

ARIZONA NOTES

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President's Message by Mike Bouley



Perspective. Do you have it? Do you lose it? Are you mindful of it?

Merriam-Webster defines perspective as the capacity to view things in their true relations or relative importance.

Let's face it - modern American life is demanding. Income and expenses. Obligations and deadlines. Pressure, rush, juggle, traffic, repeat.

It's easy for a good perspective to not be on our radar. Until that quiet moment when it comes and taps us on the shoulder and says to us, "You only have radar because of me." That's my visual of it.

On a recent flight home, it was going to be a full plane, but I had a window seat. As I watched people coming down the aisle, I wondered which one would be sitting next

to me. God only knows. The Row 26 Lottery. As luck would have it, a cheerful young lady with very short hair smiled and said hello and dropped down beside me. She proceeded to clean the surfaces with a disinfecting wipe. Genius, I thought to myself.

Over the next three hours, she opened up, and we chatted. She was 23, from Dayton, Ohio, recently married, and in the fight of her life against leukemia. She spoke of her loving family and support, of other cancer patients in the hospital where she'd been receiving treatment, her schooling, her husband, her joys, her sister's new baby.

She had never been out West, and was fascinated with the high mountains out the window. She was going to be in a program at one of the renowned retreat facilities outside of town, and was very excited about it. She wanted to know everything I could tell her about the desert, the mountains, Tucson, and Arizona. We had an amazing

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conversation, and she was an absolute sweetheart. I found myself hoping the flight would take just a little longer.

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NCRA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION IN CHICAGO, IL

BY KATE ROUNDY

Everyone should make the NCRA Convention & Expo a priority.

I have been a court reporter for 16 years. Last year I attended my first NCRA Convention & Expo in New York. This past week I attended the Chicago conference. I am pumped beyond belief over our profession, and I want to encourage others to attend the 2017 NCRA Convention & Expo in Las Vegas.

The week is filled with countless opportunities to show off your talents, learn new skills, and explore new angles of our profession. Along with the National Speed Contest and the Realtime Contest, there are several vendor training workshops as well as workshops followed by exams to earn added certifications. You're sure to acquire a greater depth of knowledge from the punctuation workshop, realtime trainings, and a wide variety of industry-specific seminars. (Please note that NCRA Convention & Expos are also aimed towards court reporting instructors, students, as well as legal video specialists. There are seminars aimed directly towards their interests and professional growth.)

The Premier Session on Friday includes the installation of new NCRA officers and the Keynote Presentation. This year there was a motivational speaker/comedian. He talked about stepping out of your comfort zone, which I am currently doing by

writing this article for our association. I very much enjoyed his message.

On Saturday the winners and results of the Speed Contest and Realtime Contest were announced at the Award Luncheon. The excitement and admiration in the room towards those who participated, qualified, and placed is awe inspiring.

After going to the luncheon and attending your choice of afternoon seminars, there is an amazing themed dinner and dancing party. This year it was titled The Places You'll Go Gala. Everyone dresses up and parties the night away with friends both old and new.

Once the two Sunday sessions conclude, the conference attendees pack up and head home with, no doubt, a newly charged desire to perform at a higher level, master something new, and promote our profession with renewed excitement.

Admittedly, attending this convention is pricey, but the benefits far outweigh the costs. I encourage everyone to budget and plan over the upcoming year to attend the Las Vegas convention. You will meet people from all over the country and, yes, the world. You will hear what is happening in every facet of court reporting and have the opportunity to experience the newest gadgets, software, and services being offered. Lastly, you will get to market yourself and gain exposure to a great range of professional opportunities.

I love being a court reporter and hope that Arizona will have a large presence next year in Las Vegas.

Kate Roundy, Freelance Reporter
Phoenix, Arizona



LIVING THE CRIMINAL DREAM

By David Christy

The criminal bench. I love it, absolutely love it. It is so vastly different from the civil side of things. The criminal bench deals with such unbelievably foolish, cruel, and sometimes, sometimes, clever individuals.

