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Message from the President

By Wesley Thomas Hughes, RDR, CRR, FPR
2007-2008 President



Oh, the Changes FCRA Has Experienced Over the Past Year!

Greetings. I can't believe this is my last President's message to FCRA's general membership. Where has the time gone? It seems like yesterday that I was sworn in as President of FCRA. In October, I outlined many things that I wanted to see accomplished during the 2007/2008 year. Many have come to fruition; some we are still working on.

Membership is and has always been one of the most important issues to our association and to me personally. I pledged to you that I would do everything I possibly could to increase membership during my year as President. To date, we have the highest membership in seven years. A special thank you to the Membership Committee for implementing our first membership exchange in Tampa/Clearwater in a long time. Your Membership Chairman, Rick Levy, is presently working on another to be held in Fort Lauderdale/Miami possibly next month. I would like to see the membership number go up even more.

We have increased our Florida Professional Reporters as of our Sarasota convention to 436. That's two-thirds of our total membership. My goal is to have every member of FCRA certified as a Florida Professional Reporter.

During this year, FCRA has sent delegates to Washington to attend NCRA's Boot Camp and Leadership Conference. On July 23rd, President-Elect Jennifer Gaul and I attended NCRA's Annual Convention in California as NCSA delegates representing FCRA.

This past June, Donna Kanabay, Tanya Ward English and I attended the Florida Bar Convention in Boca Raton. It has been several years since FCRA monitored these meetings. Your FCRA Board has decided it is time to start this very important task again.

Our Mid-Year Conference in Sarasota was very successful. Thank you to Gayl Hardeman for your hard work in

orchestrating this event. If you were not able to attend the Mid-Year Conference Business Meeting in Sarasota, your FCRA Board of Directors presented to the general membership a motion to increase our annual dues to \$150. After rationalizing the reasoning, the motion unanimously passed. The dues increase will go into effect November 1, 2008. We also have downsized the FCRA Board of Directors by combining into one the secretary/treasurer positions. FCRA has tightened its belt in ways to ensure that we will not have to sacrifice quality seminars and member services.

Last October I challenged each of you to gain a higher NCRA certificate. I hope you have been successful. If you haven't, it's not too late. November is just around the corner. Congratulations to each of you who have gained a new certification. I know your Saturday mornings can be sacred, but I promise it will be worth it in the long run.

Coming up very shortly, your President-Elect will be starting to put together the 2008/2009 FCRA Committees. It is not an easy task, believe me. We need volunteers from the general membership. Come on and decide which committees you would like to serve on. Make a commitment. I promise you that it will be a rewarding experience. Maybe it will lead to being on the Board of Directors and even President one day, if that is your desire.

Well, that is a snapshot of where we are today. I still have almost three months to go, so who knows what more we can achieve. I have truly enjoyed my year as President so far thanks to so many people who have helped me along the way. You know who you are!

In closing, I declared in October that this year's motto for FCRA is "BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE." If all of us strive for that, FCRA will continue to be the leading state court reporting association in the country!

Check Out All the “Can’t Miss” Items in this Issue!



I think you’re going to be pleased with this issue of *FCR Online*. A lot is going on in the court reporting world, more than we can possibly put in each issue of the magazine.

Our fearless leader, President Thomas Hughes, has done a wonderful job and accomplished much during his tenure as President of FCRA. One of his biggest goals as President was to increase membership and to encourage all of our members to become certified as Florida Professional Reporters. The numbers are all there in his article on Page 4.

As you can see from the article on Pages 9 - 10 of this issue, our State Courts System is experiencing some real difficulties. Budget cuts have been substantial, positions have been cut, a number of full-time employees have now become part-time employees, and a hiring freeze is in effect until further notice.

On a more triumphant note, however, Justice Peggy Quince became Chief Justice Peggy Quince on Friday, June 27, 2008. She is the first African-American woman

to be on the Supreme Court. Read the entire article on Page 9.

We have a new slate of nominees to vote on at the Annual Convention in Ocala for the 2008/2009 Board of Directors. Our association is guided, at the direction of its members, by our Board of Directors. I want to personally thank all of the existing Board members as well as the new potential Board members who are willing and eager to serve. See the 2008 Nominating Committee Report on Pages 14 - 15 and be prepared to cast your vote in October.

The Student’s Corner, FCRA Spotlights, and On the Job sections of the magazine contain a number of articles that are chock-full of information as well.

Plan to set aside some time to read everything that is offered in this issue of *FCR Online*. I don’t think you are going to be disappointed!

See you in October in Ocala.

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FCR Online Deadline Dates

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Publication Date Aug. 12, 2009

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

FCRA Annual Convention

October 17-19, 2008
Ocala Hilton,
Ocala, Florida

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October 17, 2008,
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On the National Scene...

Stenograph Discount Program for All FCRA Members

As a member of FCRA, you are entitled to special discounts on many Stenograph products. These discounts give you even more value for your FCRA membership!

Here are the details of the FCRA Stenograph Discount Program:

- 10% off retail or Web price on most supplies, or quantity discount, whichever is lower;
- \$200.00 discount on professional writer (plus published trade-in);
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- \$20 additional discount on software support renewal if done online prior to 30 days before contract expiration (excludes edit contract).

BONUS: Your discounts will automatically be applied, whether you order over the phone or online at www.stenograph.com. (You must be logged in on the website in order for your FCRA discount to be applied.)

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR 2008-2009

2008

- Oct. 17 - 19 **FCRA Annual Convention, Ocala Hilton, Ocala, FL**
Information will be sent out to members via E-Flash and posted on the FCRA web site www.FCRAonline.org
- Oct 17 **Florida Professional Reporter (FPR) Seminar & Certification Testing (Separate Registration Required)**
Pre-Conference Seminar FCRA Annual Convention, Ocala Hilton, Ocala, FL

2009

- Apr 17 - 19 **NCRA Mid-Year Conference, Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, LA**
Information to be posted on the NCRA web site www.ncraonline.org
- June 26 - 28 **FCRA Mid-Year Conference, Marriott Marco Island, Marco Island, FL**
Information to be posted on the FCRA web site www.FCRAonline.org
- June 26 **Florida Professional Reporter (FPR) Seminar & Certification Testing (Separate Registration Required)**
Pre-Conference Seminar FCRA Mid-Year Conference, Marriott Marco Island, Marco Island, FL
- August 6 - 9 **NCRA Annual Convention, Washington, DC**
Information to be posted on the NCRA web site www.ncraonline.org
- Sept 11 - 13 **FCRA Annual Convention, Fort Lauderdale Grand Resort, Fort Lauderdale, FL**
Information to be posted on the FCRA web site www.FCRAonline.org
- Sept 22 - 24 **Court Technology Conference 11 (CTC11), Mile High City of Denver, CO**
Information to be posted on the Court Technology Conference website



On the National Scene...

LexisNexis® Aligns with Stenograph® to Enable Litigators to Send Completed Realtime Deposition Transcripts Directly into TextMap® from CaseViewNet™

LexisNexis, a leading global provider of information and services solutions, today announced that it has entered into a strategic alliance with Stenograph Corp., a pioneer in realtime deposition technology and developer of the new CaseViewNet realtime transcript software.

