

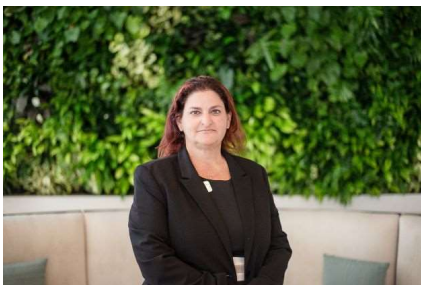


2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

In May 2023, the FCRA Nominating Committee met to interview the FCRA Board of Directors candidates for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. After interviewing several candidates, the 2023 Nominating Committee submits its nominees for consideration by the membership during the FCRA 2023 Annual Business Meeting to be held Saturday, July 15, 2023, at Ocean Reef Club, Key Largo, Florida.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee, chaired by Rick Levy, RPR, FPR-C, and committee members Sandy Narup, RPR, FPR-C, Susan Riesdorph, RPR, CRR, CLVS, CLR, Jessica Donnelly, FPR, Kelly Owen McCall, RPR, FPR-C, and Cindy Bender, RPR, FPR.

PRESIDENT



Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC, FPR-C, M.A. has been a broadcast captioner, CART provider, and general stenographer for a variety of different jobs for the past 33 years. In 2022, she has placed in the top three at NCRA's competitions in Orlando, Florida, and first and third at Intersteno in Maastricht, Netherlands, competing against the best of the best within the profession. She also recently passed the California CSR exam on her first attempt. Sheri also holds a master's degree in general psychology. She currently volunteers on several NCRA committees, including as Chairperson of the Certified Broadcast Captioning Committee, and she is a long-time member of the WKT Test Writing Committee. She loves to bake to relax, and she collects anything to do with "The Muppet Show" or "Sesame Street." Sheri has fur babies, three cats (Pita, Snuffleupagus, and Mocha) and she adopted her first dog ever right before COVID hit, a Whippet named Winnie.

PRESIDENT ELECT



Michael Sciré, (sha-RAY) RPR, CMRS, FPR-C has been reporting for nearly 25 years. He graduated from the Sarasota County Technical Institute in Sarasota, FL. He began his career as a freelance court reporter for Metzger Reporting Services in Charlotte County. In 2002 he became a Realtime Official Court Reporter for the 12th Judicial Circuit where he was promoted to department supervisor in 2008 and worked there until November of 2021. He has since joined the executive team at Diamond Court Reporting and helped open their new offices in Sarasota in 2022.

He obtained the RPR in 2005, the CMRS in 2010, the FPR in 2008, and the FPR-C in 2021. In 2007, he and his twin brother, Richard, were recipients of SCTI's Wall of Fame, an award recognizing distinguished alumni.

In addition to reporting, Michael currently serves on the executive board of directors for the FCRA as Vice President. He previously served as Director At Large, Central Director, Secretary, and Associate Editor to *FCR Online* and *The Florida Reporter*. Michael also has served on several committees and chairing several of them as well.

Michael was previously a contributing editor to NCRA's *Journal of Court Reporting*. He has been an NCRF Angel for the last eight years. Michael was a speaker at NCRA's keynote premier session in 2015. He, along with his brother, conducted several seminars for FCRA as well as other state associations throughout the country including Alabama, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Hawaii. Michael also was a contributor to the film *For The Record, A Court Reporting Documentary*, and traveled to different film festivals promoting the film, as well as to multiple media outlets.

Michael frequently shares his passion for court reporting by speaking, educating, and advocating to the legal community.

VICE PRESIDENT



Elizabeth W. Chorrushi, RPR, FPR-C, has been a court reporter since 1991 when she graduated from Erwin Technical Center. Beth began her career as a deputy official for the Fifth Judicial Circuit and completed her RPR that fall. In 1993, she returned to Tampa to take a freelance position with Thelma Dreyer at Dreyer & Associates. To this day, she approaches the profession with a WWTD attitude – what would Thelma do? Through the years, there have been three names on the door, but Beth remains intrigued by the people she meets and the places she goes, especially when those places require a passport, like Hong Kong and Copenhagen.

For her fourth year on the Board, Beth will be stepping into a new role, that of Vice President. Prior to serving as Treasurer for two years and Northern Director for one year, Beth served as secretary for the Executive Committee Board of a local chapter of Pilot International, treasurer of her children's elementary school PTA and multiple positions for the Parent Advisory Board for her daughter's swim club. This year also brings the new fun of sharing Team Mom duties for the University of Montevallo Men's and Women's Swim Teams.

When she is not working, Beth's family is her priority. Her husband of 29 years has always been her biggest "court supporter." Together, they have raised a newly-minted University of Florida alumnus son – Go Gators! -- and University of Montevallo daughter – Go Falcons!

