

ARIZONA NOTES

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ACRA 2019 President's Address

by Tracy Johnston

Yikes! Just one little steno stroke - Yikes!

Be careful who you talk to or YOU may find yourself standing where I am right now. Leslie Foldy is responsible for this, for me standing here today.

Remember that name. I think we ALL may be having a few words with her later.

For those that have no idea who I am...here's a little bit about me, the Reader's Digest version. I was born and raised in Tucson. I graduated from the University of Arizona in 1984 and started court reporting school in 1985 at American Institute of Court Reporting in Phoenix. Scott Coniam and I are products of the "Steve & Joe" theory - yeah, whatever - a "conflict free" theory that was not conflict free. Anyway, while attending American Institute, I got a job as a scopist working for two reporters, Julie Ottmar and Leslie Foldy. I'm a name dropper. I learned so much from these women. It was invaluable experience as a student. I was so far ahead of the game, it made the transition from student to reporter seamless. Thank you both for taking the time to teach me about our job and how to edit transcripts, put a transcript together, and the "rest" of our job beyond sitting at our machines.

I've been a reporter for 30 years now; 13 as a freelance reporter, 17 as an official in both Maricopa and Pima Counties. I've been with Pima county Superior Court since 2003.

I don't know how many years I've been a member of ACRA, but I do know it's an association I'm proud to be a part of. Court reporting is a great profession. What other job provides such diversity within each day, week, month - medical malpractice, accident reconstruction, family law, criminal law, et cetera. It's unique. Every day we are learning something new, striving to do our job better - write faster, cleaner, shorter. I'm

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Arizona Court Reporters Association

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THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE: ACJA RULE REGARDING GIFT GIVING.

It is that time of the year when the temperature is finally in the double digits again, you start to feel (or are already feeling!) the excitement in the air of the upcoming holiday festivities, and you start thinking about what special gift you can surprise your family and friends with. It's also at that moment when you start wondering if maybe you should get something to show your appreciation for that attorney or judge that you love to work with/for. As you start thinking about giving gifts to those law firms, attorneys and/or judges, you may start thinking, "I know there is a rule governing gift giving for certified reporters in Arizona, but what does it say exactly?" Well, worry not, below is the Arizona Code regarding gift giving!

Arizona Code of Judicial Administration Part 7, Chapter 2, Section 7-206: Certified Reporter states, as follows:

(J)(3)(f) Fees and Services: A certified reporter and registered reporting firm shall at all times be aware of and avoid impropriety or the appearance of impropriety, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Establishing contingent fees as a basis of compensation;
- (2) Directly or indirectly receiving of any gift, incentive, reward, or anything of value as a condition of the performance of professional services;
- (3) Directly or indirectly offering to pay any commission or other consideration in order to secure professional assignments;
- (4) Directly or indirectly giving, for the benefit of employment, any gift, incentive, reward or anything of value to attorneys, clients, witnesses, insurance companies or any other persons or entities associated with the litigation, or to the representatives or agents of any of the foregoing, except for:
 - (a) Nominal items that do not exceed \$25.00 per transaction and \$100.00 in the aggregate per recipient each year; and
 - (b) Pro bono services; and
- (5) Entering into any written or verbal financial relationship with counsel, parties of interest or their intermediaries that would require a certified reporter to violate any provision of this section

The purpose of the above-stated provisions is to avoid the possible appearance of partiality or favoritism on the part of a certified reporter and/or registered reporting firm, thus ensuring our status as a neutral and impartial officer of the court.

With that, wishing you and yours a very happy upcoming holiday season!



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CURRENT ACRA BOARD MEMBERS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Certified Reporters Board Meeting

Date: December 5, 2019

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Arizona State Courts Building,
1501 West Washington, Phoenix, Room 109

NCRA Court Reporting & Captioning Week

Date: Feb. 8, 2020 - Feb. 15, 2020

Join court reporting professionals
nationwide in celebrating and showcasing
their profession.

SAVE THE DATE:

Midyear Seminar

Date: April 18, 2020

Location: Hilton Phoenix/Chandler

Program details and convention registration
coming soon

SAVE THE DATE:

2020 NCRA Convention

Date: August 6-9, 2020

Location: Orlando, Florida

SAVE THE DATE:

2020 Multi-State Convention

Wild West Roundup

Date: September 18-20, 2020

Location: Park City, Utah

If you go, please share your photos with ArizoNotes
by emailing jenniferhonn@iotalegal.com!

CONGRATULATIONS!