We recently finished a sexual molestation of a minor trial. The defendant was deaf. The victim was deaf, who also happened to be the defendant's stepdaughter. So the entire trial was translated with ASL interpreters which made it even more interesting. The subject matter was rather disgusting but it still held my interest in a morbid kind of way. The verdict? Guilty.

Less than four weeks later, we had the sentencing hearing. During the trial, the defendant was a very fit, rather nice looking dude. Now? A complete shell of what he once was. He competed in the Paralympics as a cyclist and won 2 gold medals. You would have never known that now. Sexual molestation of a minor? Don't do that.

We just finished a two-day trial involving controlling stolen property. The defendant looked like Gorilla Monsoon. I mean, he was freakin' huge. His defense attorney put him on the stand and, surprisingly, he came off rather well. Unfortunately, he pawned 500 Krugerands a friend had asked him

to sell. His story? Didn't know they were stolen and the friend told him that they were part of a family heirloom and he had just forgotten all about them.

How in the world do you just "forget" that you have 500 Krugerands? The jury didn't buy his story. Guilty. Someone asks you to sell 500 Krugerands that they just happened to find? Don't do that.

Doing morning calendar is somewhat of a zoo and it is compounded by the fact that my judge cannot hear well at all. Ruh-Ro! What does that mean? Dave, can you give me realtime for morning calendar, any hearing, and, oh by the way, all trials? Yikes. You get used to it but there's an element of added pressure than just doing realtime for yourself.

I've been at the courthouse for 3 years now -- just got my 3-year pin, only 17 more to go! -- and although I had done tons of realtime depositions in my freelance career, by working for a judge who needs it every day, he has somehow unwittingly given me two priceless gifts.

First, if I can get along with this guy, I can get along with anyone. There is no middle ground with reporters who fill in for me when I am away. They either love him or they hate him. He's acerbic, can be somewhat abrasive. He's sarcastic, I'm sarcastic, the JAA is sarcastic and the law clerk is sarcastic. At times, Division 23 is like a Don Rickles Fest.

Second, by doing realtime for him everyday, he has also given me the gift of fearlessness. Priceless. I am not a writer of the Mark Kislingbury level, but I know I ain't bad at what I do. Still, I have no regrets for interviewing and accepting the position. Oh, by the way, I was the only one who interviewed for the position. Dave, you got the job. No kidding.



JENNIFER SCHUCK IS AN NCRA FELLOW!

The members of the 2016 class of Academy of Professional Reporters Fellows will be honored at an award luncheon being held Aug. 6 during the 2016 NCRA Convention & Expo at the Chicago Hilton, Chicago, Ill., Aug. 4-7. This year, six NCRA members have been inducted as fellows of the Academy of Professional Reporters, which recognizes recipients for their outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience.

“Membership in the Academy of Professional Reporters is by nomination only, so to be granted fellowship is a high point in a reporter’s career,” said Mike Nelson, CAE, Executive Director and CEO of NCRA. “Criteria for being accepted include exhibiting outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting, as well as having been active in the practice of reporting for at least 10 years. In addition, candidates for fellowship are required to have attained distinction as measured by such activities as the publication of important papers, creative contributions, service on committees or board, and teaching.”

Our own Jennifer Schuck is an NCRA Fellow:

Jennifer L. Schuck, RDR, CRR, CRC, is a CART captioner from Scottsdale, Ariz., with 23 years of experience. In addition to serving on numerous CART captioning-related committees for NCRA and the Arizona Court Reporters Association (ACRA), she also serves on the advisory board of Gateway Community College’s court reporting program. She frequently makes presentations for NCRA, ACRA, and Intersteno, and she regularly provides pro bono CART services to a range of organizations, including NCRA and her local chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. She is a frequent competitor in speed and realtime contests and has placed in the top three internationally several times over the past decade.

Congratulations, Jennifer!!

(From the NCRA Website August 1, 2016)



TWO EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

**The Second Annual
Jim Bouley Speed Contest
September 9, 2016**

- AND -

**The 2016
ACRA Annual Convention
September 10 – 11, 2016**

Test your skills against your peers. Perhaps win a prize! NCRA sanctioned contest!

