

# The Record Protector

Summer 2022

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Protect Your Record Project®

## TEXAS DYNAMIC DUO

### Jo Ann and Dennis Holmgren



*Charlotte A. Mathias  
CA CSR, OR CSR, RPR*

I had the pleasure of meeting with Jo Ann and Dennis Holmgren recently. These two did what so many of us have wanted to do with regard to the unlicensed court reporting that has been happening across our nation. These two have put in many hours to get their licensing board to follow current Texas law with regard to who can provide court reporting services.

I asked Jo Ann to send me a short bio, and what she sent was a wonderful article of what occurred in Texas this past year. I hope you enjoy this article as much as I did. Keep up the good work, Jo Ann and Dennis, and we all appreciate the work you have done to protect your record in Texas.

*Jo Ann Holmgren  
TX CSR*

I guess I should explain how I became a court reporter, so I'll start from the beginning. I went to high school in Corpus Christi, Texas, and I took classes in shorthand and typing. I was typing at 80 WPM, and my typing teacher (who was also my shorthand teacher) said I should become a court reporter. Yeah, whatever, Ms. Meacom, but my parents thought it was a wonderful idea.

In 1981, when I graduated, I left Corpus Christi for North Texas State University. My father didn't understand why I would move so far away, but I knew the reason. I loved the TV show "Dallas," and I just had to live here! I wanted to become an architect, so I was

taking classes to become one and did the whole "college thing" by joining a sorority. I guess everything happens for a reason because I started dating one of the sorority's big brothers, fell in love, and decided to get married. Long story short, after two years at North Texas State, I convinced my parents to agree with the marriage if I went to court reporting school in Dallas. I started the Court Reporting Institute of Dallas in July of 1983. I got out of school pretty quickly, and I became a Texas Certified Shorthand Reporter in April of 1985 - over 37 years ago! Yes, I'm old.

My first job was with Court Reporters Consolidated. My mentor was Karen Scully. Karen taught me one valuable lesson: It

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## LAWS & LEGISLATION

*Kim Kuziora  
CA CSR*

On March 12, 2022, at the Protect Your Record Project's "Protect Your Record. Protect Your License" webinar, the Court Reporter's Board of California (CRB) presented very thorough information about the history of the CRB, where the CRB gets their funding from, the complaint and disciplinary process of licensees, the CRB's jurisdiction and much more.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Kimberly D'Urso, President  
CA CSR*

The Protect Your Record Project is now in its third year of advocacy for stenographic court reporters. Go, Team PYRP!

Reflecting back to the start of the Project, Kelly and I wondered: Can we really make a difference? Is this endeavor worth our time? Will our colleagues support and participate in the leadership platform we create? Three years later, I am happy to say: Yes, we can. Yes, it is. Yes, they will. Yes, they do.

It is gratifying to see how a ripple created a spark, which then created powerful and sustained momentum. That initial ripple caused others to look at important court reporting issues, which then challenged them to cultivate their own leadership.

I think that's the most important takeaway for me: Team PYRP has inspired and developed individual and collective leadership. No single person is responsible. We all, uniquely, are impacting our field for the positive. We all, individually and together, choose not to give in to the digital agenda. Why? Because we realize that "my" one action, in hand with "yours," creates another, and another, and another. We have proven that together we can create a paradigm shift that we ARE seeing in our field. "One conversation at a time" is working.

Let's look at some of our accomplishments. We've successfully created a "By Stenographic Means Only" movement, where attorneys are taking notice and are changing their notices to request stenographic reporters only. We've successfully educated judges and court staff to pay attention to and ensure transcripts are transcribed by a certified stenographic reporter only. We have successfully challenged the California Court Reporters Board to clarify its scope, even if we don't agree with some of its interpretations.

We have seen powerful stenographic reporter wins across the United States, in Texas, Illinois, and Washington.

We have seen a lot of new creative leadership emerge in social media, and displayed at conventions that focus on inclusivity and empowerment. Together, we are creating the basis for a transformation in our industry that serves the entire legal profession, promotes justice, and protects the record.

What is next? What are you ready to take on in your area?

PYRP is actively working on a new ad campaign that will launch in July. Stay tuned for exciting news!

All my best.



