



**THE**

# Florida

**REPORTER**



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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*plain and simple*  
**STENO and VOICE**



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



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FCRA Annual Convention  
June 3-5, 2022  
Hutchinson  
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JUNE



*and I think  
to myself,  
what a  
wonderful  
world.*



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I



# Editor's Letter

By Stephanie Nargiz, RPR, FPR-C  
2021-2022 Director at Large



## The Many Personalities in the World of Court Reporting

I find it fascinating and love to examine the psychology of people. Personality typology indicates four to five traits, and the behaviors of people reacting to different events is so complex. In our court reporting world, I have the privilege of meeting an extraordinary number of people. I love this about our chosen profession. The combined skills of listening, discerning, writing, and then preserving the spoken record is a job like no other! It is quite dynamic, and I believe few professions are as fulfilling in this manner.

Over time, our profession has evolved, as we also evolve honing our skills and growing in confidence as court reporters. In learning to become a court reporter, we are first immersed in theory, where our minds soak up the wonders of the steno keyboard. We also take classes to learn Latin terminology, medical terminology, and an array of subjects to learn about some of the subject matters we may encounter out in the field. We build our speed, finding it easy at first, then struggle mentally with our own internal challenges in passing the tests at 95 percent accuracy or better at each of the legs in jury, literature, and Q&A. It takes dedication and persistent, positive self-talk to persevere; and, if fortunate, we have friends and family to cheer us on in our endeavors. We jump all the hurdles and finally graduate court reporting school! Throughout the process, we may encounter other students and interact with our teachers, but we are still not presented with the world of interacting with judges, lawyers, arbitrators, clients, employers, deponents, CART students, and so many others. When working as a court reporter, your world opens to a sea of personalities!

Most of our time is spent inside our own heads, capturing the spoken word. Some of us then produce transcripts of proceedings in solitude. Solitude also may consist of the occasional (or more than occasional) interruptions by our significant others, kids, and pets. In solitude, snacking also becomes an interruption of its own kind. Mine consists of rewarding myself with treats every 10 pages. While out in the field, we also do our own “examination” of the people in that day’s job. It is a fascinating world we live in as court reporters when it comes to personality types. Each day brings a whole different world, being placed in a snippet of people’s lives.

These brief encounters open the window to personality typology, experiencing reactions and behaviors, and help teach us what we should and should not do in life. They show us what people value as important in their world. They sometimes bring us moments of feeling empathy, and at other times our internal lie detector is triggered. All the while, we try to maintain the outward face of impartiality, doing our jobs of capturing the spoken word, preserving history.

I hope we all embrace this profession in discovering the amazing world of personalities!

“Open the window and see the faces of life.  
Catch a glimpse without giving advice.  
Capture their story of undertakings and gripes.  
Decode the mystery of the personality in sight.”

~ Stephanie Nargiz

# President's Message

By Tracy Finan, RPR, FPR-C, CCR(GA)  
2021-2022 President



**Pivoting, Adapting, and Growing –  
When you accomplish this,  
you create your ...  
Passport to the Future by  
Writing Your Own Ticket!**

Welcome aboard, 2022! For me, 2021 felt like a return trip to 2020 in too many ways, but if there's one lesson we all learned on this journey, it was how to pivot and grow – maybe not always willingly, but we did it! Adjustment was the necessary “ticket” to survival, and positive attitudes were the only “pathway” to do so successfully. 2022 is showing us that as we seemingly fly into the future, we will need to continue to pivot as we deal with hybrid settings and going back to more in-person proceedings.

Want to make the pivot into your future easier? Then pack your bags and join us in Jensen Beach, FL, from June 3rd-5th, 2022, at the beautiful Hutchinson Shores Resort & Spa for FCRA's Annual Convention as we all earn our Passports to the Future By Writing Our Own Tickets! Incoming President and PASSIONATE stenographer extraordinaire, Laura Landerman, has inspired this year's theme for us all to travel to new heights in our careers!

It came as no surprise to any of us, as we traveled down the remote trail, that the SUPERIORITY of a verbatim reporter armed with knowledge and skills again proved to be the Gold Standard for attorneys and the judiciary to protect their records. Stenographic & voice verbatim reporters in Florida demonstrated, as NCRA President Debbie Dibble says, “We are the ultimate resource for an accurate, timely, and indisputably authentic record.”

What better place to sharpen those skills and enhance your knowledge but at FCRA's 2022 Convention? You can pass FCRA's new skills exam and move towards earning your FPR-C, which signals your marketability and competence as a reporter with both the knowledge of Florida rules and laws and the accurate skills of an unrivaled verbatim reporter! Already got alphabet soup after your name? (Although, there's never enough, right?) Are you nationally certified and have your FPR WKT? Then seek reciprocity for the FPR-C!

Pivot right on into the next session and hone your knowledge of your software! The amazing Robin Merker and Michael Starkman are ready to make your editing savvy take flight with Case Catalyst and Eclipse training! Make making \$\$\$ easier!

Our pilot and copilot – I mean, convention chairs -- Danielle Freeze Wall and Michael Scire', and their creative crew—I mean, committee -- Amber Rodriguez, Jessica Donnelly, Amy Yarbrough and Sheri Smargon have put together a weekend packed with fun, learning, and networking!

