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- HELP WANTED:

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- The Stenorella Strategy

Turning Trials into Triumphs with Resilience and Grit

- IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:
 Conference
 Highlights and
 Takeaways
- ▶ WELLNESS CORNER Vicarious Trauma & Mental Health:

The Silent Strain in Our Profession

And much more...



Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.



SAVE THE DATES

MEET AND GREET AVIATOR ROOFTOP

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February 7 - 14, 2026

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March 20 - 22, 2026

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The Buckeye Record

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OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

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COMMUNICATIONS/ THE BUCKEYE RECORD

Allison Kimmel, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI

CONTEST -

HAGESTROM CUP SPEED

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC and Kristin Wegryn, RMR, CRR

CONTEST - KAROSCIK REALTIME

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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STUDENT RELATIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Vacant - To Be Determined

OCRALIAISONS

SUPREME COURT LIAISON

Doug Bettis

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lance Boardman, RDR, CRR

REFLECT, EMPOWER, AND UNITE.

It's hard to believe it's already summer, and yet here we are—still buzzing with energy from our fantastic 2025 Annual Conference. The enthusiasm, professionalism, and sense of community on display was truly inspiring! We were jam-packed with interesting and informative seminars, and we had our usual small but mighty group of excellent vendors (see the conference recap in this issue). I think you'll agree the conference was a resounding success.

A few personal highlights for me included seeing so many familiar faces return, meeting new members for the first time, and, of course, the presence of my son and



daughter-in-law (Trevor and Rachel) at the business luncheon, whose support meant the world to me. I'd also like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to my longtime scopist, Becky Payne (a Celina girl), who was not only my behind-the-scenes rock for 30 years but also my friend. Both she and the inimitable Sandy Narup (I see you!) came all the way from Florida just to attend!

Our generous sponsors helped make this event possible, and I want to thank each and every one of them for their ongoing support. Your commitment to our profession does not go unnoticed.



Ohio Court Reporters Association

Real People. Real Quality. Realtime.

605 North High Street, PMB 298, Columbus, OH 43215 info@ocraonline.com | (614) 300-0906

If you got to stay for the gala on Saturday, I know you had a good time. The band, Thunder Creek, was the best! You can find them playing locally throughout Northeast Ohio.

In other news, the second weekend in June your OCRA Board gathered for a weekend retreat in Lakeview, Ohio (summer home of Sue Terry and her wonderful family). The setting was perfect for a highly productive meeting.

We discussed numerous items, but the most important outcome was the Board's decision to put forward a proposed bylaw amendment that would allow voice writers to join OCRA. This is a significant step in the spirit of inclusion and collaboration, and we look forward to engaging with the membership on this proposal in the months ahead.

Thank you all for the work you do, the passion you bring, and the dedication you show to our profession. Together, we continue to **REFLECT, EMPOWER,**

AND UNITE.

Warm regards,

Lance Boardman
President, OCRA

HEY, YOU! YEAH, YOU! DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MARCH 20 TO 22, 2026

2026 OCRA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Columbus Marriott Northwest
5605 Blazer Parkway



You can help to chart the way for OCRA and our entire profession here in Ohio. Each member within OCRA is unique. Every member has their own story and background.

What's your special talent? Do you have a niche?

Can you spare a few hours a month?

Not one person who volunteers has ever expressed regret for their contributions.

MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PROFESSION AND ASSOCIATION!

Contact OCRA today and fill out the Volunteer Form!

Dublin, Ohio 43017

MEET YOUR EXECS



PRESIDENT

Lance Boardman, RDR, CRR

I've been a court reporter for over 40 years, and in that time I've had the chance to serve on NCRA's Board of Directors and now on the board of the NCRA Foundation. But honestly, it's been my time with OCRA that has meant the most to me—thank you for letting me keep doing what I love with people I admire.

Currently, I am a Federal Official Court Reporter for the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Ohio. I've earned my RPR, RMR, RDR, and CRR certifications along the way, and I've stayed involved at both the state and national levels, including work with NCRA committees like Finance,

Policies & Procedures, Constitution & Bylaws, and the National Congress of State Associations.

This year, I'm excited (and honored!) to serve as your OCRA President. I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together!

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

After graduating from Bliss College in 1986, I began work as a freelance stenographic reporter in Columbus and have been self-employed for the past nine years.

I am in my sixth year serving on the OCRA Board. In addition to my board duties, I chair the Karoscik Realtime Contest and co-chair the Hagestrom Cup Speed Contest with Kristin Wegryn, after retiring my eligibility in 2023.

I periodically help with career fairs and outreach to promote our profession.

This year, I'm looking forward to attending NCRA's national convention in Minneapolis as a National Congress of State Associations (NCSA) representative for Ohio. I also plan to compete in the National Realtime Contest.



When not working, I enjoy traveling, gardening, and hiking. In addition to sharing a home with my husband of 38 years, I have four cats and periodically have foster cats/kittens to add to the chaos.



VICE PRESIDENT

Kim Falgiani, RDR, CRC, CRR, CSR (HI)

Summertime, I must admit, is my favorite time of the year. At the time of this writing, however, I am still waiting on that summertime weather.

My name is Kim Falgiani, and I live in Trumbull County. January marked 45 years for me in this profession, and I am still loving it. In October, John and I will celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We have three adult children and always a pet or two. Often, some live music is being played in the house.

A fact about me that I am not sure is a "fun fact," I have spanned about all positions as a court reporter: Official, freelance, business owner, broadcast

captioner, teacher, dabbled with voice writing, CART/Captioner, and now I am back as an Official in the first courtroom that I ever worked in the day after graduating from court reporting school. Full circle. I do still provide CART/Captioning for music and an occasional theater production. Old news, but still fun, I once was cast as a court reporter in "Hawaii Five-O" and "Magnum, P.I." in the same year. A combined couple of seconds of fun for me. Yes, they were filmed in Hawaii.

SECRETARY

Susan Ingraham, RPR

Susan Ingraham is a Registered Professional Reporter and skilled freelance stenographer with a wealth of experience in delivering precise and timely transcription services. Known for her attention to detail and commitment to accuracy, Susan has worked with a diverse range of clients, capturing essential information in depositions and in the courtroom. Passionate about her craft, she continually seeks to enhance her skills and knowledge in the field. Outside of her professional work, Susan enjoys exploring new writing techniques, reading, enjoying family and friends, and engaging with the reporting community through workshops and conferences. She is looking forward to her role as secretary of OCRA and serving Ohio reporters in this endeavor.



Susan is married to Jeff (retired common pleas judge). They have two daughters, and with their husbands are raising eight grandchildren - four in Ohio and four in New York. While not reporting, you can find her on a random Friday evening at the Sidecar Martini Bar in Celina, enjoying a Cosmo with her best friend and then later dinner with their husbands.:) Susan also serves at Rock City Church, Grand Lake campus, on Sunday mornings. She is living her best life in all aspects!



TREASURER

Janie Blair, RPR CRR

My name is Janie Blair, a freelance court reporter in Miamisburg, Ohio, for 34 years. This year I celebrated 31 years of owning my own business. I have been married 36 years.

I have been a freelance reporter my entire career. This has offered the flexibility that I've enjoyed, getting to spend more time with family. My daughters are now 32 and 29 years old. My oldest daughter, Cassilyn, helps with me with office work, keeping up with the scheduling of depositions and production of transcripts.

My maternal grandmother was also a businesswoman. She started her business in the attic of her house. It was a Masonic and Eastern Star business that grew over the years to a brick-and-mortar in Moraine, Ohio, called Kistler's Gifts, and she also had a national catalog of items to purchase. I always looked up to her. She started her business back in a day when women were home raising children.

My mom worked full time for her, and my sisters and I did remote work for her at our house, packaging items for sale. I grew up sailing and snow skiing with my dad and travelling nationally for sailing regattas. My dad was the skipper and we were his crew. I definitely have learned to enjoy nature and the outdoors, still spending time in nature camping, hiking, biking, playing pickleball, as well as sailing and snow skiing when I get the chance.

Growing up, my daughters loved going to my dad's place at Indian Lake. He had several sailboats, a pontoon, a sailboard, jet skis. They learned to sail there. He would even host sailing camps for all the kids in the family.

I grew up as more of tomboy with the outdoors. We learned to roof the house, assemble bikes, mow the yard, etc. I'm thankful for my upbringing. I feel it made me into the person I am now. I truly try to enjoy life and embrace the fun. Our Easter get-togethers with my adult children usually involve Nerf gun fights and coloring and hunting eggs. I refuse to grow up!

LET'S MAKE THIS AN AMAZING YEAR!



LOVE STENO?

JOIN THE OHIO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

Being an OCRA member offers a streamlined way to enhance your skills, build connections, and contribute to the growth and advocacy of the court reporting and captioning professions in Ohio.

Professional Development:

Access education events for skill enhancement.

Networking:

Connection with peers, legal professionals, and industry experts.

Advocacy:

Benefit from OCRA's active advocacy for court reporters and captioners at the state level.