## TEST YOUR VOCABULARY

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1    ___ disheveled      | A.    not strict  |
| 2    ___ baffling        | B.    ward off  |
| 3    ___ lenient         | C.    threatening   |
| 4    ___ repulsive       | D.    tireless  |
| 5    ___ audacious       | E.    disbeliever in God                                      |
| 6    ___ parry           | F.    eye doctor  |
| 7    ___ prevalent       | G.    widespread  |
| 8    ___ ominous         | H.    disgusting  |
| 9    ___ incredible      | I.    puzzling  |
| 10   ___ ophthalmologist | J.    unbelievable  |
| 11   ___ supersede       | K.    one whose name is not known                             |
| 12   ___ anonymous       | L.    bold  |
| 13   ___ autopsy         | M.    examination of a corpse to determine the cause of death |
| 14   ___ indefatigable   | N.    take the place of                                       |
| 15   ___ atheist         | O.    untidy  |

was her theory that court reporters should not use a **backup recording device**! Talk about a pucker factor! It makes sense now - if it is you and your machine, you have no choice but to speak up if attorneys are talking on top of one another or reading from a document like they're an auctioneer. I truly feel like this has made me a better reporter.

In the early '90s, I decided I wanted to move back to Corpus Christi, my hometown. My mother saw an advertisement for court reporters in the newspaper (back in the old days when we had those). I called the number she gave me, and it was Looney & Company. Richard Looney said he was coming to Dallas the next day, and he could interview me then. The interview process went from applying for a court reporting position in Corpus to becoming the Court Reporting Manager in Dallas. I was responsible for hiring, training and motivating the court reporters. He only had two court reporters at the time, so I reached out to my contacts and hired them. My business plan for Looney & Company was to get away from the insurance contracts that he had with insurance companies and become more of a firm to be reckoned with -- and it worked! I thought, "If I can do it here, why can't I do it with my own firm?"

In 1993, I did just that. Over the next 29 years, I've certainly experienced highs and lows in the industry as a firm owner. Proposition 12 passed in the early 2000s, and that took away all medical malpractice lawsuits. I just kept on plugging away and have been very fortunate throughout the years.

Fast forward to 2019. I have a client that is a large plaintiff's firm. The defendants would take the plaintiff's deposition first with their court reporter, and then I would come in and take the defendant's deposition. In the meantime, I kept hearing about this firm called StoryCloud that just recorded the deposition and

didn't use a court reporter. I'm thinking to myself, "That can't be right!"

Sure enough, one day I got a call from one of my court reporters. She said our client came out to get her and commented that the opposing counsel's court reporter was very strange. She didn't write on a machine! So my court reporter asked her who she worked with, and she said "StoryCloud." She then asked, "Are you licensed to take depositions in Texas?" The StoryCloud person replied, "No, I'm not, but it's still legal."

This happened several more times, not only with StoryCloud but with other large big-box firms, so I started researching the Texas Rules to see if this was legal. I determined it was not. The straw that broke the camel's back was when my friend lost a good majority of her business to StoryCloud. She called and asked why, and the managing attorney told her, "Court reporters need to get with the program. Technology is here, and we don't need you anymore." That was it. I had to do something. I guess the rest is what culminated in Friday's hearing result and the demise of StoryCloud.

I and my firm have always abided by the Texas Rules, paid their dues, attended continuing education. To not take a stand would be standing by and letting digital operators take over the job I've loved since 1985.

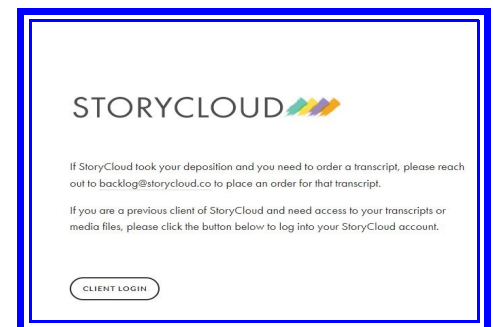
There was a shortage of court reporters at the time, but if I advocated getting more court reporters to go to school, we could solve the problem. Through the years, I've trained many court reporters. If we, as experienced reporters, can train future reporters to be the best that they can be as "Guardians of the Record," there will be no issue with firms like StoryCloud, Veritext and others sending digital operators because the attorneys will insist on a Certified Shorthand Reporter!

I am a member of the Dallas Court Reporters Association, the Texas Court Reporters Association and the Texas Deposition Reporters Association (TexDRA). I have and am serving on committees within both associations including the CLE Committee, Community Relations Committee, Student Committee, Rules Committee and the Freelance Committee.

That's it in a nutshell. I guess I should mention I also LOVE making bedazzled steno lamps. I got the idea to bedazzle a machine watching "Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles." They were showing a gorgeous house, and in one room there was a bedazzled machine gun of all things. I thought, "I'm going to bedazzle a steno machine!" I'm not sure if that's really cool or really out there, but there's something about taking a machine and turning it into something beautiful that court reporters can enjoy that I just love. I started with ones that were totally bedazzled, but I am now having fun with different variations of this. I have donated some of my lamps to TexDRA and TCRA for silent auctions to benefit the court reporting profession. Others I have given to friends in the profession.

