey.courts.ca.gov](mailto:courtsjobs@monterey.courts.ca.gov) for full description of duties, qualifications and required application materials, or call (831) 775-5586. Priority Screening Date: 9/7/07. PER DIEM COURT REPORTERS: Monterey Superior Court has opportunities available for Per Diem Court Reporters who are licensed in the State of California. Per Diem amount is negotiable. Please contact Rosalinda Chavez at (831) 775-5552 or visit our website at [www.monterey.courts.ca.gov](http://www.monterey.courts.ca.gov). EOE

July 30: Court Reporter: Superior Court of Calif, County of Solano; up to \$75,426 annually + benefits + real time bonus. Visit [www.solanocourts.com](http://www.solanocourts.com) for more information and an application.

May 24: OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER: Fresno County Superior Court \$57,434 - \$69,810 Starting Salary \$57,434. This position will work under general supervision, report verbatim testimony presented at trials and other court hearings, utilizing the realtime program and transcribing and providing typed transcripts pursuant to standards promulgated by statutes, rules, regulations or policies. Filing period: 5/21/07 - continuous until the needs of the court are met. For complete details on minimum qualifications, job duties and benefits, visit the Fresno County Courthouse, 1100 Van Ness Ave., Room 401, Fresno, CA 93724 or [www.fresnosuperiorcourt.org](http://www.fresnosuperiorcourt.org). Submit required application materials as indicated on job flyer. Postmark dates and faxed copies are not accepted. Resumes not accepted in lieu of completed application. Inquiries can be directed to Lizz Moreno, Court Personnel at (559) 488-3919.

Certified Court Reporter. Mendocino County Superior Court Full Time, Benefited Position \$4283.00 - \$5740.00/MO For Information and Application call 707-463-6815, 707-467-6437 or Download from [www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov](http://www.mendocino.courts.ca.gov) Continuous Filing

### Employment Opportunities - Official Reporters, Cont.

Superior Court of California, County of Santa Cruz, Certified Court Reporters sought for either employee status (\$5784 per month + excellent benefits) or per diem status (\$300 per day For complete job bulletin and court application please visit [www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org) or call 831-454-3370.

### Instructors Needed

August 20: Court Reporting INSTRUCTIONAL SPECIALIST: College of Marin, Marin County, CA. Part-time, 16.125 Hrs/Wk, 10.5 Months per Year. M,T,W,F: 8:30am-1pm (1/2-hour lunch). Performs a variety of learning resources activities: assisting students, tutoring, directing student workers, administering grades/tests, serving as a resource to the in-lab instructor. Salary: \$1,349.34-\$1,640.45/month. Visit [www.marin.edu/humanres/](http://www.marin.edu/humanres/) for more info and an application.

REPORTERS NEEDED TO TEACH REPORTING! Tired of the same-old, same-old? Want to give back some of your knowledge to the next generation? GOLDEN STATE COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING is hiring steno teachers for day or night; flexible hours. CSR preferred; not mandatory. Know someone who quit school, let license lapse, retired, injury...? DUBLIN in Bay Area ~ (925) 829-0115 ~ Sandy. THE GREATEST JOB YOU'LL EVER HAVE!

### Other Opportunities

April 16: National Litigation Support Services company is seeking 3 sales reps (Sacramento, San Francisco, and San Bernardino) The ideal candidate will have relationships with law firms within the territories and knowledge of the internal workings of a firm. PRIOR SALES EXPERIENCE NOT REQUIRED! Base salary \$45K plus/ yr 1 income with commission \$80K plus. Submit resumes immediately to [Dmadock@annrogantampa.com](mailto:Dmadock@annrogantampa.com). Rapid hires for the proper candidate.

April 4: Mark Gillam Enterprises: Part time stenographer needed on call or full time if experience includes bookkeeping. Financial planning and business management office in Fair Oaks, CA. Phone: 916-961-2200 Email: [Jlouisem@gent.com](mailto:Jlouisem@gent.com)

### Seeking Employment

July 5: Scopist CaseCAT. Former CSR, excellent attention to detail, needs clientele. 30 free pages first job! Lori Yared, 925-292-1964, [stonyhill3@comcast.net](mailto:stonyhill3@comcast.net)

Scopist Available: I am a retired Court Reporter of over 30 years, now enjoying doing scoping for other busy reporters. I work with ProCAT Winner XP. I have extensive experience in both court and deposition work. All exchanges can be done on the computer. Please contact Betsy at [Betsy@jackswebs.com](mailto:Betsy@jackswebs.com)

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# Classified Ads

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### Training and Instruction

Captioner Training: California Captioning Services offers both onsite and offsite live interactive teletraining and tutoring in the Seven Steps to Broadcast Captioning. For training dates and enrollment information, visit our website at [CaliforniaCaptioningServices.com](http://CaliforniaCaptioningServices.com), or give us a call at 949-888-4763.

### Equipment Wanted

Machines Needed: After a recent survey that showed new student enrollment up by 40%, many new students are in need of equipment and supplies. Remember what it was like to be a starving student? I sure do. Both public and private schools are asking for your help. They need used steno machines, manual or electric. Also they are asking for donations of scraps of paper, or even a whole box if you are feeling generous, and manuals that you no longer need. Here's how you can help: Go through that back corner of the closet, attic or garage and see what you can find. Or contact someone you know who has retired or no longer pursuing a career in court reporting; see if they'd like to donate their machine. Then contact a local school to make your donation. If you don't know of a school near you or you can't find a home for your precious hand-me-downs, contact me at [gerie@psln.com](mailto:gerie@psln.com), and I'll find one for you.

### Proofreaders

July 25: DepoProofReaders.com & DepoproofReadersOnline.com invite you to try their proof reading services. Over 17 years of legal experience in all types of law. We offer you competitive prices, experienced, skilled and reliable service for the right price. Tel: (916) 293-2670/Email: [icasipit@depoproofreaders.com](mailto:icasipit@depoproofreaders.com)

Hire an experienced proofreader with a paralegal certificate and medical background for your straight proofreading needs. Visit web site (<http://WeNeverSleep.biz>) or call (760) 409-7547 in Palm Springs, CA (night or day). Due to spam, e-mail addy is only available from web site.



**TurboCAT**

Job Menu  
Realtime  
Utility Menu  
[F10] Exit  
Dictionary Menu  
Litigation Support  
CAPticator Online  
[F1] Help!

**SmartCAT**

Job Menu  
Realtime  
Files in Work Directory  
Help!  
Dictionary  
Import Notes  
Style Sheet  
Quick Start Guide  
Exit

**Of Course You Waited, Now it's Time to Move.**  
*(Come see SmartCAT for Windows w/Bonus features... but only if you want to use them)*

Windows 7 Windows XP Windows Vista

**Cheetah International**

[www.cheetahinternational.com](http://www.cheetahinternational.com) • 1.877.333.2287