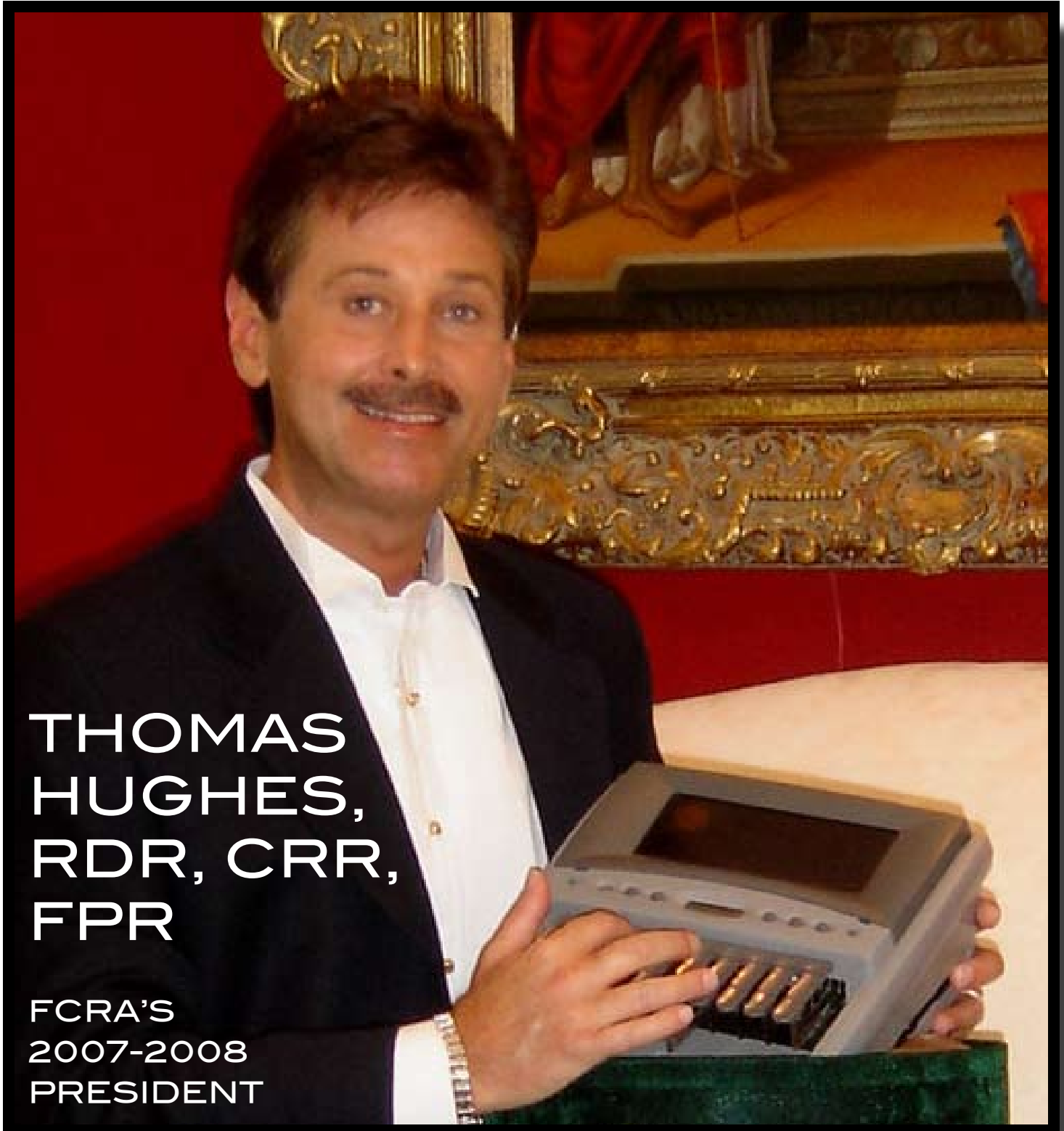




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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY 2007-2008



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President

Wesley Thomas Hughes, RDR, CRR, FPR
 581 NW 75th Ave • Plantation, FL 33317
 W: 954-816-6595 • FAX: 954-792-8433
 thughesdr@bellsouth.net

President Elect

Jennifer Gaul, CMRS, FPR
 US Legal Support/Klein, Bury
 3130 NE 190 St #102 • Aventura, FL 33180
 W: 305-373-8404 • FAX: 305-373-2568
 jgaul@uslegalsupport.com

Vice President

Susan D. Wasilewski, RPR, CRR, CCP, CMRS, FPR
 Wasilewski Court Reporting, LLC
 1701 South Florida Avenue • Lakeland, FL 33801
 W: 863-686-9898 • FAX: 863-686-9797
 sdwrpr@aol.com

Secretary

Betty Sue Vincent, RDR, CRR, FPR
 5730 NW 67 Ct • Gainesville, FL 32653
 Cell: 352-215-1140 • bshoes2@aol.com

Treasurer

Sandra Narup, RPR, FPR
 Volusia Reporting, Inc.
 725 Hunt Club Trail • Port Orange, FL 32127
 W: 386-679-0970 • FAX: 386-756-3175
 snarup@bellsouth.net

Northern Director

Susan Shelling, RPR, FPR
 Consor & Assoc Reporting and Transcription
 9087 Terri Ln • Boynton Beach, FL 33437
 W: 561-682-0905 • FAX: 561-734-8244
 sueshelling@aol.com

Central Director

Harold Brown, CSR(NY), CM, FPR
 Knipes-Cohen of Florida
 8855 Majorca Bay Drive • Lake Worth, FL 33467
 Cell: 561-596-4003
 hbreporter@bellsouth.net

Southern Director

Tanya Ward English, RPR, CRR, CCP, CBC, FPR
 Florida Realtime Reporting Services, Inc.
 5571 SW 94 Ave • Ft Lauderdale, FL 33328
 W: 954-767-6363 • FAX: 954-680-0776
 tanya@floridarealtime.com

Directors at Large

Rick Levy, RPR, FPR
 Network Reporting Corporation
 44 W Flagler St., #1200 • Miami, FL 33130
 W: 305-358-8188 • FAX: 305-358-8187
 rickleavy@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Catherine J. Phillips, RMR, CMRS, FPR
 Accurate Reporting & Video Service, Inc.
 814 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ste. A • Ocala, FL 34470-6764
 W: 352-368-2545 • FAX: 352-368-2562
 cjphillips111@aol.com

Editor

Louise Pomar, RPR, FPR, CERT*D
 PO Box 787 • Bunnell, FL 32110
 W: 386-313-4570 • FAX: 386-437-5417
 LBP1958@aol.com

Executive Director

Tina Kauter, CAE
 FCRA Headquarters
 222 S. Westmonte Dr., #101 • Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
 W: 407-774-7880 • FAX: 407-774-6440
 tkauter@kmgnet.com

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



Success is the Result of Setting Yourself on Fire!

Well, I can't believe I'm actually President of FCRA. I have probably served on the FCRA Board longer than any one board member in history before moving into the President's position. I finally made it!!!