Resource Access:

Enjoy exclusive resources and job listings.

Recognition:

Showcase your affiliation with OCRA for professional credibility.

Leadership Opportunities: Get involved in leadership roles within OCRA.

Community Service:

Participate in community outreach and service initiatives.

Continuing Education:

Earn credits required for certifications and licenses.

Job Placement Assistance:

Access job boards and career resources for employment opportunities.

Mentorship Programs:

Engage in mentorship for guidance and support.

Stay Informed:

Receive updates on industry news, events, and relevant information.

For more information contact us at 614.300.0906 or check us out at **OCRAonline.com**

SPEED REALTIME IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MATH?

by Lin Riffle, RDR, CRR, CRC

As I was putting everything together for the Hagestrom Cup Speed and Karoscik Realtime Contests this year, I thought wouldn't it be nice to have an Excel spreadsheet to make calculating percentages of accuracy and rankings easier? We could just input the number of errors as we graded and let the spreadsheet do the magic.

The first step was to enlist the help of my daughter, a spreadsheet whiz, to guide me, the Excel ignorant. I didn't know how to set up calculations other than summing a column, let alone making tables within a sheet.

We spent a couple of evenings via Zoom creating the accuracy percentage calculation columns for each leg of the contests which would then rank the contestants per leg. Next was the combined scores for the legs of each contest, including that "if" a contestant didn't qualify for one of the legs, "then" they would not be ranked in the overall score. The spreadsheet looked great. I entered some sample calculations, and everything mirrored what had previously been done manually.

Now we come to the plot twist and the reason for writing this article. Under contest rules, if a contestant does not qualify on all legs of a contest, they are not considered in the overall rankings. **BUT** Ohio has

40

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traditionally desired to have a First, Second, and Third Place winner in the Speed and Realtime contests.

GERA ROCKS

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In April, we had one contestant who qualified in all three legs of the Speed contest and one that qualified in two of the three legs. Easy! Contestant A was our First Place winner, and Contestant B would be awarded Second Place.

Here's where the formula failed. In looking at the overall percentages, the spreadsheet took Contestant A's three scores and averaged them, giving an overall accuracy percentage. With Contestant B still being considered, the overall accuracy percentage calculated by averaging Contestant B's

higher percentage than
Contestant A's overall score.
By strictly averaging the
available scores, it appeared as
if Contestant B was the overall
winner, which couldn't be the
case since they did not qualify
in the Q&A.

During the awards presentation, the percentage scores were omitted for the overall rankings so as to avoid any confusion.

This is another example of why a human brain always needs to double-check what formulas (or AI) are spewing out. I'll be scheduling another Zoom with my Excel teacher for some more "if/then" formulas before our 2026 contests.



Congratulations TO KELSEY REED!

ROSALIE STEVENS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

2025 RECIPIENT

DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED HOLIDAY GIFTS?

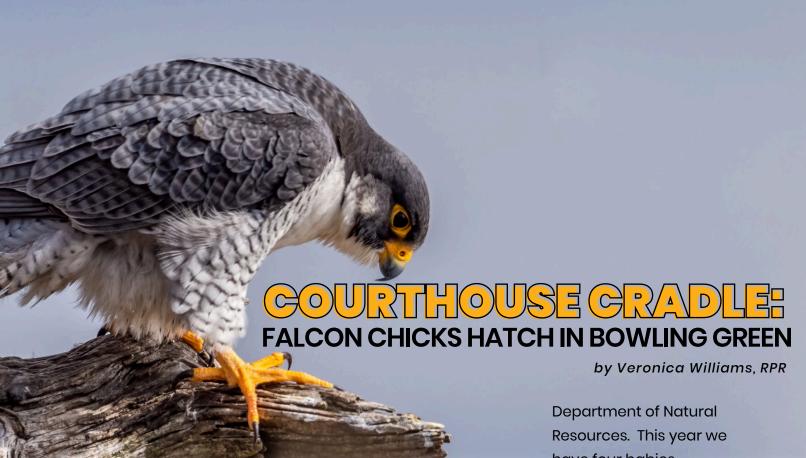
PERHAPS...
THEY ARE TAKING UP
TOO MUCH SPACE?

OR JUST MAYBE...
YOU'RE TOO NICE
TO SAY NO?

DONATE THEM
TO THE OCRA SILENT
AUCTION TODAY!

Don't worry. We won't say anything.





▼ QUICK FACTS ▼

Common Name: Peregrine Falcon

Scientific Name: Falco peregrinus

Type: **Birds** Carnivore Diet: **Average Life** Up to 17 yrs Span In The Wild:

Dive Speed: 200 mph Body: 14 to 19 in. Wingspan: 3.3 to 3.6 ft. Weight: 18.8 to 56.5 oz.

For the 15th consecutive year, a pair of peregrine falcons have returned to the Wood County Courthouse clock tower to lay their eggs. These magnificent birds of prey have been calling the courthouse their breeding ground for several years, and their presence has captivated locals and visitors alike.

The Falcon Cam is perched high atop the clock tower, which is designed to draw the birds back year after year. Peregrine falcons typically lay three to four eggs per season, which take roughly 33 days to hatch, according to the Ohio

have four babies.

During the nesting season, a live camera feed, that is made possible through a partnership with BGSU and the Wood County Commissioners, allows people to witness the falcons' behavior up close, from courtship rituals to hunting excursions and the care of their chicks. The camera provides a unique glimpse into the lives of these birds, showcasing their remarkable speed, agility, and parenting skills.

The Wood County Courthouse's Peregrine Falcon nesting site is a popular attraction, drawing bird



click <u>here</u> or go to <u>https://www.</u> <u>youtube.com/live/lgyMKro3LbQ</u>



LISA: When and why did you first want to be a court reporter?

JULIE: While in high school, I heard commercials on the radio and it sounded interesting.

LISA: Where did you attend college and earn your reporting degree?

JULIE: Clark Technical College in Springfield, OH. (Now known as Clark State)

LISA: How long have you been a member of NCRA and OCRA?

JULIE: For my entire career, always a member and happy to support both organizations!

LISA: Did you work somewhere else before you began your officialship?

JULIE: I was first a freelance reporter with Mike Mobley Reporting in Dayton when his firm first started, but I wasn't very busy. Then I freelanced with Ace Reporting in Cincinnati and did a case with daily copy work. After working at Ace, I was an independent contractor for a short time before receiving a position as an official.

LISA: When did you start that role as an official and where?

JULIE: I began in June of 1991 in federal court in the Southern District of Ohio at the Potter Stewart US
Courthouse in Cincinnati
as Judge Herman Weber's
reporter and was with
his chambers for 14 years.
In 2005, I moved to Judge
Susan J. Dlott and remained
her reporter until 2020.

At that time, I became
Judge Matthew W.
McFarland's reporter and
remained there. So I've
always been in the same
courthouse, but the court
reporters have changed
offices a few times.

I did cover some cases in Covington, KY, with Judge Weber, and I traveled with Judge McFarland and his staff to Akron, OH, to cover some proceedings there. I will have been at the courthouse for 34 years and a couple of weeks upon retirement and have a total reporting career of 42 years!

LISA: Did you ever get to go on a site visit for a case?

JULIE: Not with a jury, but we did make a site visit to a fitness club for one case.

LISA: What are your favorite things about court work?

JULIE: Following the whole story from start to finish is very interesting. I like coming to work in the same location every day and not traveling and lugging around all of my equipment. I love all of the workplace friendships.

Our Federal bench and Bar are some of the very best at what they do, and that makes our job much more enjoyable.

LISA: What is your most memorable trial or courthouse event?

JULIE: My favorite jury trial was several years ago and was a sexual harassment case. It was very much like watching a soap opera unfolding in the courtroom.

LISA: What was your most difficult assignment?

JULE: That is definitely a threemonth trial about the production and sale of valves. The witnesses were from a variety of countries who spoke very fast in fractured English, and it was a daily copy order too.

LISA: Do you have any funny stories from court?

JULIE: During a sentencing, Judge Dlott said she would agree to the request to recommend the defendant be placed in a facility in Hawaii, and the defendant's answer was to give a smile and a thumbs-up. It's also funny when people make up words and when people have unusual nicknames and aliases.

LISA: What do you think have been the biggest changes in court procedures, the courthouse itself, or the job overall?

JULIE: When I first began, we had many civil trials back to back, much more than criminal work. Now criminal proceedings are the majority of all of the

judges' dockets, which is disheartening. Internet access saves research time, but the internet has also given way to new criminal schemes. Our federal online docketing system helps in preparing to write and preparing transcripts. I was a major "writer-outer" in the beginning and for most of my career. Even "United States of America," which we hear almost every day, was several strokes for me. In the past five years or so, I've begun to brief much more.

LISA: And what are your favorite briefs?

JULIE: YUM for United States of America and SKRAIGS for incarceration.

LISA: Do you have a favorite OCRA memory?

JULIE: I really liked the selfdefense training seminar by Debbie Gardner. The locations of conferences are always very nice. I bought a pair of my favorite shoes one year while shopping in Easton.