One of my favorite quotes is:

***"IN MY MOMENTS OF DOUBT, I'VE TOLD MYSELF FIRMLY: IF NOT ME, WHO? IF NOT NOW, WHEN?" - Emma Watson***



*Thank you to the Holmgrens. This is the current status of StoryCloud on their website. Only orders of previous transcripts are being provided. They are no longer booking legal proceedings.*



# FEARLESS DAY

*Christopher Day, RPR & Shaunise Day, founder of Steno in the City*

Fearless Stenographers Conference 2022 submitted by Shaunise Day and Christopher Day.

I asked Shaunise Day, the mind behind Steno in the City's Fearless Stenographers Conference in Houston, Texas in March 2022, to describe her recent achievements. At the widely-acclaimed conference, Mark Kislingbury claimed the new world record for stenotype at 370 words per minute. Check out what Shaunise had to say below.

**Q. What can you tell us about Steno in the City Presents: The Fearless Stenographers Conference 2022?**

**A.** For this conference, I decided to “do it scared,” take a chance on my vision, and introduce something new to the profession. Steno in the City networking event was already a thing going back to our first networking mixer in 2019. We had to skip 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, and 2022 was the year to bring us all together once again.

It made sense to add in CEUs. So why not hold a mini conference? I am still on a natural high and everything is a blur. I'm wrapping up the back end of the conference business. I still haven't had a chance to view all the pictures and videos that readers may have seen on social media! Someone advised that when I do get a chance to stop for a moment, check out the hashtag #SITC2022 and enjoy all the photos.

I knew that I wanted to do something different with this conference. I wanted to have steno-related keynote speakers. I created a Steno All-Star Keynote theme. We have powerful voices within our profession and it's time that we use them to encourage our steno community. I knew the perfect fit and based on my steno legend data collection. I currently have a list of 136 steno legends, stenographers with over 40 years of service within our steno community. So, we had a steno legend, Brenda Countz. The next step was to bring in someone who is on fire and going hard for our profession, and that was Allie Hall. And last, I knew that it would be cool to have Mark Kislingbury as a keynote speaker as well. The vision that I had came to life in Houston, Texas. These were our Steno Allstar Keynote Speakers.

Behind the scenes it took me about five months working independently to lay the foundation on how I wanted this conference to flow. When I say laying the foundation, that means negotiating contracts, traveling back and forth to Houston from California to pick the perfect hotel and locations. I remember when I laid my eyes on the networking venue, this would be the perfect venue to bring the legal profession together. It was important to do something out of the ordinary and make it an upscale, top-tier, professional event where we could have fun and enjoy one another.

Steno in the City has a theme where we lay out the red carpet and have a custom backdrop for our profession and the purpose is to make everyone feel like the stars that they are while taking pictures and holding interviews on the red carpet. It doesn't matter if you are a steno student, new professional, captioner,



retiree, veteran reporter, scopist, videographer, proofreader, firm owner, never completed steno school and still have love for stenography, and voice writers (at some point you learned theory and may have had to take a different path), when it's time to put on any Steno in the City event and when you walk through the doors, everyone is a very important person. We are all stars. Our mission is bringing us all together to network, celebrate, advocate, educate, who we are and what we do. This is what I call STENO UNITED.

Next, I worked hard behind the scenes with my connections outside of the steno world to bring in Council Member Edward Pollard, Esq., to deliver our proclamation. It was important that the language in this proclamation could represent all stenographers around the world. I wrote the first draft of the proclamation, and Michelle Kirkpatrick assisted with the final draft and making sure the language represented our profession in a major way. If you are interested in reading the language, you can go to the PYRP Facebook group and search Shaunise Day and it should populate. The proclamation will also be posted on the Steno in the City website in the next few weeks.

During our networking event, we had Council Member Edward Pollard, Esq., attend as a guest speaker. The next guest speaker was Carlos Moore, Esq., and president of the National Bar Association.

We also had attorney Derrick Reed, Esq., and Judge Linda M. Dunson, who were also guest speakers. We were able to get other members within the legal profession to come and celebrate with us.

We also had Stacey Raikes as a guest speaker to speak on behalf of our stenographers. We had NCRA's current President, Debbie Dibble, and past President, Carl Saucedo, say a few encouraging words. This was a professional and stellar event. Over the next two days, we had two full days of so much excitement. Mark Kislingbury broke his record and now holds a new record at 370 wpm. We had stellar seminar sessions. Our Awards Luncheon was very personal and intimate. Stephanie Hicks received the Steno People's Choice award, Allie Hall received The Steno in the City Philanthropy award, and Kim Xavier received the Steno in the City Lifetime Achievement Award. The best part about this conference were the connections, new relationships and networking that took place. We had a great time in Houston, and this was because of the stenographers. We came together as one and made it work. The conference weekend was full of great vibes and positive energy. It was a weekend for empowerment, advocating, educating, and celebrating who we are and what we do.