As a result of the alliance, litigators who receive a realtime deposition transcript feed with CaseViewNet will be able to send that completed transcript file directly into their TextMap transcript management tool with a single click of a button ("Send to TextMap"). This powerful new capability gives TextMap users a seamless file exchange with the most innovative realtime transcript software on the market today, which features two major benefits over other realtime software products: (1) It is wireless and therefore much easier to administer at depositions; and (2) It can be instantly and automatically refreshed throughout the day as the court reporter makes edits, thereby delivering the most accurate transcript for litigators throughout the deposition.

"This strategic alliance is a tremendous benefit to our customers because it provides them with one-click file exchange to a product that historically has been viewed as the true pioneer in realtime transcript software," said Michael Gersch, vice president and managing director of Litigation Solutions at LexisNexis. "Stenograph is a leader in realtime technology, having introduced the industry-standard CaseView protocol nearly 20 years ago. Now they have raised the bar with CaseViewNet, a simple but robust wireless protocol that allows reporters to deliver the most accurate record possible, and we're delighted to be working with them on this important initiative for our customers."

The interaction of TextMap with CaseViewNet is an example of the LexisNexis® Total Practice Solutions strategy to provide legal professionals with the most complete capabilities to more effectively manage the business and practice of law.

Released in March, CaseViewNet provides interactive realtime access to testimony through a court reporter's

private WiFi network and their Stenograph Case CATalyst™ transcription software. The totally wireless system is easy to set up, eliminating the need for cables, adapters, software drivers or third-party network providers. Moreover, the breakthrough software features a proprietary RapidRefresh™ capability that allows them to instantly deliver edited transcripts, thereby improving the quality of the realtime transcript throughout the day. This means that litigators leave their depositions faster and with a much cleaner and more accurate transcript than is otherwise possible with other realtime transcript software products on the market.

"We're thrilled to be working with LexisNexis, a true industry leader, and to be more tightly associating our new realtime transcript software tool with TextMap, one of the most highly regarded transcript management software products available to litigators," said Bob Nash, vice president of marketing for Stenograph. "Court reporters love CaseViewNet because its innovative 'RapidRefresh' feature allows them to continuously provide the most up-to-date transcript in an easy-to-administer, secure and wireless environment. Meanwhile, litigators love it not only for the superior transcript, but also because CaseViewNet is absolutely free to use – no cost, no tokens required, no registration involved."

TextMap creates a searchable database of electronic transcripts from case depositions, examinations and other proceedings. Even attorneys working with electronic transcripts for the first time are able to search the transcripts' concordances, print selections and use the product's built-in PDF writer. TextMap users are able to upload transcripts from many different formats and send transcript summary passages directly to the CaseMap® case management software for inclusion in key case facts. As a result of the alliance with Stenograph, for example, legal professionals will be able to receive and interact with the realtime feed in CaseViewNet, send the completed file to TextMap to conduct a more detailed mark-up, and then send the complete reviewed transcript on to CaseMap – all in one seamless workflow.

Reprinted from the the Florida State Courts News Website, Posted June 27, 2008

The Gavel is Passed to Peggy Quince

Justice Peggy Quince, appointed to the Florida Supreme Court jointly by the late Governor Lawton Chiles and Governor Jeb Bush in 1998, became Chief Justice Peggy Quince on Friday, June 27, 2008. She serves as Florida's first African-American woman on the Supreme Court. Dignitaries, friends, and members of the judicial community were present to witness the Passing of the Gavel ceremony (the Florida chief justice serves a two-year term) in the Florida Supreme Court courtroom. Out-going Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis passed the ceremonial gavel to Chief Peggy Quince.

Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis welcomed the overflowing audience in the courtroom and introduced several key speakers before asking Justice Quince to step forward to be sworn in by Justice Barbara J. Pariente.

Prior to swearing in the new Chief Justice, Justice Pariente said that Justice Quince was moments away

from being "captain of the Florida judicial ship." She continued by saying, "The people of Florida will look to you to protect their legal rights...There is no one better suited to do that and to lead the judicial branch over the next two years." Justice Pariente then swore in Justice Peggy Quince (her hand on a bible secured from a nearby well-wisher) as the 53rd Chief Justice of Florida with the new Chief Justice's husband, Fred Buckine, by her side.

Chief Justice Quince graduated from Howard University in 1970 and received her law degree from the Catholic University of America in 1975. After more than thirteen years of service as a prosecutor in the criminal division of the Attorney General's Office (and just prior to being appointed to the Supreme Court), she was appointed to the Second District Court of Appeal in 1993, the first African-American woman named to any of Florida's five lower appeals courts.

Reprinted from the Summer 2008 edition of Full Court Press, Official Newsletter of the State Courts System of Florida

Impact of the Budget Cuts on the Court System

Between October 2007 and May of this year, the judicial branch was hit with three rounds of budget cuts. The first two rounds imposed "current year cuts," (Note: current year cuts are somewhat rare—and they're particularly painful because court operations, and the personnel who are responsible for carrying them out, have already been budgeted and set in motion for the year; thus unanticipated reductions can cause substantial disruption.) Passed into law during the second week of the legislative session, the current year cuts required the court system to forfeit 25.7 million in general revenue dollars. However, by tapping into its operating budget and drawing upon trust fund dollars and non-recurring appropriations, the judicial branch was able to avoid having to furlough or let go of any of its employees at that point.

Then, on top of these cuts came a third one, finalized during the last week of this year's legislative session and affecting the FY 2008-2009 budget. This cut imposed a further reduction of just under 18 million in general revenue dollars (the three cuts together represent a 9.8 percent reduction from the original 2007-2008 appropriations). In the final analysis, as a result of the three rounds of cuts, the court system had to eliminate the equivalent of 268.25 full-time positions.

But this issue isn't just about general revenue dollars

diminished or full-time positions lost. "More importantly, it's about people," emphasized Gary Phillips, OSCA's chief of Personnel Services. "We have tried to retain as many court employees as we could, minimize the number of people laid off as much as possible, and make decisions that will enable the branch to continue to operate with reduced staff."

In order to decrease the number of people laid off, the courts began by asking employees whether anyone was contemplating leaving by June 30, thinking about retiring early, or willing to go half-time. The branch pared those full-time positions and also cut a number of position vacancies that had been kept open as a result of hiring freezes that began in September 2007, thereby helping to reduce the number of people the courts had to lay off. In addition, Chief Justice Lewis lifted the hiring freeze for people in affected positions so that qualified employees could be moved into vacant positions whenever possible. Due to good fiscal management, the branch was able to limit considerably the number of people it had to lay off. The final numbers won't be available until the end of July, but, according to the most recent estimates, the circuits had to let go of 131 people; the DCAs had

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Impact of the Budget Cuts on the Court System

Continued from page 9

to let go of 14; and OSCA and the supreme court had to let go of four people—149 employees all told.

