



Volume 52, Number 1

Spring 2024



President's Message

by Laura Ashbrook

Greetings!!!

I have just returned from NCRA legislative boot camp, and I MUST tell you all that was the most immersive, intense – I REPEAT – INTENSE experience I've been put through in recent memory. I haven't been outside

my comfort zone (and I have a pretty expansive comfort zone) to that extreme EV-ERRRRRR.

The first day is wall-to-wall training in break-out groups with folks from all over the country, whom you have never met before in your life, and after knowing these folks a few hours, are tasked with a collaborative effort meant to prepare the group for meeting with congressional representatives and U.S. Senators and/or one of their staff members the very next day with YET a different group of folks whom you've never met in your life.

The "play acting" in front of NCRA leaders was as difficult and challenging as it gets, as they spared us no mercy WHAT SO EVER in their "debrief" after the groups' mock presentations.

And then.....after those few hours of immersion in the legislative process, it was off to Capitol Hill on Tuesday morning for a full day of meetings with legislators, congress folks and U.S. Senators and/or a staff member from their respective offices. My group of three, New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona, had EIGHT meetings for the day at approximately 30-minute increments, giving us 15 minutes with the congress person's representative and then.... HOPEFULLY.... enough time to get to the next appointment. We logged over 10 miles of walking in the course of the day, sometimes literally running to the next appointment, back and forth from the House of Representatives office buildings and the U.S. Senate office buildings.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
2024 Legislative Update	3
Licensing Board Meeting Schedule 2024	4
Pima County Job Listing	5
AZ Guidance Counselors Convention	6
Zoom Captions	7
Upcoming Events	8

President's Message continued on Page 2...



Arizona Court Reporters Association

70 S. Val Vista Dr., Suite A3-602 • Gilbert, AZ 85296
480.496.4010 • www.acraonline.org • office@acraonline.org

...President's Message continued from Page 1

Just wanted to lay out that background to say this: After it was over - CRITICAL POINT – after it was OVER - we all met at a DC restaurant to “debrief” about our day. Without exception, the entire group agreed it was one of the most exhilarating experiences we had ever encountered. Although exhausted, the “group adrenaline” was palpable in the room for what we had accomplished. All the groups total visited 125 members of our United States Congress, handing them a draft bill/packet, requesting a sponsor and co-sponsor for a bill to appoint a bipartisan task force to address the emerging legal and ethical issues of AI in our court/legal system.

By all reports, it was incredibly well received by our legislators, and we are fairly confident we will have a sponsor and co-sponsor of this bill this legislative session and have it introduced in the House and Senate – AT LEAST. This session, as I’m sure you’re all aware, is a little busy with two wars, ubiquitous pending government shutdowns AND an election year.

From this experience and all the knowledge I’ve gained from this year’s boot camp, AND with Angela Miller’s past work/experience with our state legislature, I’m DETERMINED to do everything in my power to get that page-rate-increase bill positioned to pass next legislative session. Our ACRA money is limited as to what we can spend on a lobbyist these days, and I’m hopeful the two of us can provide a LOT of legwork towards this effort.

Whew. That was a lot, I know, but there you have it. I learned so very, very much these last few days. I wish every reporter could avail themselves of this experience. It is invaluable not only in what is gained in knowledge but watching how diligent NCRA leaders work for us AND meeting new reporter friends from all over the country.

Thanks for listening. Laura



Provided by the NCRA



Arizona Court Reporters Association

70 S. Val Vista Dr., Suite A3-602 • Gilbert, AZ 85296
480.496.4010 • www.acraonline.org • office@acraonline.org

2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 15, 2024

By Past President Angela F. Miller, RPR, CR(AZ50127)

As most, if not all, of you know for the past few years I have personally been working diligently on increasing the criminal appeal page rate which is set by statute here in Arizona. I have been working alongside the lobbying group Creosote Partners, which is an amazing team to work with and a great asset to lobbying efforts in Arizona.

