

# THE GUARDIAN

ISSUE 3 MARCH 2016

## THE ART OF COURT REPORTING

*By Ruthanne Esparza*

I've been out of the court reporting field for three years now, out of being an actual reporter for almost 10 years. I didn't leave voluntarily; my neck decided for me that I was finished as a reporter.

A great life lesson for me was being able to accept this and move on.

And move on, I certainly have! It took time and patience, but today I love what I do and I'm living my life's purpose as a life coach.

An integral part of my current path is to write articles, put together talks, and so on. Once I began to attempt these tasks, putting down my thoughts into the written word turned out to be quite the challenge. To begin an article, a writer must jot down thoughts, ideas, and concepts, and then put them together into a cohesive, meaningful manner that allows the reader to engage and receive the intended message. After 20 years of writing and editing other people's words, any attempt I'd make at writing my own thoughts down would come out stilted and much too formal, and the urge to perfectly punctuate each sentence

completely got in the way of me being able to express myself with the written word. It's taken a couple of years of practice (and tossing out articles that sounded dry as toast!) to overcome this, but it still creeps up on me at times.

I initially posted this story on a couple of court reporter Facebook pages and was surprised at the numerous responses relating to the feeling of being creatively stifled by virtue of being a court reporter, expressing the idea that our profession leaves no room for individual creativity. Well, I urge reporters to find their artistic expression both on and off the job.

On the job, putting a transcript together—especially a dense, technical one—can be seen as a craft. A perfectly researched, exquisitely punctuated transcript is a work of art, in my opinion. I remember taking the deposition of a rocket scientist in an accident case and having the attorney ask a question for a solid page and a half, where I kid you not, the way it was worded, there was no place for a period! I went round and round and

(continued on pg. 2)

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can become it."

-William Arthur Ward

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE ART OF COURT REPORTING CONTINUED	2
STUDENTS OF THE MONTH	2
NEW BABY CONGRATULATIONS	2
COURT REPORTING & CAPTIONING WEEK HIGHLIGHTS	3
JANUARY EVALUATIONS PASSED	3
JOB OPENINGS	4
GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT	5
MARCH CALENDAR	6



### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

#### Barbara Ufer

Barbara is an excellent student. She turns in all of her work on time, always has a great attitude, and is very dedicated to becoming a court reporter. She has unrelenting drive.

Keep up the great work, Barbara!



#### Amanda Vernon

Amanda is a very diligent student. She gives her all when completing assignments and always maintains a wonderful attitude. She works hard to reach her goals and has already come so far.

You're doing great, Amanda!



(continued from pg. 1)

carefully placed my semicolons and commas and sent it to the best proofreader there was.

Only another reporter can understand the feeling of elation when I got the transcript back with no corrections in that question! I truly felt the sense of artistic ability. The beauty of conversations on social media is the exchange of ideas and advice people so generously offer. Many reporters piped in on my post with ways in which they get their creativity groove on outside of the job, including my favorite: "Have two glasses of wine and then start writing." Instead of closing yourself off from being creative, I see it as crucial to find a way to express that need inside in order to balance the constant

left-brain aspect of being a court reporter. This could be doing yoga, where each time a pose is mastered feels like a work of art; gardening, where the perfectly ripe, red tomato you grow is a work of art; music; painting; writing; carpentry; crafts; and so on.

Everything in life is about perspective, how you see things. The great thing is we have the ability to reframe and reconsider how we view the world around us. We can choose to see the inspired, artistic expression in absolutely anything in our lives. Once our eyes are opened in this manner, we realize every moment had the potential for expressing our imaginative, creative abilities, which leads to a more balanced, fulfilling life.

### A STENO BABY WAS BORN!

*Congratulations to one of our students, Ashley Guillermo, on the birth of her baby, Jayde!*



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK

Bonni and Alice celebrating #LoveConvention Day by sporting their Chicago gear!



CCR students gathered together for a discussion given by graduate Deb Cohen Rojas.



To see more highlights from the week, check out our Facebook page!



