

ACRA ARIZONA NOTES

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ACRA President's Message

by Angela Miller

Dear ACRA members,

ACRA has been working diligently along with our lobbyists, Creosote Partners, to update Statute 12-224, "Salary; fees for transcripts; free transcripts; office supplies" that has been in place since 1984 setting the transcript rates for appeals. The proposed legislation is working its way through the legislature and ACRA is very optimistic and is continuing to provide data and information to legislators and committee members.

The current statutory language sets the rates for criminal appeal transcripts for at \$2.50 per page for an Original and \$0.30 per page for a Copy. Below is the statute along with the proposed amended language. The new language would bring the rate for appeal transcripts up to current national trends of \$3.50 per page for an Original and \$0.50 per page for a Copy. It also provides an avenue for a cost of living increase every five (5) years, commencing January 15, 2025, without having to return to the legislature.

This is just one of the ways ACRA is fighting for our profession and the certified reporters in Arizona. We thank you for your continued membership and donations; without them, ACRA would not be able to stand up for our profession, conduct public outreach, and promote our industry. Not only are our lobbyists working on all of our behalf, but Mr. Ty Taber, Esq. is also busy researching the new rule changes to provide legal review and opinions.

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Arizona Court Reporters Association

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ACRA was an exhibitor at the Arizona School Counselors Association annual convention to promote court reporting and captioning to school counselors throughout Arizona. The convention was February 6-8, 2022, at the We-Ko-Pa Casino Resort.

Robin Osterode, Cindy Mahoney and Laura Ashbrook spent the weekend before the event putting together goodie bags to hand out information promoting our profession. Those three were then joined by **Stephanie Stearman** from GateWay Community College at the event.

There were two winners of our raffle prizes donated by ACRA, an iPad and a FitBit.

Please **consider sponsoring a student** for either ACRA membership and/or attendance at our midyear convention which will be May 14th.



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ACRA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE
ALREADY CONTRIBUTED

LEGAL EFFORTS

Ty Taber, Esq., with the law firm Burg Simpson has been retained to provide legal interpretation/opinion on the new Supreme Court Rule 30 affecting Certified Reporters, specifically transcription of audio-recorded proceedings by Certified Reporters as the official record and the role and responsibility of per diem reporters in court settings.



LOBBYING EFFORTS

Our lobbyist, Cresote Partners, is actively lobbying and working with the courts to increase the page rate for transcripts of criminal proceedings, updating a statute that is decades old.

SUPPORT YOUR BOARD

If every Certified Reporter donated as little as \$20 each, we could easily cover our legal costs. If every Certified Reporter donated **\$50 each, that would satisfy our lobbyist expense. Please consider getting involved TODAY!



DONATE:
WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG/DONATE



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INTERVIEWS WITH KASSIE & ROBIN

BY KASSIE KOSMAL & ROBIN OSTERODE

INTERVIEW OF KASSIE KOSMAL

1. *How did you get interested in becoming a voice writer?*

The Army gave me the opportunity in early 2018 to attend their Court Reporter Course at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia. I had joined the Army originally as a paralegal to gain relevant legal experience, as I had wanted to study to become an attorney; however, soon after starting the school I fell in love with court reporting and immediately changed trajectory.

2. *Are you attending school in-person or online?*

I decided to attend The College of Court Reporting's online voice writing program so I could learn the CAT program Eclipse, as the Army was not using CAT programs while I was on active duty.

3. *What school are you attending?*

College of Court Reporting out of Valparaiso, Indiana.

4. *Where do you want to work once you graduate, i.e. freelance reporter, official reporter, captioner, etc.?*

Originally, I had wanted to stick with the courts, as that is where the bulk of my experience is from. While I loved working in military court, freelancing seems to be such an adventure and an even better fit for what I want to do with myself.

5. *Do you like having a mentor?*

I love it. Robin has been so amazing. I have felt so supported; and she has aided me in understanding the nuances between what I was doing previously and what I am about to step into now.



Kassie Kosmal & Robin Osterode

6. *How did you get interested in becoming a voice writer?*

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DONATIONS NEEDED

ACRA WORKS TIRELESSLY TO PROTECT, PROMOTE, AND PRESERVE THE COURT REPORTING PROFESSION IN ARIZONA IN BENEFIT OF US ALL. DO YOUR PART - PLEASE DONATE TODAY TO ACRA'S LEGAL FUND TO HELP PAY FOR OUR ATTORNEY TY TABER AND OUR LOBBYIST CREOSOTE AND ASSOCIATES. GIVE A LITTLE - HELP A LOT THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TO DONATE:
WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG/ACRASTORE



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2022

ACRA PRESENTS THE 2022 MIDYEAR SEMINAR ABCS...

ACHIEVE, BELIEVE & CELEBRATE!

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON (LIMITED CAPACITY)

Sonesta Select Phoenix Camelback
2101 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

.6 CEUs

*Pending NCRA Approval

REGISTRATION & FULL AGENDA COMING SOON!

