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2025 - 2026

FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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To promote the skilled profession of the reporting industry through protecting, connecting, and educating court reporters and captioners.



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Association Bulletin Board

Florida Court Reporters
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Editor's Letter

Lori A. Seiden, RPR, FPR-C



Finding the Good

As summer draws to a close and we reflect on our recent annual state convention, I am reminded of the remarkable sense of community and progress that defines our profession and our association. I'm still floating on bubbles.

What a different view I had this year as I was able to serve as co-chair on the Convention Committee for the first time. What effort and commitment it takes from so many people to put together an event like StenoCon 2025, and have it be so successful. It brought together colleagues from across the state, and even across the country, each with their own unique experiences, challenges, aspirations and goals, united by a shared commitment to excellence and a love for court reporting, both steno and voice. From engaging workshops to networking moments, and reuniting with old friends, FCRA's annual convention reaffirmed the value of ongoing education and collaboration among colleagues.

While all the practicals that are available when we get together once a year are important, the thing that I really took away from StenCon 2025 was a sense of gratitude. As Merriam-Webster defines gratitude, the state of being grateful, thankfulness, I have a list of things I can say filled my "gratitude bucket" as I look back over that short weekend that went by so incredibly fast.

1. First of all, for our leadership who helped to keep us on track, and for those who have done this before whose guidance and wisdom were invaluable.
2. For my committee chair, who is one of the most talented and organized people I could have ever hoped to have work with, and for the friendship that developed between us as we collaborated and coordinated.
3. For all the volunteers that were involved behind the scenes, and who jumped in to fill roles and help out with anything that needed to be done.
4. For our sponsors and vendors and donors and their generosity who brought their best and made themselves available to network and answer questions, and fill our bags with the best swag, and keep the coffee flowing and provide us with snacks throughout the weekend.
5. For our speakers who educated, and sometimes entertained us, on topics we may not have thought about, but now have a better appreciation for.
6. For our attendees and the chance to meet new people and see friends and catch up and share stories and knowledge and experiences and build a stronger community.

I'm sure I could go on and on, but I think you get the point. There's so much more to being a part of a community with like-minded people than what meets the eye. I hope that you were also able to leave with a sense of gratitude and a level of fulfillment and a couple more drops in your "gratitude bucket." I can't wait to see you all next year in Tampa for StenoCon 2026!

With gratefulness,

Lori A. Seiden

"I don't have to chase extraordinary moments to find happiness - it's right in front of me if I'm paying attention and practicing gratitude." ~ Brene Brown

President's Message

(as given at the Business Luncheon on June 28, 2025)

By Elizabeth W. Chorrushi, RPR, FPR-C



Good morning.

I want to say thank you to our members, committee participants, fellow board members, and Amelia, as well as her Varallo Group support staff for being here today. Thank you sponsors and exhibitors.

I want to welcome our NCRA representative, Carol Naughton, and give a very special welcome to the Boy and his girlfriend who flew in for the weekend, and the Girl and her bestie that are here. But I certainly wouldn't be here without my Number 1 court reporter and all-around life supporter, Jammie.

When I started my career as a deputy official in the Fifth Circuit in HERK, I thought it was perfect for me. I could rise for the judge or swear in the witness, then fade into the paneling and do my job quietly and competently. My bubble would be well-ordered and organized where I felt in control – most of the time.

As you know, one of the images of this year's StenoCon is bubbles. What is that all about? Is it symbolic of the kind of day I've had? The kind I floated through on a gentle breeze? The kind that ends with a glass? The kind that ends submerged in a tub? Or maybe the kind of day that ends with both of those, because we've all had plenty of those!

No. I'm talking about something different. I'm talking about our own personal/professional bubbles, and specifically how we can make our own individual bubbles better.

For those of you who know me, my bubble is something I referred to well before the COVID pandemic gave us a new definition for the phrase. For me, it's always about growing as a person and surrounding myself with people who make me better. It's why I'm here with you at StenoCon. It's why I joined a committee of FCRA. It's why I joined the Board. Of course, in taking those steps, I never imagined I would be standing on this platform in a ballroom in front of so many talented colleagues, friends and family as the president of FCRA.

FCRA was established to educate and advocate for verbatim guardians of the record in our state. It firmly remains a steno and voice membership association, but it cannot be an ostrich. FCRA wouldn't be fulfilling its mission if it didn't advise its membership on the current state of the profession.

How can FCRA lead to create a stronger community for the custodians of the record? First, FCRA can, as it was established, educate and advocate.

