

# Arizona Notes

Arizona Court Reporters Association

Volume 39, Number 3

Fall 2011

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## 2011 ACRA Annual Convention "Key Trends in the Legal System" September 16-18, 2011 Prescott Resort

1500 E. Highway 69  
Prescott, AZ 86301

Reservations: 1-800-967-4637

Ask for the AZ Court Reporters Assn. block or code G743

\$95 Single/Double \$105 Triple/Quad

**Cutoff date is extended to 5:00 pm August 26, 2011**

The hotel is currently sold-out that weekend if you try to book outside the room block or try to book late you might not get a room, so get your reservation before the cutoff date.

Complimentary Wi-Fi in guest and meeting rooms.

Approved for 12 hours CEU from NCRA

### Friday Classes:

Yavapai: Mother of Counties, Cradle of Statehood

Presenter: Elisabeth Ruffner

Drug Trends 2011

Presenters: Sgt. Amy B. Bonney & Det. Mark McClain

### Saturday Classes:

Raise Your Pay & Reclaim Your Life with Realtime Coach

Presenter: Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI

Gadget Goodness - Cool Tech Tools for Court Reporters

Presenter: Marybeth Everhart, RPR, CRI

Designing an Effective Website in a Competitive Business Environment

Presenter: Randy Carson

The Low-Down on Captioning Requirements

Presenter: Cathleen Dooley

### Sunday Classes:

Legislation 101

Presenter: John MacDonald

Sexual Predators & Internet Safety

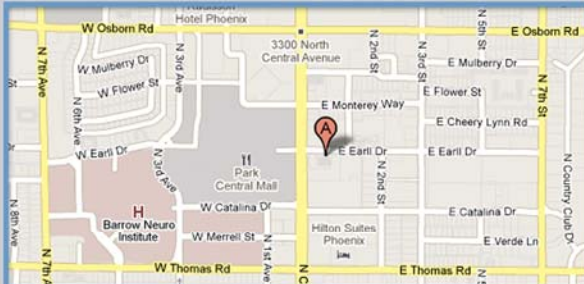
Presenter: Det. Gene Shantz

Visit [www.acraonline.org](http://www.acraonline.org) for complete details.



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## This is YOUR association, and we need YOUR help!

### President's Message

It's always a thrill for me to attend NCRA's Annual Convention. Because of the sizeable cash outlay, I only treat myself once every five years or so, and I try to choose a site that's fairly close to home since I hate to fly these days. Las Vegas was a perfect location, and the timing couldn't have been better. I was up for treating myself since my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday was the Friday of the convention.



Actually, I celebrated that birthday for two and a half weeks! My husband and I left Phoenix on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July and spent a week on the beach at Channel Islands Shores, California. It was in the mid 80s, which is kind of cool-ish for a Phoenician in July, so my tan lines aren't exactly perfect since I mostly kept my clothes on! But there's nothing like salt air and the sound of surf to wash away stress, anxiety, and worry!

We then drove directly to Las Vegas, where we spent several days hanging out by the pool and reading, and we saw several shows, the highlight of which was Celine Dion. (She was absolutely awesome!) I attended the NCRA State Leadership Conference on Tuesday of convention week, where I picked up numerous ideas, took reams of notes, and brought home a book of information that I will be sharing with ACRA's new Board of Directors this fall in a mini seminar.

The next day I attended NCRA's business meeting, where we listened to candidate speeches and were advised of the results of a recent poll of the membership on the future direction NCRA should pursue, which was overwhelmingly in favor of a Steno Only association. That afternoon I attended the NCSA (National Conference of State Associations) meeting, where we voted on several resolutions proposed by various state associations and heard from each state's representatives as to what has transpired in their state in the past year. Friday began the actual convention/seminars. I had no luck in any of the several drawings and contests offering an I-Pad as a prize, so it's still on my wish list. I guess it's a good thing I refrained from gambling this trip! My luck was not exactly high. I did get my CaseCATalyst dongle converted over to an E-key at the Stenograph booth, and I picked up lots of freebies at the various booths and bought convention badge/lapel pins for all the conventions I've attended and touched base with lots of old friends from California and made new friends from around the country. It was exhilarating! It was also exhausting!