I would like to give you some brief history of how I came to be involved in FCRA. While working in Jacksonville in 1980, I attended my first NCRA convention in Atlanta, Georgia, that same year. One evening there was an FCRA reception. My good friend and mentor Marie Splane from Jacksonville encouraged me to go. I walked in the room to be met at the door by one of the most vivacious, energetic individuals I had ever met. This "spitfire" was the President of FSRA at the time, and her name is Gayl Harde- man. I didn't quite know what she was on, but I knew I wanted some of whatever it was, and I was really hoping it was over the counter. I joined FCRA on the spot that evening. I thought, wow, what a great group of people and what a wonderful organization. That's how and when I got hooked on FCRA. Gayl, see what you did 27 years ago!!! You hooked me!!!

Membership is our greatest challenge. What do we do to increase membership? That's the million dollar question. I don't think a president before me has left that topic out of their acceptance speech. This year, I have strategically placed a Membership Committee member in every part of the state. Yes, we ARE going to have membership exchanges again. Yes, we ARE going to have membership drives. Yes, we ARE going to increase membership in FCRA during 2007/2008. Imagine the membership that we could gain if we all tried to be as contagious to a prospective new member as Gayl was to me that evening 27 years ago. That's how you get new members.

The theme for the September 2007 Annual Convention was "The secret to having the reporting career you choose." I am declaring the theme for the next year for all of us is "BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE." FCRA and the court reporting profession have come a long way since those days of my first NCRA convention. Court reporters today have to be computer gurus, technological wizards, well-versed in all aspects of reporting in this day of high-tech litigation. Each and every one of our members is the best, but we have work to do with some

others in the profession.

I would like to congratulate each of you who have attained a certification this year. If you've passed your RPR, next time sit for your RMR. If you have passed your RMR, and you are feeling particularly sadistic, sit for the RDR. Strive for your CRR, CBC or CCP. I once read, "Success isn't a result of spontaneous combustion; you must set yourself on fire."

As we all know, there are different methods of reporting. ER (Electronic Reporting) has taken over some of our court systems. Voicewriters are perfecting their realtime capabilities. Don't be afraid of different reporting technologies. In Ocala, FCRA passed a motion to accept voicewriters into our association. In Marco Island, I sat in total amazement during the voicewriting seminar. I don't know if any of you had an opportunity to see it, but I had no idea how much they are like us. I walked away from that seminar knowing that FCRA is a true leader and pioneer in state reporting associations, but in order for stenographic reporters to be the preferred method of reporting in whatever venue, we must offer our clients and end users a superior technological product. I know some reporters just won't do realtime. Maybe they feel their writing is maybe not quite up to par or they think it's too much pressure. But I want to encourage you, if you're not already doing it, provide realtime to your clients, and be able to give them a dirty ASCII at the end of the day. We as stenographic reporters have to make our clients feel that we are the best method of "Capturing the Spoken Word." Remember the cream will always rise to the top.

One of FCRA's biggest accomplishments to date, I feel, is the implementation of the FPR, Florida Professional Reporter. We have 400 plus FPRs in the State of Florida. I also envision one day hopefully soon, and it's something that I am going to work on during the next year, is having a voluntary SKILLS portion to the FPR. With a voluntary written knowledge test and a voluntary skills test in place, we will have already established our state certification test when and if we achieve mandatory state certification. It will already be in place; it will be

Continued on page 6

Court Reporters and Wives Have Come a Long Way!



Imagine, if you will, that you and your husband have come to "irreconcilable differences" in your marriage and your husband files for divorce. Imagine also that it is a hotly contested divorce. Your husband contends that you didn't live up to your "wifely duties," and he makes that known to your family, your friends, and even the judge presiding over the case. Imagine your husband handing a document to the judge which outlines exactly what standards that you didn't live up to, at least in his mind. Furthermore, imagine that the document reads something like this:

The Good Wife's Guide

- **Have dinner ready.** Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal ready on time for his return. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they get home and the prospect of a good meal is part of the warm welcome needed.
- **Prepare yourself.** Take 15 minutes to rest so you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your make-up, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh-looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people.
- **Be a little gay and a little more interesting for him.** His boring day may need a lift and one of your duties is to provide it.
- **Clear away the clutter.** Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives. Run a dust cloth over the tables.
- **During the cooler months of the year you should prepare and light a fire for him to unwind by.** Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift too. After all, catering to his comfort will provide you with immense personal satisfaction.
- **Minimize all noise.** At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer or vacuum. Encourage the children to be quiet.
- **Be happy to see him.**
- **Greet him with a warm smile and show sincerity in your desire to please him.**
- **Listen to him.** You may have a dozen important things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first — remember, his topics of conversation are more important than yours.
- **Don't greet him with complaints and problems.**

- **Don't complain if he's late for dinner or even if he stays out all night.** Count this as minor compared to what he might have gone through at work.
- **Make him comfortable.** Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or lie him down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him.
- **Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes.** Speak in a low, soothing and pleasant voice.
- **Don't ask him questions about his actions or question his judgment or integrity.** Remember, he is the master of the house and as such will always exercise his will with fairness and truthfulness. You have no right to question him.
- **A good wife always knows her place.**

Wait a minute! Hold on there, buster. What's wrong with this picture? An article that was written in 1955 introduced into evidence in 2007 by a 30-something year old man? Well, imagine no more. This scenario actually took place. Frankly, it's shocking to me that a man in his 30s actually subscribes to and expects his 21st century wife to conform to these 1955 standards.

What is my point in sharing "The Good Wife's Guide" with all of you? To help all of us realize that the court reporting profession no longer operates like it did in the 1950s. New technologies, shrinking budgets, faster-paced world, higher demands are the realities of today's world. Spending time mourning on "what it used to be like" only makes us stagnant. Embrace the changes and find your slice of the pie. Be the best that you can be.

Oh...by the way, the only thing that might be imaginary in my article is "The Good Wife's Guide" itself. Some say that the article appeared in the May 13, 1955, edition of *Housekeeping Monthly*; others say it appeared in a 1950s home economics textbook for high school girls to teach them how to prepare for marriage. Real or not, we've come a long way, baby! So has the court reporting profession.

Success is the Result of Setting Yourself on Fire!

Continued from page 4

self-funding, as well as we will already have our CEU criteria established.

Another important goal for me in the upcoming year is to educate the media and general public at large on how invaluable court reporters and CART providers are. We have received some rather bad press, to say the least, right here in Fort Lauderdale recently. I want to see articles published about professional reporters, not the few bad apples that fell from the tree.

During my term as President, I want to have a very interactive and proactive relationship with the FCRA Board of Directors and the general membership. All of you out there have wonderful ideas; for example, maybe a particular seminar topic you would like to see presented. I want to encourage you to communicate with me personally or, better yet, attend Board meetings to present anything that you would like to bring to the Board's attention. After all, this is YOUR organization. The FCRA Board wants your input. Don't be afraid to volunteer to serve on a committee or work for your association.

I cannot predict what the year will bring, but what I can tell you is that whatever I'm called on to do, I

will do my very best to represent the FCRA Board and the general membership, and I am very excited to be your President.

I want to thank you for being a member of our association, for being the true professionals that you are, and for making FCRA the best state reporting association in the country. FCRA is looked upon by all court reporting associations in the country as a leader and trend-setter in our industry. But remember our theme for the upcoming year: "BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE."