To try to lessen the impact as much as possible, the courts were able to give most affected employees a minimum of 30 days' notice, and Personnel Services has connected people with local workforce agencies and is helping them network to secure new employment.

In addition to its concern about the people and positions it lost, the branch is also apprehensive about the effects of these cuts on court services. For instance, in the trial courts, cuts primarily affected case managers, magistrates, civil traffic infraction hearing officers, court administrators, and law clerks. Asked about the impact these cuts will have on the trial courts, Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Belvin Perry, chair of the Trial Court Budget Commission, lamented, "The funding cut that the court system sustained in October 2007, combined with the cut that was imposed in the second week of this year's legislative session and the subsequent cut at the conclusion of the session, is a significant throwback to pre-Revision 7 days"—largely because these reductions have affected the implementation of the voter-approved amendment, which is to ensure that all the trial courts across the state maintain a minimum level of court services. He added, "These cuts will be a serious setback to the trial courts in terms of being able to deliver services, especially considering that during hard economic times like these, the workload in the trial courts actually increases," the dramatic rise in foreclosures being just one obvious example. "The budget reductions will present a significant challenge

to our ability to keep up with our ever-increasing caseloads during these difficult times," Chief Judge Perry cautioned.

There's no question that with the loss of approximately 131 trial court employees, case processing will slow down. Also, the efficiency of the courts will be challenged when judges with already-overloaded dockets have to pick up the cases that used to be handled by general magistrates and civil traffic infraction hearing officers. The effects of the cuts will be felt in other ways as well; for instance, in an effort to save money in the short term (though it won't save money in the long term), many circuits plan to eliminate or scale back successful programs and initiatives like drug court and mental health court.

The cuts to the DCAs will be crippling as well. In particular, DCA judges fear that the disposition of cases will be held up. Since certain cases—like post-conviction relief and emergency writs—have to take precedence, other kinds of cases, especially civil cases, will suffer delays, they anticipate.

Clearly, as noted by Charlotte Jerrett, director of OSCA's Administrative Services, these cuts have provoked a "significant disruption to our operations and our planning, and it'll be years before we recoup the ground we've lost—with people, with court functions, with court committees that help to improve the system. And with the uncertainty of the economy," she warned, "there is a prospect of additional reductions" in the upcoming fiscal year. At this point, she added, "We're just trying to let the dust settle and figure out where we're at."

Court Reporters: A Snapshot

*By Janet Perales, Jobing.com
Community Relations - MD*

FLORIDA If you ever watch Law & Order or any famous courtroom drama, you may have noticed the quiet person sitting close to the judge who is recording or transcribing the interactions taking place in the courtroom. These court reporters (including deposition reporters and broadcast captioners) earn an average of more than \$60,000 a year. An interesting career with a strong potential earning for those interested in having a versatile career path.

I recently attended the Annual Broward County Schools Career and Education Student Conference and met an advisor and instructor in this field. I was fascinated with the actual typing device and the technology behind this profession. Think about text messaging – with all the interesting abbreviations used today – translated into a formal career. Pretty interesting! The typing device is connected to a roll of paper. As you type, the first letters of key words are typed, sometimes in precise fashion, those covering "verbatim" what is transpiring in the courtroom. When I saw the demonstration I was fascinated. My first thought was that many of today's youth already master the art of text messaging so why not explore a career as well? Here are some enticing facts I found in my research:

- There are an estimated 50,000 – 60,000 court, deposition and captioning reporters in the United States.
- The average salary of person trained in this field is about \$60,000 per year.
- About 27% of the court reporters work in the U.S. court system.

Continued on page 12

By Gayl Hardeman, Mid-Year Conference Chair

FCRA's Mid-Year Conference a Hands-Down Worthwhile Experience!

It was a fun convention in Sarasota. The food at the Hyatt was really good! The camaraderie of reporters was fantastic! The powerboats at dock were a sight to see and made you wish you could ride! The seminars were truly informative – and fun! The business meeting luncheon, attended by so many students (good job, Donna and Lisa!) was informative and very efficiently run by President Thomas Hughes. Our own past president and FCRA Webmaster, Rick Greenspan, now NCRA Director, gave us an update on NCRA activities.

For those who missed it, circle your calendars for Ocala in October – you'll see what we mean by making FCRA your extended professional family. No need to travel far for your CEUs. We have everything you need – PLUS essential networking and friendship-making. PRICELESS.

Stepping down from the soapbox, there are some professional tidbits I'd love to share with you. Following LaJuana Pruitt's Sunday seminar suggestion from "What Your Videographer Can Do For You," my husband Mike, a CLVS, and I purchased Olympus digital recorders that double as flash drives. I used mine the next day on the job, and the audio was beautiful. However, when I got home and tried to convert the WMA file into WAV, I found the iTunes I'd used before wouldn't convert it (or I couldn't find the feature – please comment if you found it!) – so I downloaded WinFF, a free audio conversion software program that did the trick for me, and voila, I had my WAV file. Here's a picture of its simple interface:



Following Richard and Michael Scire's "How to Buy and Sell on E-Bay" workshop, I went home and set up an account and bid on a wireless microphone and receiver for \$25 – lost the bid to someone for \$27, but I'll try again for sure! But I think I'll "Buy Now!"

Following the great vendor breakouts (thank you to Ann, Patrick, Johnny, and Kerry, our loyal exhibitors from ProCAT, Stenograph, Stenovations, and Eclipse) and Presenter Nancy Paulsen's seminar, "Computer Shortcuts," I went home and tried the Encrypt and Digitally Sign Transcript for the first time, and I got brave and created a digital signature in Adobe for Adobe documents, which includes PDFs of transcripts. Thanks to Nancy, I now know I can send things to the printer even without being connected to the printer, and docs will print automatically when I hook up to the printer. We also learned to make some internet shortcuts on our desktops.

Tracy Dedrick organized a very useful seminar and handout on "Steno Possibilities" for our StenoSwap, a lively and useful exchange of writing shortcuts. Thank you to all who contributed their "briefs"!

WHAT DID YOU PUT INTO PRACTICE OR TRY AFTER YOU GOT HOME?

We would love to hear how what you learned at these seminars is influencing your daily life. Thanks to Jill Obrachta's powerful keynote address on one's professional image, I was sure to wear my "power jacket" to the job on Monday! (I almost always do, anyway, because the rooms are so cold!) Jill's excellent points on projecting a professional image by your appearance and understanding of human behavior were well

received.

We were treated to learning about – and doing – 90 minutes of good-for-you stretching and twisting – helpful exercises for people who sit for a living, under the careful instruction of certified yoga instructor from Clearwater, Mabel Smith.

In conclusion, let me say this: without our professional management team, this conference could not have happened, period. Tina Kautter, Marna Krot, Sandy Manon, and Jessie Laux filled in ALL the gaps left by an extremely busy planning team. They chose the menu (did I say the food was FANTASTIC?!) and made all the space and AV arrangements with the hotel and with our presenters, as well as set up the Silent Auction, the Buck-a-Book, and all the door prizes. We get our money's worth with our professional managers, Kautter Management Group. THUNDERING APPLAUSE, KMG!