I skipped the Sunday seminars since we were both getting homesick, and we drove home and collapsed in our recliner chairs! On Monday morning as I was beginning the unpacking routine, I received a panic call from my office for a pop-up job NOW. I pulled the least wrinkled thing I could find from my suitcase and threw it on and sped downtown, sans shower, bed-head hair and all! And so goes the life of a free-lance reporter! I've been trying to catch up ever since on hundreds of e-mails and a dozen little details of ACRA business hanging over my head. But I'm refreshed, revived, and reinvigorated as a result of my long vacation. My head is filled with new ideas that I will be passing on to the Board in the months to come.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** - Doreen Borgmann

**Past President** - Erica Grund

**President-Elect** - Karen Kahle

**Vice President** - Barbara Stockford

**Treasurer** - Cindy Lineburg

**Secretary** - Scott Coniam

**Board Officials** - Laura Ashbrook

Rossana Baker

**Board Freelance** - Donna DeLaVina

Tony Garcia

**ACRA Administrator** - Robin Hirth

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*ArizoNotes* Editor - Karen Kahle

**Bench/Bar Liaison** - Doreen Borgmann

**CART** - Jen Schuck

**Constitution /Bylaws** - Karen Kahle

**Seminars** - Barbara Stockford

**CRR Testing** - Erica Grund

**DSA** - Diane Sonntag

**Fund-raising** - Karen Kahle

**Legislative** - Karen Kahle

**Membership** - Scott Coniam

**Mentoring** - Barbara Stockford

**Nominations** - Erica Grund

**Pro Bono** - Cindy Lineburg

**Public Relations** - All Board Members

**Recruitment** - Barbara Stockford

**RPR/RMR Phoenix** - Scott Coniam

**RPR/RMR Tucson** - Kathy Fink

**Third-Party Control** - Tony Garcia,

Chris Green & Mary Meyer

*Continued on page 4*

*President's Message, continued from page 3*

And I can see the light at the end of the tunnel! On September 17, I will turn over the gavel to Karen and step back to stand at her side as she begins her year as ACRA's new president! I'll still be here to offer advice and opinions, but it will be her show. She certainly has the experience to be a really great president, and I will do all in my power to support her in that effort!

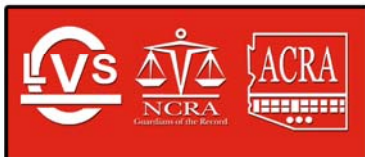
Doreen C. Borgmann, CR, RMR, CRR  
ACRA President

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continuous support and knowledge.  
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excellent service!



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## Arizona Court Reporters Association 2011-2012 Board of Directors Officer Slate

The slate of candidates for election at the Annual Business Meeting on September 17, 2011 at the Prescott Resort in Prescott, AZ is as follows:

President Elect:	Laura Ashbrook	Secretary:	Scott Coniam
Vice President:	Mary Jo Bair	Official Board Member:	Tracy Johnston
Treasurer:	Cyndi Morris-Crowe	Freelance Board Member:	Pam Griffin

As per ACRA Bylaws, Karen Kahle, having served as President Elect, will assume the Presidency. After the election at the annual business meeting, Marty Herder will install her in office, along with the other candidates.

Donna De La Vina, Freelance Board Member, and Rossana Baker, Official Board Member, each have one year remaining to serve. Doreen Borgmann will serve as Past President.

### **Laura Ashbrook, RMR – President Elect**

Laura graduated from the American Institute of Court Reporting in 1978 and immediately moved to Upstate New York, where she worked briefly as a freelance reporter, New York State Senate reporter, after which as a federal reporter for the Northern District of New York. She returned to Arizona in 1988 and has worked since then as an official with Maricopa County Superior Court, currently with the Hon. Joseph Kreamer.

### **Mary Jo Bair, RMR – Vice President**

Mary Jo graduated from American Institute of Court Reporting in 1985, received her Texas CSR in January of 1986, but decided to remain in Arizona and worked freelance for Colville and Associates for a little over a year. In June of 1987 she began working as an official for Pima County Superior Court and has been there ever since. The last 14 –plus years she has worked for the Honorable Edgar Acuna. She is married to Fred, a TFD captain, and they have two daughters.