LISA: Any advice for reporters thinking about becoming an official?

JULIE: As a student, go to an NCRA-approved program and then continue learning. I think being a federal official is a great goal for reporters because it's challenging and you learn about many topics while staying in one familiar setting. It can be overwhelming but not on an ongoing basis.

Get raised vowel keys!

LISA: What plans do you have for retirement?

JULIE: We'll be grandparents for the first time this fall, so that's the main event! We do have plans for some traveling. I will have more time for cross-stitching, quilting, and other crafty things.

LISA: Any final thoughts you care to share?

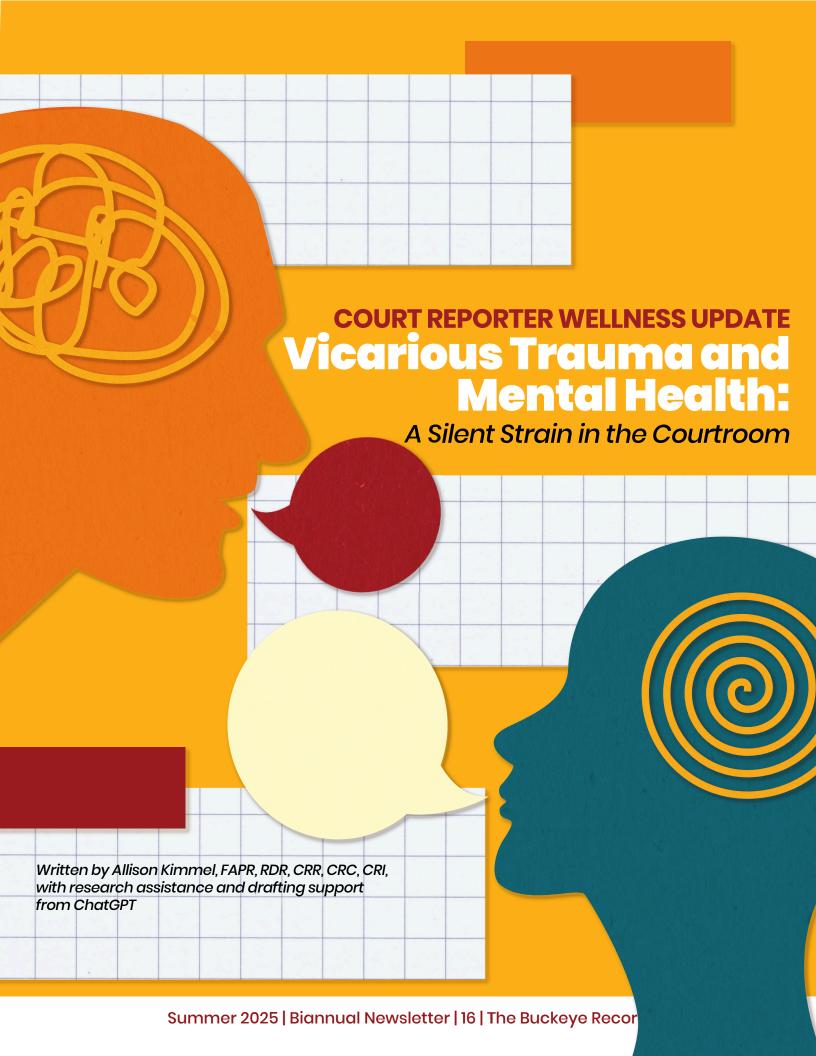
JULIE: I can't envision Al ever completely replacing certified verbatim reporters. I encourage speaking to students and other groups because by doing so, I feel that I may have persuaded some people to at least look into reporting. We have so much technology that assists us with our work, and my career has been so good to me that I couldn't have asked for more. It's a great job! I am very happy to have been hired at the point in my life that I was and to have had such longevity.

LISA: Any advice for achieving such a long career?

JULIE: Schedule vacations and personal time off whenever your judge is off or nothing is on the docket. Definitely recommend monthly medical massages!

LISA: Such a wonderful career! Best wishes in your next chapter!

Congratulations from all of us at the OCRA Team! Enjoy your retirement, Julie!



You hear everything. But who hears you?

As a court reporter, your job is to transcribe every word—but that means you're also exposed to every detail, no matter how distressing. Over time, this can lead to **vicarious trauma**, an often-overlooked mental health risk in our profession.

What Is Vicarious Trauma?

Vicarious trauma (VT) happens when someone absorbs the emotional experiences of others—especially trauma—by witnessing or hearing about them repeatedly. For court reporters, that means the cumulative weight of traumatic testimony, evidence, and legal arguments.

Symptoms to Watch For:

If you've been feeling VT might be the reason.

Common VT Signs:

- Emotional numbness or detachment
- Chronic fatigue or sleep issues
- Anxiety, sadness, or mood swings
- Difficulty concentrating
- Flashbacks or intrusive thoughts

Why Court Reporters Are Especially at Risk:

You're exposed to intense material—but expected to remain neutral. Unlike other professions, court reporters usually don't get training or support to handle trauma exposure. Add tight deadlines and accuracy demands, and stress can snowball.

How to Protect Your Mental Health:

- Recognize the Signs –
 Awareness is key
- Set Emotional Boundaries –
 Take breaks between heavy cases
- Talk to Someone –
 A colleague, counselor, or support group
- Practice Self-Care –
 Rest, move, eat well, and decompress daily
- Seek Professional Help –
 Therapy can help build resilience
- Advocate for Change –

Push for wellness resources in your workplace

Final Thought:

You're the keeper of the record—but your well-being matters just as much as the words you capture. It's time to start talking about the toll this work can take—and support each other in staying mentally strong.

Let's Start the Conversation!

Do you have tips, resources, or experiences to share?

NCRF is hosting Peer-to-Peer Support sessions via Zoom facilitated by certified peer support expert Bev Perez who specializes in peer support, grief, and leadership.

Sign up using this link found on the NCRA.org website:

https://www.ncra.org/home/

events-news/peer-topeer-support



AHOY THERE!

The quote on the top right is from an article on OCRA's website in "About Us" and "History." I would encourage all to read the interesting chronicle of this association.

During this year's Annual Conference, Sarah Vaught Derbin, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, our **Executive Director, presented** a session: From the Ground Up: Understanding Our Past to Preserve Our Future. Thank you, Sarah. Victoria (Tori) Pittman, BA, CVR-CM-M, RCP, RVR, and FAPR, RDR, CRR (Ret.) presented:

Thank you, Tori. Where am I going with this? "In short, we are all going to sink or swim together, and it's a lot more fun to swim."

Two Paths,

One Goal.

These two separate sessions by these reporters not only contained information on our history but also addressed the voice writing technology that is becoming a popular choice of method and a part of the future. That led me to look at the history of OCRA on our website as I now take on the role of Vice President.

Why is the history of OCRA important for the purposes of this article? For me, to capture an understanding of the changes endured throughout the decades.

One change that I've been a part of, but younger members may not realize, is that we used to be the Ohio Shorthand Reporters Association, OSRA. I am certain that as new methods of capturing the record came into popularity during our more thancentury existence, there was concerned distress among the methods that were being used at the time. The stenographic machine did replace the pen, or Gregg Shorthand, as the norm, and Gregg Shorthand had replaced the Pitman method as the norm.

When I accepted my first officialship, the other court reporter on staff was a pen writer, so I am not going back to times of scribes using symbols in mud, or even the Pitman method of the

early 1800s, but sticking to my timeline as a reporter.
We are now seeing voice writing accepted in all but five or six states in the U.S. and often viewed as a "new" method in many minds, but the technology was developed and used in the '40s, just some 60 years behind the stenographic machine.

I explored voice writing many years ago to continue in this field during an injury. I have been heard quipping that I would prefer one hand tied behind my back and use my steno machine rather than voice write after my experience, but take note, my end desire was to keep reporting. Let's keep live court reporters in the field. I know when to swim, and right now, we need to swim with the times, not sink.

As for me, I love my steno machine method after 45+ years as a professional, transitioning over the years from a manual paper steno machine to the newest computerized steno model, but let's embrace the human as the true guardian of the record and remain openminded on which of the two methods that are utilized as

we go forward, keeping in mind our history to preserve our future of the profession and keep OCRA viable for another 125 years.

*Note: At the time of this writing, membership of voice writers in stenographic associations is being debated at the national level and some state levels.

SOURCES:

History of the Ohio Court
Reporters Association:
http://www.ocraonline.com/aws/
OCRA/pt/sp/about_history





DON'T FORGET

February 7-14

2026

Court Reporting & Captioning Week



July 24-26, 2025

The Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, Minnesota

DON'T MISS OUT!



THE SUPREME COURT REPORT

Summary of Amendments to Rules 2025

by Doug Bettis, Supreme Court Liaison Amendments to the Supreme Court Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio (Rules 26 through 26.06) were adopted on March 13, 2025, and are effective as of April 1, 2025.

"Recordings of proceedings" means audio recordings, video recordings, and stenographic notes.