FCR Online Contributing Editors

Teresa Durando, RPR, FPR
Tanya Ward English, RPR, CRR, CCP, CBC, FPR
Rick Greenspan, FAPR, FMR, CRR, FPR
Donna M. Kanabay, RMR, CRR, RPR
William G. Romanishin, RMR, CRR
Richard A. Sherman (Ask Mr. Modem)
Rus Weathers, RPR, FPR, FAPR

FCR Online Deadline Dates

(Spring) Feb/Mar/Apr	Jan. 5, 2008
Publication Date	Feb. 12, 2008
(Summer) May/June/July	April 5, 2008
Publication Date	May 12, 2008
(Fall) Aug/Sept/Oct.....	July 5, 2008
Publication Date	Aug. 12, 2008
(Winter) Nov/Dec/Jan	Oct. 5, 2008
Publication Date	Nov. 12, 2008



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BULLETIN
BOARD**

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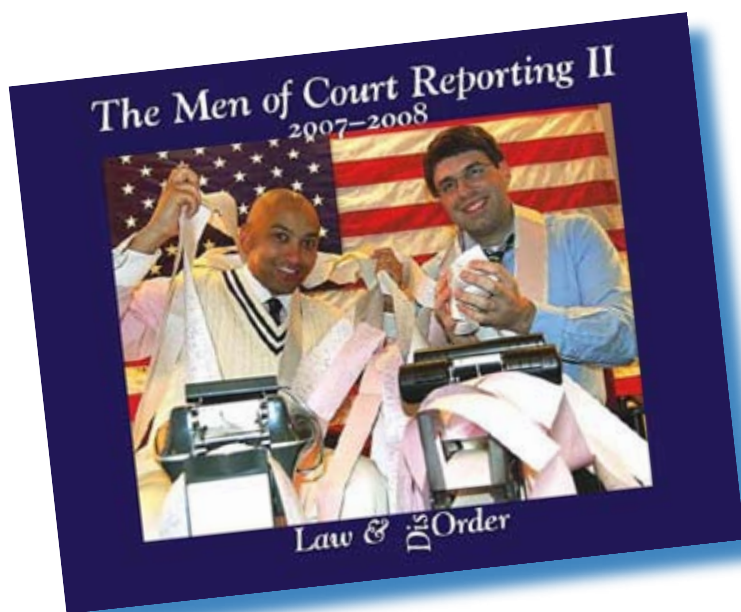
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On the National Scene...

NCRA's The Men of Court Reporting II Calendar is Here: It's Rainin' Men!

The "Men of Court Reporting II, Law and DisOrder" Calendar is here!



The "Men of Court Reporting II, Law and DisOrder" NCRA PAC Calendar has finally arrived, and it's better than ever! The votes have been cast, the photos taken, and here it is, awaiting delivery. Beginning in August 2007 and running through December 2008, this 17-month calendar is chock full of important dates, fun facts, and, of course, the "Men of Court Reporting" showcasing their talents and trades!

NCRA PAC (Political Action Committee) is a vehicle to raise funds to support elected officials who actively champion the court reporting and captioning professions on Capitol Hill. NCRA PAC is the profession's most influential tool for advocacy and federal representation.

For more information on the calendar, contact Laura Dennis at ldennis@ncrahq.org or call 800-272-NCRA!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR 2008

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Feb 3 - 5 | NCRA Firm Owners Executive Meeting
Sarasota, Florida
Contact NCRA Member Services and Information Center,
1.800.272.4272; www.NCRAonline.org |
| Apr 4 - 6 | NCRA Midyear Conference
Boston, Massachusetts
Contact NCRA Member Services and Information Center,
1.800.272.4272; www.NCRAonline.org . |
| June 27 - 29 | FCRA Mid-Year Conference
Hyatt, Sarasota
Information coming in 2008; www.FCRAonline.org |

Please notify Louise Pomar, Editor, lbp1958@aol.com of any upcoming events that you would like to appear in the "Upcoming Events Calendar."

Stenograph, LLC
Contact: Steve Harnden
Marketing Communications Specialist
(847) 227-6374
sharnden@stenograph.com



Stenograph unveils revolutionary CaseViewNet at NCRA Convention.

Wireless add-on to CaseCATalyst® allows clients to instantly view proceedings.

MOUNT PROSPECT, IL, August 24, 2007 – Each year, Stenograph succeeds in providing their much-appreciated customers with something new to talk about at the NCRA National Convention, and this year was no different. While entering the exhibit hall at the NCRA/TCRA Convention in Grapevine, Texas two weeks ago, customers were welcomed with large signs previewing Stenograph's latest revolution, CaseViewNet™.

Due to be released in Fall 2007, CaseViewNet will be distributed as an add-on to CaseCATalyst 8, and will take over where CaseView® II left off. CaseView II is currently one of the most widely used realtime viewers on the market, and CaseViewNet improves on many levels over its predecessor.

Easy to set up and to use, CaseViewNet provides secure WiFi distribution of encrypted, realtime text. With a WiFi access point that is small enough to fit in hand, the days of unscrambling cables, adapters, and splitters are over. Also, RapidRefresh™ synchronizes transcript changes, which includes globals, on clients' computers instantly. They will see what is written near-instantaneously, without any cords to get in the way.

“Clients will absolutely love receiving CaseViewNet feeds wirelessly,” exclaimed Case CATalyst Product Manager, Judy Wolf. “Reporters will be able to provide realtime viewing of the proceedings at absolutely no additional cost to their clients, and with no tokens or registration requirement.”

CaseViewNet client software is a free download from www.stenograph.com, which enables clients to easily make their WiFi notebook computer compatible with CaseViewNet at absolutely no cost to them. The free installation of this software for clients will make the transition to CaseViewNet smooth and relatively simple for those willing to upgrade the services they offer. If preferred, the reporter can make available a CD or memory card to their client, so they are guaranteed to have access to the CaseViewNet client software.

Stenograph is dedicated to supporting court reporting programs in every major market. Stenograph owns the Prince Institute of Professional Studies as well as the Denver Academy of Court Reporting, and is committed to the education of court reporters. Founded in 1938, Stenograph is also committed to providing a total solution for the information technology needs of the court reporting and captioning communities. Stenograph is a manufacturer and marketer of shorthand writing machines, computer-aided transcription (CAT) software, online offerings, and court reporting and other industry-related supplies. Stenograph is headquartered in Mount Prospect, Illinois. For more information, please visit them at www.stenograph.com.



Florida Court Reporters Association

PRO BONO PROGRAM

A GUIDE FOR REPORTERS

INTRODUCTION

For several years, studies have uncovered significant numbers of citizens who have civil legal needs they cannot pay for. Court reporters around the country are eager to help guarantee every citizen's right to equal justice under the law. To that end, the Florida Court Reporters Association has established a pro bono program.

WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED IN A PRO BONO PROGRAM?

Here are some possibilities: 1. Sometimes people need expert help. Reporters are experts who possess special skills. Your contribution can make a difference in whether or not someone less fortunate than you gets a fair shake from the legal system. 2. Pro bono work is widely recognized as a hallmark of true professionalism. You can help show that court reporters are responsible partners in the legal process. 3. You can make useful contacts in the course of your volunteer work. 4. It feels good.

I'VE DONE A DEPO HERE AND THERE ON A PRO BONO BASIS WITHOUT MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT. WHY SHOULD I BOTHER WITH THE FORMALITIES OF WORKING TOGETHER THROUGH A PROGRAM?

First, good for you! But there are a couple of reasons for working through a formal program. First, Bar programs screen civil pro bono applicants, so you're not likely to get burned. Second, working through a program gives you an "out" if you are approached directly by an attorney about doing a job free of charge. Third, a formal program gives us a way to track reporter participation and demonstrate our commitment.

