

# CRB\* TODAY

COURT REPORTERS  
BOARD NEWSLETTER

GUARDING THE RECORD  
FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION



## Message from the Chair

*Robin Sunkees*

### *A Challenge to Think Strategically*

In its simplest form, strategic thinking is an ability to plan for the future. It's the capacity to prepare strategies and conjure ideas that will both cope with changing environments and consider the various challenges that lie ahead. The ability to think strategically is not necessarily a skill that can be taught. It's more a mindset or way of thinking. Yet there are ways to improve the ability to think strategically. One concept espouses knowing, thinking, speaking, and acting. These are important concepts to the Court Reporters Board (CRB) as we make policy for the protection of consumers of court reporting services. The industry, and thus the Board, are facing a series of challenges.

We continue to strive for an enforcement pathway with the nonlicensee-owned agencies, working with Senator Umberg's office on SB 241, which would mandate firm registration with the CRB. The Board has been working for many years to further the concept of firms having "skin in the game." If court reporters break the law, they place their license at stake. With firm registration, a court reporting firm would place its registration at stake. Without registration, they would be unable to offer services in California, providing a powerful incentive to stay within the bounds of the law.

Additionally, we face the challenge of continued school closings. Where will the workforce of the future be trained? What has to be done to have enrollment keep up with the aging baby boomers choosing retirement? Clearly the demand for court reporters remains strong. Remote reporting has allowed reporters to take more jobs without losing time by driving from conference room to conference room. But how long before burnout takes its toll on these hardworking professionals?

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### *Board Members*

ROBIN SUNKEES, CSR, *Chair*  
TONI O'NEILL, CSR, *Vice Chair*  
DAVINA HURT  
DENISE TUGADE

YVONNE K. FENNER, *Executive Officer*  
LAUREL GODDARD, *Editor*  
PAULA BRUNING, *Layout Designer*

*Message continued from cover*

We are increasingly a mobile society. What has to happen to allow for license reciprocity with other states? What would a national certification look like? Thankfully, the CRB has the assistance of the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Professional Examination Services to help ensure our exams produce minimally competent reporters to begin their practice in California.

Step one is to *know*. It is critical that we gather as much information about the industry as every decision made is only as good as the information upon which it is based.

Step two is to *think*. Now is the time to think outside the box. What are the avenues available to us to address the challenges facing us? How do the options mesh with the Board's available resources, both financial and staff time? Can we challenge ourselves as Board members to work with the industry stakeholders to be creative in our thinking and brainstorm together to find options that will work?

Step three is to *speak*. Once a plan is developed, we need to talk about it. Those not involved in initial discussions may not understand why we are moving in a certain direction and why a particular option was the best way forward. Communication is key.

Step four is to *act*. The best plan in the world remains just a plan until action is taken. The only way to actually effectuate change is to break down the objective into smaller goals and then ensure they are carried out.

Strategic thinking enables us to determine how to use our resources most effectively to advance toward our objectives.

I encourage everyone to take the time to participate in our August 20 Board meeting and provide us with your knowledge and perspective and help us drive positive change for the future. Together we can guide the coming changes to meet the challenges of consumer protection.

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## Contribute to Consumer Protection as a Board Member

The Board has a public member vacancy, which is the position appointed by the Senate Rules Committee. In addition, one of the two licensee member positions will also be vacated in the near future. Each Board position has a term of up to four years. Members may apply for a second four-year term.

Anyone interested in putting in their personal and professional perspectives to ensure all California residents receive safe, licensed, and regulated professional services is encouraged to apply.

To qualify as a public member, the individual must not be a current or former CSR licensee or a close family member of a licensed CSR. Additionally, the individual must not have engaged in the profession or have provided representation of the profession for five years preceding appointment to a public member position. Those interested in applying for the public member vacancy should contact the Senate Rules Committee at (916) 651-4151.

If you are a licensed CSR, currently working in the profession, and are interested in applying for a vacant seat on the Court Reporters Board, you can use the following link to reach the application on the governor's website: [www.gov.ca.gov/appointments/](http://www.gov.ca.gov/appointments/).

Enhance your resume by becoming a board member. Apply today!

## Transcript Reimbursement Fund Turns 40

*Unique resource continues to increase justice access for thousands of litigants*

In 1981, the Legislature created the Transcript Reimbursement Fund (TRF). The fund is unique to California and provides reimbursement for transcripts to qualified indigent litigants in civil cases. For the first 30 years, the TRF was limited to nonprofit legal organizations who represented indigent California litigants in civil matters on a pro bono basis. Later, in 2011, the program was opened up to qualified indigent pro per litigants.

The program is funded by a transfer of up to \$300,000 each fiscal year from the Court Reporters Board’s (Board) annual budget. The Board is a self-funded licensing entity, meaning it operates solely on the fees charged for licensing court reporters.

Over the last 40 years, the TRF has increased access to justice for thousands of litigants who may not have otherwise been able to pursue a judicial pathway. To date, the TRF has disbursed over **\$9.2 million** for transcript costs. More than 3,500 invoices have been paid since electronic recordkeeping began in 2010.

“It’s an amazing program that has helped so many people in a variety of civil case types,” said Paula Bruning, TRF coordinator. “The fact that court reporters essentially pay into the fund and are then paid for transcripts by the fund makes it all possible. It is a privilege to be part of the process.”

Eligibility requirements and applications can be found by visiting [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/TRF](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/TRF).

## Denise Tugade Appointed to Court Reporters Board



In May 2021, the Court Reporters Board (Board) welcomed its newest member—Denise Tugade. Ms. Tugade, a public Board member appointed by Governor Newsom, is a government relations advocate for Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers West (SEIU-UHW).

Her past experience includes working in various roles including legislative assistance and communications director for members of the California State Assembly from 2017 to 2020. Most recently, she acted as legislative director for California State Assembly Member Christy Smith (D-Santa Clarita), having also worked on Assembly Member Smith’s 2018 campaign.

Ms. Tugade held a variety of positions at Cambria Solutions, a national information technology and management consulting firm, between 2015 and 2017. She was a district coordinator for the Tubeho Neza (Live Well) program at DelAgua Health Ltd. Rwanda in 2014. Ms. Tugade is a graduate of the California Asian Pacific Islander Staff Academy. She is the immediate past president of the Feminist Democrats (Fem Dems) of Sacramento and serves on the executive boards of the Young Asian American Pacific Islander Sacramento Democrats, New Leaders Council Sacramento, and Barkada Sacramento.

“We are very fortunate to have Denise join our team,” said Board Executive Officer Yvonne Fenner. “We know her multifaceted experience with the California State Assembly as well as the public sector will aid the Board in many areas, and we look forward to working with her to further consumer protection.”