Join Jason Meadors and posit the question for answers such as: “This job requires mastering a special 22-key keyboard and spending time around lawyers and defendants.” FCRA not only gets a return visit from Jason, the president-elect for NCRA, but the bubbly Debbie Dibble, current NCRA president, will be joining the fun. Word's out – FCRA throws a great party!

(continued on page 6)

# President's Message (continued)

Take your seat in the "Short Writing" workshop with Lady Steno, Katiana Walton; get realtime ready with Laura Landerman and Sheri Smargon; learn tips on working with a scopist for that daily job with Ninette Butler and Robyn Maxwell, and with all that new-found wealth from soaring into productivity and realtime, you will need business advice and financial planning! Nancy Varallo and Randall Rust have the gear you need to land safely there!

Of course, the amazing BASKExTravaganza is back, along with the riveting Thomas Hughes Memorial Realtime Challenge, and our high-energy keynote speaker, Jimmy Fasig, will motivate you to get onboard with that passport to your future and so much more! Check out the full agenda at Annual Convention - Agenda 2022 ([memberclicks.net](http://memberclicks.net)).

In closing, I want to say a heartfelt thank-you to all our members for supporting FCRA. Without your membership, FCRA can't exist. The remote oath law is proof positive what our collective

voices and your membership can accomplish. Further, your volunteer Board of Directors, who I am so proud to serve with, has listened to you, and we are making changes based on your input to ensure FCRA's fiscal survival and increase our ability to do MORE for our members and this amazing career. I am filled with gratefulness for the guidance of our past presidents and leaders during my presidential year. Honestly, I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate your words and support, both with leading FCRA in difficult times, but personally as well.

Thank you to all our sponsors - without you, FCRA could not put together these amazing conferences for our members.

Put your trays and seat backs in the upright position, and please join me at the beach as I CELEBRATE passing the gavel to FCRA's incoming president, Laura Landerman, and introduce the 2022-2023 Board! FCRA will be in amazing hands as we take off into the future!



# Recorded History

(Stenographer Scribe)

By Vana Lou Velazco

**Notched in charcoal on the walls of a cave,  
History's moments attempting to save.  
And later, on papyrus with a sharp quill,  
The stories recorded  
That we can read still.  
Every letter of every line  
represents a single moment of time.  
Just think where we would possibly be  
Without that recorded history;  
Tales could be changed  
And battles unwon,  
Why, someone could be named another's son!  
But, once a thing is written down,  
Words captured from what once was sound,  
All that was heard and all that was said.  
May on another day be read.  
And, once a speech is put to print,  
it becomes History in that moment.  
And, who performs this job with great pride?  
History's recorder, the stenographer scribe.**



# "You've Come a Long Way, Newbie"

Dear Reader,

I was a newbie (baby reporter) and, believing in the power of osmosis, I purchased the then-top of the line writer, the Stentura 8000 LX immediately upon finishing school. (This was 26 years ago!) I proudly lugged that machine up the steep courthouse steps, and then was so embarrassed because I couldn't put it together for my first job as a new reporter, my first day of a trial. Thank goodness, the boutique firm where I worked was just across the street from the courthouse, and the firm owner very patiently hurried over and helped me put the writer onto the tripod. I can relate the tale now because enough time has passed that I am over the shame, and it is one of my many "Don't let this happen to you" stories to newbie reporters!

And, that first day of my first job got even better. Anyone who has known me long enough (going back at least 26 years -- the span of my reporting career) knows that my favorite color is red. So, my brand new suit for court was a deep crimson with gold designer buttons, complemented by pearls and a lovely pair of black patent pumps. I was positive that it would be my "power suit" -- and it was! LOL! I felt so confident as I sat there in court my very first day -- for about 20 minutes. We were 20 minutes into the voir dire when her Honor wanted to have something read back that a prospective juror had said. I found the juror's name easily enough (MART/MART, Mr. Martinez) but, when it came time to slowly, painstakingly figure out where he worked, I said Home Depot instead of Office Depot. Practically the same brief, but for that one extra finger. My face turned the color of my suit as the judge stormed off the bench, "Madam Reporter, when we come back, you had better have that testimony."

Fast-forward 26 years, most days, I can read back as though I were reading from a newspaper on a good day, when the attorneys are actually record-conscious. I am proud to say they can read my notes, as well -- the benefits of realtime!

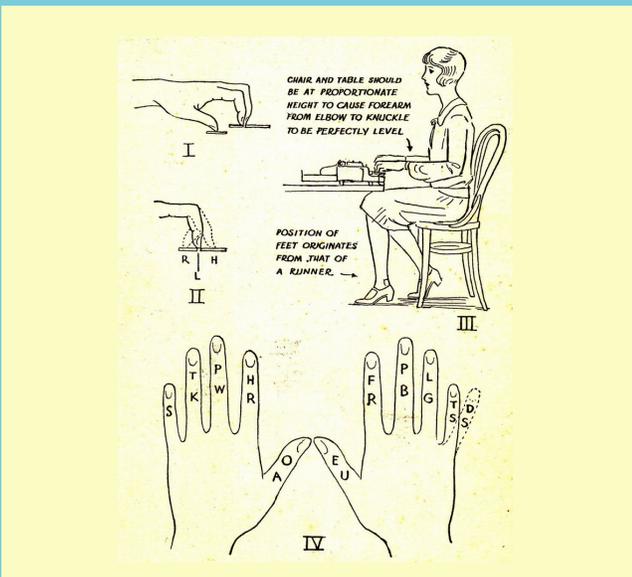


Back to my story. After the judge left the bench in a huff, one of the attorneys came up to me as I was trying not to hyperventilate and said, "Sharon, I've seen the other reporters do it, and they read it to themselves first." In my two years in school, my focus had been on all those drills to gain that coveted 225. Reading back was more of an afterthought, and not considered as necessary as getting that speed! So, I thanked him for his sage advice, and hurriedly wrote the potential juror's requested portion of testimony in the margin of my paper, which was spilling out over my machine, just as the judge returned to the bench. She said, in exasperation, "Are you ready, Madam Reporter?"