Please send in a paragraph or two about your "key learnings" from the seminar to FCR Online Editor, Louse Pomar, at lbp1958@aol.com with 2008 Mid-Year Conference in the subject line – we'll publish it in the next FCRA magazine. Enjoy!



Association With Your Association: The May 2008 Tampa Bay Area Information Exchange

By Donna M. Kanabay, RMR, CRR, FPR



If you attended the FCRA Tampa Bay Area Information Exchange on Thursday, May 8th, you already know what a good time we had. If you didn't make it, you'll soon find out what you missed!

Sandi Ambush, Linda McGill, and Donna Everhart enjoy renewing their longtime friendships – It's been way too long. We should do this more often!

We enjoyed the opportunity to chat informally with FCRA President Thomas Hughes as well as board member Rick Levy, Chair of the Membership Committee; Lisa Selby-Brood, Chair of the Court Reporting Schools Committee; Donna Kanabay, Chair of the Testing Committee and a member of the Membership Committee; past-president/Chair of the Mid-Year Conference Committee Gayl Hardeman; and past-president Ginny Hyland. Of course, we also had a wonderful time renewing old friendships and making new ones as we ate, drank and mingled both before and after the formal presentations.

Court Reporters: A Snapshot

Continued from page 10

However, there are other great career opportunities for someone with this training. The majority are freelance reporters hired by attorneys to report depositions and others work in broadcast captioning. Another cool fact – next time you watch a foreign film, the captions on the bottom of the screen are most probably done by someone trained in this field.

- A similar version of captioning called CART (Communication Access Real-time Translation) is also available for deaf or hard of hearing people. The possibilities of career opportunities here are varied – for example, working at a college where court reporters will translate the conversations into written text for students or faculty.

In general, certification training takes about two years to complete; however, most programs are self-paced. Needless to say, the flexibility and the earning potential of this profession are phenomenal especially for someone interested

in a career change or transition.

As you know, there is a professional association for practically everything and court reporting is no exception. The National Court Reporters Association (<http://ncraonline.org/>) has a great website with valuable information for those individuals interested in exploring this field. Here you can find schools that offer the certification program, explore career opportunities, find profiles of individuals in this field, salary calculators, certification exams, and much more. Another great resource is www.bestfuture.com with relevant information on careers, local opportunities and recommended course of studies to pursue a career as a court reporter.

If you enjoy flexibility in the workplace, have strong language skills, and enjoy technology, this may be a great career choice for you. Happy typing!

FCRA Spotlights

Mid-Year Convention Fundraiser Winner

Congratulations to Judy Consor, the lucky winner of the 2008 Mid-Year Conference Fundraiser Drawing. Anyone who purchased a ticket for \$50 to enter the drawing had their choice of either a fabulous cruise for two to the Eastern or Western Caribbean or \$2500 in cash if their name was drawn. Ms. Consor chose the \$2500 in cash. Happy spending, Judy!

Conventions on a Shoestring, Part II –

It Really Works!!

By Lisa Selby-Brood, RPR



Hello, all my little chickadees. Lisa B. here, with your update on the convention at Sarasota.

Well, it worked!! We had 15 students. Almost everyone was able to come to the President's Dinner Party on Saturday night because we jumped on the tickets which, as I said, always appear by Saturday lunch. People who weren't planning on staying Saturday night gave up their tickets, so pretty much all the students who wanted to come were able to.

Students also received some very nice goodies this time. Colorful rainbow steno paper was donated by RPM (Reporters Paper & Mfg. Co.), one of our national suppliers of stenographic supplies, and Pengad donated as well. We were also able to order some speed tapes and good reference books so that everybody got something, which is the way I like to see things happen.

The students got to sit in on some really good workshops and basically just look around and talk, get acquainted, and speak to the vendors about their software and new products.

I hope they all come back to school and tell you what a great time they had, because we enjoyed having them.

And, believe it or not, if you're north or at the Orlando line, (Winter Park Tech, I'm talking to you) now is the time to start saving for Ocala in October. It's closer than you think and will be here before you know it.

Jacksonville students, you are long overdue for a visit — in fact, I've never been up there at all! — so I am planning on popping up and seeing you before the convention.

If you're truly serious about court reporting, you need to come to at least one convention. I promise you, you won't be sorry. We'll have a good time and make such a fuss over you!!

Everyone have a great summer, and remember, October's coming!! See you all in Ocala!!

Until next time, Lisa B. signing off.



IN MEMORIAM: BERNIE GOLDSTEIN

One of the hardest things to do is write about a close friend after his passing. Mench pretty well sums Bernie up. For the past 15 years he's been a mentor and a friend. That smile and good humor will be missed by all.

— Rick Greenspan

2008 Nominating Committee Report

On June 28, 2008, the FCRA Nominating Committee met to interview the FCRA Board of Directors candidates for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. After interviewing several candidates, the 2008 Nominating Committee, chaired by Catherine J. Phillips, submits the following slate of nominees for consideration by the membership at the 2008 FCRA Annual Convention to be held at the Ocala Hilton, Ocala, Florida, on October 17-19, 2008.



PRESIDENT
Jennifer Gaul, CMRS, FPR
Aventura, FL

Jennifer graduated from Legal Career Institute in 1992 and started her court reporting career with Justice Reporting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, as a freelance court reporter.

After the acquisition of Justice Reporting by Esquire Deposition Services in 1998, Jennifer continued working as a court reporter until 1999 when she joined the management team of Esquire Deposition Services as Operations Manager. After being promoted to General Manager, Jennifer became a Certified Manager of Reporting Services through NCRA.

In April of 2003, Jennifer accepted the position of Vice President of Reporter Operations for Sclafani Williams Court Reporters in Tampa, Florida. She presently works for US Legal/Klein Bury. Her service to FCRA includes past membership on several committees, Southern Director, Treasurer and currently Jennifer serves as President-Elect.



PRESIDENT-ELECT
Susan Wasilewski, RPR, CRR, CCP, CMRS,
FPR
Lakeland, FL

Susan Wasilewski currently manages Wasilewski Court Reporting, LLC, a family-operated agency, in Lakeland, Florida. The company and its court reporters serve the Polk County Bar and 10th Judicial Circuit Court in both criminal and civil proceedings, including trials, depositions,

and a variety of other reporting settings, as well as providing reporting services to clients from across the nation.

Susan has served on the Board of Directors for the Florida Court Reporters Association since 2003, joining the Board as a Director and becoming its Secretary soon after. She has served as Chair of the Association's Technology Committee since 2003, Treasurer in 2007, and currently holds the position of Vice President.

Susan's educational experience includes graduating from high school in a small town in Missouri, attending St. Louis College of Pharmacy, the University of Central Florida, Polk Community College, and Bay Area Academy of Business. She earned her court reporting diploma from Bay Area in 1987 and has since attained several certifications from the National Court Reporters Association. She earned the Florida Professional Reporter certificate from FCRA in 2006 and currently serves on the FPR teaching panel.