## CSRs Needed for Exam Workshops

If you currently work as a certified shorthand reporter (CSR) and your license is in good standing, *we need you.* The CSR exam development process involves a series of workshops that requires active CSR participation. Without valuable subject matter expert input, the workshops cannot take place, and without a good supply of test questions in the test bank, the Board will not be able to continue to offer the written exam three times per year.

For the health and growth of the industry, please consider accessing the Board calendar at [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov) to see if any of the upcoming exam workshop dates might work for you. Each two-day workshop is held from Friday to Saturday in Sacramento. All travel accommodations are arranged by Board staff. All workshop participants will be provided with a per diem rate of \$150 per day. Those living farther than 50 miles will be reimbursed for hotel accommodations at the state-approved rate.

Please pass this important message on to reporters you know. The future success of the CSR industry lies with you. For more information on participating in an exam workshop, contact Kim Kale at [Kim.Kale@dca.ca.gov](mailto:Kim.Kale@dca.ca.gov).

## Examination Statistics

Written Exams				
March 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021		Total	Pass	Overall %
English	Overall	31	18	58.1%
	First Timers	18	13	72.2%
Professional Practice	Overall	29	17	58.6%
	First Timers	19	13	68.4%
November 1, 2020 – February 29, 2021		Total	Pass	Overall %
English	Overall	33	21	63.6%
	First Timers	20	16	80.0%
Professional Practice	Overall	33	23	69.7%
	First Timers	18	13	72.2%
July 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020		Total	Pass	Overall %
English	Overall	43	29	67.4%
	First Timers	32	25	78.1%
Professional Practice	Overall	36	23	63.9%
	First Timers	29	19	65.5%

Dictation Exam			
March 2021	Total	Pass	Overall %
Overall	63	14	22.2%
First Timers	16	8	50.0%
November 2020	Total	Pass	Overall %
Overall	74	15	20.3%
First Timers	17	10	58.8%

## AB 2138 Implementation Regulations Become Effective

The Office of Administrative Law approved the Board's AB 2138 implementation regulations package, which requires boards to amend their existing regulations governing substantially related crimes or acts as well as rehabilitation criteria. The regulations package, published February 21, 2020, went into effect May 12, 2021.

The regulation makes it clear to the public and licensees what criteria are used in determining whether a conviction is substantially related to the practice of court reporting.

To read the full language of the regulation, follow this link: [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/crconv\\_mod.pdf](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/lawsregs/crconv_mod.pdf)

## Skills Exam Online Update

As the state of California begins to open, the most frequently asked question we get about the skills exam is when will it be offered in person?

We were fortunate to have a contract in place when the pandemic and lockdown hit. Through a tremendous effort by staff, the Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Public Affairs, and Realtime Coach, our vendor, we were able to continue licensing without interruption.

While the pass rates have remained consistent with the last "live" test offered in March 2020, the feedback from the candidates has been mixed.

"We recognize that change is difficult, especially change of this magnitude" said Board Chair Robin Sunkees. "The development of the tests remains the same, from syllable and word count, through the rigorous pretesting before scripts are finalized for the readers. We, as an industry as a whole, have been forced to adapt to the remote platform."

The board will discuss how best to administer the skills test at its next meeting on August 20. There will be many factors to consider including: pass rates, proctor issues, hotel rental costs, as well as health risks to candidates and staff.

## Newly Licensed Certified Shorthand Reporters

*October 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021*

The Court Reporters Board of California is pleased to welcome the following people to the rolls of licensed California court reporters:

Cydney Agno, Vallejo, CSR 14410	Chevy Lawrence, Riverside, CSR 14396
Jamel Benson, Diamond Bar, CSR 14422	Jerrold Lefler, Tampa, FL, CSR 14404
Sarah Blabagno, Seal Beach, CSR 14392	Heather Malcolm, Riverside, CSR 14412
Diana Brower, Stockton, CSR, 14394	Darwin Martinez, San Jose, CSR 14413
Brenda Burghardt, Jackson, CSR 14398	Giselle Mitchell-Margerum, Powder Springs, GA, CSR 14424
Suzannah Carroll, Bakersfield, CSR 14418	Jade Nosel, Costa Mesa, CSR 14399
Peggy Corbett, Lee's Summit, MO, CSR 14403	Layli Phillips, Grass Valley, CSR 14402
Courtney Dugas, Bellflower, CSR 14401	Ana Reid, Lakeside, CSR 14406
Paulette Ferrante, Rancho Cucamonga, CSR 14390	Diane Salters, Cheltenham, MD, CSR 14395
Richard Germosen, North Brunswick, NJ, CSR 14391	Cindy Sebo, Bowie, MD, CSR 14409
Angela Grant, Poughkeepsie, NY, CSR 14408	Penny Segundo-Grammer, Phoenix, AZ, CSR 14400
Rebecca Graziano, Frisco, TX, CSR 14407	Natalie Vaccarezza, Sonoma, CSR 14415
Rhonda Hall-Brewet, Lakeland, FL, CSR 14411	Jeanette Villa, Rialto, CSR 14414
Crystal Hereford, Phoenix, AZ, CSR 14416	Araceli Villanueva, Lake Forest, CSR 14425
Jack Janowicz, Anaheim, CSR 14397	Jessica Waack, Brooklyn, NY, CSR 14420
Charisse Kitt, New York, NY, CSR 14417	Carla Wallat, Federal Way, WA, CSR 14423
Misty Klapper, Alexandria, VA, CSR 14419	Andrea Wecker, Boise, ID, CSR 14405
Marla Knox, San Francisco, CSR 14421	Klarissa Yanez, Chino, CSR 14393



## Student Spotlight

A strong love for writing and the tools and techniques that bring it to life are what drew Tessa Farias to court reporting school, along with a desire to financially supplement her first career as a screenwriter.

“I knew I wanted to do something that would complement screenwriting, and I wanted to get a job that could serve me for years,” she said. “I’ve always loved working with my hands, and—this is so silly, but—I’ve always loved pushing buttons. I was watching an episode of ‘Parks and Recreation’ when a character, Ethel Beavers, was the court reporter for a trial. I watched her mime the gestures and thought, whoa. I would love to get my hands on that kind of machine.”

Upon further investigation she learned there were court reporting schools nearby and that it was an extremely lucrative career.

“It was a different form of writing, something I already had such a strong love for. *Everything lined up all too perfectly.* There was really no way for me to ignore it.”

So she didn’t. She enrolled in the court reporting program at Downey Adult School. Read on to find out what happened next!