I stuffed my paper back into my tray, lifted my head high and read back from my margins like a champ, glad that at least my pencil had been sharp enough so that I could read my hasty writing, "By Mr. Martinez: I worked at Home Depot." That is all I remember from that day. And, it must be said that my red suit hung in the back of my closet for at least a month, a reminder of my humiliation.

Turns out the trial was a medical malpractice. It droned on for two weeks, and I stumbled my way through it. I guess the defense attorney knew his case was a slam dunk from the get-go, because he told me, "Sharon, if you quit this trial, I'm quitting this trial."

I found out later the judge had pulled the attorneys to the side and let them know I had been interning in her courtroom for the last month and was quite greeeen. Her exact words, and I can almost hear them now, spoken in her thick, beautiful Southern drawl. Once I recovered, the next day, on a break, I was proudly showing off my new writer to that same attorney, and I demonstrated the "mark" feature where, if he silently indicated with a raised finger from across the courtroom, I could mark that portion of testimony for reading back later (he didn't seem to mind how long it took me to trudge through the words during the trial, itself.) What I didn't realize was that when you turned the writer off, the marks indicating the desired testimony disappeared, as well! (I found THAT out when we were back at my office and I, prepared to astound him, had nothing to show except my almost tearful chagrin.)



And, my final confession from trial (although I could go on) is that during the video-playing of a doctor's two-hour testimony, the lights were turned off for the benefit of the jurors to better see the monitor. I remember I was so relieved that I had some cover of darkness and could finally relax my tense shoulders. When the lights came back on, to my horrified surprise, at some point during the testimony, I had run out of paper and had been stroking on the platen for goodness knows how long. Fortunately, for me, anyway, the transcript was never ordered because it WAS a defense verdict! The attorneys told me they couldn't have done it without me! (Yes, I can hear you laughing/scoffing as I write this. But, as I said, I am well past the shame! ;)

I guess my point of this story is that we survive. I don't know where you are in your progress as a court reporter. You could be a newbie and frustrated because the attorneys are fighting and talking over each other, or a seasoned veteran, having reported 26 years, and the attorneys are fighting and talking over each other. Oh, and they usually want wherever they started fighting to be read back. So, whether you are struggling through the readback or reading through your shattered notes like the professional you are, you will survive, and you've got this. This is an amazing career, and I (and my family) have benefited immensely. We have put two boys through private schools and a liberal arts private college. My younger son brought home a lovely girl from college who chose, despite having a degree in opera, to study court reporting! (brag alert: She is working on her 180s!)

I am so proud to tell people, when they ask what I do, "Oh, I am a stenographer." And, of course, I then go on to extol the virtues of our craft to anyone who will listen. It could be the Uber driver one day, or even the clerk checking me out of my upscale hotel after a family vacation. Or, it could be a high-schooler who is uncertain what career path they wish to pursue. I am happy to say there are a LOT of those high-schoolers who are willing to listen to YOU talk about your experiences as a court reporter!

So, where am I in MY journey as a stenographer? An untold number of mishaps and glories later, I am now a federal official reporter. I could regale you with many, many stories of jobs that have been less than stellar, and I have had many, many jobs where I have wanted to jump out of my chair because in my readback out loud or from what is seen on the attorneys' computer screens, I nailed every. single. word of that foreign expert's testimony! This is an amazing career and, after 26 years, I can't see myself enjoying another profession as much, or deriving the same level of fulfillment. I truly hope, Dear Reader, no matter how long you've been reporting, the same is true for you!

Sharon Pell Velazco, RPR, FPR-C, CLR  
Federal Official Court Reporter



**READ BACK READ BACK  
READ BACK READ BACK  
READ BACK READ BACK  
READ BACK READ BACK**

# FPR-C

Skills, yeah, we got them.



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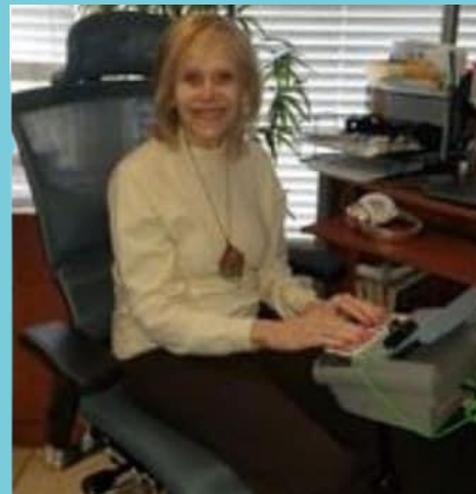
## FPR-C

*Catch the Wave*



# "Stick-to-it-tive-ness"

By Heidi Kay-Harmer, FPR



Most remarkable and interesting story. After 30+ years of reporting, in late December 2018, I had quite the scare. My husband woke me up in the middle of the night to tell me that he felt like he needed to go to the ER because he could barely move from a rare disease called CIDP. He was feeling extreme symptoms due to a lack of a drug he needed as there was a national shortage. He was panicking and decided to wait for his infusion in the morning and not go to the ER. I could barely fall back asleep worrying about him, the tornado warnings for the next day and pondering whether I would be able to report my two depositions, and I was also not sure how far my jobs were from the infusion center.