### **Scott Coniam, RMR, CRR – Secretary**

Scott graduated from the American Institute of Court Reporting in 1987. While going to court reporting school, Scott learned the old Xscribe system and made corrections for Bob Greenfield. Scott was fortunate to have a working relationship during school with Driver & Reeves and started in freelance with them. In January of 1992, Scott was hired by newly appointed Judge Daniel Barker where he started his officialship career that's lasted for 18 years. Scott's been married to Lori for 22 years and they have three children. He's a Scoutmaster for Troop 720 and active in his church.

### **Cyndi Morris-Crowe, RPR – Treasurer**

Cyndi graduated from the American Institute of Court Reporting in 1993. She immediately began working for Kunz Reporting Service and worked there until 1999. At that time, she began her own company, Morris-Crowe Court Reporting, and has been growing that company the last 12 years. She has five children, all grown and out of the house, and she is loving the empty nest.

### **Pam Griffin, RPR, CRR – Freelance Board Member (2 year term)**

Pam attended American Institute of Court Reporting School under the tutelage of Joe Cox and Steve Lampropoulos. In March 1983 she began her career at Thacker & Greenfield and then worked for Thacker & Associates before starting the firm Griffin & Howard in 1987 which later became Griffin & Associates. Pam has previously served on the Board and worked as the legislative liaison with ACRA when certification was passed for court reporters in the State of Arizona. She received the Distinguished Service Award in 1999. She has two children, Danielle, 25, and Hope, 16, and is married to Larry Euzarraga, a lineman with Arizona Public Service for 30 years.

### **Tracy Johnston, RPR – Official Board Member (2 year term)**

Tracy graduated from the American Institute of Court Reporting in 1989. While attending court reporting school, Tracy worked for Julie Ottmar and Leslie Foldy from whom she acquired her scoping and editing skills. Upon graduating, Tracy worked as a freelance reporter in Phoenix and Tucson until 2001 when she became an official for Maricopa County Superior Court. Tracy, at one time, taught at Gateway Community College in the court reporting program. January 2003 began her career as an official for Pima County Superior Court and the Honorable Paul Tang. Tracy is currently serving as president for the Arizona chapter of a woman's non-profit organization dedicated to helping women achieve their educational goals through grants, loans, and scholarships.



## Paris in July

By Jen Schuck, RDR, CCP, CBC

A year ago I had a friend ask me, “Would you like to go to Paris next July for InterSteno?” My initial reaction was, “Of course!” Who wouldn’t want to go to Paris, no matter what time of year. So the seed was planted.

Then eight months passed and now it was truly decision time...to go or not to go. I had just returned from Italy and thinking two European vacations in one year, well, not all that smart. But InterSteno really intrigued me. I knew of some reporters that had attended in the past and said it was an experience of a lifetime. So I checked on airfare and almost outrightly dismissed going on this trip but then realized I had enough frequent flyer miles to fly for free. So, Paris, here I come.

When I mentioned to other reporters I was going to InterSteno, more often than not the response was, “What’s that?” Well, InterSteno aims to provide an international forum to all people who work as professionals, are interested, or study to become professionals in one or more of the domains of its activity. ([www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org)) In short, it is an international organization for court reporters, steno, voice and other methods.

After arriving Sunday morning, I made my way with other colleagues to the Cite Internationale universite de Paris where the welcome ceremony was to be held. How invigorating it was to be in a room with reporters from all over the world with unique talents and skills in creating a record. The ceremony was conducted in French. So I applauded when everyone else applauded but then waited for the English translation to understand what I was actually clapping about. It was an exercise in patience as we had to wait until after the German translation before we understood what was going on. After the speeches and dance performance, representatives from every country walked across the stage, welcomed everyone in their native language and waved their country’s flag.

Monday we were invited to take a tour of the French Parliament. I jumped on this thinking it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Parliament was not in session, but the staff reporters there took us on a tour and explained how they worked. They no longer use steno in the Parliament. They use pens and work in 15-minute increments so they may transcribe everything immediately. It takes them four hours to transcribe 15 minutes’ worth of notes. This includes their proofreading and research for accuracy.

Tuesday was competition day. They hold multiple types of competitions, not just speech capturing (which we call a speed contest) and realtime. And they are held in 30 different languages, fascinating to say the least. And there are kids competing as young as 8 years old in keyboarding contests. The most awe-inspiring was the pen writer who writes in 15 languages and speaks 21. Wow...

Wednesday there were seminars. There are also business meetings held throughout the week for those whom are active in the inner workings of InterSteno.