### Why did you select your school?

“When I started looking into schools, I noticed there were so many online. I knew I needed to be in an actual classroom if I wanted to take learning this new skill seriously and work as efficiently as possible. So I went to orientation. As soon as you walk on campus, you get the feeling that the school offers exactly everything you need. There were no frills, no distractions. You go, you school, you leave, and repeat. Downey is to-the-point. I love that! Also, the school is small, which gives off warm, homey vibes. When [instructor] Jocelyn [Epperson] spoke at orientation, it was the first time I ever really heard anyone talk about court reporting. She made it extremely clear this was a tough skill to learn. From then on, I was hooked. I love a challenge. Not to mention, Downey was extremely affordable comparatively.”

### What do you find the most challenging about court reporting school?

“I find retention incredibly challenging. Holding onto a sentence while another sentence is being said and then letting go and catching up is a lot to manage. It’s challenging! It’s all these little skills under an umbrella of a big skill. It’s a challenge you need to be up for.”



### What has surprised you most about court reporting? What do you find most challenging about it?

“What has surprised me most about court reporting is the freedom to make your writing yours. Everyone’s shorthand can be a little bit different, which is so cool to think about as a parallel to the differences that makes our minds our own. We all have the same goal, but we get there slightly differently. It magnifies our unique qualities. Of course, there are theories to follow, but once you have one down, it’s really up to you what you want to make of it. There is so much freedom and creativity in that.”

### What are three words to describe court reporting?

“Fast, creative, mindful. You have to have the presence and confidence to let things go and move on. It forces you to leave the past in the past and focus on the present.”

### How would you describe the ideal jobs for you following graduation?

“Everyone wants the high-profile, exciting cases. Me too. But I also simply hope to be part of any case looking for justice. I know, all cases seek justice, but I want to be a part

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of those that could potentially change history forever. I want to be the reporter for a trial where racial constructs are torn down. I want to witness justice, regardless of class or whether you can afford the best attorney. Those are the jobs I aspire to have.”

**What was the most unusual or interesting job you’ve ever had?**

“Jobs in LA can get pretty crazy! When I first started acting, I was told to take any job I could to ‘build my reel.’ So, that is exactly what I did. My most unusual role was that of a superhero. I had a lot of fun fighting scenes but once they were edited, they were completely absurd! I mean, totally tacky and outrageous. It was unusable for my reel. Also, to promote the show, I had to dress up like the superhero and pass out flyers on Hollywood Boulevard. That was awful. I’ve also worked a lot in hospitality and once was hired at a nightclub to sit in a ‘martini bath’ wearing a hat shaped like an olive.”

**Do you have a nickname? What is it?**

“My family calls me TessaBear or Tessybear. It’s stuck for all these years, and I love it because a bear could be snuggly and sweet or loud and scary. We all have both sides to us.”

**Favorite travel spot?**

“Anywhere outdoors!”

**If Hollywood made a movie about your life, who would you like to see cast as you?**

“Aubrey Plaza.”

**How do you think a friend or colleague who knows you well would describe you?**

“My friends would say I’m one of a kind. I tend to be a little quirky or off-centered. My tiny friends (kids in my life) tell me I’m silly. I’ve been described as up for anything. I’m told I’m optimistic which can sometimes fall into being gullible. I’m trustworthy. I’m aggressively loyal. I have an easy-going

nature which helps my loved ones (or complete strangers!) talk to me about anything at all. I’ve always been a bit of a ‘fixer.’ I’m hopeful and a big lover of love.”

**What might others be surprised to know about you? Can you tell us three things most people don’t know about you?**

“Oh, I love this game! I think there is a lot to my life that people wouldn’t necessarily guess about me. First that comes to mind is I’ve recently become diabetic. In January of 2021, while in school, I had pancreatitis that left me with type 1 diabetes. I’m a very active and fit person, so not your typical-looking diabetic. I’m also one of nine children in my family, and I fall right in the middle. My parents have been foster parents since before I was born. Within my nine siblings, four are adopted. A few more: Although I’m engaged to a man, I’m bisexual. I’m a sleepwalker and sleep talker! I’ve been on the obstacle course game show, ‘Wipeout!’ and I slept with a blankie until I was 22 years old.”

**What did you always want to try and never have?**

“Bungee jumping! I have sky dived and would love to do that again.”

**What do you like to do in your spare time? Any hobbies or interests you have outside of work and school?**

“I love playing Sudoku. I love puzzles!”

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

“When people don’t refill the toilet paper roll! GAH!”

**What motivates you to put forth your greatest effort?**

“*I want to better myself.* I have to remind myself of that often, but nothing gets me going more than thinking of my better future and consequently, the better future of my loved ones. I’m not sure why, but I want to apologize for the selfishness of this answer. I think I forget that we should love ourselves first before anything else. And in this case, it helps me to continue working hard.”

*Student Spotlight continued on page 8*

*Student Spotlight continued from page 7*

**What two or three accomplishments have given you the most satisfaction? Why?**

“When I first decided to move to California from my home state of Massachusetts, I knew I’d need financial assistance. After applying for multiple scholarships and grants and being denied, my mom suggested I research donating my eggs. Since having babies wasn’t in my future for the next 10 years, I was so excited at the prospect of being part of someone’s story in growing their family. Since 2010, I have donated to six different families. Some of those families I’ve met, and some are total strangers. It was the easiest decision I ever made, and one that I am profoundly proud of every single day.”

**What have you learned from your mistakes?**

“You must learn from your mistakes. Sometimes it takes making the mistake a few times before you really let that lesson sink in. For me, I’ve learned to not fill in the blanks. Blanks are necessary. How people perceive each moment is completely unique and, therefore, cannot be assumed. Don’t try to assume you know. Allow for an open mind. Listen more. If we are constantly ready to advise, we’ll miss out on things that need to be heard.”

**What do you worry about, and why?**

“I worry I’m misunderstood. I worry for our planet. I worry for our children. Those are the big ones. I also worry what people think of me, as much as I pretend not to. I worry for the safety of my loved ones. And all this is to say that, overall, I’m not a big worrier! I’ve been fortunate to have these worries not take control over my life. I like to find solutions. I strive to put aside my worries and act. I work at letting things go.”

**How do you define success, and how do you measure up to your own definition?**

“In my opinion, *success is effort*. Success is doing it when you would rather do anything else. *Success is growth*. Success is an open mind looking to further learn from life to be better with every passing moment.”

**What do you consider to be your greatest strengths and weaknesses?**

“I tend to be too nice, but that’s only because I think there needs to be more in this world. More than once has this bitten me in the butt. Because I lead with kindness and trust, I’ve been walked on a lot, but I know I can handle it. So long as there are genuine people, I will continue to be too nice.”