**Q. We want to know more about you. What are some of your dreams, goals, or aspirations?**

**A.** The dream of being a stenographer will always be my first love. I doubt that dream will ever be removed from my heart. The reason why I do what I do is because I love this profession with all my heart. Steno is in my blood. I am living my dreams through every stenographer who can write on their machine without pain or hand issues. If I were able to trade places with Isaiah, Stan, Shacara Mapp, or Jessie Gorry, I would totally do it. They have the life of a stenographer that I would love to have. But at this time, all I can do is be the biggest cheerleader for my friends and colleagues. As of now, I cannot tell you where my steno journey will end.

Instead of walking away from the profession, I have discovered that I am a leader. I would love to own a court reporting agency one day. I know that I would be a great firm owner. I wish that I had someone to show me the ropes on how I could make this happen.





**Q. Some have said you have an entrepreneurial mindset. Would you agree and is there a backstory to that mindset you'd like to share?**

**A.** There really isn't a backstory. I remember in 2018 when I had a major surgery and was on bedrest for months, I discovered pain in my hands. Instead of becoming discouraged, I started my steno journal and wrote down so many ideas for the profession. During this time, I knew that I could add value and introduce new ideas to take us to another level. All of my steno projects technically were not supposed to be released until I became a certified reporter. The first Steno in the City networking event in D.C in 2019, and after that was The Steno Xperience, which was primarily promoting the profession through career fairs, and Confessions of a Stenographer, the podcast.

**Q. Outside of the profession, what do you like to do? What are some of your hobbies?**

**A.** This is a hard one because steno is my life. I do work a full-time job in the biotech industry. I normally work about 12 to 13 hours per day. If I had it my way, I'd turn those hours into serving our profession. After that, I tap into my steno world. I do have a steno store with shirts and hats. I love steno event planning. My vacation time is booked around NCRA's national convention. I do spend a great deal of time between Texas and California, and currently live in California.

**Q. Should readers and fans be looking forward to more content from you? Anything specific?**

**A.** Absolutely. Get ready and keep your eyes on what is coming next. Just know, that I will always have something up my sleeve when it comes to adding value to our profession. I am always working to further our profession.

Steno in the City will continue to bring the profession together one city and platform at a time. For any questions or comments, I can be reached at [info@stenointhecity.com](mailto:info@stenointhecity.com)

**C. DAY: I know just how awful experiencing pain can be early in a stenographic career. It's really heartening to see you prevail through it and keep pushing to support the industry.**

**Thank you, Shaunise!**



# DOING IT YOUR WAY

*Sheri Smargon  
RDR, CRR, CRC, FPR-C, M.A.  
Vice-President, Florida Court Reporters Association*

My parents are amazing people, for many reasons. My father was a union electrician in Massachusetts for most of my formative years after barely having graduated high school. My mother, on the other hand, eventually went to nursing school to get her LPN license. She got that license, followed by her RN, two master's degrees, and she is now working on her third graduate degree.

I was about to graduate high school, and I had no earthly idea what I wanted to do with my life. I went to a career fair that was held in our high school's library, and there was this "cool machine" this girl was writing on (I say girl, because she was not much older than I was), and the school rep said I could make \$50,000 my first year without a college degree. I was not a terrible high school student, but I was not amazing either. I did not qualify for college scholarships and my parents were not the type that had a college fund set up for my siblings and me.

I mention all of this because when my mother was going to school for her LPN license, she was attending the local technical school here in Tampa, Florida, where we live. It was one of those schools that offered everything from air conditioning repair to cosmetology...to court reporting. I enrolled in the court reporting program at that school at the same time my mother was on the other side of the building taking her LPN classes. I started court reporting classes the day after I graduated high school...and instantly fell on my face.

Theory made absolutely no sense to me. I didn't get it, I didn't understand it, I didn't like it. Remember, my mother was on the other side of the building taking nursing classes...and because that was not torture enough, she became active in the "student council." Teenager, check; mother in the same school as you, check; embarrassment without end, check check.

As the steno face-planting continued daily, my theory teacher decided to chat with my mother about my progress...or lack thereof. I remember standing in the adjacent classroom, doing my best "I Spy" impression by paying attention while not paying attention to what the teacher was telling my mother. I will never forget what she said, because it formed the basis of my whole life from that point on. My teacher told my mother, "Sheri is not very good at

this. She may think of doing something else." Ouch. Knife to the heart. Something I did not enjoy, wasn't good at, didn't understand...I can't do it? I was crushed. I had no idea what I would do if "this court reporting thing" did not pan out. I figured, I would show her, but I would do it my way.

I did not practice. Remember, I was not good at it, I didn't enjoy it, and it didn't make sense. Why wasn't the word "socks" written SAUX? That is not just the Boston in me...it made sense. But you get the idea. I struggled through theory, failing it twice. Fail. Ugh. What to do?