President's Message

(continued)

And the message is: Methods other than verbatim reporting are out there and they are improving. So to ensure the highest standards for preserving the official record, we must set the highest bar for all guardians of the record and lead by example.

So what does that mean for each of us? Set yourself apart. Work diligently on your craft every day. Level up that certification. Provide that realtime. Mentor a student. Get involved in FCRA and encourage your friends to do the same so their voices can have a purpose.

Get out of the comfy chair you have at home and talk to anyone who will listen – and even those who have heard it all before – about the fabulous skills you have and the incredibly important role you play in the judicial system and for those in the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Remind the public, Bench and Bar, which for me will soon include the Boy, what you are...the Gold Standard.

So the goal for each of us is, how can we make our own bubble better? You've already begun that process by being here at StenoCon. Gathering us all together in one place amplifies the joy and effervescence of hundreds of individual bubbles!

So let's build on that – get to know a new face sitting next to you in the next session. Take a few moments to talk with one of the students attending here, the eager, aspiring future of our profession. Introduce yourself to a Board member.

We are reporters just like you. We get it as only another reporter can! We can all use some more friends – well, don't ask the Girl because she'll tell you she has 46 best friends from her college swim team, and that's quite enough!

But seriously, make your bubble better and enjoy the rest of the weekend's program brought to you by our wonderful Convention Committee and its co-chairs, Lori Seiden and Heather Suarez.

Last, but not least, help me make my installment as FCRA President special by joining me tonight at the party where we will end the day in celebration with maybe some...bubbles?

Thank you all so much.

FPR-C

Skills, we got them.



Stay tuned for the next FPR-C Skills Test!

Congratulations to our new
FPR-Cs:

Andrea Stefanick, FPR-C
Jeannette Alvarez, FPR-C
Karla Hyland, FPR-C
Maria Rodriguez, FPR-C
Georgia Toft, FPR-C



What is the FPR-C?

The FPR-C is the skills complement to FCRA's FPR and is a voluntary (optional) skills examination.

In order to be eligible to sit for the FPR-C, a candidate must:

Be a current member of FCRA*;

Be a steno or voice writer;

Provide his or her own laptop and CAT software for testing;

**Have the ability to email his or her test papers to the
Committee for grading.**

***A candidate may take the FPR-C before taking the FPR but may not use the initials "FPR-C" until the candidate successfully passes the FPR modules and test. A candidate who wishes to take the modules and examination for the FPR certification must be a participating member of FCRA.**

Congratulations TO OUR NEW

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Tina Roberge, FPR
Tobiann Lyons, FPR
Dana Spear, FPR
Irene Koenigs, FPR
Katelyn Cram, FPR
Racheal Callahan, FPR

Georgia Toft, FPR
Derek Phillips, FPR
Gracie Higgs, FPR
Haley Reagin, FPR
Joet Hawkins, FPR
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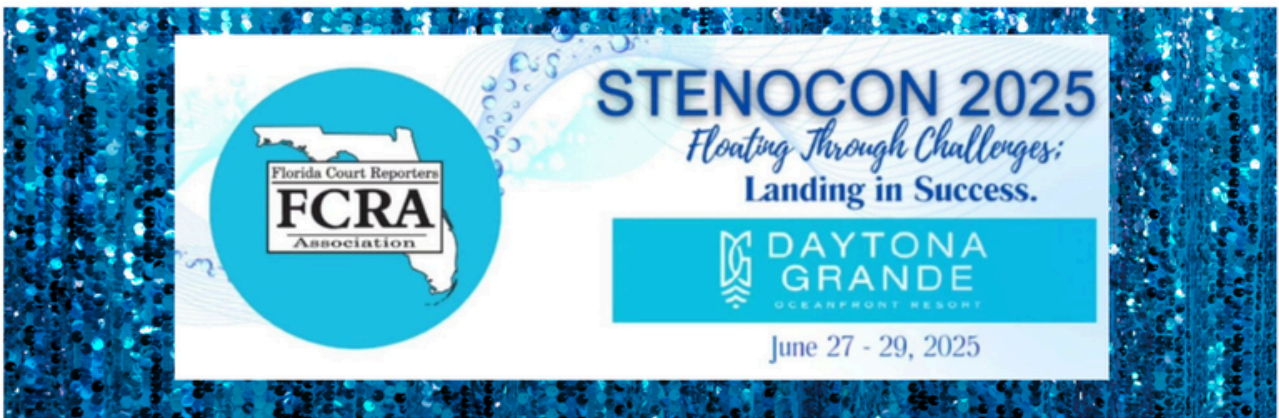