Recordings of proceedings in Municipal, Common Pleas, Domestic Relations, Juvenile and Probate Courts shall be retained for five years after the final judgment in the case, except for cases where the death penalty is imposed, which shall be retained permanently. If the death penalty is not imposed, the five-year retention rule applies.

Trial courts may record
their proceedings using a
stenographic/shorthand reporter,
audio, and video-recording
devices. Regardless of the
method of recording, a transcript
is required for the record on
appeal; a videotaped recording
of the trial court proceedings is
no longer adequate.

NOTE: In death penalty cases, a stenographic reporter has always been required.

Most courts have a records retention policy in their local rules. Always double-check with your court and their rules on record retention.

LINKS TO NEW RULES BELOW:

Ohio Rules of Appellate Procedure

Rules of
Superintendence
for the Courts of Ohio

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A FUTURE IN

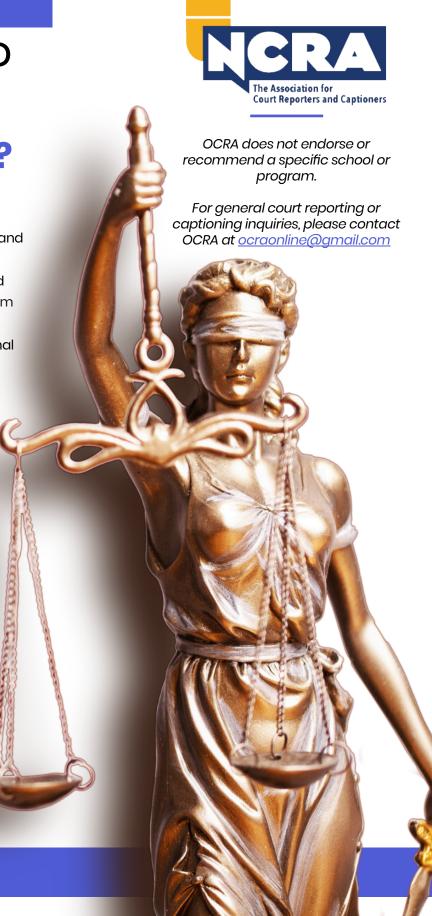
CAPTIONING & COURT REPORTING?

The court reporting and captioning programs offered at the institutions listed on the National Court Reporters Association's Approved Schools and Programs site are committed to excellence in realtime reporting and captioning education and have met the General Requirements and Minimum Standards (GRMS) established by the Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) of the National Court Reporters Association, earning the right to describe themselves as NCRA-approved.

In order to achieve and maintain certification, these programs agree to periodic review by CASE to verify their continued adherence to the GRMS. NCRA is not an accrediting agency; however, all NCRA-approved court reporting programs are accredited by agencies recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

Each institution's transfer of credit policy is governed by the standards of the particular agency accrediting that institution. Individual State Departments of Education can be found <a href="https://example.com/here.c

NCRA - APPROVED
SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS





professional policy statements,

travel and other blogging, and

eight fiction books.

CHERIE: Howdy, Jason!
Thanks again for agreeing to
answer some questions about
yourself and court reporting
for the Ohio Court Reporters
Association's magazine,
The Buckeye Record.

How did you hear about and get started with court reporting?

JASON:

The short version:

I was assigned to it.

The longer version:
I was assigned to Legal Services
School out of Marine Corps Boot
Camp, did well, went to the
Court Reporting School to learn
the Stenomask, did well, and
learned how to read steno
notes during my time of
military reporting.

Once I got my honorable discharge from the Marines, I went to steno school in Denver, got a job after that, and have been employed as a steno machine reporter ever since.

CHERIE: When did you start international reporting?

JASON: 2012. The agency supplying reporters for Korean depos in Apple v. Samsung was running out of reporters, and my dear friend and renowned international reporter Lisa Knight recommended that they send me. That started me down this incredibly lucky path.

CHERIE: How do you get your assignments internationally?

enough that the agency kept calling. Then I met other reporters working for other agencies, and they'd refer me to those others. That went on for about 13 years, and now I'm in an employment contract to live in Seoul and cover Asian work.

CHERIE: What are the unique challenges you face in your current job, and how do you resolve them?

JASON: Everything is realtimed and quick drafts.
You stay mindful of equipment.

The language barrier can be tough, particularly in just getting around to jobs and getting what you need for life. That's met with patience and determination to get it done and give yourself plenty of time to do it.

The clients are over here to work, so late nights and working through both American and Korean holidays can be the norm. It's understandable, but it dooms the resident reporter (me) to a life of overtime. Communication is

the key to let the hiring firm set reasonable expectations with the client and your own workload.

Fortunately, my employer is receptive, understanding, and accommodating in helping to achieve a healthy balance.

CHERIE: What technology has been helpful for you in the past and what tech is helpful now?

JASON: Well, realtime, obviously, going from netbooks and proprietary hardware to tablets and wifi with Internet streaming. The equipment that I carry around now is one-fifth the mass of what it used to be, and it gets the job done better and more easily.

cherie: Have you seen or heard about new technology that may be coming out soon that you think will be an asset to reporters (since you are in Samsung territory, which is on the cutting edge of these sorts of things)?

JASON: A great question, but I have not. I can't talk about cases that I've taken, but I haven't heard anything yet to think, "Hey, I can see where that would have application to my work."

The big thing that's helped me here in Asia is translation apps.
I realize where that conversation might lead, but they're a LONG

way, to my view, of replacing interpreters and reporters.

CHERIE: What are some of the rules to be aware of when being an international reporter?

JASON:

Always keep a signed passport that has at least six months before expiry.

Check on visa requirements, if any. They can change from your last trip.

Have a 220-v charger for your machine. You don't want to fry that thing's motherboard. Or if your machine charges through the USB, use that and don't plug it in at all.

Checklist for your equipment. It's better to have too much than not enough. Anything with a lithium-ion battery must be carry-on.

Plenty of time on connections and flight times. Flight delays happen, and especially if you have a checked bag and need to pick it up and re-check (which is why I'm almost always carry-on only). Utmost importance: Be prepared, be flexible, and get through the barriers like you know how, even if you're making it up as you go.

CHERIE: How do you get your equipment to your destinations safely?

JASON: Tablets have made portage so much easier.
The equipment that I need for my job is in my carry-on or personal bag, and that all goes with me everywhere.

CHERIE: What are the legal systems like in other countries, and how much do they use court reporters?

JASON:

The big ones for me so far are:

Mainland China: no depos allowed, period.

Japan and Germany, depos allowed at embassies or consulates only.

England, where local stenographers can provide the service, so legal restrictions apply to Americans coming in.

And by "legal restrictions" I mean, "Likely, you can't."

Those are for depositions.

Arbitrations, court, and captioning are other matters where those restrictions might not apply and where other opportunities might abound, but my work has been restricted almost entirely to depositions.

CHERIE: Do you provide realtime feeds to attorneys regularly?

JASON: Virtually every time.
There have been a few isolated instances in Central and South America where it hasn't been necessary, but otherwise, every time. It's especially helpful for the interpreters, especially Asian interpreters, where the language concepts vary so greatly from English.

CHERIE: What are some unique language challenges for you or that you have seen with others?

JASON: Transportation.

Taxi and rideshare apps have been a cultural shift to the positive for this.

Currency.

\$1 USD might be 1400 Korean won, or 150 yen, or 30 Taiwan dollars, or 7 Hong Kong dollars, or 500 Kazakh tenge.

It's dizzying.

Cash is king, of course, and go ahead and get some (but I have spent entire trips to South Korea and Taiwan without ever needing cash). But you tend to just pull out the plastic, hope that it gets accepted, and live with the results that show up on the statement.

Ordering food. If you're not adventurous or if you're picky, you might end up hungry.

CHERIE: What kind of new or adventurous foods have you tried that were great or terrible?

JASON: India gave me the best and worst food experiences.
The food at the hotel and nice restaurants were make-me-melt tasty.

The meal at the food court in the mall was not so great and gave me "Dehli belly" on the trip home, and I'd rather not talk about it.

Nigerian food was heavily seasoned.



Asian food is great. Korean food can be spicy.

I've had some great meals, and a few letdowns, just pointing to

a spot on a menu that I can't read and gesturing, "Bring me this."

CHERIE: Have you made some good friendships over the years because of this job?

JASON: Yes, some of the best ever, reporters, interpreters, and general business people along the way.

CHERIE: How has tech over the years helped you to keep in touch and communicate with family, friends, and clients?

JASON: Wifi calling from another country. Video calls, again over wifi. Email, messaging apps. The world is a lot smaller in terms of communication than ever before.

CHERIE: How do you deal with jet lag so you can make a good record?

JASON: Another great question. I've stayed away from chemical sleep aids, so I can't comment on them. I've found two things about me:

I can strategize how to avoid/catch up on sleep all I want, but I will still wake up, wide awake, at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. for the first few nights, regardless of how tired or rested I am or when I went to bed.