When time allows for a respite from court reporting, Susan enjoys spending time with her family, golfing with her husband, visits to the beach, and the occasional perfect margarita.



VICE PRESIDENT
Robin Merker, RPR, FPR
Lake Worth, FL

Robin Merker has been a freelance reporter in Florida for the past 24 years, and a certified training agent for Stenograph for the past six years. Between the two, she is always working.

She holds a BA in English Literature from the University of South Florida and received her court reporting training from Charron Williams in Miami, Florida, and the Stenotype Institute in Hicksville, New York.

Robin is currently the Nominating Committee Chair for her temple, having held various positions there in the past, as well as for its religious school. She is married to Michael and they have 13-year-old twin daughters, Sarah and Rachel, two dogs, and two cats, and a refrigerator magnet that says, "Stop me before I volunteer again," to which she never listens.



SECRETARY/TREASURER
Betty Sue Vincent, RDR, CRR, FPR
Gainesville, FL

Betty Sue's interest in court reporting began in 1965 at the end of her senior year in high school, when two students from the Jacksonville School of Court Reporting came to her high school and demonstrated machine shorthand and gave a speech about the profession. She was hooked. In 1967 Betty Sue took her

first job as a Deputy Official Court Reporter for the Fourth Judicial Circuit in Jacksonville, working for the firm of Dowling & Pattison. This firm covered all of the civil proceedings that came before the circuit judges and the capital felonies. In 1977 Betty Sue moved to Gainesville to be a partner in a freelance firm. The partnership of Coffee & Vincent would last for another 18 years.

In addition to working as a partner in the freelance firm, from 1979 to 1981 Betty Sue also took on part-time duties as an Official Court Reporter for the Eighth Judicial Circuit in Gainesville, covering felony depositions and court proceedings. Betty Sue took a leave of absence from her Gainesville partnership for a total of eight years to accompany her husband to naval duty stations in New Orleans, Louisiana (1982 to 1985), Dallas, Texas (1985 to 1988), and Honolulu, Hawaii (1992 to 1994), where she worked as a freelance court reporter. It was in 1982 that she first began using computerized translation.

In 1995, during a down-turn in the industry, an opportunity came for Betty Sue and her partner to become full-time employees working as Judicial Court Reporters in Gainesville, to provide realtime translation to the judges and attorneys in criminal proceedings. In 2001 her position changed to Manager of Court Reporting Services for the Eighth Judicial Circuit, responsible for the record in six counties, and at that time she supervised 17 court reporters

2008 Nominating Committee Report

and one Scopist. In 2006 she retired from active reporting, doing occasional freelance work and consulting work in Court Reporting Management.

Betty Sue has been a member of NCRA and FCRA all of her career. She obtained the following certifications: Florida CSR in 1969, Certificate of Proficiency in 1972, Certificate of Merit in 1976, Louisiana CSR in 1983, Texas CSR in 1985, Hawaii CSR in 1992, Registered Diplomat Reporter in 1997, Certified Realtime Reporter in 1999 and Florida Professional Reporter in 2006.

Betty Sue and her husband Lee have four wonderful children: Rodney, Jeffrey, Julia and Wayne, and three terrific grandchildren: Lee, Jon and Jolene. Hobbies include clogging, fishing, sewing, quilting, machine embroidery, and spoiling her grandchildren.



SOUTHERN DIRECTOR
Tanya Ward English, RPR, CRR, CCP, CBC
Fort Lauderdale, FL
(Two-year term - 10/2010)

Tanya Ward English, originally from Colorado, began reporting in 1986. She worked as an official reporter, a freelance reporter and was a founding partner in Florida Realtime Reporting and The Caption Crew. Tanya has extensive realtime experience in both litigation work and in working with

the deaf. She received the FCRA Pro Bono award in 1995-96, and in 2004 was appointed by Governor Bush as the CART representative for the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, where she chairs the Information & Referral Committee. She also co-chaired the Licensure and Credentialing Task Force for Interpreters and CART Providers.

Tanya resides in Cooper City with her family and currently provides CART services primarily for deaf students in universities around South Florida. Tanya is a Certified Realtime Reporter, Certified CART Provider and a Certified Broadcast Captioner.



CENTRAL DIRECTOR
Harold Brown, CSR (NY), CM, FPR
Lake Worth, FL
(Second year of two-year term - 10/2009)

Harold, a born and bred New Yorker, has been living in South Florida since January 2004. He took his first deposition in September 1963. A few months later he went to work at CBS News for two and a half years. "I met all the great CBS News correspondents - Walter Cronkite, Eric Sevareid, Harry Reasoner, etc."

He then went to work in the courts in New York, including seven years in Federal Court in Manhattan. He has been freelancing since leaving Federal Court.

Harold has a bachelor's degree in history with honors from Brooklyn College. "I still read history books for pleasure. I just finished reading a terrific biography of Eleanor of Aquitaine, one of the great women of history."

Harold is married to his lovely wife Sherry. "Right now Sherry is spending a lot of her time caring for our diabetic cat Malcolm." His daughter Judith is a special ed teacher in New York City.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE
Rick Levy, RPR
Miami, FL
(Second year of two-year term - 10/2009)

Rick graduated from the University of Alabama in 1993 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a major in Management. He then completed court reporting school at Atlantic Vocational Technical Institute in Pompano, Florida, in

1996 at which time he began his career at Mudrick, Witt, Levy & Consor as a freelance court reporter in Miami, Florida.

After the acquisition of Mudrick, Witt by Esquire Deposition Services in 1998, he continued working as a court reporter until 2003 when he opened up his own agency now known as Network Reporting Corporation. Rick has continued in this role up until the present.

He has been very active in NCRA since 1997 and has served on the Firm Owners Conference Committee. He has also been active in the Florida Court Reporters Association and the Society for the Technological Advancement of Reporting since 2004.



NORTHERN DIRECTOR
Tara Slocum, CRR, RPR, CSR (CA), FPR
Orlando, FL
(Two-year term - 10/2010)

Tara K. Slocum, CRR, RPR, CSR (California), FPR began her reporting career in 1986 in Los Angeles, California, working for Pat Barkley Court Reporters, Noon & Pratt, and Atkinson Baker Court Reporters, the first Fortune 500 court reporting company.

In 1991, she moved to Orlando, Florida, and began working with Orange Reporting.

Her work experience involves complex, technical litigation in depositions and trials where realtime reporting and daily copies are required. In addition, she provides pro bono realtime for the deaf and hearing impaired whenever given the opportunity.

2008 Mid-Year Conference Photo Revue



2008 Mid-Year Conference Photo Revue



2008 Mid-Year Conference Photo Revue



Congratulations!  **You Did It!**

Congratulations to the following reporters from around the State of Florida on achieving their new Florida Professional Reporter (FPR) designation in June of 2008 in Sarasota, Florida.