COMING SOON

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EMILY MANN

Distinguished Service Award
2025



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RICHARD SCIRE

The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award shall be bestowed by the FCRA upon a person who possesses exceptional qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting while contributing in a meritorious manner to the welfare of FCRA; and has served the Association in at least two (2) of the following categories:

1. Served the Association with active participation on committees and/or on the Board of Directors of the state association.
2. Contributed to the profession in areas of teaching, editing of publications, or other contributions which have been designed for the advancement of shorthand reporting.
3. Contributed important books, papers, or other written material dealing with the profession.
4. Contributed seminars for the state association for members, such seminars having received the approval of NCRA for continuing education points.
5. Aided in the advancement of the profession by working in liaison with the Bar, the media, judicial groups and/or educational institutions

Dates for Nominations for the Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education and The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award will be posted in early 2026.



Congratulations

MERTORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

**Amber Rodriguez,
RPR, FPR-C, CST (TX)**

You agreed to be part of my presidential year on the condition that we'd rock it. You have far exceeded my expectations. Your exceptional service and outstanding contribution exemplifies the highest standards of performance.



Presented by Michael Scire, President
StenoCon 2025 - Daytona Beach, Florida
June 28, 2025

Congratulations,

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

**Beth Chorrushi,
RPR, FPR-C**

In special recognition of the support and loyalty you have given me. Every leader needs a rock, and you've been mine. Thank you being part of this journey with me for FCRA.



**HEATHER SUAREZ,
RDR, CRR, FCRR, FPR-C**

In special recognition for your hard work, your unwavering dedication, and your positive attitude. Thank you for your support and for always going above and beyond!



Presented by Michael Scire, President
StenoCon 2025 - Daytona Beach, Florida
June 28, 2025

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2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The FCRA Nominating Committee met to interview the FCRA Board of Directors candidates for the 2025- 2026 fiscal year. After interviewing several candidates, the 2025 Nominating Committee submitted its nominees for consideration by the membership during the FCRA 2025 Annual Business Meeting held Saturday, June 28, 2025, at The Daytona Grande Waterfront Resort, Daytona Beach, Florida. The newly-elected board members are listed below.

Thank you to our Nominating Committee, chaired by Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI, FPR-C, CSR (CA), M.A. and committee members Susan Riesdorph, RPR, CRR, CLVS, CLR, Rick Levy, RPR, FPR-C, Sandy Narup, RPR, FPR-C, Cindy Bender, RPR, FPR, Kelly Owen McCall, RPR, FPR-C, and Sharon Velazco, RPR, FPR-C.

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 sixth year on the Board, Beth will be stepping into the role of President. Prior to serving on the board of FCRA, 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, she continues as Team Mom 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 30-plus years has always been her biggest "court supporter." Their son is continuing his law studies and their daughter will complete her degree and hang up her competition goggles after four years at the University of Montevallo.

PRESIDENT ELECT



Stephanie Jordan Nargiz, RPR, FPR-C, is a freelance stenographer and agency owner of North Florida Court Reporters, LLC. She lives in Tallahassee, Florida, and has been a working stenographer in the state of Florida since 2005. She has enjoyed serving in the roles of Director at Large, State Director, Treasurer, and Vice President for FCRA. She also volunteers on various FCRA committees. This year, she felt a renewed sense of purpose while participating in the NCRA Legislative Boot Camp in Alexandria, Virginia, and the privilege of assisting with the lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Her goals this year include serving the association in a greater capacity while achieving time management success to better serve FCRA's members. Her prior education and work history include graduating with a Certificate in Court Reporting from Atlantic Technical Center, attending Florida Atlantic University in the school of accounting, working as an accountant with Oxbow Corporation, working for an engineering firm managing their reprographics department, and working as a district manager in the clothing retail industry.

For the past 29 years, she has enjoyed playing ice hockey for travel teams. She served as the past secretary for the Florida Women's Hockey League for 14 years. She and Garo, her husband, have been together for 25 years. Garo is also in the legal industry and has worked as a legal videographer for 19 years. Stephanie loves spending time with her family whenever possible, which includes seven nephews and a great nephew. Her fur babies are two rescue Pekingese dogs, Rocky (17) and Layla (16). She also has a blue-and-gold macaw, Curious George (38). The beach is her favorite place to relax, and she loves jet skiing and the Florida sunshine.