They had a small exhibit area. There were steno machines from Korea and from France on display. I also sat next to a gentleman who uses a Velotype machine to do the same job we do with a steno machine. He only works in realtime, no scoping



*Velotype Machine*



*Korean Machine*

necessary apparently with his method. It works similar to a steno machine but does not translate against a dictionary. I now understand how a layman feels when we explain how our machines work. It’s fascinating!

The 48<sup>th</sup> InterSteno Congress was nothing short of amazing and interesting and fun. It was well worth the time off work, the lost income, the jet lag and the detrimental exchange rate! The 49<sup>th</sup> Congress will be held in Ghent, Belgium in 2013. Mark it on your calendars! You won’t regret it.

## NCSA Body Passes Two Resolutions at Annual Meeting

At the National Committee of State Associations (NCSA) Annual Meeting, led by Chair Cathy Phillips and Vice-Chair Marlana Haig, the NCSA body approved two resolutions, which will now go to the NCRA Board of Directors. Resolutions 11-01 and 11-02, both submitted by the California Court Reporters Association (CCRA), passed the NCSA body unanimously.

Resolution 11-01 advised that "NCRA provide more funding to its governmental affairs department to create boilerplate language for state associations in regards to gift giving, third-party contracting, and ownership of the official court transcript." Resolution 11-02 advised that "NCRA formulate a boilerplate advisory opinion question for individual court reporting state associations to ask of their state bar associations."

Additionally, the NCSA body held elections for open governing board positions. Linda McSwain and Mary Burzynski were elected as Governing Board Members, while Karen Morris and Sheryl Culver were elected as Governing Board Alternates. They will be joining Regina Berenato-Tell on the Governing Board next year.

Finally, NCRA would like to thank Chair Cathy Phillips for her service to NCSA over the past four years. Marlana Haig will be taking over as NCSA Chair, and Kristin Anderson has been appointed Vice-Chair for the next two years.

## Arizona Reporters Shine at Intersteno and NCRA Championships

Congratulations to Jennifer L. Schuck of Scottsdale, Arizona, for her 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Realtime Transcription Contest at the 48<sup>th</sup> Intersteno World Congress held in Paris, France, in July 2011! The USA was well represented as Jennifer, along with three other American reporters, claimed four of the top ten spots in a field of 39 entrants.

Jennifer again tested her skills at the NCRA Annual Convention and Exposition held at Bally's Las Vegas, where she placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in the NCRA Realtime Contest. Kaylene Scotson, from Tucson, AZ, and Erica R. Grund, from Sahuarita, AZ, were among the qualifiers in the Testimony portion of the Realtime Contest.

Participating in NCRA's 2011 National Speed Competition at Bally's, Las Vegas, were four Arizona contenders who secured spots on the Championship roster. To qualify, contestants write and transcribe three five-minute legs – literary at 220 wpm, legal opinion at 230 wpm, and testimony at 280 wpm -- with 95 percent accuracy. Nice going, Erica Grund, Gary Moll, Diane Sonntag, and G. Allen Sonntag!

### Dates to Remember...

**September 16, 2011**

***ACRA Board Meeting***

Prescott  
5:45pm  
Prescott Resort

**November 10, 2011**

***Winter ArizoNotes Deadline***

Contact Karen Kahle at (520) 740-3015 / hvymtlccr@juno.com for submissions, and Robin Hirth at (480) 496-4010 / acra@saminc.org for advertising information.

**September 16-18, 2011**

***ACRA Annual Convention***

Prescott Resort, Prescott

**Hotel Information:**

Rate: \$95 includes complimentary guest room WIFI  
1-800-967-4637 ask for group code: G743 or the ACRA room block. Room block deadline to guarantee rate: August 26, 2011

## NCRA's New Continuing Education Requirements

Continuing education enhances needed skills and gives weight and credibility to our certifications. NCRA's current continuing education program has been in effect since 1999, and as part of a periodic re-evaluation and analysis, the Council of the Academy of Professional Reporters (CAPR) recommended that changes be made to better meet the needs of our membership. In November 2010, NCRA's Board of Directors approved those recommendations and directed that the new program be implemented.