Daphne Avedon	Jacksonville	Erin Leben	Deltona
Robin Bence	Lakeland	Kimberly Lowe	Ft Myers
Roberta Bishop	Rotonda West	Melinda McKenna	Tampa
Mary Bouchard	Miami	Rishelle Meier	Clearwater
Patsy Coleman	Ft Myers	Linda Miller	Pensacola
Leihla Collins	Sarasota	Tara Moffo	Sarasota
Karen Crawford	Ft Myers	Deanne Morris	Jensen Beach
Tambria Dery	Coconut Creek	Nancy Paulsen	Englewood
Pamela Dee Elliott	Pensacola	Sandra Pemberton	Orange Park
Kathy Cabre Enloe	Stuart	Melissa Pierce	Jacksonville
Theresa Farina-Meiser	Bradenton	Patricia Prather	Lehigh Acres
Cheryl Franzino	Ponte Vedra	Louanne Rawls	Wellington
Sara Gittins	Orlando	Kim Rodgers	Pensacola
Sandra Glick	The Villages	Donna Ruge	Port Richey
April Gutierrez	Lakeland	Michael Scire	Sarasota
Yvonne Habis	Tampa	Richard Scire	Sarasota
Sonja Hall	Haverhill	Crystal Storms	Naples
Nicole Herdocia	Jacksonville	Virginia Surrency	Lakeland
Beth Higgins	St Pete Beach	Jenifer Tuten	Longwood
Julie Kelley	Kissimmee	Linda Wolfe	Sarasota
Amy Landry	Key West		

Many thanks to the June 2008 Florida Rules and Ethics Seminar panel members for their dedication and hard work:

Cindy C. Bender, RPR, FPR
 Jennifer Gaul, CMRS, FPR
 Louise K. Johnson, RMR, CRR, FPR
 Susan D. Wasilewski, RPR, CRR, CMRS, FPR

Congratulations to the following reporters from around the state of Florida who obtained certification as a result of NCRA's May 2008 RPR, RMR, RDR, CBC and CCP Skills Tests:

RPR:

Misty Theiss, Deltona, FL
 Julie Sullivan, St. Cloud, FL
 Clavette Donnell, Tallahassee, FL
 Noelani Fehr, Ocala, FL
 Sarah Griffin-Saunders, Miami, FL
 Eva Rulapaugh, Palm Coast, FL
 Maple Story, Orlando, FL

RMR:

Lisa Johnston, Palm Bay, FL

CRR:

Michelle Hordinski, Fort Myers, FL
 Theresa Garrity, Jacksonville, FL
 Lori Bundy, Naples, FL

CCP:

C. Julia Lacava, St. Petersburg, FL



Q. I recently moved my desktop computer. When I tried to start it, nothing happened. It won't turn on. Any help would be appreciated, Mr. M.

A. First, remove then plug the power cord into the back of the computer. Make sure it's inserted securely. Likewise, make sure it's plugged into the AC or power strip or whatever your source of power is. Also, be sure that the outlet it is plugged into is functional. Try plugging in a lamp to confirm that it is. Do the same thing if you're using a power strip or surge protector, just to be certain everything is functioning independently.

Next, check the back of the computer in the area where you plugged in the power cord. Look for a switch with a little horizontal line on one end and a little circle on the other. The line means "On," so make sure that it is turned on. It's very easy, when moving a computer, to accidentally toggle that switch to the "Off" position.

If the power switch is on, and everything is plugged in securely, the electric outlet is working, as is any power strip or surge protector, and you still can't start your PC, then it's time to contact a reputable computer repair service and have them check it out. It may require something as simple as replacing the system's power supply unit.

Q. Is there a way to configure Word so it will automatically leave two blank spaces after a period at the end of a sentence?

A. Yes, you can do that, though one space after a period is the standard these days. Years ago, it was two spaces, but for most publications today, one space is preferred.

Microsoft Word does not provide an ATS (automatic two-space) setting, but you can configure Word's grammar checker to note any spacing anomalies. To do that, click Tools > Options > Spelling & Grammar tab > Settings button. Use the "Spaces required between sentences" drop-down list to establish how many spaces you would like between your sentences, followed by OK to close the Grammar Settings

dialog box, then OK to close the Options dialog box.

The grammar checker will flag any sentences that do not conform to your spacing preference by displaying a green wavy underline. When you right-click that line, you'll be able to correct the spacing for that occurrence.

Q. I know this is probably a stupid question, but what does "URL" stand for?

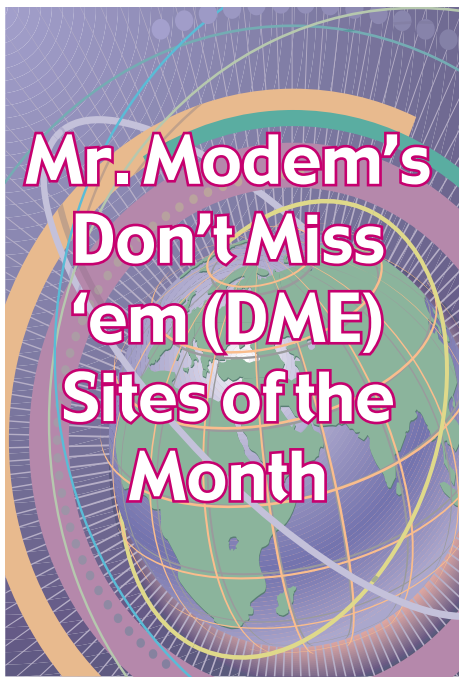
A. First and foremost, there are never any stupid or silly questions here in Mr. Modemville. For most of us, Geekspeak is not our native tongue, so if you encounter a word and you're just not sure what it means, "Ask Mr. Modem."

Having said that, depending who you ask, URL stands for either "Uniform Resource Locator" or "Universal Resource Locator." I was always a uniform kind of guy since my days in the Boy Scouts, so I prefer "Uniform Resource Locator." A URL is the unique address of a resource on the Internet. A "www" URL, commonly called a Web address, appears in the Address bar near the top of a Web browser. For example, the full URL or Web address for my Web site is <http://www.MrModem.com>, though URLs are typically shortened to www.MrModem.com or even MrModem.com.

**HAVE YOU VISITED
FCRA'S WEBSITE?**

**FOR ALL YOUR COURT
REPORTING NEEDS...**

WWW.FCRAONLINE.ORG



Craftzine: A project-based, online magazine dedicated to do-it-yourself crafts. The Projects section gives crafting a modern makeover, mixing traditional art with modern elements such as technology, recycling, the use of creative materials, and toxic waste (just kidding). Lots of free information is available on the site, though visitors are encouraged to enter a paid subscription. www.craftzine.com

Historic Tale Construction Kit: Whether you are a history buff or just trying to look busy at work, this site lets you create your own story from the Middle Ages, complete with warriors, beasts, and shamans. When finished, you can submit it to the site so others can view it, or email it to annoy as many friends as possible. The process is a bit like writing

your own comic strip in individual frames. <http://tinyurl.com/t3xe>

New York Public Library Digital Gallery: You don't have to live in the Big Apple to experience one of the most impressive libraries in the world. The New York Public Library Digital Gallery Web site provides visitors with free access to half a million digitized items from its collection. <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital>

Mr. Modem's weekly newsletter delivers helpful computer tips, great Web sites and his personal answers to your questions! Trial offer: Subscribe online using Promo Code FREEMO and receive one free month with your six-month subscription (28 issues!) To view a sample issue or subscribe, visit www.MrModem.com.