As we walked out the door in the morning through torrential rain, I found a flat tire on my car. I thought to myself this does not look good, but persevered. We then jumped into his car and, miraculously, got him downtown in time for his appointment and my depositions. As it turned out, the infusion center was right around the corner from my jobs!

I had no idea what I was about to face in the second job, a huge shooting case in Orlando. It was very gory and detailed, and the witness happened to be the main person overseeing security where the shooting occurred. Also, someone famous was shot and killed, so it was very stressful listening to this never-ending story of heartbreak and sadness. I was holding on for dear life, writing like I never wrote before! I was able to get through this four-and-a-half-hour deposition and thankful to find out my husband had safely landed at home.

This experience reminded me that, as a reporter, you CAN tune everything else out despite how terrible things appear to be, a certain "stick-to-it-tive-ness" that I was taught in reporting school!

# Roll with it!



Q. For what purpose was the LLC formed?  
A. To protect against f-faced lawyers.

Then several questions later:

Q. What is your current position in the company?  
A. King.

(Submission by Michele Coburn)



## 20 Ways to Decompress

- Go for a walk
- Drink a cup of tea
- Breath fresh air
- Turn off your phone
- Lay on the floor
- Draw, color, or paint
- Journal
- Watch the sunset
- Meditate
- Read for fun
- Dance around your living room
- Play with a pet
- Sit in silence (technology free)
- Call a safe friend
- Practice simple yoga poses
- Take an extra long shower
- Make a list
- Play/Listen to music
- Work on a puzzle
- Bake/Cook for fun



Q Okay. Sir, just so the air is clear -- and I don't want to make any -- anybody to un-know, is that you are related to me, are you not?

A Correct.

Q Okay. You are my nephew --

A Yes.

Q -- correct?

A Yes.

Q You were married to my sister -- not married. You are the son of my sister?

A That would be unusual, but yes.

Q Okay.

THE COURT: Oh, boy. I thought we had a story there.

(Submission by Beth Chorrushi)

HAVE A FUNNY, CUTE OR UNIQUE EXCERPT FROM A TRANSCRIPT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

SAY WHAT?



Email it to [editor@fcaonline.org](mailto:editor@fcaonline.org) to be featured in the next edition of *The Florida Reporter*.



# FCRA Annual Convention

BOARDING PASS



# TODAY TOMORROW

## 2022 FCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION

*PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, WRITING YOUR OWN TICKET.*



June 3-5, 2022 | Hutchinson Shores Resort & Spa | Jensen Beach, FL

# SAVE THE DATE

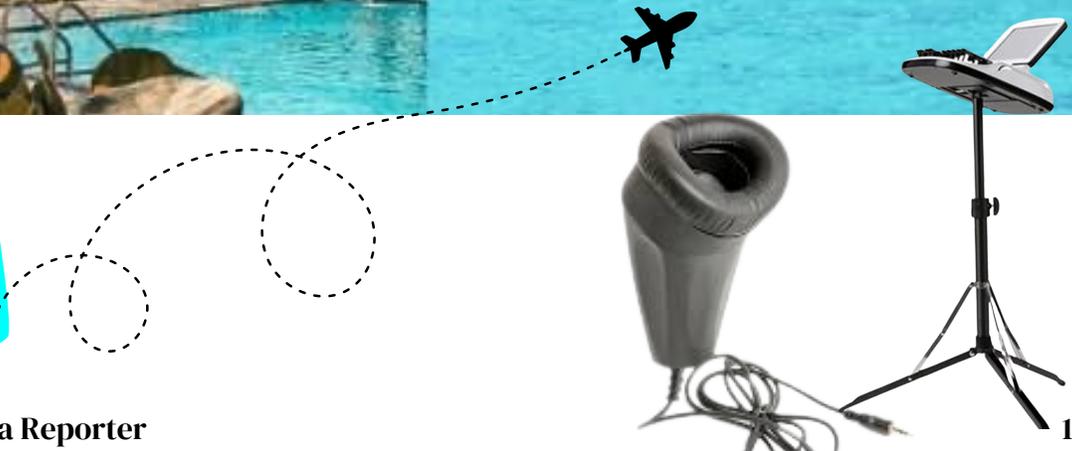
## 2022 FCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION



# JUNE 3 - 5, 2022

## HUTCHINSON SHORES RESORT & SPA

Hutchinson Island, Florida



# Convention Agenda

Visit [www.fcraonline.org](http://www.fcraonline.org) for full convention schedule.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022

### FPR-C Skills Testing

PRACTICE ROOM open at 7:30 a.m.