NCRA's revised standards will go into effect on October 1, 2011. Members will still be required to earn 3.0 units of continuing education each three-year certification cycle, but the manner in which certifications can be maintained has been expanded. A minimum of two (2) of those units must be earned with formal instruction activities that meet the requirements of the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training (ACCET), NCRA's national accrediting body. But up to one (1) unit per cycle may be earned in Professional Development Credits (PDCs) for qualifying activities. This article will focus on some of the ways that members will be able to earn those new Professional Development Credits. Please be sure to check with your state association as to whether these new activities will be eligible for state affiliate credits.

### Promoting the Profession to External Audiences

This requirement can be satisfied by giving a presentation at a court reporting school (as a guest speaker or career day participant), law school, or judges' association. If a question arises as to whether an event qualifies, CAPR will review the request for approval. Members seeking Professional Development Credits must submit an outline or agenda of their presentation, accompanied by either a signed NCRA submission form or letter signed by a representative of the host event. Members will earn .25 credits for each qualifying presentation.

### Mentoring

To qualify for Professional Development Credits, mentoring must take place with students enrolled in a school (not mentoring a reporter transitioning into a new area of the profession). A minimum of five (5) hours will be required for earning the .25 credits, and those hours can either be divided up among multiple students or can all be spent with the same student. A mentor may submit the same student up to two times per cycle (for a total of 10 hours and 0.5 credits), if they have an extended relationship.

Reporters who host students completing their internships will also be entitled to earn credits. Internship reporters are assigned by the school the students are attending, and the students typically fill out logs of time spent. To earn Professional Development Credits, the reporter will also be required to fill out NCRA's mentor form and can then submit a copy of the internship log at the end of the internship period.

Mentoring relationships must be completed during the member's three-year cycle.

### Serving as Lead Chief Examiner at NCRA Testing Sites

Members will receive .25 Professional Development Credits for spending a year serving as an NCRA Lead Chief Examiner. You will submit an NCRA form along with the \$40 processing fee when requesting the credits, and documentation will be verified with a cross check of NCRA's master roster of chief examiners' names.

In order to serve as an NCRA Chief Examiner, you must be a member of NCRA in good standing and preferably hold an NCRA credential. Additional requirements include the ability to maintain strict confidentiality and security, adherence to NCRA policies and procedures, and administration of the exams at a suitable testing facility.

### Service on an NCRA, NCRF, or Affiliate Board or Committee

Members will receive .25 Professional Development Credits per year of service on an NCRA, NCRF, or state court reporting association board or committee. Service on a board or committee of the United States Court Reporting Association (USCRA) also qualifies for this category. Members will submit an NCRA form along with the \$40 processing fee when requesting the credits, and the year of service must be completed prior to submission for credit (*with the exception of this first year, in which the service must be completed after October 1*). A cross check with NCRA or NCRF board and committee rosters will provide sufficient documentation for the national service. For affiliate service and USCRA service, the state and USCRA boards will be required to maintain those records and verify a member's service with a signature from the state or USCRA board president. In order to be eligible for credits this first year of the new program, your year of service on the board or committee must end *after* October 1, 2010.

### Pro Bono Services (Judicial, CART, Captioning)

Pro bono services are defined by the Council of the Academy of Professional Reporters (CAPR) as *providing court reporting, realtime, CART or captioning services for which compensation in any form was not rendered*. In practice, this can include any variety of services, such as providing CART services for a deaf consumer at a meeting or church service or taking depositions for litigants who could not afford reporting services.

Specifically, .25 credits will be awarded for a minimum of 2.5 hours of pro bono service, of which 30 minutes can be the preparation involved. Service for two one-hour events plus 30 minutes of preparation, for example, can be combined for one submission. The preparation time will be accounted for on the honor system. Members will submit an NCRA form along with the \$40 processing fee when requesting the credits. The form

*Continued on page 9*



NCRA's New Continuing...continued from page 8

must be signed by either the deaf consumer or the host of the event for which the pro bono services are performed.

**Association 101 exam**

NCRA currently offers book and article tests, and members will earn Professional Development Credits for successfully passing – or writing – a qualifying book or article test under the new continuing education requirements (earning .25 credits per submission after October 1). But the *Association 101* exam will be a new offering beginning in October. *Following a year of state or national board service*, members may download the *Association 101* manual from NCRA's website, study it, and then take a 50-question, open-book exam using the manual as the reference. The grading and processing fee to download the test (and to record the credits, if you pass the exam) is \$25. A passing grade is 80% or 10 incorrect answers, and you will be notified of the pass/fail after the exam has been graded. A member may only earn credits for the *Association 101* exam once in his or her lifetime, but you may take it once per year until you have passed.