VICE PRESIDENT



Ninette Butler, RMR, CRR, CRC, RSA, FPR-C, has been a stenographer since 1994. She started her career as a ProCAT representative and software trainer. She has been a freelance reporter, specializing in realtime and daily copy in civil trials and depositions. Ninette has had the privilege of speaking at both the state and national association conventions. She developed and managed the captioning program for the hard-of-hearing ministry at First Baptist Orlando for 10 years. In 2024 she launched her own court reporting firm Butler Reporting.

Ninette is currently the FCRA Treasurer. She has previously held the offices of Secretary, State Director, and Director at Large. She has served as chairman of the Pro Bono Committee and has been a member of the Professional Ethics, Schools, Government Relations, and Social Media/Technology committees.

Ninette is happily married to Kevin Butler and has proudly raised two kids, Noah and Bellamy. She loves her two dogs -- Major, a Hungarian Vizsla; and Duchess, a German Shorthaired Pointer -- and three cats. She enjoys escaping to Park City, Utah, for some outdoor fun and much-needed rest and relaxation.

SECRETARY



Jeana Kim CRR, RMR, RPR, FPR, FPR-C, CLR, is a co-owner of Legacy Court Reporting. She graduated from court reporting school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in 2000. She passed the CRR in 2010, and has been primarily doing realtime trials since then. She's also had the opportunity to work on some high-profile cases such as the Jeffrey Epstein case and the Treyvon Martin case. Jeana has also worked on several international cases, allowing her to travel outside of the US.

Jeana has also had the privilege of being a member of the National Congress of State Associations with the NCRA.

The most important things to Jeana are her faith and her family, but especially all of her nieces and nephews.

TREASURER



Heather Suarez, RDR, CRR, FCRR, FPR-C, CA CSR, is a United States Official Court Reporter for the Middle District of Florida in Orlando. Heather began her stenographic reporting career in 2010 as a freelance court reporter after graduating from the Stenotype Institute of Orlando. From 2014 to 2018, Heather had the opportunity to work for the Ninth Judicial Circuit as an official court reporter covering their felony division, earning “Employee of the Quarter,” presented by Chief Judge Frederick J. Lauten, in October 2016.

Heather has a passion for learning more about government relations and participating in “court reporting as a career” events. She had the pleasure of graduating from NCRA’s Leadership & Legislative Boot Camp in 2024 and hopes to bring those same skills to FCRA, championing the interests of stenographers and voice writers in Florida.

When not in court, working on transcripts, or pushing the limits of her skills, Heather enjoys spending time with her spunky Frenchies, Oliver and Emma; and husband, Eddie.

STATE DIRECTOR



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-six 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!

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

STATE DIRECTOR



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 34 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 State Director for 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.

STATE DIRECTOR



Kornika King, CVR, FPR-C, CCR (GA) After proudly serving a one-year term as Director at Large, I'm excited for the opportunity to continue serving the Florida Court Reporters Association as State Director.

My path into court reporting has been anything but traditional -- Navy veteran, physics student, statistics grad, computer coder, PR rep, and longtime eye care professional and clinical researcher -- but it all came together when I discovered court reporting, specifically voice writing.

Since taking my first deposition as a certified verbatim reporter in early 2023, I've earned multiple certifications and licenses, including the FPR-C designation and licensure as both a Georgia CCR and a California CSR. I'm a strong advocate for certification and licensing and remain committed to promoting training, advocating for certification and licensing, and professional standards across the field.

I'm especially passionate about supporting new reporters by helping them access the resources they need and connecting them with the right people, tools, and opportunities to thrive. I enjoy serving as a bridge in this profession -- facilitating connections, sharing guidance, and encouraging growth.

Outside of work, I'm an active fundraiser for my kids' schools, love traveling with my family, and fully embrace the joy of a spontaneous nap.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Heidi Hutson-Vain, RPR, FPR, has been a court reporter since graduating from Sarasota Technical Institute in 1993. Having been an NCRA member since 1993, the RPR designation was awarded to her in November of 1996. The FPR designation was attained recently for her in the year 2023. Having been a freelance reporter for all of her career, she has worked mostly on the west coast of Florida and in the Central Florida area.

Her proudest life achievement has been raising three children, two of which are now adults. Being a freelance reporter afforded her the opportunity to have a career and be available for all of her children's accomplishments. Now that her children are grown, putting time and attention into advocating for the career of court reporting is now an important life goal.