By Aisling Swift, Reprinted from the May 29, 2008, edition of the Naples Daily News

Series of Blunders in 2003 Murder Case Now Involves Tape Malfunction

An East Naples man's appeal stalled after prosecution and defense requests for transcripts of a recorded hearing showed there was no recording: The equipment malfunctioned — again.

It was nearly three years ago that a Collier Circuit Judge denied a motion for a new trial for an East Naples man convicted of murder for shooting his girlfriend seven times on New Year's Day 2003.

But 37-year-old Bruce Stoddart's appeal before the District Court of Appeal in Lakeland has gone nowhere because there's no record of the three-hour hearing held on Sept. 8, 2005. The CourtSmart recording system apparently malfunctioned — months after court officials thought all problems were resolved.

"There's simply no way of getting anything out of CourtSmart for that hearing," defense attorney Lee

Hollander told Collier Circuit Judge William Blackwell on Thursday.

The blunder is just the latest in a first-degree murder case that involved lost fingerprints, a shotgun missing for 11 days after the shooting, lost computer disks of photos, and an evidence report that turned up the last day of the August 2005 trial.

At the September 2005 hearing, Blackwell ruled that the Collier County Sheriff's Office was inept and denied a motion for a new trial.

"As I've already indicated, there's no evidence to support an inference there was some sort of misconduct," Blackwell is quoted in a Sept. 9, 2005, Naples Daily News story. "There appears to at least be a level of ineptitude over there with respect to record keeping, but ineptitude is as far as I can go."

Hollander submitted that article as evidence Thursday, prompting Blackwell to say: "I always view with suspicion newspaper accounts of anything. For what it's worth, it's in evidence."

The District Court of Appeal gave Blackwell a 60-day deadline, until next month, to reconstruct the hearing so appeals attorneys could review transcripts to formulate arguments in their appeals. But on Thursday, Blackwell suggested another option.

"If the district court wishes to relinquish jurisdiction, this court could rehear the motion for a new trial," Blackwell said after hearing arguments from Assistant State Attorneys Dave Scuderi and Mike Provost, Hollander, and attorney John Lynch, who is handling the appeal for the state public defender's appellate

Continued on page 22

Series of Blunders in 2003 Murder Case Now Involves Tape Malfunction

Continued from page 21

section.

After the hearing, Hollander said what the DCA decides will determine whether the case comes back for a motion hearing again or results in a new trial.

CourtSmart, installed in 2003, malfunctioned during hearings and trials, leading defense attorneys to file appeals. But Collier court officials in June 2005 contended all those problems had been solved. Stoddart's hearing occurred just months later.

After Thursday's hearing, Provost said the State Attorney's Office changed their policy and now uses a court reporter for all major trials; they're always used in death penalty cases. That change was prompted due to an appeal involving an economics crimes trial that wasn't recorded due to malfunctions.

Stoddart didn't dispute that he'd shot his 27-year-old girlfriend Sonia Lopez, but claimed it was self-defense. If the fingerprints hadn't been lost, Hollander had hoped to use them to see if any lifted off the gun belonged to Lopez, who was shot once in the stomach and died of six gunshots to her head shortly after 2 a.m. Jan. 1, 2003, at the Vista Gardens Way apartment they shared. The medical examiner had taken her fingerprints during the autopsy.

Stoddart, then 31, shot Lopez in front of two of her three children after an alcohol-fueled argument. He never mentioned shooting her in self-defense, either in his 2 1/2-hour statement to sheriff's investigators or in his 911 call.

The missing evidence includes fingerprints lifted from the shotgun. Stoddart told jurors he shot her once in the stomach by accident when

she tried to grab a pistol he held at his head. He testified she continued to struggle, so he shoved her, sending her sprawling backward into a bedroom closet.

He testified he looked at Lopez's 12-year-old daughter, who watched from the hallway. In the corner of his eye, he testified, he saw movement, turned to see Lopez aiming his black Mossberg shotgun at him, so he shot her repeatedly. Jurors rejected his account.

The appeal involves evidence that turned up the final day of trial. Scuderi and Assistant State Attorney Steve Maresca gave the defense a copy of a report written by a crime scene investigator, who described four prints he lifted from the shotgun and recorded on paper and a computer disc.

The defense argued the late disclosure violated Florida rules of discovery, which mandate that the state turn over all evidence that could be relevant to the defense. The judge ruled there was no discovery violation, finding no evidence Lopez ever handled the shotgun. The trial then continued, ending in Stoddart's conviction by a 12-person jury and automatic sentence of life in prison without parole.

Since then, the defense has attempted to get more information about the fingerprints.

"Whatever prints were taken of the shotgun were never compared to anyone because they were lost," Hollander argued Thursday. "What they do manage to lift and photograph disappears. It's just a questionable set of circumstances."

He pointed out that not only were fingerprints lost, but photographs and reports.

Scuderi contended the lost prints weren't of value because they didn't involve the shotgun, which was found on Jan. 11, 2003. Blackwell agreed that if the fingerprints weren't from the shotgun, they weren't relevant.

Lynch, however, said they could be relevant to his arguments over how evidence was handled, as well as arguments that a crime scene supervisor was evasive at the September 2005 hearing.

The lost evidence wasn't the only problem Hollander argued occurred during the Sheriff's Office investigation. Before trial, he was denied motions to suppress evidence and Stoddart's statements. He'd argued that investigators didn't spell out the full Miranda warning before questioning Stoddart, leaving out an opportunity for Stoddart to say he didn't want to continue, and also ignored Stoddart's request for an attorney before talking to investigators. Hollander also contended that sheriff's investigators gathered evidence from Stoddart hours before a judge signed a search warrant.



ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

By FCRA ETHICS COMMITTEE
2007-2008 Members

Chair: Shirley P. King, RPR, CLVS, FPR - shirley.king@kingreporting.com
Judy Everman, FAPR, RPR, CMRS, FPR - judyeverman@comcast.net
Donna Kanabay Harvey, RMR, CRR, FPR - donna@kanabay.com
Kathy Marino, RMR, CLVS, CRI, CPE, FPR - kpmarino111@aol.com
Sandy Narup, RPR, FPR - snarup@bellsouth.net

FCRA's Ethics Committee answers some of the questions you have asked at seminars, in the hallways at various functions, and through phone calls or e-mails from various members of the association. If you have a question relating to ethics or procedures, you may e-mail your question to one of our Committee members. Your question will be answered and the substance may later be printed in this column for our other association members.

QUESTION: Attorney A sets a depo with a reporting firm. Attorney B cross-notices the same deposition. At the deposition, Attorney A completes his or her direct examination. Attorney B then begins his or her "cross-

examination" but goes back to the beginning of what was said in direct and rehashes everything, finishing his or her exam some three hours later.