**Current offerings**

Members currently participate in several activities that will not qualify for formal ACCET-approved CEUs after October 1, but which will still be eligible for earning Professional Development Credits (PDCs). The values for some of these activities will change, so be sure to check <http://NCRAonline.org/certification/ContinuingEd/> for more information. Again, you will be limited to 1.0 total credit in Professional Development Activities, but they include:

- NCRF oral history transcription
- Seminar presenting and training
- Competing in speed or realtime contests
- Tests for teletrainings or qualifying training events
- Testing: Includes the skills or WKT portion of the RMR, RDR, CRR, CLVS (if you're an RPR), CCP (if you're an RPR) and CBC (if you're an RPR)
- Formal supervised dictation practice
- Logged time on Realtime Coach

**Carryover CEUs**

Please note that if this is the third year of your certification cycle, you are now eligible to carry over 0.5 CEUs or PDCs into your next three-year cycle. The excess credits carried over must always be earned in the last six months of your cycle (so on or after April 1 of the final year of your cycle). And the excess credits that you wish to carry forward – up to 0.5 -- must be submitted *prior to your September 30 cycle end date*.

See page 15 for more.

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## Dear Nancy

By Nancy Varallo RDR/CRR/FAPR

**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:

When our state was considering licensing, I'd find myself wondering if some state legislature granted Agent 007 his license to kill. I'd fantasize about how useful it would be 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 his 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.

**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, confessed to 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.city-data.com/forum/maine](http://www.city-data.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 down-easters 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!

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## Ask Mr. Modem! – August 2011

[www.MrModem.com](http://www.MrModem.com)

### The Fuss About “Net Neutrality” Explained

**Q** Can you explain Net Neutrality and what all the fuss is about in layman's terms? I am against the government running anything, but I don't understand the issue here.

**A** It's a complex subject about which volumes have been written, but in its simplest form, Net Neutrality is the principle that says that all information flowing across the Internet should be treated equally.

With more people streaming data-rich video, Skype (Internet telephone), playing online games, watching full-length movies, and using social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc., the Internet itself faces significant traffic congestion, which can manifest itself in sluggish or even nonexistent access to Internet-based data.

Questions then arise such as, “Should Internet access providers be able to sell multi-tiered access to accommodate heavy users? Should sites that generate massive traffic and thus contribute to the congestion pay additional fees which would undoubtedly be passed on to consumers? Should the historically free Information Superhighway become a toll road?”

The U.S. Government is examining Net Neutrality and its financial, legal, and social implications. The debate then becomes, “Do we need federal intervention to ensure fairness, or is this an issue for the free market to work out, bearing in mind that the Internet itself is global, so the U.S. Government's jurisdiction would be limited to U.S.-based providers?” The debate and discussion to follow promise to be heated and prolonged, so stay tun

**Q** I have Firefox configured to automatically open four sites when I launch it. Can Internet Explorer perform the same function?

**A** Start by creating a tab (CTRL + T), type in an address and go to that site. Repeat the process for each site you want to open automatically. Let's say you create four tabs to display the four different sites you display in Firefox.

If you want all four to appear when you open IE, click the little down arrow next to the House icon (Home page) on the toolbar and select “Add or Change Home Page.” Click “Use the Current Tab Set as your home page,” select “Yes,” then close IE. That's all there is to it.

Quick Review: To configure Firefox to open multiple pages, click Tools > Options > General tab. Under Startup, “When Firefox starts:” select “Show my home page.” In the Home Page field, enter the URLs of the sites you would like to launch automatically, separated with a pipe mark (|), which is vertical line, usually located above the back-slash (\) key. Click OK when you're done.

**Q** I know how to delete individual files, but I can't remember how you said we can use the keyboard to highlight a block of files for moving or deleting. Thanks, Mr. M.

**A** To select multiple files, hold down the SHIFT key and click the first file to select it, then scroll down to the last file and click that to highlight (select) all files in between.