Realtime is a great stimulant.

When you're dying a thousand deaths with every misstroke, it tends to keep your attention focused through the fatigue.

CHERIE: How many outlet adaptors does an international reporter really need?

JASON: I generally carry three or four and generally use one or two. Really, if you use one for your (220-v capable) power strip(s), that might be all you need. But you can be a hero to your clients if you have extra to help them out.

Also: Universal USB cables with multiple connections for micro-USB, Apple, or USB-C.

CHERIE: Tell us some of your memorable stories from working in the field.



JASON: The time I had a two-day job in Seoul, so I packed

three shirts. Then got messaged for an additional three days in Seoul, then two days immediately after in Taiwan (which was its own story), then two weeks after that in Guam. So that made for lots of hotel sink laundry.

But in Guam, I swam in a tropical lagoon at midnight under a full moon. So that's pretty cool.

The time I got hired for work in Kazakhstan, flew east to get there, then got messaged for work in Taiwan, then Hong Kong, so flew east for those, and then home. So that jaunt resulted in a global circumnavigation.

The time in India where my situational awareness kept a guy from forcing himself right into my room behind me.

Going out with armed escorts in Nigeria and then also being treated by our hosts to some lavish food in a lovely setting.

Cancellation of a two-week job due to volcano, but I had to stay anyway. No planes flying through that.

So many experiences. I am a lucky person.

CHERIE: Tell us your favorite places to visit and go sightseeing. Where are the hidden gems of traveling?



Keep in mind that these are usually working trips. A downside to international work is that sightseeing is often not a part of the experience.

The DMZ in South Korea is enlightening and sobering.

Sharing a table with strangers for dim sum in Hong Kong and not understanding a word of the conversation, but the cultural experience was great.

The beach restaurant in Nigeria. In shabby and ramshackle surroundings, the service and food were spectacular.

Downtown Quito, Ecuador. Lovely and compelling. I wish I'd had time for an equatorial or Galapagos side trip, but not for that assignment.

CHERIE: I really do appreciate your time and am so excited to hear back from you.

JASON: I hope I helped, and thank you again for the opportunity!





The Ohio Court Reporters Association
(OCRA) is proud to announce that three of its
distinguished members have been appointed as
Trustees of the National Court Reporters
Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the
National Court Reporters Association (NCRA).

Janine Ferren, RMR, CRR, a freelance court reporter, currently resides in Indiana; Amie First, RDR, CRR, CRC, CPE, formerly of Minerva, Ohio, and now a federal reporter in Orlando, Florida; and Yolanda L. Walton, FAPR, RPR, an official reporter based in Norwalk, Ohio, have all been selected to serve as Trustees. Each will begin a three-year term commencing at the NCRA Annual Conference in Minneapolis commencing July 24, 2025. They will join OCRA President Lance Boardman, RDR, CRR, who is in his second year serving on the NCRF Board

of Trustees. Their collective service highlights the exceptional leadership and ongoing commitment of OCRA members to the advancement of the court reporting and captioning professions on a national level.

NCRF supports the profession through scholarships, research, public awareness initiatives, and programs such as the Oral Histories Project and Legal Education Program. The addition of these OCRA members to the Foundation's leadership further strengthens Ohio's impact in shaping the future of court reporting.

OCRA congratulates Janine, Amie, and Yolanda on their appointments and extends its appreciation to all four members for their dedication and service.





After presenting at the 2024 OCRA Conference,

I realized that my journey as a court reporter mirrored the resilience and transformation of Cinderella herself.

That's when I created Lady
Stenorella—not as a persona
exclusive to women, but as a
mindset that embodies
perseverance, self-belief, and the
unwavering determination to rise
above challenges. This strategy is
for all court reporters—male and

female—who refuse to let obstacles define them and instead shape their success through grit and resilience.

The Stenorella Mindset

embraces the journey, for it shapes our destiny. Each challenge, each moment of doubt, and each triumph contribute to shaping the path ahead.

Our journey as court reporters is not just about achieving

technical excellence; it's about embracing growth and transformation along the way.

When I first introduced

A Stenorella Mindset at our

Spring Conference, I never imagined how deeply it would resonate with fellow court reporters. The parallels between Cinderella's journey and our own—the perseverance, self-belief, and resilience—proved to be more than just an inspiring metaphor; they were qualities we

all recognized in ourselves. The feedback I received reaffirmed that our profession demands more than technical skills. It requires an unwavering determination to rise above obstacles and claim our success.

"THE GREATEST RISK ANY OF US WILL TAKE IS TO BE SEEN AS WE ARE."

That's why I created *The*Stenorella Strategy, a practical roadmap for transforming challenges into opportunities.

This strategy isn't just about surviving in the industry, it's about thriving by embracing our resilience, adaptability, and professionalism.

DEFINING YOUR OWN STENORELLA MINDSET

Success in court reporting isn't merely about mastering stenography; it's about cultivating the inner strength to keep pushing forward.
Our daily work is filled with hurdles—demanding schedules, technological shifts, and moments of doubt.
But what separates those who thrive from those who struggle is the mindset we choose to adopt.

Think back to a moment when you faced rejection or uncertainty. Maybe it was a test you thought you'd never pass, a difficult deposition that tested your patience, or an unexpected setback in your career. How did you navigate that challenge? What strengths carried you through?

As we say in the **Stenorella** Mindset, "In the face of adversity, they found their strength." This reflection is the foundation of The Stenorella Strategy acknowledging our obstacles, identifying the resilience we already possess, and defining the qualities we want to strengthen for future success. When we choose to persevere despite difficulties, we discover an inner strength we never knew existed. Overcoming setbacks is not just about surviving it's about emerging stronger, wiser, and more determined.

CREATING YOUR ** PERSONAL STENORELLA STRATEGY

The beauty of *The Stenorella*Strategy is its adaptability. Each of us faces unique challenges, yet the principles remain the same:

RECOGNIZE YOUR STRENGTHS-

Identify the qualities that carried you through adversity—whether it's patience, adaptability, or unwavering focus.

DEFINE YOUR VISION -

Set an intention for how you want to approach challenges going forward.

Will you commit to optimism, professionalism, or self-belief?

Dr. Mae Jemison said it best: "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

TAKE ACTION -

Determine concrete steps you can take daily to embody these qualities.

Maybe it's refining your skills, seeking mentorship, or simply reminding yourself of your worth.

Adopt the Stenorella mantra, "They turned their can'ts into cans and their dreams into plans."

COMMIT TO GROWTH -

Transformation happens through consistency.

Write down one commitment to yourself—whether it's embracing gratitude, setting professional goals, or choosing resilience in difficult moments.

As Cinderella's Fairy Godmother reminds us, "Even miracles take a little time."

THRIVING IN THE COURT REPORTING PROFESSION

Strategy, court reporters can shift their perspective from merely enduring challenges to using them as steppingstones toward success. In an industry where precision meets perseverance, adopting this mindset ensures that we not only continue to excel but also uplift and inspire those around us.

As Lady Stenorella, I've learned that court reporting is more than a skill; it's a testament to perseverance. I invite you to craft your own Stenorella Strategy, to rise when challenges seem insurmountable, and to embrace your strengths with unwavering confidence.

When we refuse to let obstacles define us, we create a legacy of resilience, excellence, and transformation. And that—more than anything—is the true magic of this profession.

So, I leave you with this challenge:

What will your Stenorella Strategy be?

How will you embody resilience and determination in your career?

"The greatest risk any of us will take is to be seen as we are."

The journey is yours to define—so step forward with confidence and claim







SUSAN L. COOTS, RPR

2025 GLENN W. STILES, JR. DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

DOUGLAS R. ACKERMAN, FAPR, RPR (RET.)

2025 OCRA HONORARY MEMBER

JAMES A. MILLER

2025 SPECIAL AWARD

DOUGLAS C. BETTIS

2025 LEGISLATIVE AWARD





I*SO* wish I could be there and tried to find a way to make that trip happen – I *LOVE* attending OCRA and I would love to see my teachers in person as well as all of the friends I've made, but in addition to my more-thanfull time job with Stenograph and going to school and practicing, my husband is recovering from rotator cuff repair surgery and simultaneously trying to deal with the details following his mother's passing.

If I were able to be there in person, I would tell the entire

OCRA board my story and why this is so huge for me, and why I'm so incredibly grateful for this scholarship.

When I first started attending my programs at Clark State College and Stark State College, I did so as part of an "Individual Development Plan," a human-resources department activity designed to encourage employees at Stenograph to improve themselves in ways that will be beneficial for both the employee and employer.

My steno education has benefited both me and

Stenograph, because the empathy I've gained by experiencing this process firsthand have resulted in a) my ability to train better, create better sample files, and communicate better with reporters, scopists, and students who are using Stenograph products, but also b) by using that experience to educate internally at Stenograph. Having my experience as student makes me a resource that employees in tech support, customer care, sales, development, etc. can use; my education enables anyone I interact with in the company to better understand their customer base and helps them to improve results for everyone who is using our software products.