NCRA's foundation, NCRF, had a raffle
giveaway of the brand new Stenograph
writer, the Luminex II. KRISTY CETON
FROM ARIZONA WON!!



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2019 NCRA National Convention

Look at our ACRA leaders in action!! ACRA was well represented at this year's NCRA National Committee of State Associations meeting! President Kate Roundy and Official Director Marylynn LeMoine participated in discussions learning what is happening nationally and are coming away with lots of information and tools to utilize in our state! — in Denver, Colorado.



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PURSE-O-RAMA

ACRA's fundraiser was a total success. The success was all due to Leslie Foldy and everyone who organized, donated, and purchased the purses. **The total raised was \$2,000!**

Thank you to everyone for participating!



The **Fifth Annual Jim Bouley Memorial Speed Contest** took place on Friday, September 20th, the day before the convention began. Our intrepid participants arrived ready to tackle some very FAST dictation – literary at 220, jury charge at 230, and Q&A at 280!

Katherine McNally had prepared the tests and also recorded the dictation with the help of Scott Coniam. The dictation began, and the participants focused all of their energy into the task of capturing every word of some difficult material.

When the dust had settled – after a couple hours of transcription – two winners were declared! **First place went to Paula Campbell** with an overall score of 95.6 percent (including 100 percent on the jury charge). **Second place went to Elaine Cropper** with an overall score of 95.2 percent. What a squeaker!

Paula joined us in June after moving from Chicago. Elaine is a federal court official. We are honored to have such amazing and talented reporters among us in Arizona! They make us all proud to be a part of this wonderful profession!

We hope to see many more of you at our next speed contest – maybe at the Wild West Roundup next September in Park City, Utah! Yee-haw!



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2019 DSA PRESENTATION

As the chairperson of the DSA committee, it's my honor to present this year's Distinguished Service Award.

This is never an easy choice. As we walk around this weekend, we see all the familiar faces, and we are always so grateful for those who do so much for our profession. Their names are well-known. This year's recipient – well, you may not know their name, but we think it's time you did.

When we think of "service," what comes to mind is someone who is selfless, someone who puts the needs of others ahead of their own, someone who is willing to go the extra mile, and someone who is generous with their time and talents. This court reporter is a prime example of all these things and has served the court reporting community for the past several decades.

This person is a recently retired court reporter who has worked for the Maricopa County Superior Court for almost 30 years. This person was always a member of ACRA and attended the conventions and frequently donated prizes for drawings and supported ACRA whenever there was a call for special action to be taken.

This person is a phenomenal writer and earned their realtime certification. This person always provided realtime to whichever judge they were assigned to and set the example and encouraged other reporters to endeavor to reach this achievement and to be the best that they could be. This person also earned the designation of being a certified captioner.

This person is one of the many unsung heroes that worked tirelessly behind the scenes, not in the limelight, but always with a love for our profession and a positive attitude. This person has always been a mentor to many new reporters who were so fortunate to have the opportunity to learn so much from an experienced professional, and this person was always willing to spend time with new reporters sharing their wealth of knowledge and expertise.

One of the many things this person did for years was to volunteer their services to write realtime at church every week for the parishioners who were hard of hearing so they could also participate in the church services and be uplifted by being able to understand the sermon. I'm sure this was a huge blessing to many people.

This person did this not for money, not for notoriety, but quietly behind the scenes with a charitable heart to help those who could benefit from their talent of writing so well.

Many times our talents help people to understand court proceedings or to be educated in school settings or entertained through sporting events and captioning, but this person's writing helped people spiritually, and this person was tirelessly devoted to this cause for many years. This person was able to find a way to utilize their talents to benefit many and make the lives of those around them more fulfilling.

This person was always willing when asked to assist with special assignments or to serve on committees, and when fundraisers were being held, this person was always generous to support those activities that promoted court reporting.

DSA Presentation continued on Page 10...



BRIEF ENCOUNTER

Alphabet Soup

By Jennifer Pancratz

Some of my favorite random briefs, A to Z.