**Tell me something you have done that goes against all social conventions, yet you did it anyway because it was the right thing to do!**

“In 2015, I was hit by a drunk driver. It was late at night, and I had just gotten off of work. I hopped on my moped and was only a couple streets from home when I was T-boned. I landed in the street and got to my feet to find the passenger of the vehicle fleeing the scene. I had been knocked out and was completely out of it. About a month later, I was back at work when a young woman came in and sat down. She ordered two shots of tequila and threw her car keys on the table. I asked for her card to keep a tab open, and when I read the name on the card, my heart sank. It was the drunk driver who hit me just a month ago. My manager clocked my total change of energy. They asked me what was going on. I told them. I said I needed to say something. I didn’t know what, but I knew I needed to. My manager advised against it. My coworker told me she’d take the table so I wouldn’t have to face her. Maybe other people would have taken that to be the end, but I couldn’t let it be. She got up from the table of her friends, and before I knew it, I was standing in front of her. I faced her and asked her if she knew who I was. She said, ‘No.’ She was wearing sunglasses. The frames were like mirrors, and I can still see myself in the reflection. I told her I was the victim of her drunk driving. She barely apologized. I told her I wanted her to leave. She did. Fortunately, I kept my job, but it was something I knew I would not have been able to live with if I did not speak up.”

**Who has inspired you in your life and why?**

“I have endless amounts of people in my life that inspire me constantly: my grandparents, my parents, my siblings, my friends. But I also find most of my inspiration in the



*Student Spotlight continued from page 8*

‘everyday’ people. The ‘small’ people, the people that are doing things and standing up for themselves when we all know it can feel like the hardest thing you could possibly do. People that act in the moment and that make impossible decisions, those are the people that help keep me going.”

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about a career in court reporting? Do you have advice for prospective court reporting candidates?**

“Court reporting is no joke. The test to receive your license is no joke. It’s a highly technical skill, so if you’re going to try and master it, you absolutely have to love it. Love the puzzle of it. Love the rhythm of it. Love the theory of it. Love the conflict/resolution of it. You must love it if you are going to be good at it. You will need to practice every single day, and the only way (at least for me) to do that was to become crazy about it. I would also say the time you put into the work is an incredibly important piece. Make sure you have the time. But what keeps you going is the love. You absolutely need that.”

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q** One of our court reporters was chastised yesterday in a remote deposition by an attorney that forcefully told her she is required to read a script indicating that everyone state on the record they are not and will not record, they are the only individual in the room. I am not aware of any such requirement, which I would assume should be driven from you, the Board. Is there any such requirement along those lines? If so, is there a suggested script the Board suggests the reporters use?

**A** There is no requirement in code for a “read-on” script in California. Court reporters, court reporting firms, or even law firms may have a script they have developed for their own purposes, but it is not based upon statute or regulation.

**Q** If there are no CSR reporters that are available to cover a deposition, can we use reporters that are not CSRs?

**A** Business and Professions Code section 8016 states: *No person shall engage in the practice of shorthand reporting as defined in this chapter, unless that person is the holder of a certificate in full force and effect issued by the board. This section does not apply to a salaried, full-time employee of any department or agency of the state who is employed as a hearing reporter.*

**Q** I had an attorney ask me whether I would mention, as part of a standard oath to swear in our witness, something about the Zoom forum. Are we required to administer a special oath while a depo is in a remote or video context?

**A** Here is the code section regarding administration of the oath:

Code of Civil Procedure section 2094:

*(a) An oath, affirmation, or declaration in an action or a proceeding, may be administered by obtaining an affirmative response to one of the following questions:*

*(1) “Do you solemnly state that the evidence you shall give in this issue (or matter) shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”*

*(2) “Do you solemnly state, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence that you shall give in this issue (or matter) shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”*

*(b) In the alternative to the forms prescribed in subdivision (a), the court may administer an oath, affirmation, or declaration in an action or a proceeding in a manner that is calculated to awaken the person’s conscience and impress the person’s mind with the duty to tell the truth. The court shall satisfy itself that the person testifying understands that his or her testimony is being given under penalty of perjury.*

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*FAQs continued from page 9*

**Q** I am working with an agency who is asking the court reporter during remote depositions to ask the deponent to show government-issued identification and have the reporter verify the deponent's identity. As a reporter, I am uncomfortable with this as I feel it is not within our job description and it is up to the attorneys to verify who is being deposed. I am curious if there is anything from the Board stating this is best practice for the court reporter with remote depositions.

**A** There is nothing in California statute requiring the witness to show ID to the court reporter nor any requirement for the court reporter to confirm the witness's identity.

**Q** Sometimes in a depo I'll notice that attorneys for witnesses help provide answers—such as a person's name (doctor), the name of a business, or a place name—to the witness (their client). The noticing attorney doesn't say anything about it. Am I, as the certified shorthand reporter and as an officer of the court, in charge of reminding the witness's counsel that he or she is not testifying and that I am there to record the witness's testimony, not theirs?

**A** The short answer is no. You are obligated as the court reporter to write down what is said in the proceeding and by whom. Ultimately the content of the record is the responsibility of the attorneys. Our job is to translate those spoken words to a written transcript for later use.

**Q** Is there any statute or guidance on whether court reporting agencies can charge for word index/condensed transcript pages?

**A** There is nothing in code as to the rates for depositions. For court transcripts, the litigant would need to request those pages, but the reporter may charge outside the government rate since it is not part of the transcript but rather an added service.

**Q** I took a job in court, and the court requested that I upload my steno notes to the court's archiving system. Is that legal?

**A** Yes, it is important for pro tem reporters to upload their steno notes with the court system in which they worked. Government Code section 69955(a) sets out: *As used in this section, "reporting notes" are the reporting notes of all court reporters employed to report in the courts of California, who may be known as official reporters and official reporters pro tempore. Reporting notes are official records of the court. Reporting notes shall be kept by the reporter taking the notes in a place designated by the court, or, upon order of the court, delivered to the clerk of the court.*

**Q** I took a job that was supposed to be two hours long, but the attorneys wanted to basically go all day. What protection do we have to prevent this?

**A** There is truly no way to predict how long a proceeding will last because the attorneys, no matter how well prepared, don't know what the witness is going to say. If you have a hard stop time, you would advise the parties of that fact in time for them to arrange for either another reporter without time constraints or a relief reporter to take over for you. Simply walking out could be considered unprofessional conduct as defined in Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d).