When time away from transcripts is had, you will find Heidi spending time with her husband and children, scrapbooking with friends or taking care of the family's many pets. Having recently added a holy terror of a puppy named Scarlett to the family, training her Basset Hound is now a pastime as well.

As a new board member for the Florida Court Reporters Association, she looks forward to serving and learning so she can give back to a career that has served her well thus far.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE



Kairisa Magee, RPR, FPR-C, is a second generation court reporter, so she feels like she's been in the industry all of her life. Starting in 2004 while in court reporting school at South Suburban College in South Holland, Illinois, she has worked her way through school as a proofreader to scopist. She then took a brief hiatus to nurture her family as it grew.

When she returned to the industry, she took a position as an apprentice court reporter in Northwest Indiana, eventually becoming a part-time freelance court reporter. In 2015 the Magee family took a leap of faith and moved to Tallahassee where Kairisa worked as a full-time freelance court reporter with several firms covering criminal and civil matters as well as council meetings and arbitrations.

In 2021 Kairisa became a realtime provider which led to a period of time where she was honored to become a federal court reporter. In 2024 Beacon Court Reporting Agency, LLC began and Kairisa finally reached her goal of becoming a court reporting firm owner.

Kairisa's biggest passion is her family. She's the wife of Bishop Marc Magee and mother to their five children aged 3 to 21 years old. She enjoys traveling, cooking, reading, singing, writing, and spending time with family and friends.

"Court reporting allows you to work to live and not live to work. As someone who believes faith and family should always come first, this is the perfect profession for someone who believes in that philosophy. Court reporting raised me, and provided me the opportunity to do the same for the generation following me. It's my

professional goal to spread the word that we're still here, we're vital to the judicial process, and we're not going anywhere!"

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



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 Immediate Past President. He previously served as President, President Elect, Vice President, 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.



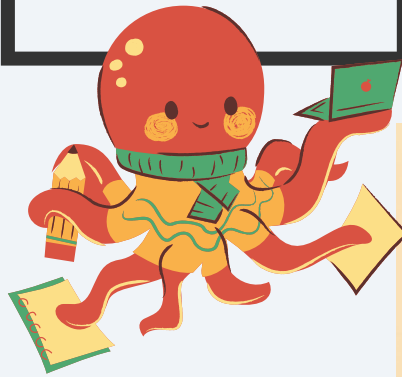
Roll with It!

A yawn is just
a silent scream



for coffee.

Multitasking:
Listening,
Ignoring,
and
forgetting
all at once



Today's Monday



Just roll with it!

Three speakers. Zero
punctuation. One court
reporter holding it together
with caffeine and willpower.



Friendly reminder to
back up all your files.



stapb/laoc





*2026 Court Reporting &
Captioning Week
February 7 - 14, 2026*



Join us in celebrating!

*We would love to hear how you're celebrating.
Email editor@fcraonline.org*



SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

PROMOTING OUR PROFESSION

**YOUR
DONATION IS
APPRECIATED**



venmo

VENMO
@fcraonline
please reference "schools"



CEU REMINDER

Are you an FPR or FPR-C?

Is Your Cycle Ending on 12/31/25 or 3/31/26?

Here are a few important things to remember regarding your FPR cycle:

Please remember that NCRA does not report your CEUs to FCRA or other state associations. You must submit any CEUs to FCRA to be applied to your transcript, other than the FCRA Annual Convention and the FPR course/exam and refresher. We apply those automatically.

NCRA Carryover CEUs do not apply to your FPR transcript, just as your FPR Carryover CEUs do not apply to your NCRA transcript.

If you have any CEUs to be applied, you may send certificates of completion for individual courses or send your NCRA transcript to fprquestions@fcraonline.org.

If you have CEUs that are not NCRA approved, and they fall under the categories of approved topics, we will need this FCRA CEU request form (PDF) submitted along with those CEU certificates.

Your FCRA membership must stay current in order to maintain and use the FPR or FPR-C designation.

Remember to occasionally check the status of your FPR cycle so you know when your cycle ends and what CEUs you need to complete your cycle.

To check the status of your current FPR cycle, you will log into CE Tracker Live by using this link:

<http://www.cetrackerlive.com/app/>. This information can also be found on our website under FPR, View and Print Current Transcript. Account Name for all users on CE Tracker is FCRA FPR.

If you have any questions, please email admin@rfcraonline.org or call 844-438-3272.