Arizona Revised Statute 12-224 governs the criminal appeal page rate which was enacted almost 40 years ago. This language did not allow for a review process or cost of living increase as the years went on. Unfortunately, Arizona is one of the lowest in the country on its criminal appeal page rates.

During the last two legislative cycles the proposed language was not enacted through unforeseen circumstances at the very last minute, despite having no objections from the Administrative Office of the Courts. In 2022 the proposed language was attached to a bill that included language regarding the juvenile system which the governor vetoed on the very last day of session. In 2023 the language was to be included in the final budget approval and again in the governor's office there was a failure to follow through with an apology.

Creosote Partners has been working the last few years behind the scenes with myself on a PRO BONO basis as they honestly believe in our profession and our community as a whole. ACRA has been unable to raise the funds to hire Creosote as a lobbying firm, and while they have been working behind the scenes, because they are not registered lobbyists on our behalf, I have personally been emailing and meeting with legislators this legislative cycle both on behalf of ACRA and on my own behalf attempting to get a bill introduced as a private citizen.

On March 14 th , 2024, I was put in contact with Representative Bliss that she had a bill we could use as a strike-everything vehicle to insert our proposed amended language. I immediately contacted Representative Bliss who graciously agreed to support the request and the proposed language. I then spoke to the AOC lobbyist who confirmed they would support the strike-everything bill and if I could get it on the final committee agenda the week of the 17 th , they would be available to comment in support.

I then started a flurry of calls and emails to the Chair of the committee, Senator Kern, and the Vice Chair, Sen. Kavanagh, requesting a meeting and/or this be placed on the final committee agenda. Chair Kern's Office responded and as of the writing of this letter, the Senate Judiciary Committee Policy Advisor and Research Staff are currently researching and vetting the language and will keep me posted.

In the event this does not get placed on the committee agenda, we do still have another option which is to get the language into the legislative budget to be approved at the end of the legislative cycle.

I am invested and dedicated to making this happen. I cannot thank Creosote Partners enough for all their work behind the scenes and for guiding me through this cumbersome process. I have learned a great deal more than I ever thought I would about the legislative process, and I am grateful that ACRA and you as members of our profession trusted me in this endeavor.

Thank you and fingers crossed for good news!



LICENSING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2024

Arizona Supreme Court • 1501 W Washington St, Suite 109 • Phoenix, AZ Arizona 85007

The public may join the virtual meeting or attend in person.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
February 1, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109
April 4, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109
June 6, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109
August 8, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109
October 3, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109
December 5, 2024	10:00 AM	Suite 109

There is public parking west of the court between Adams and Jefferson Streets. Visitor parking at the State Courts Building is limited to two (2) hours. All visitors must go through security first, located at the 2nd floor entrance to the State Courts Building facing the corner of Jefferson and 15th Avenue.

For any item listed on the agenda, the Committee may vote to go into Executive Session to discuss records or information exempt by law or court rule from public inspection or for advice of counsel. The Committee’s schedule is subject to change. Please confirm the date and time of the meeting by contacting the Certification and Licensing Division at (602) 452-3378 or email courtrep@courts.az.gov.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

REFER A FRIEND TO JOIN ACRA!!!

Get a \$50 gift card for every referral

Only referrals that result in membership will receive a gift card.
Please email all referrals to office@acraonline.org

ACRA Arizona Court Reporters Association



COURT REPORTER

SALARY: Depending on candidate’s credentials; more below
CLOSING DATE: Open continuous; applications reviewed as received
LOCATION: Pima County Superior Court; 110 W. Congress , Tucson, AZ

The position starts at \$57,607. Offers depend on the candidate’s education, certifications, and experience and are usually around mid-pay range \$62,535 (Full range: \$57,607 - \$80,649). Certifications may provide higher entry salary, or a pay increase upon achieving one during employment. Additional (significant) income can be earned for preparing transcripts.

A salary supplement will be provided for the attainment of the NCRA designations of Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), Registered Merit Reporter (RMR), or Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR).