### Best Practice Pointers Task Force Update

The Best Practice Pointers Task Force was reestablished on May 21, 2020, with the appointment of licensee Board Members Robin Sunkees and Toni O'Neill as co-chairs. With the assistance of volunteer members, the task force developed Best Practice Pointer No. 11—Videoconference/Remote Reporting.

Approved practice pointers are placed on the Board's website under the "Licensees" tab: [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/licenses](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/licenses). As a reminder, best practice pointers are not regulations or statutorily mandated, but rather a way for the Board to provide guidance. The Board will not use them as a basis for discipline or enforcement of any type.

## Beloved School Bids Farewell as it Closes Its Doors

*Lorri Doll, Instructor, CSR 8555 and Bonnie Chufar, Program Director, CSR 6716  
— Special to 'CRB Today' —*

It is with deep sadness that we are sharing information about the slated closure of Argonaut Court Reporting in September 2021. The perfect storm of decreased state funding, increased student fees, and our administration's misperception of a severe decline in job opportunities, have led up to this closure. And, of course, COVID-19 also played a role.

For many years, student fees have climbed, and for the year 2020–21, they became quite high. The availability of online programs at significantly lower cost, sometimes even free, offered students some great options. As Argonaut transitioned to distance learning because of COVID-19, about half the student population transferred to more affordable programs offered online. In this make-or-break year, the enrollment needed to grow, but, unfortunately, it declined by more than half. Limited program starts hampered the instructors' efforts to recruit new students, and by January 2021, it became apparent that a decision had been made to phase out the court reporting program.

What started in 1964 in the basement of Argonaut High School by Louise Reardon grew to be part of the Sacramento City Unified School District's Skills and Business Center in 1966–67. Many area court reporters will fondly remember the classrooms at the old state fair site on Stockton Boulevard. In 2000, a new building on Lemon Hill Avenue housed Argonaut, with its "big room" and adjacent dictation rooms. The new name of the school became Charles A. Jones Career and Education Center.

Through the years, it is estimated that well over 1,000 reporters mastered the skill of stenography through Argonaut Court Reporting. The name has remained the same, and, fittingly, Argonaut means voyager. That is exactly what reporters do, travel all over to serve the public.

Here are some sentiments from three of the teachers who have been there most recently:

Tami Faughn: "What an incredible opportunity Argonaut has given me. From student to reporter to teacher, I cherish the opportunities and the lifelong friendships it has given me. I'm forever grateful for getting to be a part of Argonaut. The void this closure leaves in our local reporting community is profound."

Lorri Doll: "Like Tami, I have been at Argonaut as a student, a reporter, and a teacher. Never in a million years as a student would I have thought I would be a teacher at the same school I could not wait to finish. Over the last 18 years, it has been my honor to help people become court reporters. Hearing the words 'I passed!' has always felt amazing."

Bonnie Chufar: "It has been an incredible ride for almost 24 years at Argonaut. Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation for how my life has been touched through every student who has come through our doors. It's been an honor to serve each of them. There have been 16 dedicated teachers who poured their hearts and souls into the program, making Argonaut what it is today, and I want to thank all of them. In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve our students, the community, as well as all of you. Argonaut will live on in our hearts forever, and may its legacy be carried on through those lives we have touched and through our students who have become reporters."

Something we collectively have said at graduations, "Once an Argonaut, always an Argonaut" is so true. Many of our alumni have come back as speakers, mentors, supporters, and scholarship providers. This has been especially important to the program as a means of providing current information and real-life experiences for our students. The court reporting community has always been there for us, and it is with our deepest appreciation that we say a very sad goodbye.

*Some of Argonaut's memorabilia will be on display in Dom Tursi's The Gallery of Shorthand in New York.*

## Legislative Update

**Following are the bills the Court Reporters Board is following as this legislative year:**

**AB 29 (Cooper) – State bodies: meetings.**

(Assembly Appropriations - suspense) - This bill would require that notice to include all writings or materials provided for the noticed meeting to a member of the state body by the staff of a state agency, board, or commission, or another member of the state body that are in connection with a matter subject to discussion or consideration at the meeting. The bill would require those writings or materials to be made available on the state body's internet website, and to any person who requests the writings or materials in writing, on the same day as the dissemination of the writings and materials to members of the state body or at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting, whichever is earlier. The bill would prohibit a state body from discussing those writings or materials, or from taking action on an item to which those writings or materials pertain, at a meeting of the state body unless the state body has complied with these provisions.

**AB 107 (Salas) – Licensure: veterans and military spouses.**

(Senate Appropriations) - This bill would expand the requirement to issue temporary licenses to practice a profession or vocation to include licenses issued by any board within the department, except as provided.

**AB 225 (Gray, Gallagher, and Patterson) – Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: veterans: military spouses: licenses.**

(Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development) – This bill would expand the eligibility for a temporary license to an applicant who meets the specified criteria and who supplies evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant is a veteran of the armed forces of the United States within 60 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States within 120 months of separation from active duty under other than dishonorable conditions and a resident of California prior to entering into military service, or an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States with official orders for separation within 90 days under other than dishonorable conditions.

**AB 305 (Maienschein) – Veteran services: notice.**

(Senate Appropriations - suspense) - This bill would require specified governmental agencies to include, at their next scheduled update, additional questions on their intake and application forms, except as provided, to determine whether a person is affiliated with the armed forces of the United States. The bill would require those agencies, through the intake or application form, to request permission from that person to transmit their contact information to the Department of Veterans Affairs so that the person may be notified of potential eligibility to receive state and federal veterans benefits.

**AB 646 (Low) – Department of Consumer Affairs: boards: expunged convictions.**

(Assembly Appropriations - suspense) - This bill would require a board within the department that has posted on its internet website that a person's license was revoked because the person was convicted of a crime, within 90 days of receiving an expungement order for the underlying offense from the person, if the person reapplies for licensure or is relicensed, to post notification of the expungement order and the date thereof on the board's internet website. The bill would require the board, on receiving an expungement order, if the person is not currently licensed and does not reapply for licensure, to remove within the same period the initial posting on its internet website that the person's license was revoked and information previously posted regarding arrests, charges, and convictions. The bill would authorize the board to charge a fee to the person, not to exceed the cost of administering the bill's provisions.

*Legislative Update continued from page 12*

**AB 885 (Quirk) – Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.**

(Assembly Governmental Organization) - This bill would require a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to make the portion that is required to be open to the public both audibly and visually observable. The bill would require a state body that elects to conduct a meeting or proceeding by teleconference to post an agenda at the designated primary physical meeting location in the notice of the meeting where members of the public may physically attend the meeting and participate. The bill would extend the above requirements of meetings of multimember advisory bodies that are held by teleconference to meetings of all multimember state bodies. The bill would require a multimember state body to provide a means by which the public may both audibly and visually remotely observe a meeting if a member of that body participates remotely. The bill would further require any body that is to adjourn and reconvene a meeting on the same day to communicate how a member of the public may both audibly and visually observe the meeting.