EXAM GIVEN at 8:00 a.m. SHARP

### SESSION #1: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### Eclipse Software Training - Speaker: Michael Starkman

How do the developers for Eclipse continue to outdo themselves with each new version? I don't know but they managed to do it again with Version 10! We'll take a look at some of the highlights in Version 10. From there we'll look at one of the most valuable features in the software, AutoBrief. After all, what could be more valuable to the shorthand reporter than the software suggesting shorthand? If you're interested in building your writing speed, you don't want to miss this. And for those who are currently using the feature, trust me when I tell you this will still be a valuable learning experience! The remainder of the seminar will focus on ways to improve translation accuracy, covering topics such as alphabets, stacking errors, certain number conversion issues, specialized uses for conflict resolution, getting better results from Translation Magic and more.

### SESSION #2: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### Case CATalyst Software Training - Speaker: Robin Merker, RPR, FPR-C, CITA

Get to know the amazing new features and enhancements in Version 21 that will boost your speed and efficiency, such as Transfer to User, Location of Team Members, Generate CaseViewNet Browser Link, Phrase Maker, vCard Import, [CLEAR] command for power defines, hyperlinks for PDFs and so much more! Then let's look at Catalyst 21.5 and check out APEX. Finally, let's demystify Auto-Indexing - Auto-Indexing is an essential tool to producing transcripts which will save you hundreds of hours of time over your career.

### SESSION #3: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

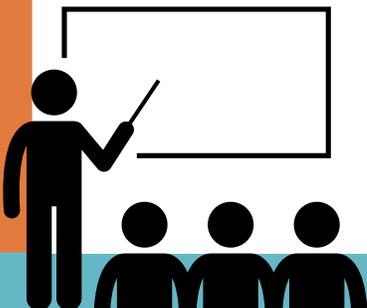
#### The Business of Court Reporting - Speaker: Nancy Varallo, RDR, CPR, FAPR, DSA

Attention new professionals and students! We'll explore what it takes to be in business for yourself. Do you have an EIN? Are you organized for bookkeeping, accounting, and taxes? Do you have insurance? Are you complying with identity fraud protection laws? Bring your questions!

### Thomas Hughes Memorial Realtime Challenge

PRACTICE ROOM OPEN at 5:00 p.m.

CONTEST GIVEN at 5:30 p.m. SHARP



# SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

**SESSION #4: - 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**KEYNOTE SESSION: Passport to the Future, Writing Your Own Ticket**

**Speaker: Jimmy Fasig, Esq.**

Attention new professionals and students! We'll explore what it takes to be in business for yourself. Do you have an EIN? Are you organized for bookkeeping, accounting, and taxes? Do you have insurance? Are you complying with identity fraud protection laws? Bring your questions!

**SESSION #5: - 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.**

**"Short Writing" Workshop- Speaker: Lady Steno- Katiana Walton**

**11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. - \*Ticket Required**

**Luncheon, Annual Business Meeting, & Installation of Officers/Directors**

**SESSION #6: - 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Ethics Jeopardy = Speaker: Jason Meadors, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC**

The audience-participation game show features a quiz competition, inspired by the original TV game show in which contestants are presented with knowledge clues in the form of answers and must phrase their responses in the form of questions, but with scenarios and issues to be discussed and the means to address ethical dilemmas in the world of all things court reporting. Jason puts a fun new spin on the classic game show while customizing it for the ethics of court reporting.

**SESSION #7: - 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Financial Planning - Speaker: Randall Rust**

How to plan for a more secure retirement! Financial planning CAN be fun! Learn how to be more financially savvy from an accomplished industry professional with expertise in the mobile applications, promotional products development, and print publishing industries. Randall will help you to become financially independent by making simple and smart decisions while preparing for the future.

**SESSION #8: - 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**

**The Best Offense is a GREAT Defense**

**Speaker: NCRA President Debra Dibble, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP**

YOU are the greatest resource, the greatest asset our profession has. NCRA President Debra Dibble will walk you through the nightmares of battles waging and introduce us to the strategic offensive principles of war. We are the weapons. Come and learn how to polish your gold star to a shimmering sheen and prove to the world that we are the ultimate resource for an accurate, timely, and indisputably authentic record. We don't have to disprove any competing method in this marketplace that we are the gold standard; WE are the proof!

**BASKExTravaganza - 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**President's Party - 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. \*Ticket Required**



# SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022

**SESSION #9: - 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

**Have Writer, Will Travel - Speaker: Jason Meadors, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC**

A look at Jason's international experience, the working environment, challenges, solutions, and an insight into how to enter this field - if this opportunity still exists, post-pandemic.

**SESSION #10: - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Are You Realtime Ready? Part 2 (Part 1 is not required for session participation.)**

**Speakers: Laura Landerman, RDR, CRR, FPR-C & Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC, FPR-C, M.A.**

Continuation of our session in 2021 where we cover how to be realtime ready. Writing tips, equipment you need, setting up CAT ports. This year we will broaden our focus on realtime jury selection and how to handle those really challenging assignments with ease. This seminar will focus on how to provide a useable realtime feed for attorneys during jury selection, ways to connect and showcase your feed, and how to upsell your talents and skills to reiterate why stenographers are The Gold Standard.