## JANUARY EVALUATIONS PASSED

*These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of January.*

<p><b><u>23 SAPs</u></b> Melissa Hicking</p> <p><b><u>14 SAPs</u></b> Jessica Williams</p> <p><b><u>13 SAPs</u></b> Katherine Evangelou</p> <p><b><u>12 SAPs</u></b> Geneva Wildcat</p> <p><b><u>11 SAPs</u></b> Ashley Kramer</p> <p><b><u>10 SAPs</u></b> Jamie Bleicher Jessica Vanatta Lexi Klasing Taisha Herr Tracie Blocker</p> <p><b><u>9 SAPs</u></b> Amanda Vernon Ashley Guillermo Christil McAllister Christine VanDam Erica Jenkins</p> <p><b><u>8 SAPs</u></b> Erin Claybrook Kathy Bruner Robin Willey</p> <p><b><u>7 SAPs</u></b></p>	<p>Christine Angel Jamie Johnson Jessica Frizzell Najah Danner Summer Vaughan Victoria Huntley</p> <p><b><u>6 SAPs</u></b> Allison Allen Barbara Ufer Kimberly Wilkerson Nicole Miller Taifa Stephenson Valerie Melkus</p> <p><b><u>5 SAPs</u></b> Ashley Privett Ashley Wilson Darby Valle Julie Domanico Kathleen Steadman Kristine Edland Sarah Hamilton</p> <p><b><u>4 SAPs</u></b> Daisy Tamez Jennifer Hall Julia Haven Katelyn Berch Kolby Garrison</p>	<p>Kristine Rebar Megan Reeves Thomas Herman</p> <p><b><u>3 SAPs</u></b> Alisa Church Amy Powers Carol Casstevens Casi De La Torre Claire Baldi Debra Selsavage Holly McKay Jessica Wills Kelly Garland Kiana Luke Kristen Stegeman Lindsay Heaton Lindsey Young Lisa Major Martha Obstalecki Nicole Wicks</p> <p><b><u>2 SAPs</u></b> Alexandra Wiater Amanda Olivares Brett Schatzle Brionca Tate Carolyn Collins Christine Obermeyer</p>	<p>Clara Brooks Jennifer Wesner Karina Hannah Kayde Reiken Laura Beasely Lucetta Robertson Madeline Lauer Onni Beene Rob Leifer Sara Galante Season Young Sheila Sinclair Shivone Latortue Stephanie McGinnis Sue Harrison Tyler Adkins</p> <p><b><u>1 SAP</u></b> Angela Viray Ashleigh Huston Benn Brooks Brandi Smith Camille Montgomery Cassidy Johnson Daniella Savidge Holly Harris Holly Reese Jamie Dorgan</p>	<p>Jennifer MacDonald Jessica Rhykus Joan Yeatts Katie Jaraczewski Kelsey Kerwell Kimberly Murphy Kirstie Anderson Melanie Segalla Nadine Golden Rachel Quinn Susanne Gorman Taylor Behnke Yvette Grandos</p>
---	--	---	--	---

## JOB OPENINGS

**Position:** Official court reporter

**Location:** Craig, Hot Sulphur Springs, Steamboat Springs

**Department:** District Court

**Judicial Branch Overview:**

The Colorado Judicial Branch is a premier state government agency focusing on state trial courts and offender probation. Across the many varied career paths within the organization, we universally recruit ambitious individuals to become valued public servants and future leaders. We are seeking applicants who want to contribute in making the Judicial Branch the "employer of choice" in Colorado. In addition, our desire is to hire professionals who consistently demonstrate integrity, embrace change, and contribute to the bottom line success of their smaller work team and the larger goals of the organization.

In return, you will gain valuable experience with a progressive organization known as one of the top judicial systems in the nation. The Judicial Branch allows employees to work with creativity in a unique culture defined by ethics, where execution, excellence and high performance are rewarded. Career opportunities abound within the organization as the average Judicial employee has tenure of 10+ years of service.

In a recent statewide employee survey, an overwhelming majority of our employees ranked "sufficient work/life balance" as the #1 benefit of their job. Additionally, Judicial Branch employees take great pride in serving an organization that provides high-quality services to Colorado residents. Providing a positive work environment and culture with a competitive total rewards compensation package, the Colorado Judicial Branch is the solid career opportunity for which you have been seeking!

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Graduation from an accredited school of reporting or associate degree in reporting and one year of experience in verbatim shorthand reporting and transcribing. Employees in this class must have obtained their Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification through the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).



**Positions:**

Real-Time Captioners-CART Provider-Level 1 (4 Positions) (Mountain View)

**Location:**

Dallas County Community College District, Various cities, TX

**Salary:**

\$20.51/Hourly

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Graduation from high school or equivalent plus currently enrolled in an accredited court reporting program and have less than one year of experience in providing real-time captioning services. Excellent oral and written communication skills to work effectively with a wide variety of individuals from diverse backgrounds. The ability to provide quality customer service. Evidence of current enrollment in a court reporting program will be required with application for employment.