**AB 1386 (Cunningham) – License fees: military partners and spouses.**

(Assembly Appropriations - suspense) - This bill would prohibit a board from charging an initial application fee or an initial license issuance fee to an applicant who meets these expedited licensing requirements. The bill would also prohibit a board from charging an initial examination fee to an applicant who meets the expedited licensing requirements if the examination is administered by the board.

**SB 241 (Umberg) – Civil actions.**

(Assembly Appropriations) - This bill, on and after July 1, 2022, and until January 1, 2024, would authorize an entity that is not a shorthand reporting corporation to engage in those specified acts if the entity is approved for registration by the board after meeting specified requirements, including paying an annual registration fee to the board in an amount not to exceed \$500 and designating a board-certified reporter-in-charge, as specified. The bill would require the board to approve an entity's registration or deny the entity's application upon making specified findings. The bill would make a registration valid for one year and would also provide for the suspension and revocation of a registration by the board under specified circumstances. The bill would require the board to make available on its internet website a directory of registered entities. Because a violation of the provisions regulating shorthand reporting is a crime, by expanding the provisions to apply to these new registrants the bill would expand the scope of a crime and impose a state-mandated local program.

Additionally, this bill would, until January 1, 2024, authorize a witness in a proceeding, including a trial or an evidentiary hearing, to appear and give testimony by remote electronic means that provide a live audiovisual connection to the court, if the parties stipulate to this manner of appearance, unless the court determines that a personal appearance would materially assist in the determination of the proceeding or in the effective management or resolution of the particular case, or one party requests it by motion. The bill would specify factors a court would be required to consider, but would not be limited to, in determining whether to grant a motion. The bill would authorize the court to require the stipulating or moving parties to incur the costs of the remote appearance. The bill would permit the court, if at any time before or during a witness's remote appearance the court determines a personal appearance is necessary, to continue the proceeding and require the witness to appear in person. The bill would impose additional requirements on a witness's remote appearance. The bill would prohibit the court from compelling, on its own motion, a party to call a witness to remotely appear or a remote jury trial.

**SB 731 (Durazo) – Criminal records: relief.**

(Assembly Appropriations) - This bill would generally make this arrest record relief available to a person who has been arrested for a felony, including a felony punishable in the state prison, as specified. The bill would additionally make this conviction record relief available for a defendant convicted, on or after January 1, 2005, of a felony for which they did not complete

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*Legislative Update continued from page 13*

probation without revocation if the defendant appears to have completed all terms of incarceration, probation, mandatory supervision, postrelease supervision, and parole, and a period of four years has elapsed during which the defendant was not convicted of a new offense, except as specified.

**SB 772 (Ochoa Bogh) – Professions and vocations: citations: minor violations.**

(Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development) – This bill would prohibit a licensee from limiting a consumer’s right to file a complaint with a licensing board or participate in an investigation into the licensee by the licensing board. A violation would constitute unprofessional conduct subject to discipline by the licensing board.

**Legal Proceedings and Social Media Don’t Mix**

*Business and Professions Code Professional Standards of Conduct also apply to social media*

You may have had one of those days as a court reporter when human drama in the courtroom or deposition conference room excites, shocks, or amuses you to the point where you’re tempted to share the juiciest parts of your day’s proceedings with your friends on Facebook or Twitter. Online meeting platforms and cell phones make it easy to snap a screenshot and post the photo online for others to be entertained as well. You might think if no names are mentioned, what’s the harm?

Think again.

“Mixing business and pleasure in this instance could lead to disciplinary action taken against your license,” said Yvonne Fenner, executive officer of the Court Reporters Board. “Court reporters have a duty to remain impartial as well as maintain confidentiality.”

The statute governing unprofessionalism is found at Business and Professions Code 8025. It reads in part as follows: *A certificate issued under this chapter may be suspended, revoked, denied, or other disciplinary action may be imposed for one or more of the following causes: ... (d) Fraud, dishonesty, corruption, willful violation of duty, gross negligence or incompetence in practice, or unprofessional conduct in or directly related to the practice of shorthand reporting. "Unprofessional conduct" includes, but is not limited to, acts contrary to professional standards concerning confidentiality; impartiality; filing and retention of notes; notifications, availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts; and any provision of law substantially related to the duties of a certified shorthand reporter.*

The Professional Standards of Practice in California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2475(b), also emphasize confidentiality—they state in part that every person under the jurisdiction of the Board who holds a license or certificate, or temporary license or certificate, or business that renders professional services, namely shorthand reporting services, within the meaning of Corporations Code section 13401, shall comply with the following professional standards of practice: ... (2) Maintain confidentiality of information which is confidential as a result of rule, regulation, statute, court order, or deposition proceedings.

Bottom line—protect your license and resist the temptation to share photographs or excerpts of transcripts with family and friends online.

## CSR Spotlight

Elaine Sams found her true love in work and in life thanks to stenography.

She first heard about court reporting in her high school shorthand class. “A former student came back to say hello to my instructor and shared her starting salary in 1981 was \$35,000 a year straight out of college,” she said. “I had wanted to be a teacher, but this was much better paying, and I was really good at shorthand!”



She convinced her mother to drive her two hours away to Humphreys College in Stockton where there was a demonstration going on, coincidentally, by someone who would later play a big role in her life.

“As it happens, my future husband, who was the only male court reporting student, was demonstrating. After seeing the stenograph machine and what it was all about, I was hooked and started college in the fall. That future husband asked me out on my second day at school, and we fell in love and married a week before I took the CSR test a short two years later.”

She was only 20 when she passed the CSR exam. “During those times, we dictated our notes for a transcriber and had to be a notary to swear in witnesses. You had to be 21 to be a notary, so my first boss had to come and swear in the witnesses for me for my first month,” she said.

She started working in the Central Valley where she was raised but soon moved to the Bay Area with her husband where she worked for Tooker & Antz and other deposition firms for more than 15 years.

The first half of her career had her working depositions for a wide variety of cases. “I really loved reporting asbestos, medical, and complex construction defect cases. I loved everything about working and living in the San Francisco Bay Area except the traffic.”

Working depositions also made child rearing easier, she said. She worked four days a week, taking Wednesdays off to spend with her kids. While still living in the Bay Area, she took a leave from work to care for her father, who was in hospice care.