WHAT ARE REPORTERS OFFERING IN THE WAY OF PRO BONO SERVICES?

The main reason for involving a reporter in any matter, of course, is to obtain an accurate record of a proceeding. In times past, a pro bono lawyer might have had to forego conducting depositions that would have been useful to his or her case because there was no money to pay for them. With reporters willing to contribute services at waived or reduced fees, pro bono attorneys have an added tool at their disposal to effectively pursue the cause of justice.

FCRA encourages reporters to volunteer whatever they feel comfortable contributing — a couple of hours a year, 50 transcript pages, waiver of appearance fee, or whatever. In any case, it is important for the reporter and the attorney involved in a particular case to know

what the reporter will be contributing so that no misunderstandings occur.

HOW CAN I BE SURE A LITIGANT IS TRULY INDIGENT?

FCRA encourages reporters to work only with established pro bono programs. Bar pro bono programs conduct thorough reviews of applicants to make sure they, in fact, qualify under the program's guidelines. After all, lawyers who contribute time and expertise do not like to be taken advantage of.

HOW OFTEN WILL I BE ASKED TO REPORT A PRO BONO PROCEEDING?

In general, you as a volunteer are in control of how much you choose to contribute. It's unlikely you will be asked to participate more than once a year. Encouraging your colleagues to participate is an effective way of ensuring the load is equally shared.

WHAT IF I RUN INTO A PROBLEM DURING A PRO BONO DEPOSITION?

Handle problems as you normally would. Then immediately report the matter to your pro bono coordinator.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE PARTY IS INDIGENT AND THE OTHER IS NOT?

You can charge normally for services provided to the non-indigent party.

IT ALL SOUNDS GOOD TO ME. WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

1. Fill out and return the pledge card.
2. Contact FCRA Headquarters at 222 S. Westmonte Drive, Suite 101, Altamonte Springs, Florida, 32714.
3. Contact the Pro Bono Coordinator, Deanna Boenau, americaption@comcast.net.

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. Work only through established pro bono programs.
2. CIVIL CASES ONLY.
3. Give only what you feel comfortable with and encourage colleagues to participate.
4. Fill out and return the evaluation form so that records may be maintained and credit given.

YOUR STATE COORDINATOR IS: Deanna Boenau, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, AmeriCaption, Inc., P.O. Box 50653, Sarasota, FL 34232, 941-359-8100 (office), americaption@comcast.net.



Florida Court Reporters Association

PRO BONO PROGRAM

REPORTER PLEDGE CARD

I am interested in participating in the Pro Bono Program and am willing to donate:

Attendance Fee _____ hours

Transcript at No Charge _____ pages

Transcript at a Reduced Rate \$_____ per page

Transcript at the Regular Rate \$_____ per page

_____ I am willing to donate my services on a case-by-case basis.

_____ I am willing to provide reporting for:

____ Depositions ____ Hearings ____ Trials

I will need advance notice of ____ days.

REPORTER'S NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ CELL # _____

HOME # _____ WORK # _____

_____ Individual Donations _____ Firm Donations

Geographical area you are willing to serve:

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

DEANNA BOENAU, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, P.O. BOX 50653, SARASOTA, FL 34232.



Florida Court Reporters Association

PRO BONO PROGRAM

REPORTER ASSIGNMENT/EVALUATION

REPORTER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ CELL # _____

HOME # _____ WORK # _____

ASSIGNMENT _____

(Cancellations will be made directly by the attorney's office)

REPORTER'S EVALUATION

Hours in attendance fee donated _____

Pages provided at no cost _____

Pages provided at reduced rate _____

Pages provided at regular rate _____

Other services provided _____

Had I invoiced this job, the total fee would have been \$ _____

DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

DEANNA BOENAU, RDR, CRR, CBC, CCP, P.O. BOX 50653, SARASOTA, FL 34232.

We Can No Longer Keep “The Secret” 2007 Annual Convention in Fort Lauderdale

By Teresa Durando & Tanya Ward English, Conference Co-Chairs



We can no longer keep “The Secret” about the conference at Lago Mar...it was a success! It was well-attended by the membership, both the FPR and the seminars. The seminars were informative and interesting and the feedback from reporters has been great. The social affairs were very SOCIAL!

The FPR was given on Friday and we're pleased to announce we now have 65 new Florida Professional Reporters. Don't forget to work on your CEUs.

On Saturday, Stephanie Vestal provided insight into the power of positive thinking and living your plan, not someone else's. Lillian Morson, a legend in her own time, was a delight, providing not only punctuation rules, but entertaining us along the way. With Michael Merker's advice, no one should ever fear the imminent...it is going to happen...hard drive crash. Our vendors were also present with all the latest and greatest regarding your software.

The Business Luncheon contained a full program. Paulita Kundid, a worthy and qualified recipient, received the Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award. And for the first time in four years, the Arlene P. Sommers Award was presented. Maxine Boggy, a teacher at Atlantic Vocational received the prestigious award, along with a check for \$823.03. Outgoing President Cathy Phillips presented Lisa Selby Brood with the Special Recognition Award; Jennifer Gaul with the Meritorious Service Award; and Susan Wasilewski with the President's Award. The 2007/2008 FCRA Board of Directors was installed by NCRA Director Rick Greenspan. With the new leadership at the helm, you're in good hands.

There was lots of boogying at the President's Dance. The band played hard and the reporters danced harder. Who says court reporters don't know how to have fun? Obviously someone who has never attended

one of our functions!

Sunday morning brought us informative realtime seminars. Gayl Hardeman took us through ways to tweak (or overhaul) our writing and encouraged us to use our software programs to their fullest potential in order to provide beautiful realtime translation. In the afternoon session, Tanya Ward English joined Gayl, and they shared their experiences in working with persons with hearing loss by providing CART and captioning services.

We would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support. Thanks to US Legal Support for the Friday Welcome Reception; Veritext for the Saturday Ice Cream Break; Bass Reporting for the Saturday Night President's Party; and the Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for Sunday's realtime and CART seminars. Once again our silent auction was a great success...thanks for the donations and the supporters.

Lastly, we would like to thank you, the Members, for supporting your Association and joining in on “The Secret” of having the reporting career you want.

Bylaws Publication

At the September 27, 2007, Board of Directors meeting a motion was made, seconded and passed for the FCRA board to create a new position on the board entitled Student Liaison.

In accordance with Article XV of the Bylaws, publication notice is being given and this amendment will be presented to the members of the Association at the Mid-Year Conference for vote.

The Board further directed the Charter and Bylaws Committee to draft language for the Policies & Procedures Manual to outline the criteria and responsibilities for the position.

Photo Highlights from the 2007 Annual Convention



Photo Highlights from the 2007 Annual Convention



Photo Highlights from the 2007 Annual Convention



Photo Highlights from the 2007 Annual Convention



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Members: Betty Sue Vincent
Kathy Marino

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Rick Greenspan
Paulita Kundi
Alternate:
Bernie Goldstein
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Angela Harrell Wierzbicki

2007–2008 FCRA COMMITTEES

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Paula Laws

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Chair: Rick Greenspan

MAGAZINE:

Editor: Louise Pomar

E-FLASH:

Chair: Rick Greenspan
Screeners: Rick Levy
Jennifer Gaul
Sandy Narup

2007 Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award

By Rick Greenspan, FAPR, RMR, CRR, FPR



The following is the presentation given by Rick Greenspan at the September 2007 FCRA Annual Meeting Business Luncheon:

Before I present the Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award, I'd like to share with you a poem written by Will Allen Dromgoole:

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

*An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide –
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way,
This chasm that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."*

You might ask, what does this poem have to do with our Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award recipient? The Emily Mann Award is bestowed upon someone with exceptional qualifications and experience in the field of court reporting, someone who has given selflessly to our association and our profession – someone who is a bridge builder.