**\*Will be subject to a criminal background check.\***

**Job Description:**

Interpret in real-time captioning through the use of a steno machine, notebook computer and real-time software to render instant speech to text translation on a computer monitor. Captions all communication that occurs in the classroom for students who are deaf and hard of hearing or who have other communication barriers. Provides real-time captioning for hearing-impaired students and/or prospective students including lectures or other classroom instruction, meetings, registration, testing, tutoring, counseling, etc. Facilitates communication between the student, the faculty member and other students in the classroom. Works closely with student, faculty member or other appropriate individual to obtain all terminology inherent to the assignment (curricula, syllabi, synopses, scripts and texts) to create a dictionary and enhance the master dictionary. Provides the student with a copy of the lecture or meeting text from the real-time translation either on diskette or a printed



## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT: INTERVIEW WITH HEIDI MASTERS

### What was your start date?

I started court reporting school on March 4, 2013, at Bryan University. I started at CCR (best day ever!!) February 8, 2015.

### When did you graduate?

I passed my last SAP on December 10, 2015.

### What lead you to pursue court reporting as a career?

I had no idea what court reporting even was until my stepdad suggested I pursue it as a career. I graduated in 2012 with a degree in English after having spent four years preparing to become a high school English teacher. After going through my student teaching, I decided I wanted nothing to do with teaching. I was panicking, trying to figure out what to do with my life. My stepdad suggested court reporting, and I jumped in and never looked back.

### What made you choose CCR?

CCR was my second school, actually. My first school was not a good place. It was a money suck, and they really didn't care about the students. A lot of people were transferring from that school to CCR. So I contacted Nicky, and I had my heart set on going to CCR.

### Do you have any certifications? If not, do you plan on getting any/which ones?

I don't have any certifications yet, but I am actually going for the JC leg of the RPR on Saturday. I'm hoping to be an RPR by my birthday in June. Ideally, I'll be done before that.

### What were your strengths in school?

One of my strengths in school was my work ethic. I always made sure I got my assignments done early and I got a ton of practice in every day, no matter how tired I was. I definitely sacrificed any kind of a social life, but it was worth it.

### What were your weaknesses in school?

My weakness during school was definitely my self-esteem. One bad SAP and I thought the world was crumbling around me. If I had a bad writing day, it ruined my whole attitude. I had a really, really, really hard time seeing my "failures" as learning opportunities. I cried a lot throughout the two years, nine months, and six days in school (yes, I've kept track of that).

### If you could give any advice to a struggling student, what would that be?

The one piece of advice I would like to give a struggling student is to find something positive in every single day. It's easy to want to give up. I probably wanted to give up probably six out of the seven days a week. It's easy to just see your mistakes, but there is at least one thing to celebrate every day. When I changed my attitude, my writing changed, and then I started passing tests more often. Keep plugging away. Everyone says it, but this career really is totally worth it. I've only been on a few jobs, but I'm having the time of my life!

COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING

111 West Tenth Street, Suite 111

Hobart, IN 46342

Phone: 219-942-1459

“Work for yourself...Work for the world!”

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CCR.EDU



**ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

*Your CCR newsletter is always changing. Contact Jen at [jen.lewis@ccr.edu](mailto:jen.lewis@ccr.edu) with any ideas that you may have for the next one. It is much appreciated!*

*Birthdays are in bold print! Happy birthday, CCR students and faculty!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>Julie Balog</b>	2 <b>Christine Saylor</b> <b>Lori Sanders</b>	3	4 <b>Morgan Goodman</b>	5 <b>Kristen Stegeman</b>
6	7 Mock Deposition Midterm Prep	8 <b>Samantha Kubik</b> <b>Hannah Wilson</b>	9	10	11	12 <b>Valerie Melkus</b>
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins <b>Nicole Cramer</b>	14 Midterms D/E	15	16 <b>Katie Jaraczewski</b> <b>Kathryn Buckner</b>	17 Midterms D/E Faculty Meeting <b>Christine VanDam</b>	18 <b>David Friedhoff</b>	19
20 <b>Kirstie Anderson</b>  Spring Break	21	22 <b>Angela Viray</b>	23 <b>Sarah Hamilton</b>	24 <b>Kristi Hendrick</b>	25 Good Friday School Closed	26
27 Easter 	28 <b>Lucetta Robertson</b>  180/200 Multivoice	29	30	31 <b>Jamie Johnson</b> <b>Cassidy Johnson</b>		1