“It was a challenging time in my life. I wasn’t sure if I wanted to continue to be a court reporter anymore, so I let my license lapse. Little did I know I would have to take the CSR test again. That was the most difficult challenge in my career. I was more worried about the written test because I had been out of college for years, but I studied and practiced and passed.”

After her dad passed away, she and her family moved to the Central Valley to raise their kids closer to relatives. There, she landed a job as an official court reporter with Madera Superior Court where she worked for 17 years. “I was quick to try realtime writing for my judge, who loved it from the start, she said. “I always thought, if you *write it right the first time*, you won’t have to spend as much time on the editing, so I have constantly worked on improving my realtime skills. I reported more daily civil trials than I can count while working in Madera, and I enjoyed the challenge of all of them. I love attending conventions and connecting with fellow reporters, and I have always kept current with my software and tried to learn everything it can do to help my writing. I enjoy sitting down with my coworkers who are also using CaseCatalyst and swapping tips and tricks.”

Fate would again take her in a new direction. Read on to learn more about Elaine’s career and how court reporting continued to enhance her life:

*CSR Spotlight continued from page 15*

**What brought you to Humboldt County?**

“While I was working in Madera, my mother-in-law fell and broke her hip. My husband immediately traveled to Eureka to be with family, and, as chance would have it, on that same day my coworker shared with me a job posting for a court reporter in Humboldt County. I applied for the job, and a few short months later my husband and I were living in the most beautiful place I have ever lived in. After living in the hot and dry and sometimes burning Central Valley, living here is a dream come true. My commute to work is a short 15-minute drive along the Humboldt Bay to the local courthouse where I report in a family law courtroom. I get to walk on the Waterfront Trail every day on my lunch hour. We are a short 15 minutes from the beach or the redwoods or just about any outdoor activity you can imagine. My coworkers are the best, and I would recommend Humboldt Superior Court to anybody looking for a change in their work and life location. We have an opening (soon to be two), so if it sounds like somewhere you would like to live and work, just contact us!”

**What are some of the changes you’ve seen in the industry?**

“Like I mentioned before, my career began with dictating your paper notes for a typist to transcribe, using carbon paper for the copies, which were not easy to erase when making corrections. I did not enjoy that at all, so I was one of the first reporters to start using a computer way back when CaseCatalyst was still called Baron Data. My employer had a huge mainframe that could only be used with our court reporting software, and my co-workers and I signed up to use it for two-hour blocks of time. I soon bought my own home mainframe, and from there I upgraded every chance I could. It is amazing to see how far we have come!”

**What are some of the accomplishments you are most proud of?**

“One of the important things I did early in my career was take the RPR for the sole reason that they required continuing education and I knew that I wanted to keep learning, but I was afraid I wouldn’t do it on my own. I think in order to be successful you should always strive to improve yourself.

I enjoy reporting on new and difficult topics so that I learn something along the way, and I especially enjoy putting new words into my dictionary. I think it is important to spend time cleaning up your dictionary and working on your software.

As we all know, the past year and a half brought many challenges and changes to our lives. Our court went to Zoom appearances only, which I personally liked. I am a big fan of my judge using the mute button when parties interrupt and forget to take a breath while talking. I tried to take advantage of the extra time at home and down time in the courts by improving my skills. My proudest accomplishment during this time was taking and passing the Registered Merit Reporter. I also spent many, many hours going through every word in my dictionary and deleting old briefs or words and names that I no longer use. I worked through some of my software’s self-study guides and worked on my speaker IDs.”

**What are your hobbies and interests outside of work?**

“In my spare time, I am a quilter. I have made many quilts over the years, but last year I finished and gave away 15 quilts. What does a quilter do while in quarantine? Make more quilts, of course! I tried making a quilt for all of my nieces and nephews’ kids, but there are a lot of them, and I still have a couple to go. I have only finished three quilts this year. Since moving to Humboldt County, I have also taken up kayaking and fishing. I love to spend time on the many walking trails at the marsh near my house or along the waterfront or somewhere deep in the redwoods.”

**What have you gained from court reporting and what would you like people to know about it?**

“During the 37 years I have been reporting, I have had many happy moments. I am happy to say that I am still having happy moments, and I would recommend court reporting to anybody looking for a career where you can work with everyday people and professionals from every walk of life. You can also work as much or as little as you like. And one thing most people don’t realize: Court reporters are also closed captioners and CART reporters. You can work from home or travel the world. You can work as a sports broadcaster or a medical transcriptionist. The possibilities are limitless!”

*CSR Spotlight continued from page 16*

**What do you worry about and why?**

“One thing I am worried about is the shortage of court reporters and the lack of schooling for prospective students. I think this generation has a lot of the skills needed to be court reporters, they just don’t know about the options available. I would encourage anybody who is interested in court reporting to look into it further. It isn’t an easy skill to learn, but it is very rewarding to turn the spoken word into writing. I have had the opportunity a few times to provide closed captioning in the courtroom, and it is very rewarding when I can help a litigant to understand and participate in the proceedings.”

**What is your biggest pet peeve?**

“My pet peeve: When someone says, ‘We’ve always done it that way.’ I believe there is almost always more than one way to do anything.”

**Can you tell us three things that most people don’t know about you?**

“I like to play cribbage. I drink tequila straight. I have seven brothers and sisters.”

**What have you learned from your mistakes?**

“Something I have learned from my mistakes is to learn from them. And forgive yourself, forget it and move on. Others have already forgiven you and moved on themselves. I think people tend to be their own worst critics. Something I have tried to do is stop comparing myself to others. I don’t want to compete with someone else, I just want to do the best job I can.”

**What is your favorite brief?**

“I don’t have a favorite brief, but I love briefs that build upon each other, such as:

- PHREPT = police department
- PHEPT = Madera Police Department
- TPEPT = Fresno Police Department
- KHEPT = Chowchilla Police Department

I love using CaseCatalyst’s Brief-It and Easy Speakers, and I try to use my asterisk for briefing.”

**What was the most unusual or interesting job you’ve ever had?**



“One of my most interesting jobs was when I had only been a reporter for a short time. I was told the job was hard to find, so meet the attorney at the McDonalds parking lot. The attorney then drove me to a remote location on some railroad tracks where he took the statement of two workers who had witnessed a crane fall on their supervisor. There was no chair available, so I sat on a pile of railroad ties. The attorney provided the rug from his trunk for me to sit on so I didn’t soil my skirt. The attorney sent me a thank you note and a picture that someone took of us.”

**What do you find most challenging about court reporting?**

“Learning steno is like learning a foreign language. You are teaching your brain to translate the spoken word into steno. It’s as easy as that!”