This year's recipient is not one to enjoy being in the spotlight; in fact, when the recipient finds out that we are honoring them today, they will probably be very uncomfortable, for they much prefer to fly under the radar, all the while helping whenever and wherever they can – building that bridge. They see the big picture, and never pass up an opportunity to work for the advancement of FCRA and court reporters as a whole, whether it be fighting for court reporting issues in Tallahassee or mentoring a young reporter – always building that bridge.

The recipient has been a court reporter since the 70's and has been a firm owner for over a decade. The recipient is dearly loved by the reporters, the association, clients, and the judiciary because they are a consummate professional – someone of strong principles, ethics, with an extreme sense of fairness. Many have benefited from the bridges built.

For FCRA, the recipient has served in the positions of director all the way up through president. She currently serves on the panel for the FPR Exam, helping others cross the bridge to becoming FPRs. She is a past recipient of the FCRA Pro Bono Award and the President's Award. For NCRA she serves currently as the chair of the electronic recording task force, a member of the judicial advocacy task force, the technology evaluation committee, which I have the pleasure of serving on with her. She has also had the distinction of having served on the national association's nominating committee. And next week, in Tampa, she will be part of a group of NCRA representatives at the Court Technology Conference 10.

We all are bridge crossers, benefiting from the selfless people that have come before us and made our paths easier. You, Paulita Kundid, are a bridge builder. Because of your commitment to our association and tireless dedication to this profession, we are a stronger and better association, and you have made a difference to all those who come behind. It is for this reason we are so very proud to honor you today.

As a surprise to Paulita, some of her friends and colleagues who couldn't be here with us today have passed on their congratulations to her on this special award through this video. (Video Played.)

It is with great pleasure that I present to you our 2007 Emily Mann Distinguished Service Award Recipient – Paulita Kundid.

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 September of 2007 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-----------------|
| Julia Alfonso, FPR | Coral Gables | Ashley Coreen Nehme, FPR | Cooper City |
| Patricia Bailey-Entin, FPR | Ft Lauderdale | Diane C. O'Brien, FPR..... | Apopka |
| Jillian Baxter, FPR | Orlando | Amber Owen, RPR, FPR..... | Ft Lauderdale |
| Patricia Benedit, FPR..... | Miami | Stacy L. Pace, RPR, CRR, CSR, FPR..... | Windermere |
| Beth Breese, FPR-S..... | Mt Dora | Erin Pallard, RPR, FPR | Longwood |
| Harold Brown, CSR (NY), CM, FPR..... | Lake Worth | Jaymi A. Port, FPR | Ft Lauderdale |
| Pauline C. Bunker, FPR..... | Parrish | Natalie Crystal Poss, FPR-S | Miami |
| Jackie D. Burrell, RPR, FPR..... | Ft Myers | Lynne Prichason, FPR..... | Ft Lauderdale |
| Ashley D. Cleveland, FPR-S..... | Miami | Jan Elise Reyna, RPR, FPR..... | Ft Lauderdale |
| Robert A. Dempster, RPR, FPR | Indian Rocks Beach | Suesanna Rice, FPM | Lakeland |
| Carrie Divers, FPR | Ft Lauderdale | Vivian Rock, CSR (IL), FPR | Coral Springs |
| Linda Fake, FPR | St. Augustine | Michelle Cox Russell, FPR | Port Orange |
| Catherine Fitzpatrick, FPR | Pompano Beach | Mary S. Samuel, RPR, FPR..... | Orlando |
| Andrea Frias, FPR | Ft Lauderdale | Michele Simone-Gur, FPR | Ft Lauderdale |
| Erin Gardner, FPR..... | Jacksonville | J. Gay Smith, RMR, FPR | Plant City |
| Lisa Donahue Garson, FPR | Ft Lauderdale | Shawna Stimson Smith, RPR, FPR..... | Deland |
| Karen Gottwald, CVR, CLVS, FPR..... | Ft Pierce | Neysa Sosa, RPR, FPR..... | Hialeah |
| Sharon M. Gremald, RPR, CSR (WA), FPR | St Petersburg | Judith Stein, FPR-S | Jacksonville |
| Sharon Hardoon, FPR..... | Altamonte Springs | Ann Stevens, RPR, FPR..... | Ft Myers |
| Deborah A. Harris, FPR | Hallandale Beach | Kimberly A. Sutton, FPR | St. Augustine |
| Pamela Holden, FPR..... | Naples | Lisa L. Taylor, RPR, FPR..... | Daytona Beach |
| Rise Holmes, RPR, FPR..... | Stuart | Jannett Taylor-Brown, FPR..... | Miramar |
| Jennifer L. Johnson, FPM..... | Orlando | Geraldine Thomasson, RDR, RPR..... | West Palm Beach |
| Stephanie Jordan, FPR..... | Tallahassee | Samantha Todd, FPR | Ft Lauderdale |
| Jill Lemmon, FPR | Ft Lauderdale | Sonya Toser, FPR | Lakeland |
| Shari Lightfoot, FPR-S | Callahan | Elizabeth Waldrip, FPR-S | Hollywood |
| Amy Lyon, FPR-S..... | Davie | Susan Waldrip-Hobbs, RPR, CSR (TX, OK), FPR..... | Fairfield, TX |
| Jamie Mackrell, FPR..... | Ft Lauderdale | Patricia Weiner, RPR, RMR, CRR, FPR | Plantation |
| Robin Mates, FPR | Orlando | Dayna Whitney, FPR | Windermere |
| Andrea Mazor-Stabb, RPR, FPR..... | Weston | Maureen Willis, RPR, FPR..... | Port Orange |
| Jill Middlemiss, RPR, FPR | Key Largo | Karen Winn, RPR, FPR..... | Ruskin |
| June C. Miller, FPR..... | Ormond Beach | Nicole Woods, FPR..... | Sunrise |

Many thanks to the September 2007 Florida Rules and Ethics Seminar panel members for their dedication and hard work:

- Jennifer Gaul, CMRS, FPR
- Louise Johnson, RMR, CRR, FPR
- Paulita Kundid, RPR, CLVS, FPR
- Susan D. Wasilewski, RPR, CRR, CMRS, FPR



Reporters in the Spotlight



Name: Jane Hagan-O'Brien

Birthplace: Homestead, Florida

Type of Reporter: Stenographic

Hobbies/Interests: Stain Glass, gardening, painting, reading. Oh, wait a minute. That would seem to imply I have a personal life. Of course, court reporting and going to the seminars so I can hobnob with all my fellow court reporters.

Work at: ... and co-own, along with Lisa L. Taylor, Southern Reporting Company in Daytona Beach. We started the company in March of 2004 and currently have eight reporters and three offices.

Member of FCRA since: 1990

Why did you become a reporter? When I was in high school my mother told me I should become a court reporter. Of course, who listens to their mother?? Two years later I was in court reporting school at the Macomb Academy of Court Reporting in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. And if that wasn't enough, I taught court reporting there for four years and loved it.