However, increasing my speed has more value to me, personally, than it does for my employer.

They've achieved the results they wanted from me having this experience. Me achieving more does not directly aid them, and it would not be reasonable for me to expect them to continue to cover my education costs, as they have for my first two semesters.

I was in the process of figuring out how I would be able to cover the costs to continue my education. Even with breaks I get from being a senior citizen student who is "auditing" my courses, the out-of-state costs and additional fees for attendance might have put this endeavor out of reach. When I received OCRA's letter, I was thrilled to learn that I was not yet at the point where I had to stop my journey.

This scholarship means the world to me. I've just passed my first round of literary, jury charge and testimony tests at 60 wpm and I'm now working on 80 wpm (and therefore practicing at 100 wpm). I've been involved in this

profession most of my life, and I've spent over 35 years trying to make it better, and to make it easier for those performing this job to be able to do it well, and efficiently, and still have a life outside of it.

While most people my age are thinking about slowing down and enjoying retirement, I'm pushing as hard as I can to keep going because I love this profession. It's possible that my efforts will result in starting over in an entirely new role. It's also possible that I'll crash and burn because at 61 going on 62, I honestly don't know if I've got the stamina!

But I'm going to give it my best and my all, and OCRA's generosity is what's going to make the next stage possible.

So please convey my thanks to all!

Way To Go! We're rooting for you, Cindi, from all of us at the OCRA Family!



CONTESTS RESULTS 2025

2025 KAROSCIK REALTIME CONTEST RESULTS

- KRISTIN WEGRYN, RMR, CRR -

1st place - Kristin Wegryn, RMR, CRR
2nd place - B. Lynn Els - RMR, CRR, CRC
3rd place - Tammy McGhee - RMR, CRR, CRC

2025 KAROSCIK REALTIME CONTEST INDIVIDUAL LEG RESULTS

Literary: 200 Words Per Minute

B. Lyn Els	-26	97.40%
Tammy McGhee	-40	96.00%
Kristin Wegryn	-43	95.70%
Sue Trischan	-50	95.00%

Testimony (Two Voice): 225 Words Per Minute

Kristin Wegryn	-33	97.07%
Lance Boardman	-46	95.91%

2025 HAGESTROM CUP SPEED CONTEST RESULTS

- AMY DOMAN, RDR, CRR, CSR -

1st place - Amy Doman, RDR, CRR, CSR 2nd place - Tim Meinke, RMR, CRR

2025 HAGESTROM CUP SPEED CONTEST INDIVIDUAL LEG RESULTS

Literary: 220 Words Per Minute

Tim Meinke	-52	95.27%
Amy Doman	-57	94.81%

Legal Opinion: 230 Words Per Minute

Amy Doman	-43	96.26%
Tim Meinke	-54	95.30%

Legal Opinion: 230 Words Per Minute

Amy Doman -63	95.50%
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR CONTESTANTS,
QUALIFIERS, GRADERS, AND EVERYONE
WHO MAKES OUR CONTESTS POSSIBLE
EACH YEAR!

CONGRATULATIONS, EVERYONE!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT YEAR'S RESULTS!

REMEMBER: PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

2025 KAROSCIK REALTIME WINNER



2025 HAGESTROM CUP SPEED WINNER

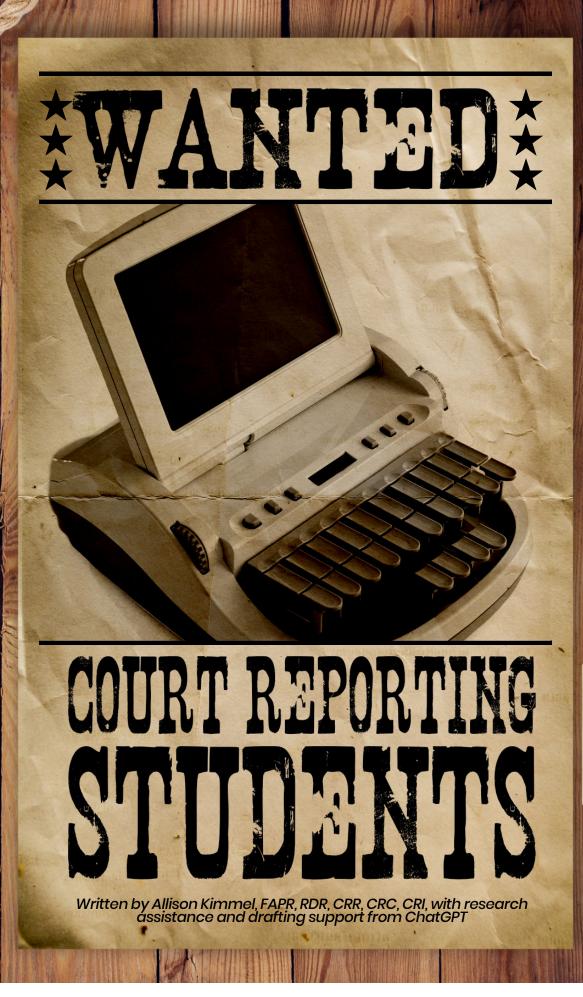


2025 KAROSCIK REALTIME MEDALISTS AND QUALIFIERS



2025 HAGESTROM CUP SPEED MEDALISTS AND QUALIFIERS





As the court reporting profession faces a critical shortage, there's no better advocate for the future of the field than you—the working reporter. As experienced reporters, you are in a unique position to help shape the future of our profession.

Here are impactful ways you can help spark student interest:

1. SPEAK AT SCHOOLS AND CAREER FAIRS

Many students are unaware that court reporting is a dynamic, rewarding career. By visiting classrooms or participating in career fairs, you can open their eyes to a path they may never have considered.

TIP: Reach out to local high schools, vocational programs, and community colleges.

Offer to present at career day or during a law/business class.

A real-life perspective makes a lasting impression.

2. BE A MENTOR

Students often need encouragement and direction. By mentoring someone who is exploring the profession, you can provide support, resources, and motivation to help them succeed.

Remember how valuable guidance was when you were starting out? Offering your time to a student—whether for a call, email Q&A, or shadow day—can keep them motivated and on track.

TRY THIS:

Join the NCRA mentorship group or offer to connect with students in one of Ohio's steno programs, i.e., Clark State, Stark State, Tri-C.

3. SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

What you do is fascinating—and people love behind-the-scenes content. Use your platform to show your steno machine, a "day in the life," or even your captioning setup.

Hashtags to use:

#StenoLife

#CourtReportingMatters

#FutureCourtReporter

#StenoStrong #RealTimeReporter

4. PROMOTE THE NCRA "A TO Z" PROGRAM

This free intro course gives curious students a no-pressure way to try out machine shorthand.

It's a no-cost, low-commitment way to test the waters.

Many successful reporters started there!

ACTION:

Recommend the program to anyone who asks about your career. Keep a few flyers handy for events or casual conversations.

5. OFFER SHADOWING OPPORTUNITIES

Nothing compares to seeing court reporting in action.
Invite students or curious individuals to observe you in court or during a captioning session (with permission).
Seeing your work live can be the hook that turns interest into action.

MAKE IT MEANINGFUL:

Provide a short Q&A after the observation to answer questions and share how you got started.

REMEMBER! YOUR STORY CAN SPARK A CAREER

Whether it's through mentoring, speaking, or simply sharing your experience, your influence can guide someone toward a successful future in court reporting.

The profession is evolving and your voice can help ensure it thrives for generations to come. If every reporter inspires just one student, we can start turning the tide.

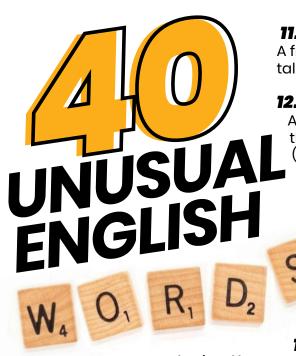
HAVE A STORY OF HOW YOU RECRUITED A FUTURE REPORTER?

We'd love to feature it in our next issue!
Email us at
ocraonline@gmail.com









Submitted by members of the OCRA

1. AGOG -

Very eager or curious to hear or see something.

2. BUMFUZZLE-

To confuse or fluster.

3. CACOPHONY-

A harsh, discordant mixture of sounds.

4. CALLIPYGIAN-

Having well-shaped buttocks.

5. CATTYWAMPUS-

Askew or awry.

6. COLLYWOBBLES-

A feeling of anxiety or an upset stomach.

7. DEFENESTRATION -

The act of throwing someone out of a window.

8. DISCOMBOBULATE-

To confuse or disconcert.

9. DOODLE SACK -

An old word for a bagpipe.

10. ERF-

A plot of land in a town.

11. FLIBBERTIGIBBET -

A frivolous, flighty, or excessively talkative person.

12. GARDYLOO-

A warning shouted before throwing waste from above (historical).

13. GOBBLEDYGOOK-

Language that is meaningless or hard to understand.

14. HULLABALOO -

A commontion or fuss.

15. IMPIGNORATE -

To pawn or mortgage something.