**What has surprised you most about court reporting?**

“One of the things that surprises me most is that *I still love my job*. After all these years, *I still enjoy what I do*. I take pride in my realtime skills, and I am glad I have the chance to share them with my judge. I look forward to spending the rest of my reporting years in beautiful Humboldt County, and I am thankful that I have the career that I do.”



## Reciprocity, Endorsement, and License Portability

*By Tracy A. Montez, Ph.D.*

*Chief, Division of Programs and Policy Review, Department of Consumer Affairs*

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, the option for workers to relocate was a desirable characteristic of an occupation. During the pandemic, the ability to relocate to a different state became more urgent, especially across the licensed, healing arts professions. Licensed workers, however, are less likely than unlicensed workers with similar education to move to a new state because they may be required to complete additional educational or training requirements or pay costly fees. Further complicating matters are the varying licensure requirements across states that often impede multistate practice and delay licensees from working in their occupations upon relocation.

To address barriers to license portability and worker mobility, boards at the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) have worked to increase mobility opportunities via endorsement or reciprocity. When considering endorsement or reciprocity, Business and Professions Code section 139 should guide decisions. That is, all jurisdictions must adhere to national standards for assessing entry-level competence for licensure. The DCA Office of Professional Examination Services can assist boards who are evaluating states for opportunities of licensure portability.

Endorsement refers to the process of issuing a license to an applicant who holds a license in good standing in another jurisdiction without any additional examination, other than an examination on state law. Endorsement also means that the initial standards for licensure in both jurisdictions are equivalent.<sup>1</sup>

Reciprocity is typically an agreement between jurisdictions allowing workers from either jurisdiction to be recognized by the other without having to demonstrate professional competence.

To enable endorsement and reciprocity, jurisdictions must have comparable standards for entry into a profession. Those standards include education, training, examination, etc. Often used as a strategy to demonstrate comparability, national examinations can assess entry-level competence across jurisdictions. However, a national examination must adhere to professional guidelines and technical standards for regulatory testing.<sup>2</sup> If it does, a jurisdiction may use it to assess entry-level competence and be confident that pass/fail decisions are fair, valid, and legally defensible.

Jurisdictions should not lower standards to justify license portability. Lowering of standards can jeopardize public safety. Likewise, jurisdictions should not adopt higher standards simply to participate in a national program. Higher standards (i.e., above entry-level) could be exclusionary and susceptible to legal challenges.

Reciprocity is a national trend, especially where standards to practice are similar. The decision to pursue endorsement or reciprocity should be carefully considered both to prevent barriers to licensure and to maintain public protection. In conclusion,

“... by enhancing the ability of licensees to provide services in multiple states, and become licensed quickly upon relocation, license portability initiatives can benefit consumers by increasing competition, choice, and access to services, especially where providers are in short supply<sup>3</sup>.”

1 Schmidt, K., *Questions A Legislator Should Ask* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). (2018). Nicholasville, KY: Council on Licensure, Enforcement, and Regulation.

2 American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, and National Council on Measurement in Education, *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* (2014). Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

3 The Council of State Governments, *Promising Practices on Licensure Mobility* (2019). Lexington, KY: Author.



**Court Reporters Board of California - Disciplinary Actions** Current as of June 30, 2021

To find out whether a licensee has had disciplinary action, or to obtain further information on specific disciplinary action for a licensee listed below, please contact the Board office toll-free at 1-877-3-ASK-CRB (1-877-327-5272).

A disciplinary action is a formal proceeding that includes the basis for the action sought against the licensee. These disciplinary actions are held in front of an Administrative Law Judge and allow for attorney, testimony, and challenges as provided in the legal system. The Administrative Law Judge then issues a decision that the Board can accept, reject, or send back for additional information. In the case of a stipulated settlement, an agreement was reached before going in front of an Administrative Law Judge. Disciplinary cases can result in license suspension or revocation and/or a probationary status with conditions.

RESPONDENT NAME - COUNTY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	CHARGES
Priest, Wendy Los Angeles County	12722	Default Decision and Order; license revocation.	06/02/2021	CA Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2480 (d): Failure to comply with Citation.
Sebring, Jennifer Los Angeles County	13749	Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order; 3 years probation; \$1,453.75 cost recovery.	06/02/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025: Failure to notify Board of conviction.
Spee, Martin Los Angeles County	10303	Default Decision and Order; license revocation.	04/19/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (a) and 490, in conjunction with CA Code of Regulations, title 16, section 2470: Conviction of a crime.
Ryan, Sangeet Sacramento County	13520	Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order; Public reproof; \$2,938.75 cost recovery.	12/21/2020	Business and Professions Code section 8025 and 490: Conviction of a crime.

**Court Reporters Board Of California - Disciplinary Actions Pending** Current as of June 30, 2021

RESPONDENT NAME - COUNTY	LICENSE NO.	ACTION	EFFECTIVE DATE	CHARGES
Jetter, Caroline Ventura County	11568	Accusation	06/03/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Incompetence in the practice of shorthand reporting.

**Court Reporters Board of California - Citations and Fines Issued August 2020 - June 2021**

The Citations and Fines remain posted for one year from the date initially issued. To find out whether a specific licensee has ever been issued a Citation and Fine prior to the date shown, or to obtain further information on a specific Citation and Fine, please contact the Board office toll-free at 1-877-3-ASK-CRB (1-877-327-5272).

The following respondents' Citation and Fines that reflect "Satisfied" have been satisfactorily resolved. Payment of a fine is not an admission to the violation.

RESPONDENT NAME - COUNTY	LICENSE NO.	DATE ISSUED	VIOLATION	SATISFIED
Assad, Deana San Bernardino County	13309	05/13/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect. (late renewal)	Yes
Harris, Sharon Los Angeles County	9918	04/08/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d) and (e): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts... (failed to timely produce transcript)	Yes
Ruiz, Samantha Los Angeles County	14241	03/10/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d) and (e): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts... (failed to timely produce transcript)	Yes
Roldan, Kevin Riverside County	13463	03/01/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d) and (e): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts... (failed to produce transcript)	No
Challe, Karen Jackson, WY	8244	01/22/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Incompetence in practice... (errors in transcript)	Yes
Hilland, Donald Los Angeles County	11909	01/22/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts... (failed to timely produce transcript on appeal)	No
Ross, Shelette Alameda County	12362	01/12/2021	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Incompetence in practice... (multiple drops in stenographic notes)	Yes
Lauro, Monica Los Angeles County	11550	12/30/2020	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts... (failed to timely produce transcripts)	Yes
Nieves Borrego, Gidgette San Diego County	10142	09/03/2020	Business and Professions Code section 8025 (d): Incompetence in practice... (multiple drops in stenographic notes)	Yes