I would write on the machine while in school, but I refused to look at it when I went home. Eventually, I did not even bring the machine home with me. I left the machine at school, tucked under my desk. I would take the bus to my job, work six or eight hours, then go to school the next day and pretend to practice some more. School was five days a week, 8 to 2 p.m., sitting...at...that...damn...machine.

I eventually figured out a theory that worked for me, and that consisted of writing almost everything out. No briefs for "that's correct" and "that is correct. Only the briefs that made sense to my brain would stick and I would use without hesitation. So instead of waiting to see if this phrase or that phrase had a brief, I would write on top of every syllable that was said. By doing that, I was not hesitating going, "Geez, I know I have a brief for that."

I also figured out a practice plan that worked for me. It consisted of music. I started with country music (which is how I became a fan.) Randy Travis's "Forever & Ever, Amen" will be my favorite song of all time. But music allowed me to get a rhythm going, and a bit of repetition in what I was writing when the chorus rolled around again. Music...all music...any kind of music. I was surreptitiously chair dancing while practicing. Somewhere along the lines, I started to enjoy this steno thing, I started to understand this steno thing, and I started my career-long love affair with all things steno.

I ended up captioning straight out of court reporting school. Our local county government decided they wanted to open caption their government meetings. This meant that if you tuned to that channel on TV, the captions would show up, whether you wanted

them to or not. My first day on the air, my first turn in the “steno hot seat,” the Chairman of the County Commission said, “You’re going to have to slow down. It’s coming up in Russian up there.” Well, hot diggity, county-wide embarrassment. As you can imagine, between nerves and everything else, I had more untranslates than correct words, I guess. After a good body-wracking cry, I decided that I had nowhere to go but up! I would improve myself, I would up my game, and “I’d show you.” Are you sensing a theme here?

Eventually, I went on to caption horrible events like Oklahoma City and 9/11 to uplifting and soul-stirring things like the Olympics or the Stanley Cup Finals (if you’re a hockey fan, you will understand) to everything in between. I achieved my certifications through NCRA and started participating in the speed and realtime competitions at the national convention. It’s not that I ever think I can win, but the vibe, the charged atmosphere when you know you’re sitting next to the best of the best, those in your profession who make you want to be a better reporter, it really humbles you and exhilarates you at the same time.

So this long-winded story is my way of expressing that no matter how we get to where we are in our careers, a student who is struggling, wondering if this is the path for you; a newly minted graduate putting together their first transcripts; a seasoned professional going along as gets along; the realtime or technical rockstars who go “once more into the fray, into the last good fight” they’ll ever know, dealing with crusty clients, terminology that makes us rethink not having bought stock in Google already, or “lack of planning on your part suddenly constitutes an emergency on my part” with daily copy and expedites, we all find our path eventually.

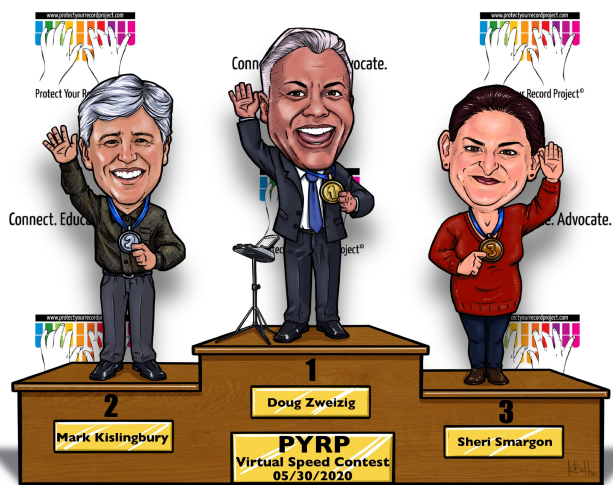
Part of that path is maintaining our foothold as “The Gold Standard,” as the best of the best, as the cream of the crop, as the cat’s meow. Well, you get the picture. We must showcase our talents, how we’ve honed our craft, how we take pride in our life’s choice of career by being realtime ready, by being willing to work, by not being a diva and saying we won’t work without a bump in pay here or there. I am NOT advocating that you should not be paid what you’re worth. I am saying that we need to ensure that what we are asking for is justified by our talents and our professional development. We are all talented people in some way. Stenography is a talent. Stenography is an art. No Voldemort can come in and take our place if we continually hone our craft and highlight our talents.

We can do this by supporting our state court reporting associations, by supporting the yeoman’s work of groups like PYRP. Do you know that annoying saying, “It takes a village”? Stenographers are that village. We are a small, close-knit community, and we should all be working towards the same goal: highlighting why we are irreplaceable, educating our clients who are unaware of how we do our jobs and providing Gold Standard service on each and every job.