SECRETARY



Ninette Butler, RMR, CRR, CRC, RSA, FPR-C. Ninette has been a stenographer since 1994 and has attained her RMR, CRR, CRC, RSA and FPR-C. She started her career as a ProCAT authorized representative/trainer and is currently a freelance reporter, specializing in realtime and daily copy civil trials and depositions. She developed the captioning program for the hard-of-hearing ministry at First Baptist Orlando. Ninette is happily married and is on her way to becoming an empty nester, having proudly raised a boy and a girl. She has four cats and a German Shorthaired Pointer. She enjoys traveling to Park City, Utah, for some outdoor fun and much-needed rest and relaxation.

TREASURER



Stephanie Jordan Nargiz, RPR, FPR-C is a freelance stenographer located in Tallahassee, Florida. She has been a working stenographer in the state of Florida since 2005, after attending Key College and graduating with a Certificate in Court Reporting from Atlantic Technical Center. She is a member of NCRA and FCRA. She is the co-editor and co-publisher of The Florida Reporter magazine and loves serving on other FCRA committees. She has enjoyed serving in the roles of Director at Large and State Director for FCRA.

Prior to her career as a court reporter, Stephanie worked as an accountant in West Palm Beach, Florida for Oxbow Corporation. She also has experience working for an engineering firm in Boynton Beach and was a district manager in the clothing retail industry, working in Virginia, Washington D.C., and Texas.

She enjoys her free time traveling with her ice hockey teams to tournaments with the Florida Thunder team and the Lucky Pucks 40+ national team. This year in April of 2023, her Lucky Pucks 40+ national team won the USA Hockey United States national championship. She also serves as the secretary for the Florida Women's Hockey League. Her musically talented husband (together for 24 years) is Garo Nargiz. He has been working as a legal videographer for the past 17 years. She loves spending time with her family whenever possible, which also includes seven nephews and nieces. She also has a gift basket company and loves working with her direct sales companies. She has two rescue Pekingese dogs (Rocky and Layla) and a blue- and-gold macaw (Curious George.) The beach is her favorite place to relax. She loves jet skiing, enjoying the sunshine, and gathering seashells.

STATE DIRECTOR



Heather Suarez, RMR, CRR, FCRR, FPR-C is a passionate and dedicated professional with an unwavering love and respect for the challenge of stenography and the pursuit of knowledge. From a young age, she recognized the immense opportunities for growth that this field offered and wholeheartedly embraced it.

Currently serving on several committees, including Chair of the Courts Committee, and now as a first-year Director on the Board of FCRA, Heather is thrilled to be in a position where she can serve the best interests of stenographers and voice writers in Florida. Her commitment to the profession is evident in her extensive experience and impressive achievements.

At the age of 17, Heather embarked on her court reporting journey by enrolling in court reporting school. In a remarkable display of determination, she even attended night classes during her final month of high school. By the time she was 20 years old, Heather had already begun her professional court reporting career, freelancing for the first four years before assuming the role of an Official Court Reporter for the Ninth Judicial Circuit. She has since served as a United States Official Court Reporter for the Middle District of Florida for the past five years.

Heather's dedication to the court reporting community extends beyond her professional roles. She currently holds several certifications, including the esteemed Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, Federal Certified Realtime Reporter, and Florida Professional Reporter. In recognition of her exceptional skills, she secured second place in the Literary leg of the FCRA Thomas Hughes Memorial Realtime Challenge in June of 2022.

Outside of the courtroom, Heather finds joy and relaxation in the company of her beloved Frenchie, Oliver, and her partner in life, Eddie. Despite her demanding schedule, she always makes time to cherish the simple pleasures and embrace a well-rounded life.

Heather Suarez embodies the essence of professionalism and passion in the world of court reporting. Her unwavering commitment to excellence, combined with her extensive experience and impressive achievements, make her a respected figure in the field. As a Director on the Board of FCRA, Heather is determined to champion the interests of stenographers and voice writers, ensuring their growth, success, and recognition in the profession.

STATE DIRECTOR



Erin Best, FPR-C, Hey, Everyone! I've been a voice writer for three years now with Wasilewski Court Reporting located in Lakeland, FL. This is my later in life career, and I absolutely love what I do. Every day is different and challenging, and I've gotten to meet a lot of great people. I especially enjoy working in criminal trial in our circuit. In my opinion, we have the best court personnel and judges.

My husband and I are foodies and love trying new restaurants and recipes. We enjoy spending as much time as we can with our growing family of six kids, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. Our favorite thing to do is spend the day with all of them hanging around the pool at a gorgeous resort, and we try to do that as often as we can get everyone together.