What's the one thing you know now that you wish you knew when you started out as a court reporter? I was so nervous when I was a new reporter, and didn't realize that a lot of the attorneys were new attorneys and probably more nervous than I was. They just hid it better. They didn't have the sweat dripping off of them and hands shaking like a nervous twitch!!! I should have just relaxed more.

How do you balance your sometimes crazy work hours against a personal life? What personal life??? I don't know what that means. I'll have to look it up.

Where do you see your career taking you in the future? Retirement!!!!!! NOT



Congratulations...You Did It!

Congratulations to the following NCRA members who passed the written knowledge portions of the certification exams during the first two weeks of October utilizing the new computerized testing process:

Registered Diplomate Reporters:

Boenau, Jack, Sarasota, FL

Certified Broadcast Captioners:

Langlois, Debra, Jensen Beach, FL
Martin, Candice, Pensacola, FL

OPEN LETTER TO FCRA AND EDITOR

September 21, 2007
 FCRA
 222 S. Westmonte Dr., Suite 101
 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

My year as president ended in 1987, twenty years ago. While reflecting on the accomplishments of FCRA through the hard work of all of those working on our committees during the years immediately prior to and following my presidency, I remember compiling the information from other states, writing and presenting the first Rule of Court for the administration of court reporting under the Supreme Court of Florida. I remember vividly the frustration and futility associated with that followed by many years of going back to the drawing boards, and several meetings with the Supreme Court Justices. I remember the elation we experienced when the law passed requiring administration of court reporting under the Supreme Court, only to see our hopes dashed again when the Supreme Court would not fund it.

Most of all I am proud of my work on and association with *The Florida Manual*.

The Florida Manual began with my crazy idea that we could possibly compile and present a manual that provided easy access to Florida Rules, recommended formats, information about our court system and collections under the FCRA banner, and call it *The Florida Manual*.

I presented this idea to Joe Troiano, Paula Laws, Jack Besoner, at Jack's office in Miami. I had previously presented the idea to Rosie Sclafani in Tampa. All of those esteemed Past Presidents except Paula poo-pooed the idea for various reasons. Although the other Past Presidents were being uncharacteristically negative, I still thought that it was possible, and at that meeting Paula agreed to provide a section on the court system, and I was unceremoniously made Chairman of the *Florida Manual* Committee.

With that beginning, I went back to West Palm Beach, and began to comb through the Florida Rules of Court for every reference with the slightest connection to court reporting, and copied each of them. One of the best things I ever did was to ask Judy Everman if she would help with them, and did she ever.

My committee grew, and after securing permission from West Publishing to reprint the Florida Rules of Court pertaining to court reporters, we accomplished what all those past presidents I talked with said couldn't be done. We presented the first *Florida Manual* to our members.

The first *Manual* was 80 pages, more or less. I have a copy that was graciously presented to me at the 29th Annual Convention in Daytona Beach in October of 1990 that was already a couple of generations better than our first one.

Thanks to the hard work of Judy Everman, Shirley King and others the "Model T" *FCRA Manual* has become a first class, "state-of-the-art" reference manual.

Not being one to expect accolades or to give them for doing what needs to be done, will give some now for work that far exceeds the necessary. In my view, Judy and Shirley have "adopted" FCRA, and thanks in large part to their work and vision have kept FCRA alive. The Florida Professional Reporter program that they initiated should help ensure that FCRA remains viable for years to come.

On another note, I believe that the changes to our bylaws that allow mask and tape recorder operators to become participating and therefore voting members of our association will alienate more stenotype reporters than it will encourage. I can't agree with the direction our present leadership has taken in that regard. In the 1980's our membership was in the neighborhood of 750 to 850. Now I believe it is in the 500-600 range. In the intervening twenty years, Florida has become home to many more reporters, yet our membership dwindles.

We should be doing things that encourage members to remain members and encourage those many NCRA members to join our association. If three out of four NCRA members have voted to keep voting/participating members of NCRA qualified stenotype reporters, then it stands to reason that 75% of the NCRA members in Florida would be less interested in joining FCRA by virtue of the recent changes to our bylaws. If that were the only reason to oppose, that should be enough. But we all know it is not.

I haven't reported for ten years or so, and though I am helping to run two agencies, and not yet ready to retire, I would like to accept Honorary Member status, as a Past President. I reserve the right to help out when asked and where I believe I can.

The friendships that have developed through my work and play with my FCRA and NCRA sisters and brothers over the years are irreplaceable, and I cherish them. I look forward to renewing them again and again in the future.

Rus Weathers, RPR, FPR, FAPR



Q: What's the difference between a GIF and a JPG file?

A: Graphics in their natural state are often too large to be quickly downloaded and displayed, so they need to be compressed (reduced) in size. The most popular compression formats are .GIF and .JPG. Compressing graphics with either format does not reduce the dimensions of a given image, it just reduces the overall size of a graphics file.

GIF stands for Graphics Interchange Format. Most people pronounce it with a soft "g" as in "jiff." Years ago, however, when CompuServe first introduced the GIF format and people started pronouncing it that way, the Jif Peanut Butter folks took exception to the pronunciation. Technically, the format should be pronounced with a hard "g" as in "gift" or (duh) "graphics," but their nutty objection notwithstanding, most people still refer to items in the GIF file format as "jiff" files.

JPG or JPEG (pronounced JAY-peg) stands for Joint Photographic Experts Group. The JPG format can reduce files to approximately five percent of their uncompressed size. Photographs and graphics with lots of colors that blend and fade into one another are best served by the JPG format. This format enables users to save images with millions of colors, while the GIF format is limited to 256 colors.

If given the choice between the two formats, you can't go wrong if you select JPG. It's evolved into an industry standard and today is far more prevalent than its GIF counterpart.

Q. When I use Add/Remove Programs on the Control Panel to remove a program, should I answer "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Do you want to remove a shared file?"

A. In a word, "No." Shared files display the file extension .DLL or Dynamic Linked Library file.

What that high-falootin', technobabble means is that the file in question may be used by more than one program. A word processor and a spreadsheet, for example, may share a DLL file, so removing it could cause one or more programs to malfunction.

On a related note, you may on occasion encounter a message advising that a certain DLL file cannot be found. That means that the missing file is needed in order to open the program you're trying to use. Why is it missing? The most frequent cause is because it was removed when you uninstalled another program. Oh, the humanity!

So whenever you're asked if you would like to remove a shared file, I'd suggest that you politely decline the invitation. It's just not worth the risk of derailing another program. I don't know why Windows even bothers to ask. In fact, the next time Mr. Gates stops by to mooch a cup of coffee, I'll be sure to offer that suggestion.