ESQUIRE
DEPOSITION SOLUTIONS



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LL Reporting, LLC

Laura J. Landerman, RDR, CRR, FPR-C

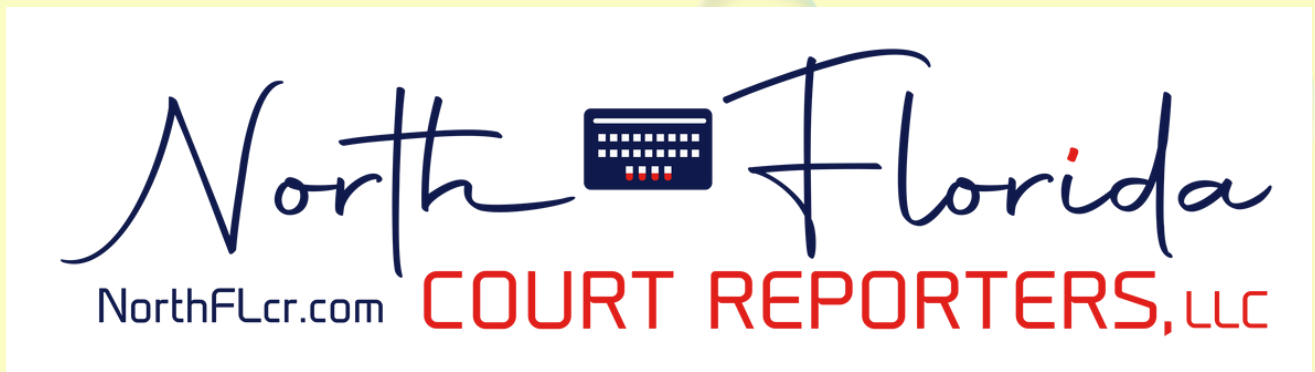
Array



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www.legacy-reporters.com



Moore Realtime Services, LLC

Deanne Moore, RMR, CRR, FPR-C





Board of Directors Fall Meeting October 2025

Are you a candidate or know of someone who may be interested in serving?

Traits of a great board member

Mission-Driven: Passionate about the organization's purpose and values.
Strategic Thinker: Sees the big picture and helps shape long-term direction.
Ethical and Accountable: Upholds integrity and takes responsibility.
Collaborative: Works well with others, respects diverse viewpoints.
Prepared and Engaged: Comes to meetings ready, asks thoughtful questions, and follows through.
Resourceful: Brings valuable networks, skills, or financial support.

Building an Effective Board

1. Define the Board's Purpose

Clarify its role in governance, strategy, fundraising, and oversight.
 Align responsibilities with the organization's needs.

2. Recruit Thoughtfully

Seek diversity in skills, backgrounds, and perspectives.
 Balance industry expertise with fresh, outside voices.

3. Set Expectations

Provide clear job descriptions and onboarding.
 Establish attendance, participation, and contribution standards.

4. Structure for Success

Create committees (e.g., finance, governance, development).
 Schedule regular meetings with meaningful agendas.

5. Foster a Strong Culture

Encourage open dialogue and mutual respect.
 Celebrate wins and recognize contributions.

6. Evaluate and Evolve

Conduct regular board assessments.
 Grow membership.

FPR-C RECIPROCITY *Do you qualify?*

A CANDIDATE WHO WISHES TO USE THE FPR-C DESIGNATION BUT DOES NOT WISH TO TEST MAY USE THE FPR-C DESIGNATION IF THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- BE A CURRENT FPR OR PASS THE FPR BEFORE BEING ELIGIBLE TO USE THE FPR-C DESIGNATION;
- BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF NCRA (NATIONAL COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION) AND SHOW PROOF TO THE COMMITTEE OF THEIR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATUS; AND
- SUCCESSFULLY PASSED AT LEAST ONE OF THE RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, OR CRC SKILLS EXAMINATIONS AWARDED BY NCRA.



THANK YOU

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Your dedication and commitment to our profession is very much appreciated. We are honored to have you representing FCRA.

**PLACE
YOUR AD
IN THE NEXT EDITION OF
THE
FLORIDA
REPORTER**

admin@fcraonline.org

NETWORKING

NETWORKING

NETWORKING



Who do you know that needs to be a part of
this wonderful group of court reporters?

Who can you encourage to join FCRA?

What is FCRA doing for me?