A – Attorney’s fees – TAO*EZ

B – Breach of contract – BR*K

C – Consequence – KWAENS, consequences - KWAENZ

D – .com – DA*UM, .org – DA*URG, .gov – DA*UV

E – Explicit – KPLIFT (implicit – MIFT)

F – Fair and impartial - FAIRM

G – Good faith – GAO*T

H – Hypothetical – HOIPT, hypothetically – HO*IPT

I – Indemnify – DAEF (S, D, G), indemnification – DAEFGS, indemnity – DA*ET

J – Jurisdiction – J-RD

K – Kindergarten – K-GD

L – Litigate – L*IGT, litigation – L*IGS

M – Motion to continue – MO*EKT, motion to dismiss – MO*ED, motion to quash – MO*ESH

N – Number one – N*UN, number two – N*AO, number three – NAO*E

O – On behalf of – BAOF (behalf – BAF)

P – Purport – POURT (D, S, G)

Q – Quite a few - KWAOIF, quite a bit - KWIBT, quite frankly - KWAOIFL

R – Recognize – R*EN (D, S, G)

Brief Encounter continued on Page 9...



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Brief Encounter continued from previous page...

S – Satisfy – SAEF (D, G, S), satisfaction - SAEFGS

T – Threshold - THROELD

U – Unreasonable – RAUNL (reasonable – R-NL)

V – Voluntarily – VO*ELT (involuntarily – NO*ELT)

W – Website – W*EBS

X – Xerox – SO*ERX

Y – You know – YAOUN (, you know, - YAO*UN)

Z – Zillion – STK*L

And my favorite brief of all time: 30(b)(6) – THRIX

Q. Okay. Q symbol + final K

Q. All right. Q symbol + final R-T

A. Yes. A symbol + E

A. No. A symbol + O

Random stupid question of the year: “So he was conscious when he was speaking to police officers?”

Happy briefing!



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President's Message continued from Page 1...

always looking for new briefs! We provide a service to litigants, the judiciary, those with disabilities through CART providers. While technology continues to improve and tries to encroach our area of expertise, no one else, no machine, can provide what we do...exceptional results.

As professionals, it's my opinion we have a duty and responsibility to support our professional associations...namely ACRA. By being here today, you're doing just that...thank you.

We also support our association through membership, fundraising and by participating - volunteering and serving in leadership positions. Of course, it's not ALL giving...we each get A LOT in return. Meeting new friends and colleagues and giving back to a profession that has given us so much. ACRA represents ALL court reporters - members and nonmembers, freelance and official. This association is important to all of us and we are all responsible for ACRA.

This past year I've had the pleasure of working with and getting to know new friends and colleagues - all working on YOUR behalf. It's been a busy summer, and the coming year is shaping up to be even busier. We'll bring you up to speed at the Town Hall session tomorrow.

ACRA is only as good as its membership...thank you for yours. Encourage those who are not members to become members.

Finally, look around you, the friends to your left and right, people you went to school with, people you work with and remember...they may be responsible for YOU standing behind a podium holding a giant gavel wondering "how did this happen?" (Thank you, Leslie!)

DSA Presentation continued from Page 7...

This person's positive attitude and willingness to be a team player are attributes that all court reporters should strive to emulate. This person's professionalism was extended not only to attorneys and judges, but even pro per litigants. All who had the pleasure of working with this person were treated with kindness and respect.

This person loved being a court reporter and was always one of the first to volunteer when special projects came along like Veteran's Stand Down, which is held yearly at the coliseum. Many times this person gave up their nights and weekends to serve the needs of others.

This person has been an advocate for court reporting throughout their entire career not only by mentoring others but by their very example, by their work ethic, and by their faithful dedication to the profession of court reporting.

This person has been one of the most loyal, dependable, hard working and professional court reporters I myself have had the privilege of working with. This person is truly deserving of this high honor. As I said at the beginning, you may not know their name, but we think it's time you did.

It is my honor and my privilege to present the 2019 Arizona Court Reporter's Association Distinguished Service Award to Karen Bolton.



JOIN ACRA!

Value of ACRA Membership

[Students can join for only \$20!]

- **Conventions and Seminars** - Two major events are held each year. ACRA provides NCRA and Cojet approved continuing education credits at our Annual Convention in the fall and our Midyear Seminar in the spring.
- **Legislative** - ACRA advocates on behalf of the court reporting and captioning profession. We combine the voices of many when our profession is attacked or diminished by the legislature or other rule making bodies or board.
- **ArizoNotes Magazine** - The only Arizona State publication devoted exclusively to the reporting profession. Delivered electronically.
- **Directory** - Access to the online Membership Directory, which includes the credentials and listing of services offered by each member.
- **Job Bank** - Access to any job postings as they are submitted.
- **Hertz Discount** - Members receive special year-round discounts.

* Membership dues update: Annual membership dues is \$150 and will no longer be prorated throughout the year. Renew early to maximize the benefits of your membership!



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