I look forward to serving as your FCRA director over the next year!

STATE DIRECTOR



Lori A. Seiden, RPR, FPR-C, has been a reporter for 32 years. After graduating in 1991 from Tampa College, her entire career has been as a freelance reporter in Tampa and Lakeland. After 25 years of reporting civil depositions, Lori then transitioned to reporting felony trials, where she discovered her true passion in reporting. Lori loves all things steno, is passionate about learning new briefs, but especially loves meeting fellow reporters and exchanging work stories.

Lori is currently a member of NCRA, where she volunteers as a mentor and a test reviewer for the Career Launcher program. She has served on the FCRA board or directors as a director at large, and also serves on the membership committee, professional ethics committee, and government relations committee.

Lori has been married to her husband, Paul, for 16 years, with whom she loves to travel and do life with. She is the proud mom of four adult children and their spouses, and now proud “grammy” of her first grandchild. Lori also serves at her church on the host team and is lead of the care team there.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Lisa L. Taylor, RPR, FPR-C, is a native Floridian, born and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida. She graduated from Daytona Beach Community College in 1988 with an Associate in Science degree in court reporting.

Lisa started her career as a freelance reporter, then moved to a firm that covered civil, as well as all the criminal court work, for the Seventh Judicial Circuit. After enjoying that position for over ten years, she became co-owner of Southern Reporting Company. She attained and has maintained her NCRA national certification as a Registered Professional Reporter since 1991. She also received her Florida Professional Reporter designation in 2010 and received the designation of Florida Professional Reporter-Certified in 2021. In her thirty-five years of reporting, she has taken numerous capital felony trials, covered aviation litigation, construction defect litigation, and a plethora of depositions.

She has a son, Matthew, and a daughter, Madison, which she is very proud of. She enjoys her best dog ever, a pit bull named Milo, and her two Pomeranians, Taz and Payton. In her free time, she loves to travel, help with animal rescue, and edit and proofread her transcripts! After all these years, she still loves her profession and her clients! She is also an admin and co-founder of the popular Facebook group Cocktails for Court Reporters!

This will be her second year as a board member with the Florida Court Reporters Association, and she looks forward to being involved and advocating for her profession.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Roberta Turner - RPR, FPR, CLR, CCR (GA) ACR (NY) A veteran in the court reporting industry, Roberta has been reporting since 1991. Among her extensive skill sets, Roberta has successfully reported for highly complicated depositions, trials, sworn statements ranging from criminal cases, medical malpractice cases, Workers' Compensation cases, personal injury cases, technical matters, and much more. She has reported throughout the country with a primary focus in the Central Florida and Georgia area for the past 33 years.

Giving back to the court reporting profession is extremely important to Roberta. She has written several articles for the National Court Reporters Association with a wide range of topics from steno writing to health and wellness. Most recently, she has been nominated as the Director of the Florida Court Reporters Association. Roberta has been instrumental in serving the court reporter community as she volunteers and mentors new and seasoned reporters by facilitating High Speed Dictation sessions Daily. Roberta also actively visits area high schools to introduce the court reporting profession to rising students.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



Laura J. Landerman, RDR, CRR, FPR-C, is a native of Central Florida. Immediately upon graduating high school in 1984, she enrolled at Winter Park Vo-Tech, graduating in 1986 and immediately launching her career as a freelance reporter. Laura has served on the board for six years, first as Central Director, Treasurer, Vice President, President Elect and is currently President. In addition to her board service, she also serves on many of our committees. Laura is a huge proponent of skills certification and proudly holds NCRA's RDR, RMR, RPR, CRR, and Realtime Systems Administrator, as well as FCRA's FPR and FPR-C designations. She also loves the challenge of participating in both state and national speed and realtime competitions.

Throughout her career, Laura continues to share her passion and enthusiasm for this profession by volunteering her time on behalf of FCRA at events throughout the state to promote court reporting and captioning to our next generation. Laura had a wonderful mentor early in her career, and now she herself is a mentor for students, new reporters, as well as veteran reporters who want to learn to become realtime writers or just improve their writing skills. In June 2014, she received the Arlene P. Sommers Award in recognition of her passion and dedication to mentoring reporters.

Having served on the FCRA board the past six years has given Laura a broader perspective of the many challenges facing reporters in our state. She has made it a priority to put membership first and has been a part of many initiatives our association has undertaken.

When not busy working or with board service, Laura lives to be spontaneous and live life to its fullest. This amazing career has afforded her the opportunity to travel the world extensively, and she spends hours in her free time planning that next big adventure. She is married and has two stepsons. She currently lives in Altamonte Springs with her husband and their two mischievous Doodles.