- **The Ethics Committee diligently fields reporter-related questions that come into headquarters and provides guidance following our Florida rules.**

- **FCRA Government Relations Committee, through our lobbying team in Tallahassee, Corinne Mixon and Diana Ferguson of Rutledge Ecenia, were able to secure our fresh off-the-press success with making remote oath permanent. The remote oath became law effective January 1, 2022.**

- **FCRA has rolled out a skills portion to accompany our Florida Professional Reporter™ certification. Holding the FPR-C™ shows you have knowledge of Florida rules and laws AND demonstrates to clients you have the skills necessary to capture their record.**

- **Our Convention Committee is hard at work putting together a comprehensive agenda featuring topics relevant to today's world of court reporting, offering CEUs pre-approved by NCRA, and enabling fun networking opportunities.**

- **Our Schools Committee is putting boots on the ground and promoting this fabulous career to future students throughout the state.**

- **FCRA's participation with NCSA helps with efforts in conjunction with other states on a national level.**

- **Participation at the Unity Summit to ensure our verbatim reporters and videographers have a presence and remain involved with the latest issues in our field.**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FCRA IS LOOKING FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering
your time, please contact
ADMIN@FCRAONLINE.ORG

The Florida Reporter

Do you have an article or
story you want to share?
Maybe a funny line from a
depo? Maybe you'd like to
share a brief.

Email your submissions to:
editor@fcraonline.org



BECOME AN FCRA VOLUNTEER



FCRA depends on the volunteer services of our members. Committees are formed immediately after the Annual Convention. Remember, FCRA depends on its committee members to be our boots on the ground, whether it's through the Membership Committee reaching out to new potential members, the Government Relations Committee working hand-in-hand with our lobbyist, the PR Task Force presenting educational seminars to paralegals across the state, or the Fundraising Committee handling our annual fundraiser. Each committee is an integral part of how FCRA is out there working for you.

Committees Include:

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

ARLENE P. SOMMERS AWARD

CART/REALTIME

CHARTER & BYLAWS

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

COURT REPORTING SCHOOLS

COURTS COMMITTEE

EMILY MANN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

FINANCE AND BUDGET

FUNDRAISING

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SOCIAL MEDIA

THE FLORIDA REPORTER

MEMBERSHIP/INFO EXCHANGES

NOMINATING

PLACEMENT

PR TASK FORCE

PRO BONO

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

Go to fcraonline.org to volunteer today!

**Protecting
the record
starts with
YOU.**



Advocate for our profession and encourage others to join their state association today.

Need to contact FCRA?

Amelia Schneider
Executive Director - Florida Court Reporters Association
6116 SE Turn Leaf Trail, Hobe Sound, Florida 33455
844-GET-FCRA (844-438-3272)
Email: admin@fcraonline.org
www.fcraonline.org



Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond?

The Arlene P. Sommers Award

The Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education is presented to a person who is or has been a teacher, tutor, or administrator engaged in a court reporting education program in the State of Florida approved by the Arlene P. Sommers Award Committee, or any other person who has made a significant contribution to the education of court reporting students.

The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award

The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award shall be bestowed by the FCRA upon a person who possesses exceptional qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting while contributing in a meritorious manner to the welfare of FCRA; and has served the Association in at least two (2) of the following categories:

1. Served the Association with active participation on committees and/or on the Board of Directors of the state association.
2. Contributed to the profession in areas of teaching, editing of publications, or other contributions which have been designed for the advancement of shorthand reporting.
3. Contributed important books, papers, or other written material dealing with the profession.
4. Contributed seminars for the state association for members, such seminars having received the approval of NCRA for continuing education points.
5. Aided in the advancement of the profession by working in liaison with the Bar, the media, judicial groups and/or educational institutions

Dates for Nominations for the Arlene P. Sommers Award for Outstanding Achievement in Education and The Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award will be posted in early 2024.







Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

Participating Membership Only

Please complete and return payment plan form and membership application to:

FCRA Headquarters
6116 SE Turn Leaf Trail
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

The CRA payment plan is available only through submission of this form and is not available online.

INSTALLMENTS: Plan is payable by credit card only. Check payments will not be accepted.
All payments will be ~~automatically~~ processed as outlined below.

First Payment	Processed upon receipt of this form	\$90.00
Second Payment	Processed 30 days after first payment	\$90.00
Third/Final Payment	Processed 60 days after first payment	\$90.00

Member Name: _____

Member Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Terms of the Agreement: I hereby authorize FCRA to process the fees for my Participating membership in three credit card transactions. All transactions will be processed to the credit card provided on this form. The first payment in the amount of \$90.00 will be processed upon receipt. The second installment in the amount of \$90.00 will be automatically processed 30 days following the first payment. The third and final installment in the amount of \$90.00 will be automatically processed 60 days following the first payment. Check payments will not be accepted under this agreement. I understand there will be NO REFUNDS for any installment (partial payment) processed under this agreement. I also understand that FCRA membership will not be considered active until all three plan payments have been processed successfully. The full amount paid under this plan for my FCRA Participating membership dues will be \$270.00 which includes a \$20 administrative fee for processing multiple payments.