VISIT ACRAONLINE.ORG FOR DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



ArizoNotes is published quarterly and e-mailed to members of the Arizona Court Reporters Association, 5350 W. Bell Rd., Suite C-122 #520, Glendale, AZ, 85308. Please send address changes to ACRA at the above address or to office@acraonline.org or (602) 679-6995. The ACRA website is at acraonline.org and pdf copies of past issues are available for viewing. Please send editorial submissions to Karen Kahle at office@acraonline.org. The editorials and other views expressed in ArizoNotes are not necessarily those of the Association, its officers or its members. Advertising rates and information are also available from Kim Portik at office@acraonline.org or (602) 679-6995.



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We have a long way to go to meet our lobbying and legal fund donation goals, PLEASE consider donating today!

[ACRA DONATIONS](#)

LEGEND:

BLUE - PROPOSED LANGUAGE

RED - CURRENT LANGUAGE

--

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 12-224, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to

3 read:

4 **12-224. Salary; fees for transcripts; free transcripts;**

5 **office supplies**

6 A. The salary of the court reporter shall be fixed by the presiding

7 judge of the court, with the approval of the board of supervisors of the

8 county, and shall be paid by the county.

9 B. The reporter shall receive from a party ordering an appeal

10 transcript, ~~two-dollars-fifty-cents~~ **AT LEAST \$3.50** per page for the

11 original, and ~~thirty-cents~~ **\$.50** per page for each copy if ordered at the

12 same time and by the same party. **BEGINNING JANUARY 15, 2025, AND EVERY**

13 **FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER, THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE COURT MAY INCREASE THE**

14 **FEES LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION BY THE INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING. THE**

15 **INCREASE IN THE COST OF LIVING SHALL BE MEASURED BY THE PERCENTAGE**

16 **INCREASE AS OF AUGUST OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING YEAR OVER THE LEVEL AS**

17 **OF AUGUST OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN**

18 **CONSUMERS, UNITED STATES CITY AVERAGE FOR**

ALL ITEMS OR ITS SUCCESSOR INDEX

19 **AS PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, BUREAU OF LABOR**

20 **STATISTICS, OR ITS SUCCESSOR AGENCY.**

21 C. The reporter, when requested in advance, shall furnish free of

22 charge to the county attorney or the attorney general a copy of the

23 transcript of testimony when a transcript is made on an appeal in a

24 criminal case, and to the attorney general when the state is a party.

25 D. The reporter, when requested, shall furnish at county expense to

26 the county attorney or the attorney general a copy of the transcript of

27 testimony of any proceeding held in the superior court when the state or

28 an instrumentality ~~thereof~~ **OF THIS STATE** is ordered to provide such

29 transcripts by a federal court in a habeas corpus proceeding in the

30 federal courts or when ordered by the Arizona supreme court to provide

31 such transcripts in a habeas corpus proceeding in state court.

32 E. The **COUNTY SHALL FURNISH THE** necessary supplies for conduct of

33 the office of reporter ~~shall be furnished by the county.~~

Please [visit our website](#) for more information.



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...Interviews continued from Page 4

8. *What school are you attending?*

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9. *Where do you want to work once you graduate, i.e. freelance reporter, official reporter, captioner, etc.?*

Originally, I had wanted to stick with the courts, as that is where the bulk of my experience is from. While I loved working in military court, freelancing seems to be such an adventure and an even better fit for what I want to do with myself.

10. *Do you like having a mentor?*

I love it. Robin has been so amazing. I have felt so supported; and she has aided me in understanding the nuances between what I was doing previously and what I am about to step into now.

By Kassie Kosmal

INTERVIEW OF ROBIN OSTERODE

1. *How did you get interested in becoming a mentor?*

I've been a court reporter for 35 years and I have informally mentored many students and new reporters over my career. But now that my career is winding down, I really wanted to dive into mentorship and give back to the profession that I love so much and that has given me so much joy and fulfillment over the years. I love sharing what I do with others, and especially students and new reporters.

2. *How long have you been a mentor?*

I volunteered to head up the mentorship program with the Arizona Court Reporters Association and starting assigning students to mentors at last fall's ACRA convention. I met Kassie in September 2021, I believe.

3. *What is your most memorable experience in being a mentor?*

For me, it has been getting to know what voice writing is all about and getting to know Kassie and the passion she has for this profession. She serves our country in the United States Army as a court reporter, and that really made an impact on me right away because I am an Army brat and love and respect our servicemen and women so much. Kassie is exactly the type of person we want out there working as a court reporter. She is professional, well educated, and passionate about court reporting.

4. *Do you have any bad or hard experiences?*

As it pertains to this profession, I've had many challenging experiences over the years. I have shared with Kassie that she needs to be open to new experiences and challenges. Every day we learn something new in this profession. That's why so many of us love it so much, we never have to stop learning.

5. *Is there a difference in being a mentor to a machine writer vs. a voice writer?*

This is the first time I have ever met a voice writer. Besides being educated about what a voice writer does – and no, it is NOT the same thing as a digital RECORDER – Kassie has educated me on exactly why she believes digital recording cannot and will not be replacing live court reporters as the Gold Standard. And the way I see it is voice writers are much like stenographic writers – we hear the testimony and it processes through our brains; for the voice writer it comes out of their mouths into their mask device and into their software, where it translates into realtime; for stenographic reporters, it goes through our brain and out our fingers onto our steno machines and into our software where it translates into realtime. We are keepers and guardians of the record, plain and simple.

By Robin Osterode



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