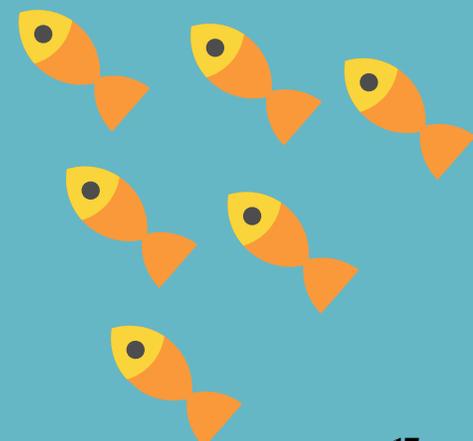
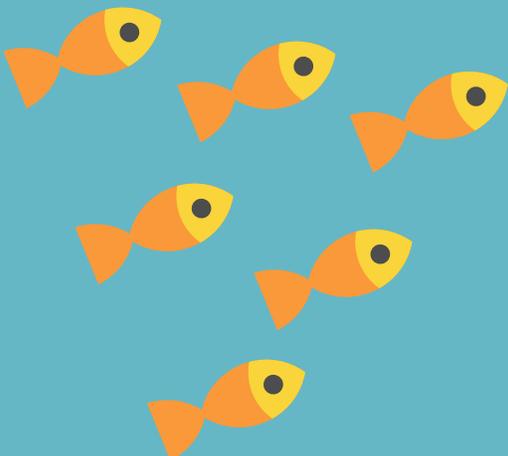
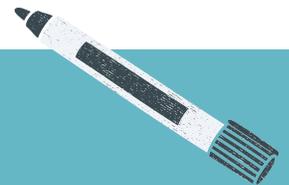
**SESSION #11: - 12:15 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.**

**Realtime Editing with a Scopist on Realteams and Connection Magic**

**Speakers: Ninette Butler, RPR, CRR, CRC, FPR-C, CCR (GA) and Robyn Maxwell, RPR, FPR, CLR**

Hiring a scopist is difficult. Find out key strategies to building lasting relationships with scopists and take a tour through Realteams and Connection Magic.

**Conference Adjourns - 1:30 p.m.**



# Convention Events

*Passport to the future, writing your own ticket.*

## FPR-C

Skills Testing  
June 3, 2022 - 8:00 am

The FPR-C shall be the standard word count dictation of 200 words per minute for testimony (Q&A) material for five minutes and 180 words per minute for five minutes of literary/judicial material.

## THOMAS HUGHES MEMORIAL REALTIME CHALLENGE

June 3, 2022 - 5:30 pm

The Thomas Hughes Memorial Realtime Challenge consists of REALTIME literary/judicial material at 180 wpm for five minutes and Q&A material at 225 wpm for five minutes. Transcripts may be in ALL CAPS. You must be able to produce an RTF, TXT, or PDF file which will be required to be emailed to the graders.

## BASKEXTravaganza

How to Play:

Obtain your drawing tickets at convention and place them into the drawing container of the basket you would like to win. The more tickets you purchase, the better your odds are to win! Have fun, be creative, and DONATE a basket! All proceeds to go FCRA.

5 tickets - \$5  
15 tickets = \$10  
45 tickets = \$25  
100 tickets = \$50  
250 tickets - \$100

Please contact Michael Scire at [michaelscirefcra@gmail.com](mailto:michaelscirefcra@gmail.com) to donate a basket.

# Convention Events



**1.7 CEUs**  
NCRA APPROVED

**Convention Agenda**

- Eclipse Software Training
- Case CATalyst Software Training
- The Business of Court Reporting
- “Short Writing” Workshop
- Ethics Jeopardy
- Financial Planning
- The Best Offense is a GREAT Defense
- Have Writer, Will Travel
- Are You Realtime Ready? Part 2
- Realtime Editing with a Scopist on Realteams and Connection Magic
- Passport to the Future, Writing Your Own Ticket

**BOARDING PASS**

**TODAY ✈️ TOMORROW**

2022 FCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION  
PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, WRITING YOUR OWN TICKET.

June 3-5, 2022 | Hutchinson Shores Resort & Spa | Jensen Beach, FL

FCRA Association

**1.7  
CEUs**

---

**NCRA  
APPROVED**

**SOFTWARE  
TRAINING**

---

**June 3, 2022**  
**8:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**CASE CATALYST** by  
Robin Merker, RPR, FPR-C, CITA

**ECLIPSE** by  
Michael Starkman

**COURT REPORTERS:**  
Donate your gently used/new equipment and reporter accessories



to students/new reporters to be distributed in a drawing at the annual convention!



Bring the items with you to convention or contact [fcrainline.org](http://fcrainline.org)

# Convention Events



*President's Party*  
June 4, 2022 - 7:30 p.m.  
We invite our first class passengers to  
"Walk the Runway."

Join us for a night of  
fun celebrating  
incoming president  
Laura J. Landerman.



# COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING WEEK - Feb 5-12

## A-Z Program



## Deerfield Beach Job Fair!

Lance Steinbeisser, Sharon Velazco, Rosa Naccarato



## Meet-up Success!

Thank you to all who participated in our virtual meet ups!