☐ Please enroll me in the payment plan. I have included credit card information for all three installments below. I fully understand and agree to the Terms of the Agreement as stated above.

Signature

Payment Method:

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Billing Address (if different from above):

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Cardholder's Signature

Print Name



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

*Name (Please print) _____ NCRA # _____ NVRA # _____

*Company _____ ☐ Owner ☐ Co-owner ☐ Manager

*Mailing Address _____ Website: _____

*City/State/Zip _____

*Telephone: Home (____) _____ Office (____) _____ FAX (____) _____

CHECK ONE: ☐ OK to publish home phone number in directory. ☐ DO NOT publish home phone number.

*Email address _____ Secondary Email Address _____

*METHOD OF REPORTING: ☐ Stenographic ☐ Voicewriter ☐ Gregg ☐ Pittman ☐ Other _____

*TYPE OF REPORTER: ☐ Freelance ☐ Official ☐ Deputy Official ☐ Captioner ☐ Federal ☐ Teacher ☐ Student ☐ Other _____

*DESIG: ☐ CSR [List State(s) other than FL] _____ ☐ FAPR ☐ FPR ☐ FPR-C ☐ RPR ☐ RDR ☐ CMRS ☐ RMR ☐ CLVS ☐ CRI ☐ CRR ☐ CPE

*Asterisk indicates required information.

I make application for Membership as a: (CHECK ONE)

☐ **PARTICIPATING MEMBER**\$250.00

Open to anyone engaged in active practice of official or general court reporting by either stenographic or voicewriter method. (Please indicate method above.)

PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

☐ *Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Attached
(Participating Members Only)

☐ **STUDENT MEMBER**\$45.00

Open to any student of shorthand reporting who is endorsed by a court reporting training program instructor or director.

☐ **RETIRED MEMBER**\$60.00

Open to any participating member in good standing who has retired from the active practice of shorthand reporting.

☐ **ASSOCIATE MEMBER** \$125.00

This category is open to the following (please check one):

- ☐ Teachers of shorthand reporting
- ☐ Individuals officially connected with a school or college conducting shorthand reporting course—*School Name & Location* _____
- ☐ Non-member individuals retired from active shorthand reporting
- ☐ Non-reporters professionally associated with or employed by a member of FCRA whose application is endorsed by a participating member in good standing (*please print sponsoring member's name below where requested*) _____
- ☐ Anyone qualifying for Participating membership, but residing outside of Florida - State of Residence _____

☐ **VENDOR MEMBER**\$500.00

Open to any firm or corporation engaged in selling products or services to FCRA members.

PRO BONO: Are you interested in donating time to the Pro Bono Program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

FLORIDA MANUAL: The guide to court reporting in Florida — sample forms, guidelines, and rules of court. Cost for members: \$75.00. Subscription to updates: \$25.00.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Searchable geographical and alphabetical members' listing on our website.

Membership year runs one year from date of enrollment. Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. In accordance with Section 6033(e) (2)(A) of the Internal

For Administrative Use Only

Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____

Date Approved _____ Computer _____

I hereby make application for membership in the Florida Court Reporters Association and pledge myself, if accepted, to abide by the requirements of the Bylaws and Code of Professional Responsibility of the Association as they are now and as they may be amended in the future.

I understand that all applications are subject to review and approval by FCRA and that I must be a stenographic or voice reporter to join. All applicants must be sponsored by an FCRA member in good standing per FCRA bylaws. FCRA reserves the right to revoke the membership of anyone using a methodology other than stenographic or voice.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Name of Sponsoring Member (Please print or type) _____

How did you hear about FCRA? Code: _____ Other: _____

PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

☐ Check # _____ ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ AmEx

Account # _____

Exp. Date: _____

CVV: _____

Amount to charge: \$ _____

Authorized Signature _____

Billing Address: ☐ Same as above

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Make check payable to FCRA and mail to FCRA Headquarters,
6116 SE Turn Leaf Trail, Hobe Sound, FL 33455
Phone: 844-GET-FCRA (438-3272)
admin@fcraonline.org (for charge payments only)
www.fcraonline.org