If you are reading this, you’re probably already a supporter of groups like PYRP. I would hope you’re a member of your state court reporting association. If you’re not, I am positive they would love to have your support on the local front where you live. Our associations live and die by member support. It is part of what will keep you relevant and keep the Voldemorts of the steno world at bay.

*What Sheri didn’t tell you?*

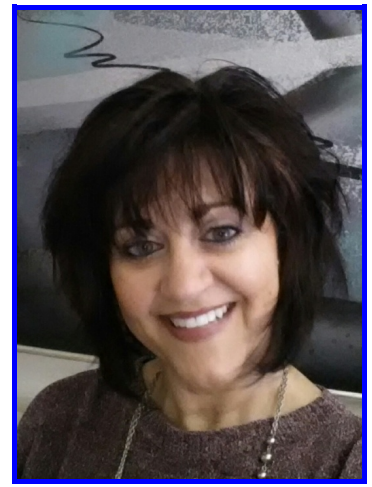
*She placed Third in the  
Protect Your Record Project  
Virtual Speed Contest  
5/30/2020!*





## Here are some pertinent and concerning things we learned from the webinar.

- **The CRB's Mission:** *"To protect the public by ensuring the integrity of the judicial record and maintaining the standard of competency through oversight of the court reporting profession."*
- **The CRB's Mandate per California Law:** *"Business and Professions Code 8005.1: Protection of the public shall be the highest priority for the Court Reporters Board of California in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions. Whenever the protection of the public is inconsistent with other interests sought to be promoted, the protection of the public shall be paramount."*
- The CRB has jurisdiction right now only over licensed court reporters and licensed court reporting firms for violations of the Shorthand Reporters Practice Act, which is Business and Professions Code (BPC) 8000 to 8051.



Kim Kuziora, CSR

- SB 241 passed in September of 2021. This bill adds section 8051 to the California Business and Professions Code. As of July 1, 2022, all unlicensed entities who are providing shorthand reporting in CA must register with the CRB and designate a California licensed CSR to be their reporter-in-charge (RIC). The CRB will have jurisdiction over any unlicensed entity, foreign (out-of-state) or domestic, that registers with the CRB and designates an RIC.
- For remote depositions for California-venued cases with California attorneys and a witness who is in another state other than California, the jurisdiction of where the witness is located is what needs to be considered if the CA CSR can administer an oath and proceed to take the remote deposition of an out-of-state witness. It is up to CA CSRs to know other states' court reporting laws and administration of oath laws. If another state files a complaint with the CA CRB against a CA CSR for not adhering to that particular state's laws, it may be grounds for disciplinary action against the CA CSR. The CA CRB can issue a cease and desist order to out-of-state court reporters who are not CA CSRs who report witnesses located in CA.
  - Expedited deposition transcript fees can only be charged to one side of a deposition and not to all parties wanting to receive the transcript at the same time. Refer to Government Code 69951 for expedited transcript fees for court transcripts.
  - SB 241/BPC 8051, goes into effect July 1, 2022 and is the deadline for the CRB to have everything in place for the firm registration/RIC new law. At the time of the PYRP webinar, the CRB stated that the new law cannot go into effect until the CRB's proposed regulation package is approved by the Office of Administrative Law.
  - The CRB stated that SB 241 is going to make it a level playing field now for ALL entities providing court reporting in California as it will put them under the jurisdiction of the CRB. They also stated that the CRB's preparations for what their duties entail under SB 241 is a work in progress. Therefore, the CRB doesn't have answers yet for a lot of questions regarding what the CRB is going to do because the language in SB 241 regarding firm registration/RIC is not real clear. "It's complicated." The CRB is trying to meet the July 1, 2022 deadline.
  - SB 241 mandates that the CRB shall create and make available on its internet website a directory of registered entities, and that a California licensed CSR can only work for court reporting entities on the CRB registered entities list. The CRB is not sure yet if CA licensed CSR firms will be put on the website registration list so consumers/attorneys know which firms they can use and CA CSRs know what firms they can work for.

Because SB 241 says, “The board shall create and make available on its internet website a directory of **registered entities**,” the CRB has not decided how or if CA licensed CSR firms can be put on the website list. The concern here by many is if licensed CA CSR firms are not put on the website list of registered firms or some sort of list, it will not be a “fair playing field” for equal exposure to ALL entities for consumers and court reporters to know either who is registered with the CRB and/or who are the CA licensed CSR firms.