**HAVE YOU VISITED FCRA'S WEB SITE?
FOR ALL YOUR COURT REPORTING NEEDS...
WWW.FCRAONLINE.ORG**

Mr. Modem's Don't Miss 'em (DME) Sites of the Month

Flight Aware: A live, online flight tracker that allows you to view current U.S. air traffic with the click of a mouse. Visitors can search for planes by tail number, airline and flight number. You can also search flight activity at various domestic airports, or browse the unfriendly skies by aircraft type to determine how many Boeing 737s are currently overhead. www.flightaware.com

Heckle Depot: If offering heartfelt words of encouragement isn't your cup of non-fat, cinnamon mocha frappaspresso, perhaps lobbing sarcastic, jaded, caustic comments to others is right up your alley. If so, the Heckle Depot provides a treasure trove of heckles for all sports, including golf. You don't hear many golf hecklers because they tend to whisper, but if you ever get within earshot, you'll probably hear, "Take all the shots you need!" "Try aiming out of bounds!" or the always popular, "Nice drive, Alice." <http://heckledepot.com>

Retrographix: Most communities in the 1950s had hometown print shops that doubled as printers of local news and advertising posters and flyers. These small printers (usually under 5'4") generally could not afford to hire graphic artists, so they used clip art supplied by various companies. This now-nostalgic clip art is available for viewing, so click this site's index to begin your scroll down memory lane. www.retrographix.com

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How Do I Loathe Thee, Vista; Let Me Count the Ways

By Donna M. Kanabay, RMR, CRR, FPR Donna@Kanabay.com



I freely admit that this column is a "cheat." That's because I have spent the several days before deadline in the throes of a desperate, fatal computer crash with my new friend (NOT) Windows Vista, which I firmly believe is the spawn of a demon. It's just coincidence that the below article wandered into my Inbox as I was detecting the first of the Vista computer's death throes a couple of weeks before. So I'll let you read THIS while I continue to reconfigure/reload my backbuilt-to-XP computer. Catch you on the bottom!

Night of the Living Vista

By [Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols](#)

Opinion: Vista has turned into the desktop operating system no one wants, and even Microsoft is beginning to get it. Today, I think of Vista as the zombie operating system. It stumbles around, and from a distance you might think it's alive, but close up it's the walking dead.

The first sign that Vista was in real trouble was when major vendors started to offer XP again on new machines. In February, Microsoft insisted it had already sold more than 20 million copies of Windows Vista. Oh yeah, like there were actually 20 million copies of Vista already out there and running. Pull the other leg, it's got bells on.

If Vista was doing great, then why did Dell break ranks

Continued on page 26

How Do I Loathe Thee, Vista; Let Me Count the Ways

Continued from page 25

with the other major OEMs to start offering XP again and become the first top-tier vendor to offer XP in replacement for Vista in April? Adding insult to injury, Dell actually had the effrontery to offer desktop Linux to its customers.

Other OEMs followed Dell's lead, or to be more precise, its customers' demands. Lenovo, for example, when it rolled out its revamped high-end ThinkPad T61p workstation notebooks in July, made a point of offering not just Vista but XP Pro and, yes, several Linux distributions, including Novell's SUSE, Red Hat and Turbo Linux.

So it came as no surprise at all to me when Mike Nash, Microsoft's corporate vice president for Windows product management, announced that, due to OEM demand, Microsoft will keep selling XP until June 2008. Of course, he also claims there is little chance the June 30 date will be extended.

Want to bet?

Nash and Microsoft apologist Rob Enderle claim that it's no fault with Vista that's causing customers to stay away from it. Indeed, Nash insists that Vista is on track to become the fastest-selling operating system of all time. Really? Then why in the world is Microsoft continuing to offer in-house competition?

At the same time, Enderle, an analyst who counts Microsoft as a customer, said, "Vista adoption is well below where I thought it would be by now...Corporations aren't even close to being ready for Vista, and many of us have been expecting this move. The biggest issue is that most don't seem to see the value in the product. Right now the majority of the comments I'm

getting would indicate the people (who) don't want Vista right now are in the majority."

Enderle, mind you, is about as pro-Microsoft an analyst there is in the business today. If he's saying that people don't want Vista, and the OEMs, which at the end of the day are all about selling units, don't want to sell it, the only conclusion you can come to is that Vista is failing to win the market.

There are many reasons why Vista is doing the zombie stumble. Microsoft has and continues to mislead customers about how much PC is really needed to run Vista. Even some of Windows' most loyal users are finding that its poor performance, lousy software support and pathetic driver support is too much to stomach. People who wouldn't touch any Microsoft product until the first service patch appears. And, last but not least, if XP isn't broke, why "fix" it with Vista?

Now you might think some of this is legacy backlash. People don't like change. They'd rather use Windows 2000 than XP, Windows 98 SE than 2000, and Windows ME more than... well, OK, no one liked ME. But I've been through these cycles many times before. This is different.

XP SP2, with XP SP3 finally due to show up soon, is not only the best Windows to date, I can't think of a single reason to switch from XP to Vista. I'm not talking a good reason, I really mean any reason.

If you want a better operating system than XP, may I recommend Xandros as the most painless way for an XP user to give Linux a try, or if the idea of installing Linux gives you

hives, you can just buy an Ubuntu-powered Dell 1420 laptop, which is a very sweet machine. Or just bite the bullet and go ahead and buy, say, the new MacBook Pro 15-inch to give Mac OS a try.

Whatever you do, even if it's just sticking with XP, you'll be doing better than moving to Vista. Vista is the walking dead of the operating-system world.

Me again, a few programs and many Gigs of data further down the road to recovering my life. I couldn't resist, when I actually visited the site where this article was posted, e-week.com, reading the comments on the article. I selected a few of my favorites to share here with my gentle readers:

"A poor solution to a problem that doesn't exist."

"Wikipedia - Hasta la "Vista," a phrase coined by John Dumont in protest to the overpriced, over-bloated operating system."

"Vista is laughingly called ME II because it is as much a disaster, at twice the price."

I couldn't agree more. And saving this one for last, so I can apologize simultaneously to those who LIKE Vista - it's a matter of personal preference and work style of course, but:

"You like Vista? Good for you. Now the rest of us have to actually get some work done."



ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

By FCRA Ethics Committee 2006-2007 Members Chair: Shirley P. King, RPR, CLVS, FPR - Shirley.king@kingreporting.com; Judy Everman, FAPR, RPR, CMRS, FPR - JudyEverman@comcast.com; Louise K. Johnson, RMR, CRR, FPR - wezi@bellsouth.net

ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION:

Recently, in response to a member's question, we researched the Electronic Signature portion of the Notary Law. On the Notary web site the wording of Chapter 117 referred to "obtaining a rider on your notary bond" before using an electronic signature to notarize a document.

No, it's not in our current manual. It did not exist when I re-did the statutes for the last edition. Apparently there is confusion over whether in order to use the electronic signature that you have to apply for a "rider" on your Notary.

THIS IS NOT THE CURRENT STATE OF THE LAW. It was in the statute as 117.20 and that section was repealed in 1998. The Florida Notary Association still had this requirement up on their web site, therefore the confusion.

The new statute re: electronic notarization is 117.021. Our investigation with the Secretary of State, and my bonding agency (who did extensive research on my behalf) resolved that the wording in the current 117.021 does not require anything additional to the required electronic signature license from the authenticating agency.

Here is the "new" section of Chapter 117 as it now exists. It would be a good idea to save this in your manual. It will, of course, appear in the next new manual released.

117.021 Electronic notarization.--

(1) Any document requiring notarization may be notarized electronically. The provisions of ss. [117.01](#), [117.03](#), [117.04](#), [117.05\(1\)-\(11\)](#), (13), and (14), [117.105](#), and [117.107](#) apply to all notarizations under this section.

(2) In performing an electronic notarial act, a notary public shall use an electronic signature that is:

- (a) Unique to the notary public;
- (b) Capable of independent verification;
- (c) Retained under the notary public's sole control; and
- (d) Attached to or logically associated with the electronic document in a manner that any sub-

sequent alteration to the electronic document displays evidence of the alteration.