Learn from and be motivated by several excellent speakers:

- **Commissioner Richard Nothwehr on Ethics**
- **Jason Schechterle's Inspirational Story**
- **Overcoming Compassion Fatigue by Dr. Nancy Eldridge**
- **Marla Arnold and Mike Babicky will tell us about the Arias Trial from the reporters' perspective**

Great panel discussions about **Changing Careers (Freelance to Official and vice versa)** and **Leadership Opportunities & Needs with ACRA.**

A beautiful venue for both events: **The Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa in Tucson, Arizona**

**GET MORE DETAILS AND SIGN UP AT
WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG/EVENTS**

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In Memoriam: Deborah Jean Worsley Girard

By Angela Miller

Deborah Jean Worsley Girard, age 66, passed away Thursday, July 28, 2016, at her residence in Phoenix, Arizona. Deborah was born in Flint, MI, and moved to Arizona in 1981. She graduated from Holy Redeemer in Flint, MI, and attended college at Ferris State University where she received her associate's degree in court reporting. She was a court reporter in Michigan and Arizona for over 40 years and was the owner of Worsley Court Reporting, Inc., in Phoenix, Arizona. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and sister. Debbie spent her summers back in Michigan. She loved being on the water, camping, spending time with her husband and grandkids and very large family. Debbie was loved by all and will be greatly missed.



Debbie was a wonderful lady; she was always there when you had a question, needed advice, or just needed a good laugh. I am a better person for having known Debbie and she will always be in my thoughts.

Angela F. Miller



I worked for Debbie for the last 6 years. She brought me into the world of the Industrial Commission of Arizona where she was primarily for the last 30 years. She helped me become a better reporter with her advice, instruction and her calm demeanor in a stressful career. I will always have a special place in my heart for Debbie and miss her greatly.

Hilary Zive

An Important Message About Jim Woitalla

By Diane Sonntag

Hello, everybody. I would like to ask you to pray this morning for a very special court reporter who is in critical condition in Minnesota. Many of you may have met or know Jim Woitalla from FB or even the old CR Forum. Jim has been a good friend of Allen and mine for many years. The high point of convention for me was knowing I would get to see Jim and his sidekick Keith Lemon.

Jim always has a smile on his face and he's one of the nicest guys you will ever meet. He is our profession's No. 1 cheerleader. He owns a freelance firm and also teaches at his local CR school.

Last week, Jim served as Election chair and led the RSA class as he has done for the past several years. He had a heart attack. They are currently transferring him to U of M. He needs a heart transplant. They cannot do a bypass or stent. He's in critical condition and his organs are starting to fail.

Please say a prayer for Jim. I can't imagine the court reporting profession without Jim...

Thanks,

Diane Sonntag

UPDATE: They have him in a medical coma because of all the things he's hooked up to. They were able to get him on the heart-lung pump and they are doing dialysis for his kidneys. They've told the family it's too early to give up hope, but that it's very difficult to get a heart for a heart transplant.



**Arizona Court Reporters
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In Memoriam: Wayne Johnson

By Karen Kahle

As I put together this newsletter, I find that my heart is having a hard time finding articles. I regretfully inform you that the court reporting profession has lost yet another dear friend to cancer. I first met Wayne Johnson way back in 1992. I was working for Arizona Court Reporters at the time. Wayne, I think, was working for them, too. I would only run into him when I was dropping off transcripts. He was always a delight to be around.

As time went on, I became I a mother to two boys. Wayne and I would share stories of our kids growing up. Wayne eventually had his own court reporting firm. When I learned that he had his own firm, I quickly applied. I'm not sure how long I worked for him, but he was a great person to work for. I then started working at Pima County Superior Court in 1999. I was sad to leave Wayne and all my freelance friends who worked there.

I would see Wayne at the ACRA conventions, and he would always ask me if I was ready to come back and work for him. I'm not sure when Wayne came to work at the courthouse, but I was so happy to see him.