The reporting firm bills Attorney A for the entire deposition, as is the custom in the area and what they would normally do, and Attorney A objects to both the additional charges for a three-hour per diem, as well as the additional 125 pages of transcript generated by Attorney B. Attorney A feels you should charge the other side for that.

What do you do? Reduce Attorney A's bill and add it to Attorney B's bill? Leave it up to a judge to decide?

ANSWER: Exactly what the reporting firm did, let the bill stand as is and leave it up to the attorney to file a motion with the court to decide the matter. If there is no rule addressing an issue, the only thing the reporting firm can rely on is the custom in the community and suggest to counsel that he or she may wish to take it up with the court.

I also ran this by an attorney who has chaired the Florida Bar Civil Rules Committee and served on the Rules of Judicial Administration Committee and he said though he did sympathize with Attorney A, he felt the judge should decide.

I could find no court rules on this issue. However, one of our FCRA members told me that this just happened to them a couple a months ago, and Attorney A realized what Attorney B was doing and only requested his portion before the cross-examination.

Now, there's an attorney who thinks!



How to Hook Up Your Audio for Better Clarity

By Robin Merker, RPR, FPR



We all want to produce the best transcript we can. Bench conferences continue to humble us. We are at the mercy of the judge and attorneys when we're sitting away from them, headphones on, white noise blaring, and they are speaking as fast as they can into the mike. Of course, that's if they're even speaking close enough to the mike, and let's not talk about one at a time! Thanks to a tip from another reporter, I now have the ability to record directly from the audio system in the courtroom, making bench conferences much less stressful.

By using a cable "Y" adapter (bottom of "Y" is male, tips of "Y" are female) and a 3.5 mm male-to-male audio cable (3.5 mm male-to-male with two black circles on tips, MBL MCON2M #55011586), you can plug your laptop directly into the courtroom system. Simply remove the headphones from the courtroom cable, attach the "Y" splitter and attach one end of the extension cable to one branch of the "Y" and the other end to your laptop. Then, plug the headphones into the other branch of the "Y" and you're ready for anything. Of course, always test this out before relying on it. If you test it during a regular hearing (not a jury trial with

bench conferences) and the audio sounds good, it will be fine during the bench conferences as well. I found my splitter and cable at Radio Shack for approximately \$15 total.

Then there are videotaped depositions where we need to capture every "um" and "okay" barely verbalized. Many reporters are reluctant to rely on their audio alone when there's a videotaped deposition and still listen to the audiotape produced by the videographer. Why not simply take the audio directly from the videographer's equipment and have it input directly into your laptop? Some videographers may actually have the cable for you, but I'm getting my own. Why not, when you can get one for as little as \$5? The cable required would be any length shielded audio cable with a 3.5 mm mini plug on each end, such as this one: Philips® (PH62125) 6-Ft. Dubbing Cable with Mini Plugs.

If your videographer is not familiar with connecting to reporters, ask them to make sure that their output audio is not coming in too high. As with anything else, test this with your laptop/writer. You may need to adjust the audio settings on your writer, just as you do with a powered or unpowered microphone. Of course, make sure you do a short audio test before the start of the deposition.

Just think, with a small investment in equipment, you can make your professional life that much more enjoyable!

Excerpt from a Neuropsychologist's Deposition

A. May I give an example of this?

Q. Sure.

A. Our brains are a miracle. Okay? They're a miracle that needs to be protected, and if you look at the court reporter right now, as an example, okay, this is a miracle in progress happening right before your eyes. Let me just explain what she needs to do.

I am speaking, so the information has to come in through her ear into her temporal lobe, and it has to go log itself into the language center. She has to be able to comprehend what I'm saying. Then it has to get rerouted to the prefrontal cortex where it has to hold — she has to be able to hold the information, because, you know, I continuously talk so she has to hold it, right? Then she has to analyze it, integrate it and synthesize it.

Then it has to go back to the cerebellum and she has to be able to execute this, and she has to be able to then convert my words into those little squiggly marks. Have you ever seen court reporters' little squiggly language things? So she has to convert it into a different language, and the white matter tracks allow her to reroute all of this information simultaneously without effort. Okay?

We take our brains for granted. She's sitting here, I'm probably talking too fast for her, but she's able to do this simultaneously. Seamlessly. Okay?

No animal on the planet can do this, all right? That's why I believe court reporters will never be replaced because no technical — no technology — could replace the beauty of that brain and the miracle of that brain.

And that's why your brain should always be protected and you should take care of it.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Florida Court Reporters Association

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*Company _____ Owner Co-owner

*Mailing Address _____

*City/State/Zip _____ NCRA # _____

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

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

*E-mail address _____ Website 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.

- I make application for Membership as a: (CHECK ONE)
- PARTICIPATING MEMBER**\$150.00
Open to anyone engaged in active practice of official or general court reporting by either stenographic or voicewriter method. (Please indicate method above.)
 - STUDENT MEMBER**\$35.00
Open to any student of shorthand reporting who is endorsed by a court reporting training program instructor or director.
 - RETIRED MEMBER**\$45.00
Open to any participating member in good standing who has retired from the active practice of shorthand reporting.
 - ASSOCIATE MEMBER** \$60.00
Open to the following: teachers of shorthand or shorthand reporting, anyone officially connected with a school or college conducting a shorthand reporting course, any non-member retired from active shorthand reporting, anyone professionally associated with or employed by a member of FCRA whose application is endorsed by a participating member in good standing, and anyone qualifying for Participating membership, but residing outside of Florida.
 - VENDOR MEMBER**.....\$125.00
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: \$35.00. Subscription to updates: \$10.00.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Geographical and alphabetical listing of members on disk or via email. Cost to members: \$10.00.

LEGISLATIVE/LEGAL FUND: Your dues include only regular monitoring of legislative, regulatory, and administrative activity for things that could adversely affect the court reporting profession. Without member donations to this fund, the Association cannot pursue any legislative/legal activity and may not be able to protect our profession.

The dues year is November 1 through October 31. Annual dues must accompany application. Those joining in August, September, or October of a given year will be paid through October 31 of the following year. Dues payments are deductible by members as an ordinary and necessary business expense. In accordance with Section 6033(e)(2)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, members of the FCRA are hereby notified that an estimated 5% of your FCRA dues will be allocated to lobbying and political activities, and therefore are not deductible as a business expense.

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.

My signature below constitutes my consent to receive faxes, email, and other communications from FCRA or on behalf of FCRA.

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FCRA welcomes the following new members

(Includes all members who joined as of July 16, 2008)

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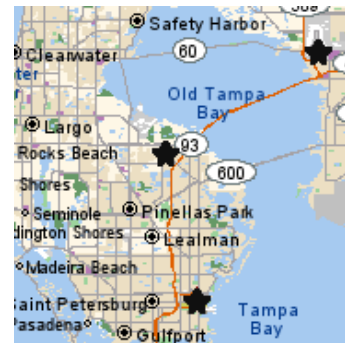
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