(3) When a signature is required to be accompanied by a notary public seal, the requirement is satisfied when the electronic signature of the notary public contains all of the following seal information:

- (a) The full name of the notary public exactly as provided on the notary public's application for commission;
- (b) The words "Notary Public State of Florida";
- (c) The date of expiration of the commission of the notary public; and
- (d) The notary public's commission number.

(4) Failure of a notary public to comply with any of the requirements of this section may constitute grounds for suspension of the notary public's commission by the Executive Office of the Governor.

(5) The Department of State may adopt rules to ensure the security, reliability, and uniformity of signatures and seals authorized in this section.

VOLUME PAGE RESTRICTIONS FOR FEDERAL DEPOSITIONS

FEDERAL TRANSCRIPTS: A member recently brought to our attention that the Federal Rules do not limit volumes to 200 pages – and, in fact, some district clerks are dismayed by the practice of limiting the volumes to 200 pages. While it is true that there is no 200 page per volume restriction in Federal transcripts, neither is there a minimum number of pages per volume. The rule the association teaches from is a Florida rule.

It is our understanding that the genesis of the Florida rule had to do with ease of handling the transcripts in the customary reporter binders.

It seems obvious to us that if one uses more pages per volume for Federal cases, it will be necessary to purchase binders that will accommodate a larger number of pages. Most of us are aware that the

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ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

ETHICS AND PROCEDURES CORNER

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thickness of printer paper makes it difficult for our usual 3-prong binders to securely hold more than 200 pages. In fact, they barely hold the 200 pages we stuff into them now.

My research of the Federal Court Reporter's Manual only addresses volumes as they relate to trial transcripts as follows:

"PART 18.13 Numbering 18.13.2 Volumes

"Multi-volume transcripts should be numbered in either of the following ways: Each volume of transcript should be numbered consecutively. One volume of transcript should be at least equal to one day of court

proceedings. Pages may be numbered consecutively for each volume of transcript, with the cover page of each volume designated page 1. Using this method, page numbers will begin with a volume number followed by the page number.

"Examples: 1-14 (Volume 1, page 14)

2-54 (Volume 2, page 54)

"If preferred, the pages may be numbered consecutively for an entire multiple-volume transcript.

"Examples: 56 (Volume 1, page 56) 521 (Volume 3, page 521)"

"A Moment on the Bench"

By William G. Romanishin, RMR, CRR

While eating lunch one Friday in chambers at the United States Federal Courthouse in downtown Miami, Florida, the Judge to which I am assigned, Honorable Ursula Ungaro, casually mentioned having to perform a skit at an upcoming meeting of the Committee on Judicial Resources of the Judicial Conference of the United States, which was taking place in Las Vegas, NV. She was seeking input from her staff on what to do. It was tradition for the outgoing Committee members, which she was one of several, to perform for those still on the Committee and others in attendance. Past performances of such exiting members included stand-up comedy, harmonica and piano playing. In addition to Judge Ungaro, recruited were another United States District Judge and an appellate court judge, the "Ladies in Black."

This started my wheels spinning. While relaxing in my recliner over the weekend – being caught up on my transcripts, of course -- with my vast collection of '60s and '70s pop music staring me in the face, something popped. (No pun intended, and, no, the recliner did not break). The scenario of a courtroom came into view. The idea was an entertaining depiction of a moment on the bench: Administering justice to those in need of having justice administered.

Growing up in the '60s and still proud of my collection of over four hundred 45-RPM records, I still to this

day remember many of the lyrics and most of the song titles. However, doing my best to move into the new millennium, I now have many of those same records now on CDs and am able to record from them.

Now, if I could only apply the lyrics to the courtroom. Ah-hah! The kitschy intro of "These Boots Are Made For Walkin'" by Nancy Sinatra was ringing in my head. I thought what a great start to set the courtroom scene. I just had to pare a colloquy between Judge and Defendant to coincide with the lyrics in my repertoire. Mission accomplished!

When I reported for work on Monday, I presented Judge Ungaro with my script. I suggested a few ideas to enhance different lines throughout the script, such as swinging a gavel in each hand up and down in opposite directions while taking a step to each beat of the "Boots" musical intro. Judge Ungaro also added a few tweaks.

Honorable Royal Ferguson from the Western District of Texas was recruited by the threesome to act as the Defendant in their skit along with assistance to turn the CD player on and off to play the snippets of music between each line of the script. While the music played, the "Ladies in Black" would do a short dance routine, sometimes with the aid of props, such as feather boas, cat masks, toy guns and rings. Judge Ungaro said the

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“A Moment on the Bench”

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threesome had just as much fun shopping for their props as they did in implementing them in their routine.

Well, you get the idea. So, without further adieu, here's "A Moment On The Bench" by The Judgettes.

("Boots" intro played as the Judgettes enter swinging gavels to the beat)

THE COURT: Calling United States of America versus Jimmy Mack. ("Jimmy Mack" played)

THE COURT: Hello, Mr. Mack. How are you today? ("What's New Pussycat?")

THE COURT: And let me ask, what brings you to court today, Mr. Mack? ("I Can't Help Myself")

THE COURT: You're here because you were in possession of a weapon. ("Shotgun")

THE COURT: And were you with anyone while you were in possession of this shotgun? ("Me and Mrs. Jones")

THE COURT: Okay. And tell the Court, who's Mrs. Jones? ("Young Girl")

THE COURT: How young is this girl? ("This Girl is a Woman Now")

THE COURT: Okay. And what were you doing with this woman? ("Something Stupid")

THE COURT: I'll say you got caught doing something stupid. ("Bad Luck")

THE COURT: You do have bad luck. By the way, what day was this?

(Sunday Morning, "Sunday Will Never Be The Same")

THE COURT: What time on Sunday morning? ("Twelve-Thirty")

THE COURT: What were you doing up so early? ("Dancing In The Street")

THE COURT: Dancing in the street with Mrs. Jones? ("Maggie Mae")

THE COURT: Why wasn't she with Mr. Jones? ("She'd Rather Be With Me")

THE COURT: How do you know she'd rather be with you? ("Heard It Through The Grapevine")

THE COURT: Well, I'm going to have to take you into custody. ("Release Me")

THE COURT: You were here for possession of drugs once before. ("Hooked On A Feeling")

THE COURT: And you'll get drug counseling while in prison too. ("Tears Of A Clown")

THE COURT: You can cry all you want. But what's that on your finger? ("This Diamond Ring")

THE COURT: Another ten years for possession of stolen property. ("You've Got Your Troubles, I've Got Mine")

THE COURT: That's for sure. But I'll give you one more chance. ("You Didn't Have To Be So Nice")

THE COURT: I believe you possess some good qualities. ("I'm A Believer")

THE COURT: So am I. So I'll let you go. ("Go To Pieces")

THE COURT: No, please don't go to pieces. Just go and stay out of trouble. Court's adjourned. ("Start walking" finale of "Boots" as the Judgettes exit stage left)

EDITOR'S NOTE: I bet this skit was hilarious to watch live. It's good to know that our esteemed judges do "let their hair down" every once in a while!



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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 8% of your FCRA dues will be allocated to lobbying and political activities, and that same are not deductible as a business expense.

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Minimum Requirements: Graduation from a standard high school or equivalent and seven years of stenographic work in the court system, legal field or criminal justice environment is required. Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Certified Real-time Reporter (CRR) certifications required. An Associate's degree from an accredited court reporting school may substitute for two years of the required experience.

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