If the files you want to select are non-contiguous files -- which is just a fancy-shmancy way of saying files not located next to each other -- use the CTRL key instead of the SHIFT key to select specific files.

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## It's Back to School!

By Jen Schuck, RDR, CCP, CBC

You're probably getting ready to get your kids back to school, meeting teachers, buying school supplies and stocking up on the kids' new wardrobes. For a lot of CART providers, it means back to a regular schedule. Who will our teachers be? Will they be fast talkers? Will they be slow talkers? Will I have enough time between classes to get there? All these things will be determined the first week of school, if not the first day.

Every year or every semester, depending on the setting, it's almost like starting a new job. For CART providers, we have an 8:00-2:00 type of job with holidays off and weeks off around the holidays. It makes it nice to plan ahead. You can know months in advance when to plan your vacations and not have to worry about that last-minute transcript that the attorneys now need tomorrow morning, regardless of the fact you are going on vacation.

However, it is five days a week and the times are not flexible. Class starts when the bell rings! It can be a good thing or it could be a bad thing. It's good because if you make a doctor's appointment at 3:00, you know you will make it on time and that the class will not run you late. It's bad because it is a five-day-a-week, 8:00-2:00-type job and for most court reporters, we've never had a schedule like that. It works well for some and not so well for others. Remember, no working at night or weekends on transcripts, though. However, you will have work to prep for your classes which will be outside of your class time.

Let me address the whole concept of summers off. I have heard a lot of people say, "If I start doing CART, what will I do in the summertime when there's no work?" We are all in a profession that is wonderful because we can do so many things with our abilities. So there's no school, okay. However, you may have a student taking summer school. Voila, work! You may choose to pick up deposition work. Lots of firms are looking for help in the summer because their regular pool of reporters are on vacation. Voila, work! You may choose to network with other CART providers and CART a convention. Summer is the season for conventions, and many conventions need CART or captioning. Voila, work!

If you have the skill to be a quality reporter, quality CART provider, quality captioner, you will have many opportunities to work in all types of settings. Take pride in your profession, in your job and make yourself the most marketable reporter you can be.

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## Job Bank Opportunities

### Pima County

Juvenile Court - Full-time pool reporter

It would be a pool position initially, but if someone is looking for a division, a new judge will be appointed as soon as our governor gets around to it and may appreciate someone with juvenile experience - or stay with the pool.

Contact juvenile HR at (520) 740-2000 for more information.

### Santa Cruz County

Standard certification and trial court experience required.

Salary: \$55,399.00

Mail Resume to Court Administrator

Frank Corrales,

P.O. Box 1929

Nogales, AZ 85628

Call 520-375-7740 for complete job description.

EOE

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

### Bidding for Good

This site brings together cause-conscious consumers and organizations attempting to raise funds to support their various missions. All of the items found in their ongoing auctions raise funds for the nonprofit running the auction, so consumers' bidding dollars support causes that are important to each individual.

[www.BiddingForGood.com](http://www.BiddingForGood.com)

### Book of Odds

This Web site details the odds of everyday life. You'll find interesting data ranging from the odds of becoming a YouTube celebrity, to the odds that you'll wind up old, surrounded by cats, and writing newspaper columns.. (Hey, wait a minute!) This site provides an interesting look at odds and probabilities. For example, did you know that the odds that a pet cat is allowed to sleep in its owner's bed are 1 in 1.49? I hate to disagree with this site, but around my house, the odds of a cat sleeping wherever it wants to, whenever it wants to, are 100 percent. Use the site's Search field to search for topics of interest.

[www.bookofodds.com](http://www.bookofodds.com)

### Typewar

So, you think it's easy to tell the difference between fonts, do you? Here's your chance to find out. This site will present an example of a certain typeface. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to identify in which of two choices the letter appears. It's not as easy as it sounds. To let you know how you're doing, the site keeps score. No wagering, please.