<p><b>Virtual MEET UP</b></p> <p>FCRA is excited to celebrate 2022 Court Reporting and Captioning Week!</p> <p><b>Interested in Court Reporting?</b> Put on your PJs, relax and come chat with us about this fabulous career.</p> <p>Tuesday, February 8, 2022 7 to 9 pm EST</p> <p>ZOOM MEETING ID: 853 4479 7934</p> <p>FCRA</p> <p>OPEN TO ANYONE WANTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STENOGRAPHY.</p>	<p><b>Virtual MEET UP</b></p> <p>FCRA is excited to celebrate 2022 Court Reporting and Captioning Week!</p> <p><b>Ask a veteran reporter!</b></p> <p>Are you a student or a new professional and have questions? We've got answers.</p> <p>Wednesday, February 9, 2022 7 to 9 pm EST</p> <p>ZOOM MEETING ID: 853 4479 7934</p> <p>FCRA</p>	<p><b>Virtual MEET UP</b></p> <p>FCRA is excited to celebrate 2022 Court Reporting and Captioning Week!</p> <p>Let's get together for a virtual HAPPY HOUR &amp; INFO EXCHANGE and network with FCRA's working verbatim reporters!</p> <p>Thursday, February 10, 2022 7 to 9 pm EST</p> <p>ZOOM MEETING ID: 853 4479 7934</p> <p>FCRA</p> <p>OUTRIMS • FREELANCE • LRM • STENOIS • NEW PROFESSIONALS</p>
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### Court Reporting & Captioning Week - 2022

Participate in one of FCRA's Virtual Meet Ups and let's celebrate together.

#CRCW2022  
*Spotlight*

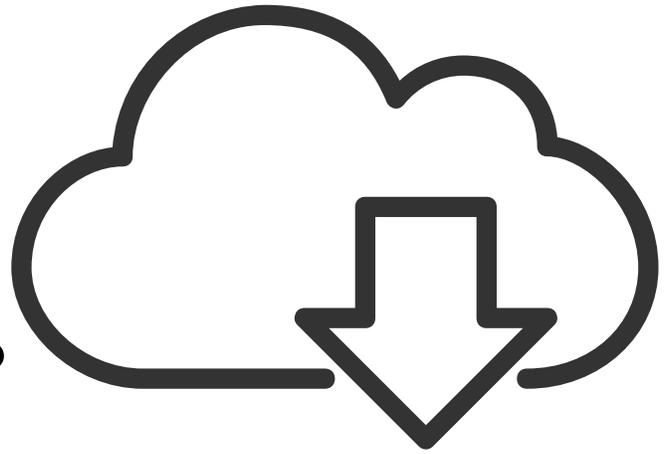
- Stanley Cup Finals
- The Golden Globe Awards
- The Voice
- CNN Coverage - Search for the Boston Bombers
- September 11, 2001
- Oklahoma City Bombing
- The Olympics (Eight times)
- Saturday Night Live
- State of the Union Address
- Japanese News (NHK)
- Pope's Visit to the US
- Meet the Press, Hardball with Chris Matthews
- NBC hourly updates on the OJ Simpson trial
- The Today Show, The Dan Patrick Show, QVC
- CNBC, CBS Morning News, CSPAN3
- NFL, MLB, NHL and NBA games
- Captioned in Australia - footy and cricket
- TV shows like Extra, Big Brother After Dark, Jenny Jones, Ricky Lake, Maury Povich.

**CAPTIONER**  
Sheri Smargon, RDR, CRR, CRC, FPR-C, M.A.

SPREAD  
*Love and Steno*  
EVERYWHERE  
YOU GO!

♥♥♥

# RUN THE UPDATE.....



By Amber Rodriguez, CSR, RPR, FPR-C

**It never fails. You're logging on to your Zoom deposition, and there's an update available. Grrrrrr. Do you run it? Of course, with a roll of the eyes.**

**Computers, CAT software, phones, steno machines, apps, iPads, etc., all should be updated regularly. One of the main reasons to keep up with updates on your devices is security. Seems these days everyone is getting hacked. So provide yourself and your record a line of defense and go ahead and run the update.**

**Software updates improve functionality and performance. Your systems will run faster, and you'll be less likely to encounter the dreaded "not responding" message. Bugs and crashes are not welcome in our reporting world, so as a friendly reminder, regularly check for updates! I'll also add a friendly reminder to backup your notes and transcript files.**



**FCRA has lowered membership dues from \$300 to \$250.**

Renew today at <https://fcra.memberclicks.net/membership>

## **FPR-C RECIPROCALITY 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.

[www.fcraonline.org](http://www.fcraonline.org)

# What is FCRA doing for me?



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.



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.



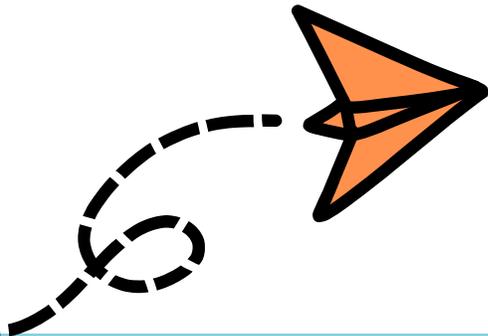
Our Schools Committee is putting boots on the ground and promoting this fabulous career to future students throughout the state.



Our Convention Committee is hard at work putting together a comprehensive agenda featuring topics relevant to today's world of court reporting, offering 1.7 CEUs pre-approved by NCRA, and enabling fun networking opportunities.