Wayne and I even shared an office for a while. We again shared our "war stories" about our children. Wayne also shared with me that he was a Vietnam Veteran. When my husband and I were planning our trip to Europe, Wayne shared with me some of the places he visited when he was enlisted. I loved hearing his stories from an era that I hold dear to my heart. I couldn't believe that he was a Veteran from that time. Wayne always seemed so young at heart.

When he was diagnosed with colon cancer, my heart grew heavy. I feared that it was a death sentence for him. Thankfully, he was cancer free after just a few treatments, but it wouldn't last long. Eventually,

the cancer came back with a vengeance, and his beautiful life was no longer meant to be. Wayne passed away on July 13, 2016. I will miss you, Wayne, telling me guten morgen whenever I would see you at the courthouse. Rest peacefully, my friend.



July 14, 2016

Good morning. I am sad to report to you that court reporter Wayne Johnson passed away yesterday. Wayne had been with superior court for approximately nine years, starting at juvenile court, and more recently serving downtown. Those of us who knew Wayne appreciated his work ethic, often running into him at the courthouse working weekends. He was devoted to this court, its mission, and his colleagues. He will be missed.

Kyle A. Bryson
Presiding Judge



From Cindy McDevitt:

I did my first court reporting job for Wayne's freelance firm over 20 years ago. He was a great mentor, always willing to help and never making you feel dumb for asking a question. I miss his morning visits to my office just to see what's going on and our lunches at B's. Of course, I will also miss his treasure trove of goodies. Whenever something broke at the least opportune moment, he was sure to have a spare!! Wayne was a caring person who was always willing to help however he could. He will be greatly missed.



From Barb Smith:

Simply stated, Wayne made me laugh...every time I talked to him. I miss laughing with Wayne.

In Memoriam: Wayne Johnson continued on Page 6...

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Upon landing, I wished her luck with her treatment, and told her I'd say a prayer for her. She smiled like the morning sun and thanked me. She continued to smile and chat and exude joy even as I could see her fatigue with just walking to the nearby baggage claim.

That, my friends, is perspective. She showed it, and she gifted it to me.

Out of the cool terminal I went, into the bright, warm afternoon. As I walked on good legs to catch my provided shuttle, to my reliable truck, to my comfortable home, and back to a blessed life, I realized how much we often take for granted: Every day that we are healthy. Every day that we give and receive love. Every day that we enjoy the abundance of a modern American life.

Perspective is the thing that tells us that the very struggle is a gift.

As I reflected on that experience, I vowed that day to be more mindful of perspective. I started by saying a prayer for that young lady from Ohio named Julieann. And thanks to her, I won the Row 26 Lottery. It was the win of a lifetime, and I will always treasure it.

Much love, friends.

Mike Bouley

In Memoriam: Wayne Johnson continued from Page 5...



From Nichole Forrest:

On July 13, 2016, Wayne Johnson passed away. It's an unbelievably enormous loss to the court reporting profession, as well as friends and family who had the wonderful pleasure of interacting with him on a daily basis.

Wayne and I were coworkers at Pima County. He was my neighbor. Our offices were five feet away. We could hear each other between the walls. Whenever I'd walk in my office, the phone would immediately ring. It was Wayne. "I thought I heard you come in," he'd say in a very gentle voice. He would either be answering one of the many questions I'd asked him earlier in the day or he'd be asking if I would be interested in taking his murder case in Judge Fell's courtroom -- which I always was more than willing!

Every time I saw Wayne in the hall we would stop and chat. It would always end up being a 20-minute conversation of him regaling me with the latest happenings in whatever court he was covering at the time. We always laughed whenever we talked. He talked a lot about game night at his house or the next church choir practice he had.

I like to work at the courthouse on weekends. Without fail, every weekend when I would pop in to either do some work or check my assignment for the following Monday Wayne was always there, working.

I always looked forward to running in to him when I was there on weekends. We talked about everything from car maintenance to physical maintenance, such as which topical analgesic works best on sore hands.

The third floor is now quiet without Wayne. Yes, Pima County will not be the same without Wayne Johnson and all the humor, experience, and wonderful insight he brought to work every day.

Rest in Peace, My Friend. You are missed.