<http://typewar.com>

Hot off the press! Mr. Modem's new, best-selling e-book series, "*Mr. Modem's Top 50 Computing Tips*" is now available for download from amazon.com at <http://tinyurl.com/3vhy19r>

### Important Contact Information

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**CR Office:** (602) 452-3878

**CR Website:** [www.supreme.state.az.us/cr](http://www.supreme.state.az.us/cr)



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### DEADLINES

Winter Issue - November 10, 2011

Spring Issue - February 10, 2012

Summer Issue - May 10, 2012

Fall Issue - August 10, 2012



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## NCRA CURRENT AND FUTURE NON-CEU SPECIFIC

Revised March 2011

ACTIVITY	CURRENT SYSTEM	FUTURE SYSTEM
Independent Study Projects	Variety of projects (includes Dictionary Jumpstart) [CEUs vary according to the project; no limit per cycle]	Variety of projects.  [CEUs vary according to the project; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits] Must be approved in advance.
NCRF Oral History Transcription	VHP transcriptions  [.1 per transcript; maximum of 1.0 per cycle]	Transcriptions for any NCRF Oral history program  [.25 per transcript; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits] No fee for submission
Pro bono services (CART, Judicial, captioning)	Not currently eligible	Pro bono services  [.25 for a minimum of 2.5 hours of service, of which 30 minutes can be assignment preparation; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]
Service on an NCRA, NCRF, or affiliate board, committee, etc.	Not currently eligible	Service on an NCRA, NCRF, or affiliate board, committee  [.25 per year per board/committee; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]
Serving as a Lead Chief Examiner at NCRA testing sites	Not currently eligible	Serving as a Lead Chief Examiner at NCRA testing sites  [.25 per year; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]
Seminar Presenting and Training	Seminar presenting  [.1 per contact hour; no limit per cycle]	Seminar presenting and training  [.25 for 1-4 hours, .5 for over 4 hours of presenting; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]

Extra credit for taking a teletraining or qualifying training test	E-seminar and teletraining tests  <i>[.15 per exam following an event; no limit per cycle]</i>	Exam for a teletraining or qualifying training event. E-seminar tests will not be offered after October 1, 2011.  <i>[.25 per event submission; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>
Competing in speed or realtime contests	Each leg of NCRA speed contest - .5 CEUs  Each leg of state speed contest or award of excellence - .4 NCRA realtime contest - .5 State realtime contest - .4 [Can only claim one leg per cycle; maximum of 1.2 CEUs from state speed, 1.5 CEUs from NCRA speed]	Competing in speed or realtime contests  <i>[.25 per leg qualified; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>
Testing	Passing the skills or WKT portion of the RMR, RDR, CRR, CLVS (if an RPR), CCP (if an RPR) & CBC (if an RPR) - .5 CEUs  <i>[No limit per cycle]</i>	Testing (same qualifying skills and WKT tests)  <i>[.25 per skills test leg or WKT passed; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>
Formal Supervised Dictation Practice	Formal supervised dictation practice  <i>[.1 per contact hour of instruction; limit .5 CEUs per cycle]</i>	Formal supervised dictation practice  <i>[.25 per two and a half contact hours of instruction; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>
Time on Realtime Coach	Logged time on Realtime Coach  <i>[.1 per logged contact hour; limit 1.0 CEU per cycle]</i>	Logged time on Realtime Coach  <i>[.25 per two and a half contact hours; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>
Formal mentoring programs	Not currently eligible	Formal mentoring programs  <i>[.25 per five hours of involvement through a school internship or formal mentoring program; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i>

<p>Promoting the profession to external audiences (e.g., career day, law school, judges' association, etc.)</p>	<p>Not currently eligible</p>	<p>Promoting the profession to external audiences <i> [.25 per event; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i></p>
<p>Book or article tests written (approved books and articles only)  [Each test may only be taken once per lifetime per credit]</p>	<p>JCR article tests - .2 per test (<i>passing grade – 75%</i>) (\$25 fee if taken online). .3 for writing JCR article, .6 for submitting an article and a test.  Book tests - .2 or .3 per test (<i>passing grade – 85%</i>)  Writing a test – With CAPR approval, .6 CEUs for writing test for book not on the current NCRA book list (<i>at no cost</i>)  <i>Grammar for Court Reporters</i> two-part test (<i>passing score - 70%</i>). Part I and Part II exam, .3 CEUs for each test</p>	<p>All book or article tests (<i>approved books and articles only</i>)  Writing a test for a book not on the current NCRA book list – with CAPR approval (at no cost)  Grammar for Court Reporters (two-part test, passing score – 70%; Part I and Part II exam)  Association 101 manual exam (following a year of board service). This is an open-book exam.  <i> [.25 per submission; maximum of 1.0 from all non-CEU credits]</i></p>