16. JIGGERY-POKERY-

Deceitful or dishonest behavior.

17. KERFUFFLE -

A commotion or fuss.

18. LIMERENCE -

To state of being infatuated with another person.

19. LOLLYGAG -

To dawdle or be slow.

20. MALARKEY -

Nonsense.

21. MUMPSIMUS -

A stubborn person who keeps making a known mistake.

22. NUDIUSTERTIAN-

Relating to the day before yesterday.

23. OXTER - An armpit.

24. PANDICULATION -

The act of stretching and yawning.

25. PETTIFOGGER -

A lawyer who handles petty

cases, often disreputably.

26. QUIRE -

Two dozen sheets of paper.

27. RATOON -

A small shoot growing from the root of a plant.

28. SIALOQUENT -

Spitting while speaking.

29. SKEDADDLE -

To run away quickly.

30. SNOLLYGOSTER -

A shrewd, unprincipled person.

31. SUSURRUS-

Whispering, murmuring, or rustling.

32. TITTYNOPE-

A small quantity of something left over.

33. ULOTRICHOUS -

Having woolly or tightly curled hair.

34. ULTRACREPIDARIAN -

Someone who speaks on things they don't understand.

35. WAMBLE-

Stomach rumbling or a feeling of nausea.

36. WIDDERSHINS -

Counterclockwise or in the wrong direction.

37. XERTZ -

To gulp down something quickly and greedily.

38. YCLEPT-

Named or called.

39. ZUGZWANG -

A situation in chess where every possible move is a bad one.

40. ZENZIZENZIZENZIC -

The eighth power of a number.

Congratulations TO CINDILYNCH!

— SUE TERRY SCHOLARSHIP 2025 RECIPIENT ——



ANNUAL CONFERENCE SILENT AUCTION REPORT

This year's Silent Auction was a great success!

The net income generated exceeded our goal along with an over \$500 increase from last year!

Thank you to all who participated, whether as a donator, bidder, or a volunteer in setting things up.

We hope to next year have a more streamlined process for processing items to help reduce the time commitment of volunteers.

Thank you to the following individuals who generously donated items:

Allison Kimmel Beth Higgins Doug and Sandy

Ackerman

Doug Bettis

Erin Lydy

Anonymous

(Friend of OCRA)

Greg Mizanin

Janie Blair

Kelly Linkowski

Lin Riffle

Marie Fresch

Melissa Pena

Sandy Narup

Sara Clark

Sarah Vaught Derbin

Susan Coots

Tori Pittman

Yolanda Walton

Lance Boardman

Many organizations and businesses graciously donated items and gift certificates; please keep them in mind when considering future purchases and planning family/friend events:

Thank you to the following businesses who generously donated items:

Ohio Court Reporters Association

National Court Reporters Association

Cleveland Monsters

Akron Rubber Ducks

Cincinnati Reds

Cleveland Cavaliers

Dayton Dragons

National Museum of the Great Lakes -

Toledo

Panera Bread

Pittsburgh Steelers

Renaissance Hotel (Polaris)

Shadowbox Live

Snow Trails

University of Toledo

Department of Athletics

Tecumseh Drama

Imagination Station

Stenograph/

Todd Schludt

Touchstone Crystal/ Erin Lydy

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU? EDUCATION! INFORMATION! POWER! CONNECTIONS! AND SO MUCH MORE!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

READY TO RENEW OR JOIN RIGHT NOW?

You may either use our secure server online or download a membership application and mail it to the address indicated.

PROFESSIONAL, ASSOCIATE, AND RETIRED MEMBERS

ARE YOU A FIRST-YEAR REPORTER OR CAPTIONER?

Use the online student membership renewal and choose the first-year reporter option for a discounted membership rate just for you!

Email info@ocraonline.com for more information or assistance.

Online STUDENT
Membership
Application and/or
Renewal

Online RENEWAL
Membership for
Professional or
Associate or Retired
Members

Online NEW Membership
Application for
Professional or
Associate or Retired
Members

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR ASSOCIATION RIGHT HERE AT HOME!



By harnessing the power of briefs, court reporters transform complex phrases into lightning-fast outlines. One of the most satisfying skills in your stenographic arsenal?

Creating elegant, efficient briefs — especially

for repeat-heavy legal phrasing such as "an opportunity to."

Let's break down how to create and expand on the brief AO* for "an opportunity to," and then take it further with magical extensions worthy of any reporting wizard.

Here's a small sample you may want to add to your repertoire:

Why AO*?

It captures the vowel-heavy "an opp-" sound right at the start. It's smooth, steno-logical, and just one stroke. This brief can save you hundreds of strokes.

The core brief AO* for "an opportunity to."

Once you've mastered the core brief, you can create powerful extensions using final letters or phonemes of common verbs.

Keep up with the latest news.
Check us out at
StenoWizard.Blogspot.com

		37
PHRASE	BRIEF	EXPLANATION
an opportunity to be	AO*B	Add "B" for "be"
an opportunity to do	AO*D	Add "D" for "do"
an opportunity to go	AO*G	Add "G" for "go"
an opportunity to have	AO*F	Add "F" for "have"
an opportunity to know	AO*N	Add "N" for "know"
an opportunity to explain	AO*FPL	Add "X" for "explain"
an opportunity to tell us	AO*TS	Add "TS" for "tell us"
an opportunity to figure out	AO*FGT	Add "FGT" for "figure out"

There's many more...





Pro Tip: Keep your briefs intuitive. If you have to stop and think too hard, the magic fizzles. Aim for one-stroke, muscle-memory-ready outlines.





MEETYOUR DIRECTORS

MEET DIRECTOR CHERIE RUSSELL

Hey You!

I've been a court reporter for 24 years. Almost a quarter of a century! I've worked in Pennsylvania and Ohio doing officialships and freelancing. I have three grown boys, ages 23, soon to be 21, and 19. Just those two things alone, reporting for that long and surviving being a boy mom, have given me enough story fuel that I could probably do standup comedy.

I love K-pop and K-dramas (thanks, Netflix), and now can't ever go back to regular TV. My all-time favorite drama series is Goblin (aka Dokkaebi) because Gong Yoo is my favorite actor; and of course a show about how a K-goblin, a grim reaper, and a girl who sees ghosts have to band together and fight the forces of evil would be the best storyline ever.

This is my first year of being on a board for anything, and I'm looking forward to navigating the proverbial waters well and helping to carry on the stellar reputation of OCRA.

I'm also going to this year's NCRA conference in Minneapolis, so if you need a buddy to talk to and hang out with while there, I'm your "Girl Friday."

It's going to be a great year, I can tell.



MEET DIRECTOR MARTY HYLAND

Howdy!

Marty Hyland has served for a couple of years as the director and has volunteered to serve as the director this year as well.

Marty works at Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas in Cincinnati. Ohio.

Marty attended Campbell
Commercial College. Marty is
a mother of three sons.



MEET DIRECTOR DONNALEE COTONE

Greetings from the CLE!

To introduce myself, my name is Donnalee Cotone, and after a brief hiatus, I am coming back to serve as a Director on the Board of OCRA. I began reporting in 1987 as a freelance reporter with a couple firms, and then I started my own business in 2013, Realtime Worldwide.

In February of 2017, I was fortunate enough to start with the U.S. District Court as a federal court reporter where I am currently employed. In fact, our current OCRA president, Lance Boardman, and I started with the Federal Court on the same day.

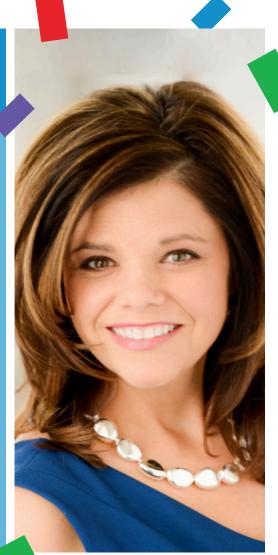
And we all know how kind Lance is, so it will not surprise you to learn he gave me first dibs on choosing an office space.

One of my favorite tasks of being on the OCRA board is planning our Meet and Greet events.

I enjoy getting together with my colleagues and chillin'.

So please mark your calendars and plan on meeting up at the Aviator Rooftop on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.

This is a fantastic way to kick off the Labor Day weekend. Details to follow. I hope everyone has a very relaxing summer.



MEET DIRECTOR VERONICA WILLIAMS

Hello, Court Reporters!

I'm in my 22nd year as a court reporter with 10 years of freelance and 12 years as an official. I love my job and am so proud of the work that we do.

My husband and I live in Maumee, Ohio, with our adorable, spoiled dog Lzzy (yes, her name is misspelled on purpose, much to this court reporter's chagrin. It's a whole story...) and our three cats, Gilly, Tyrion, and Miles.

I'm also a founding and active member of Fit Body Boot Camp in Bowling Green and have been doing some side projects for Swanky Scoops, a local Toledo ice cream maker.

I'm excited to work for you as a member of the OCRA Board.

I look forward to meeting you all!