- It’s still unclear if California licensed CSR firms will have to register with the CRB as the CRB did say if you are a CSR firm, you won’t need to register. However, the CRB also said if you are an S corporation with a dba, you would need to register with the CRB.
- SB 241 does not give the CRB jurisdiction over digital recorders or any registered entity that sends a digital recorder to a legal proceeding unless the digital recorder is using a stenograph machine. The same applies to voice writers.
- The CRB and their counsel feel there is no title protection under BPC 8018 for “court reporter” even though the language says, “...or use any words or symbols...” The issue for the CRB to interpret this differently is deciding if consumers are being harmed by the use of “court reporter” and it becomes a lawsuit.
- Digital recorders are not regulated by anyone in California.
- The CRB has put a public notification on their website and to the CA State Bar regarding “5 Reasons You Should Use a Licensed Court Reporter.” However, the CRB feels it is better for CA CSRs to educate attorneys on the digital recorder issue than the CRB as CA CSRs have more exposure to attorneys daily.

Time will tell if the CA CRB will be able to meet their mandated deadline of July 1, 2022. Time will tell if SB 241 really will make it a “fair playing field” for ALL court reporting entities in California.

CRB Notice of Proposed Regulation Changes:

[https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm\\_regis\\_notice](https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm_regis_notice)

CRB Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulation Changes:

[https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm\\_regis\\_isor.pdf](https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm_regis_isor.pdf)

CRB Proposed Changes:

[https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm\\_regis\\_text.pdf](https://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/firm_regis_text.pdf)

Read more about California Senate Bill 241, firm registration/RIC new law that goes into effect July 1, 2022 here:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB241](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB241)

**NOTE:** PYRP would like to hear from other states’ PYRP members about any new court reporting laws, new legislation or pending or recent lawsuits that affect court reporting in your state. Please email PYRP if you would like to write an article to keep us up to date.

[protectyourrecordproject@gmail.com](mailto:protectyourrecordproject@gmail.com)

*"Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success."*

~ Henry Ford

# STENO IS ALIVE!

Allie Hall  
RDR, CRR, CSR

You think court reporting schools are closing and not enrolling or graduating out students? Every day, thousands of students across the country are attending either in-person or online stenographic court reporting classes at various schools. I have helped hundreds of students certify. Some of those students were my own students and some were students I took the time to mentor and coach through exit speeds and certification.

Last month, my enrollment for my speed building class hit an all-time high, right under 100 students. Most of them are at high speeds. Typically, I have a waitlist, but I have been letting in more and more students in off of the waitlist as I graduate students out. I was excited at the prospect of hitting the 100 student enrollment number, and then I graduated three more out. So close!

In the last five years, I have created or helped to implemented 10 new court reporting programs in five states. Court reporting professionals are making the commitment to teach at those schools. Most of the instructors are juggling working-reporter duties and teaching. I appreciate their



commitment. The days are long, but worth it. There is nothing quite like when you see that lightbulb click on in a student's gaze and you can tell that they are really getting it.

Two schools that I teach at in Oklahoma have been very successful. At Tulsa Community College, the first program I created, we are on our sixth group of students to go through the program. I also teach at Oklahoma State University Oklahoma City. My last theory class started with 46 students! Forty-six students from all over the country logging in on Zoom where I share my absolute passion for steno. When I attended court reporting school in the late '90s, there were 16 students enrolled in my theory class. Not only are students completing the classes, they are excelling. The level of talent is unreal. My last group of theory students had three graduate speeds in 18 months or less! One of my students went from theory to RMR in just 20 months. It's amazing!

So what can we all do to ensure that this forward momentum continues? Offer to mentor a student or new professional. New professionals need a good, solid mentor more than anyone. There is so much they have to learn and deal with their first few years of reporting, and it is impossible to teach them everything that could potentially come up on the job on the front end. When mentoring a student, be sure to reach out regularly. When you stop hearing from them, that's when they need to hear from you most.

Offer to send transcripts to an instructor to use for dictation. I

never quite have enough jury charge material. We will change all proper names and case-specific information to keep it all anonymous. Offer to help an instructor dictate two-voice or four-voice testimony for their speed building class. Offer to be a guest speaker in a class for a group of students. They love to hear about your career highlights.

If you are a firm owner, invite a student to learn the inner-workings of how you run your firm, from scheduling to production. Allow a student to sit in with or shadow you for a day. They are mesmerized by how you do your job and it gives them an extra level of energy to push through and finish speeds. Take the time to educate attorneys, judges, and the general public about what our job entails and the integrity of the record. Support students wherever you can; they are our future. We are training them up bright, ready, and more than capable to pitch in and help out.

Steno is alive and thriving! Let's all do our part to keep it that way.





# MACHINE TALK WITH VICTOR

*Victor Nolasco*

*Owner of Personal Touch*

This small machine makes you money, so try and take care of it.