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



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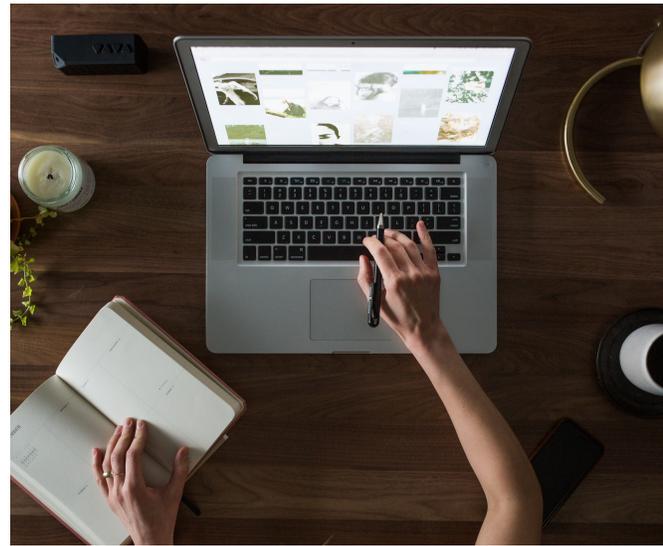
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# BECOME AN **FCRA** VOLUNTEER



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                  | GOVERNMENT RELATIONS      |
| ARLENE P. SOMMERS AWARD                | INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY    |
| CART/REALTIME                          | SOCIAL MEDIA              |
| CHARTER & BYLAWS                       | THE FLORIDA REPORTER      |
| CONVENTION COMMITTEE                   | MEMBERSHIP/INFO EXCHANGES |
| COURT REPORTING SCHOOLS                | NOMINATING                |
| COURTS COMMITTEE                       | PLACEMENT                 |
| EMILY MANN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD | PR TASK FORCE             |
| FINANCE AND BUDGET                     | PRO BONO                  |
| FUNDRAISING                            | PROFESSIONAL ETHICS       |

Go to [fcraonline.org](http://fcraonline.org) to volunteer today!



## Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Form

### Participating Membership Only

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

FCRA Headquarters  
222 S. Westmonte Dr, Suite 111  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714  
Fax: 407-774-6440

The FCRA 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	\$100.00
Second Payment	Processed 30 days after first payment	\$110.00
Third/Final Payment	Processed 60 days after first payment	\$110.00

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 \$100.00 will be processed upon receipt. The second installment in the amount of \$110.00 will be automatically processed 30 days following the first payment. The third and final installment in the amount of \$110.00 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 \$320.00 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

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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  Federal  Teacher  Student  Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Asterisk indicates required information.

<p>I make application for Membership as a: (CHECK ONE)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>PARTICIPATING MEMBER</b> .....\$300.00 Open to anyone engaged in active practice of official or general court reporting by either stenographic or voicewriter method. (Please indicate method above.) <b>PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE</b> <input type="checkbox"/> *Pre-Authorized Payment Plan Attached (Participating Members Only)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>STUDENT MEMBER</b> .....\$35.00 Open to any student of shorthand reporting who is endorsed by a court reporting training program instructor or director.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>RETIRED MEMBER</b> .....\$45.00 Open to any participating member in good standing who has retired from the active practice of shorthand reporting.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>ASSOCIATE MEMBER</b> ..... \$90.00 <i>This category is open to the following (please check one):</i>  <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers of shorthand reporting  <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals officially connected with a school or college conducting shorthand reporting course - <i>School Name &amp; Location</i> _____  <input type="checkbox"/> Non-member individuals retired from active shorthand reporting  <input type="checkbox"/> Non-reporters professionally associated with or employed by a member of FCRA whose application is endorsed by a participating member in good standing (<i>please print sponsoring member's name below where requested</i>)  <input type="checkbox"/> Anyone qualifying for Participating membership, but residing outside of Florida - State of Residence _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>VENDOR MEMBER</b>.....\$500.00 Open to any firm or corporation engaged in selling products or services to FCRA members.</p> <p><b>PRO BONO:</b> Are you interested in donating time to the Pro Bono Program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><b>FLORIDA MANUAL:</b> The guide to court reporting in Florida — sample forms, guidelines, and rules of court. Cost for members: \$75.00. Subscription to updates: \$25.00.</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:</b> Searchable geographical and alphabetical members' listing on our website.</p> <p><b>Membership year runs one year from date of enrollment.</b> Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. In accordance with Section 6033(c) (2)(A) of the Internal</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>I understand that all applications are subject to review and approval by FCRA. All applicants must be sponsored by an FCRA member in good standing per FCRA bylaws.</p> <p>Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____</p> <p>Name of Sponsoring Member (Please print or type) _____</p> <p>How did you hear about FCRA? Code: _____ Other: _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>PAYMENT ENCLOSED FOR:</b></p> <p><b>TOTAL ENCLOSED:</b> \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> AmEx</p> <p>Account # _____</p> <p>Exp. Date: _____</p> <p>CVV: _____</p> <p>Amount to charge: \$ _____</p> <p>Authorized Signature _____</p> <p>Billing Address: <input type="checkbox"/> Same as above</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City/St/Zip: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Make check payable to FCRA and mail to FCRA Headquarters,</b> 222 S. Westmonte Dr, Ste 111, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 Telephone 407-774-7880 • FAX 407-774-6440 (for charge payments only) • www.fcraonline.org</p>
<p><b>For Administrative Use Only</b></p> <p>Date Rec'd _____ Ref # _____ Amount _____</p> <p>Date Approved _____ Computer _____</p>	