Like any good court reporter, it's best to keep one's skills sharp, so we have compiled a few games for your enjoyment!



WORD SEARCH: TRAUMA

vicarious trauma
emotional residue
secondary
traumatic stress
acute stress
symptoms
nightmares
intrusive thoughts
anxiety
compassion
fatigue

emotional exhaustion depersonalization trauma exposure response

burnout

empathic engagement emotional

resonance

trauma survivor cumulative trauma

indirect exposure boundary blurring vulnerability

emotional strain self-care

well-being

peer support

professional guidance

collaborative support

resilience adversity

reflective practice

compassion satisfaction

mental health critical incident stress

avoidance

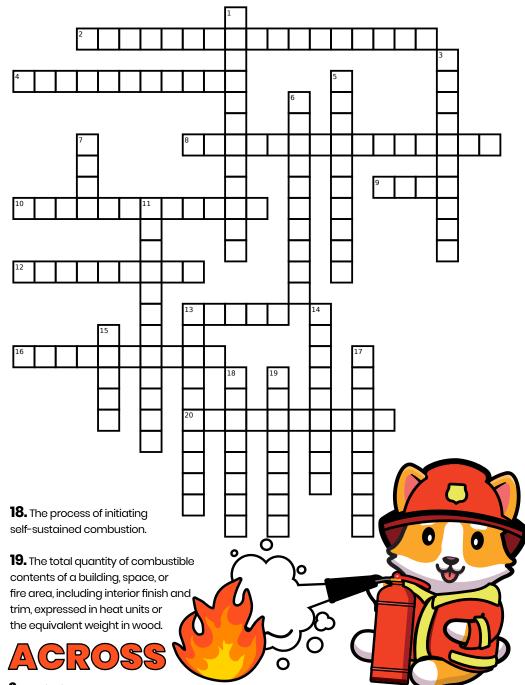
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IT'S ALL ABOUT FIRE

Created by Allison Kimmel, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC

DOWN

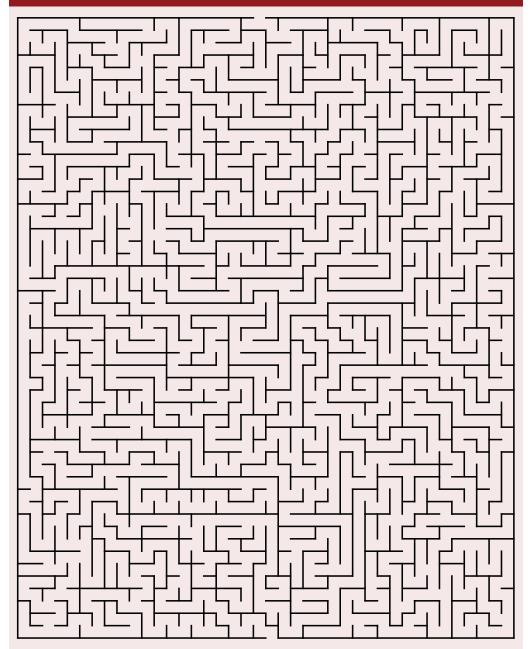
- **1.** The detailed study of how chemistry, fire science, and the engineering disciplines of fluid mechanics and heat transfer interact to influence fire behavior.
- **3.** A chemical process of oxidation that occurs at a rate fast enough to produce heat and usually light in the form of either a glow or flame.
- **5.** Combustion without flame, usually with incandescence and smoke.
- **6.** The lowest temperature of a liquid, as determined by specific laboratory tests, at which the liquid gives off vapors at a sufficient rate to support a momentary flame across its surface.
- **7.** Rapid oxidation process, which is a chemical reaction resulting in the evolution of light and heat in varying intensities.
- **11.** A structure, part of a structure or general geographic location within a fire scene in which the "point of origin" of a fire or explosion is reasonably believed to be located.
- **13.** Heat transfer to another body or within a body by direct contact.
- **14.** Heat transfer by way of electromagnetic energy.
- **15.** A body or stream of gaseous material involved in the combustion process and emitting radiant energy at specific wavelength bands determined by the combustion chemistry of the fuel. In most cases, some portion of the emitted radiant energy is visible to the human eye.
- 17. A process in which material is decomposed or broken down into simpler molecular compounds by the effect of heat alone and often precedes combustion.



- **2.** Any liquid that has a closed-cup flash point at or above 37.8°C (100°F).
- **4.** Easily set on fire.
- **8.** Any liquid or the liquid phase of any material that can fuel a fire, including a flammable liquid, combustible liquid, or any other material that can be liquefied and burned.
- **9.** A form of energy characterized by vibration of molecules and capable of initiating and supporting chemical changes and changes of state.
- **10.** The process of determining the origin, cause, development, and responsibility as well as the failure analysis of a fire or explosion.

- **12.** A deflagration resulting from the sudden introduction of air into a confined space containing oxygen deficient products of incomplete combustion.
- **13.** The circumstances, conditions, or agencies that brought about or resulted in the fire or explosion incident, damage to property resulting from the fire or explosion incident, or bodily injury or loss of life resulting from the fire or explosion incident.
- **16.** A fuel or oxidizer, often an ignitable liquid, intentionally used to initiate a fire or increase the rate of growth or spread of fire.
- **20.** Heat transfer by circulation within a medium such as a gas or a liquid.

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I don't think about you at all.















CAREER OPPORTUNITIES & MARKETPLACE

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER STARK COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Canton, OH

Common Pleas Court of Stark County, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Court Reporter. Job share may be considered.

▶ More Details

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - GENERAL DIVISION

Columbus, OH

Common Pleas Court of Franklin County, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Official Court Reporter.

▶ More Details

ASSISTANT COURT REPORTER CUYAHOGA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - GENERAL DIVISION

Cleveland, OH

Common Pleas Court of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Assistant Court Reporter.

More Details

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - GENERAL DIVISION

Akron, OH

Common Pleas Court of Summit County, Ohio, is hiring!

▶ More Details

OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER MAHONING COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Youngstown, OH

Common Pleas Court of Mahoning County, Ohio, is seeking a full-time Official Court Reporter.

▶ More Details

PER DIEM FILL-IN REPORTER(S) TRUMBULL COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Warren, OH

Common Pleas Court of Trumbull County, Ohio, is looking for independent court reporters on a per diem basis.

▶ More Details

Have a posting for a career opportunity or a court reporting item you would like to sell?

Postings are FREE for OCRA members for 60 days.

SUBMIT ◀

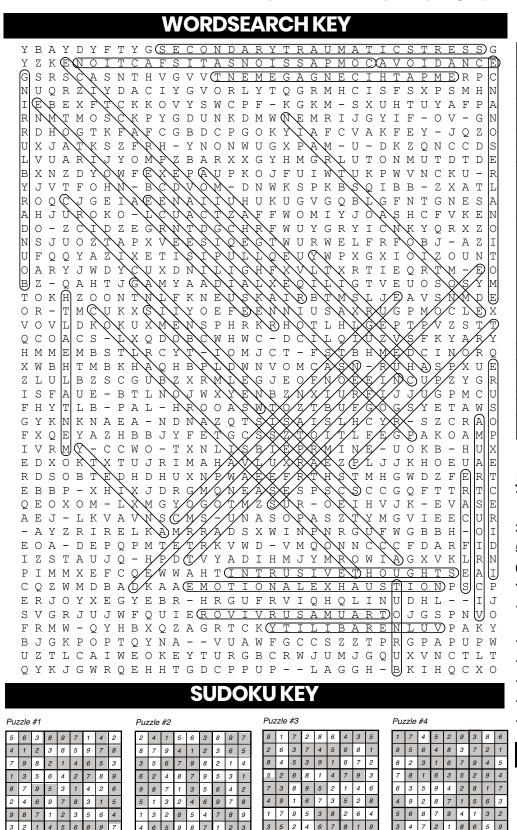
10 fingers -22 keys -4,194,303 possible strokes



Court reporters:

Making the impossible look easy.

ANSWER KEY FOR FUN & GAMES



PARTS HIGHLIGHTED IN LIGHT GREY ARE THE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD KEY

DOWN

- 1. FIRE DYNAMICS
- 3. COMBUSTION
- 5. SMOLDERING
- 6. FLASH POINT
- 7. FIRE
- . FIKE
- 11. AREA OF ORIGIN
- 13. CONDUCTION
- 15. FLAME
- 17. PYROLYSIS
- 18. IGNITION
- 19. FUEL LOAD

ACROSS

- 2. COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID
- 4. INFLAMMABLE
- 8. IGNITABLE LIQUID
- 9. HEAT
- 10. FIRE ANALYSIS
- 12. BACKDRAFT
- 13. CAUSE
- 16. ACCELERANT
- 20. CONVECTION

WORD SCRAMBLE KEY

STENORELLA
EMPOWER
COURT REPORTER
VICARIOUS TRAUMA
FALCONS



605 North High Street, PMB 298 Columbus, OH 43215 info@ocraonline.com | (614) 300-0906