The first thing to remember is any item you use almost every day will eventually take a beating over time. Think of your steno machine as an automobile. Every car needs routine maintenance to run smoothly. Your steno machine, after a couple of years, will start to feel a little different. This is because pads wear down, contacts get dirty, oil thickens up, which causes keys to stack or drop letters.

A thorough cleaning with pad replacement can make your machine feel brand new again. Since a lot of reporters like to snack over their machines, all those food pieces, dust and hair can cause all sorts of problems.

So tuning up your machine is something like an insurance policy. Average time between cleanings is two years and yearly if you work in court every day. This cost will pay you dividends for the future of your machine. There was a commercial way back that said, "You can pay me now or you can pay me later."

The later will be a lot more and maybe the cost will not be worth it. So treat your financial investment right, and it will continue to bring you a sense of confidence in its ability to work when you need it.

Hope this information helps.

<http://ptsteno.com/contact.htm>



**PERSONAL TOUCH**  
Complete Steno Service  
415.584.3893

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If you would like to contribute to our next newsletter, please send in articles by August 15, 2022, to [wpmacros@gmail.com](mailto:wpmacros@gmail.com).

**NOTE:** PYRP would like to hear from other states' PYRP members about any new court reporting laws, new legislation or pending or recent lawsuits that affect court reporting in your state. Please email PYRP if you would like to write an article to keep us up to date.  
[protectyourrecordproject@gmail.com](mailto:protectyourrecordproject@gmail.com)

## Vocabulary Answers

1-O, 2-I, 3-A, 4-H, 5-L, 6-B, 7-G, 8-C, 9-J, 10-F, 11-N, 12-K, 13-M, 14-D, 15-E

**In the link below we offer Protect Your Record materials to strengthen your advocacy and to ensure the protection of your stenographic record.**

<https://protectyourrecord.com/materials/>

## ARE YOU AWARE OF UNLICENSED ACTIVITY IN YOUR DEPOSITIONS?

- ✓ TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES.
- ✓ REPORT IT TO THE CA COURT REPORTERS BOARD.

[courtreportersboard.ca.gov/webapps/complaints.php](http://courtreportersboard.ca.gov/webapps/complaints.php)  
Telephone: 877.327.5272



SCAN ME

IS YOUR COURT REPORTER LICENSED?

## PROTECT YOUR RECORD AGAINST DECEPTIVE UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

Make sure you know who is showing up to your depositions and proceedings.



### YOUR JUDICIAL RECORD IS TOO IMPORTANT.

- ⚖️ Ensure your notices specify **BY STENOGRAPHIC MEANS ONLY**, so that only a licensed certified court reporter shows up.
- ⚖️ DO NOT be pressured to stipulate away your right to a licensed certified court reporter.
- ⚖️ Request the credentials of your deposition officer **BEFORE** you begin.

*Be aware of unlicensed activity in your deposition by someone claiming to be a court reporter or deposition officer.*

## Protecting Your Record Starts With Your Notice!

10 The deposition shall be taken **BY STENOGRAPHIC MEANS**, by a Qualified Stenographic  
11 Reporter, and shall be conducted under the supervision of an officer who is authorized to administer  
12 an oath. If an interpreter is required to translate testimony, notice of same must be given within five (5)  
13 business days before the deposition date and the specific language and/or dialect designated.  
14 PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in addition to the deposition being taken  
15 **BY STENOGRAPHIC MEANS**, the deposition may also be taken through the instant video display of  
16 testimony (real-time reporting) and by means of videotape recording.

## Don't Be Fooled...

MORE INFO ON THE OTHER SIDE! ➔

Did you order a court reporter thinking you were getting a qualified stenographer and *someone else showed up?*

**BAIT & SWITCH**

## PROTECT YOUR RECORD!

STENOGRAPHY IS  
THE ART OF INTEGRITY.  
ACCEPT NO  
SUBSTITUTES!  
Protect Your Record Project®

Don't let your court reporting firm decide the value of **YOUR** record. *Your case is worth the gold standard every time.*

VISIT US ONLINE FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.PROTECTYOURRECORDPROJECT.COM](http://WWW.PROTECTYOURRECORDPROJECT.COM)



- **Qualified Stenographers** are skilled and impartial Officers of the Court.
- **Qualified Stenographers** use state-of-the-art technology, along with the irreplaceable human element to ensure every spoken word is captured and preserved.
- By using a **Qualified Stenographer**, you have the confidence that your transcript is certified and admissible in court.

Nothing in this document shall be construed as legal advice. Please do your own due diligence and make sure you are in compliance with the laws in your jurisdiction.

To locate a Qualified Stenographer, visit:  
[www.ProtectYourRecordProject.com](http://www.ProtectYourRecordProject.com)

## LAWYERS!

When a reporting agency tells you there's no stenographer available, ask this question:



You can't find a stenographer, or you can't find a stenographer who'll work for your agency?