The Court also offers ANNUALLY: 29 paid vacation days + 15 paid sick days + 12 paid holidays.

The Court provides generous benefits: health, dental, vision, short and long-term disability, retirement plan, contribution toward health reimbursement plan, 12 weeks of parental leave and more.

Per Diem work is also offered: \$350 per day + transcripts; WITHOUT benefits.

CANDIDATES MUST PAY THEIR INITIAL ARIZONA CERTIFICATION FEE.

The Court will pay the Arizona Certification Renewal Fee every year during term of employment.

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION: Provides on a professional level verbatim reporting and transcribing of court proceedings and produce a verbatim record.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Produces a verbatim record of all proceedings using a manual shorthand system or voice written system.
- Reads aloud any previously recorded spoken testimony during court proceedings as requested to judges, counsel, witnesses, and jurors.
- Prepares and produces verbatim transcripts or excerpts from stenographic notes or voice written notes as requested by litigants, attorneys, judges, and other court personnel in required time periods.
- Transcript preparation includes extensive research of case citations, statutes, and specialized terminology.
- Edits, proofreads, binds (if appropriate), and certifies transcripts as true and accurate.
- Signs all transcripts as a certified court reporter.
- Distributes transcripts to the appropriate parties and prepares the billing for such transcripts.
- Routinely interacts and corresponds with private sector litigants, attorneys, support staff, paralegals, as well as judges, court personnel, the Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court regarding transcript requests and preparation.
- Maintains and updates all equipment and software necessary to perform the tasks of a court reporter (i.e. stenographic equipment, voice writing equipment and computer equipment).
- Performs related duties and projects as assigned.
- Conducts and participates in special administrative and operational studies or projects.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: A high school diploma or equivalent G.E.D. certificate and two years of court reporting experience, experience recording and transcribing a full range of legal or judicial proceedings, or any equivalent combination of experience, training and/or education approved by Human Resources.

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES: Registered Professional Reporter (RPR); must be certified by the Arizona Supreme Court pursuant to ARS 32-4021. Court Reporter certification must be maintained as a condition of employment.

APPLY online: <http://www.sc.pima.gov>; **JOBS**

Direct link: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/scpima/jobs/1080043/court-reporter?pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs>



Arizona GUIDANCE COUNSELORS CONVENTION



It was another GREAT experience and presence ACRA had at the Arizona Guidance Counselors Convention.

I was joined this year by board member Carrie Cariati, and she was an amazing and invaluable addition to this event. We typically have someone bring their writer to help demonstrate/illustrate how the machine works, but Carrie went ABOVE and BEYOND that, writing real time for all the folks who stopped by our table. She did such a fantastic job, they've asked her to caption the entire convention next year! How cool is that ????????

I saw several counselors I've seen over the years ACRA has participated in this event, and they all, without exception, welcomed us back to their respective high school career days. This is a really awesome experience "manning" the ACRA table at various high schools, and we ALWAYS have a helluva time finding volunteers.

As soon as I catch my breath from boot camp and the midyear convention, I'm going to send out an email to ALL members with the dates and locations for each career day date, and beseech, beg, cajole, bribe folks to PLEASE volunteer to help out with one of these high school events.

It really is so very rewarding and I DO BELIEVE it makes a difference.....AND.....it is a very simple way to volunteer. I'm asked often about how reporters can help our association, and this is a GREAT way to do just that.

Thanks! Laura



ZOOM CAPTIONS



HOW TO DISABLE THIS FEATURE



A screenshot of the Zoom meeting interface. At the top, the meeting toolbar is visible with icons for Chat, Share Screen, Summary, AI Companion, Record, Captions, and Breakout Rooms. A white arrow points from the 'Captions' icon to a settings panel on the right. The settings panel has two sections: 'Captions' with options for 'Show Captions', 'Caption Language: English', and 'Caption Settings'; and 'Host Controls' with 'Host Caption Control Settings'. Below the toolbar, two 'Host Caption Control Settings' windows are shown. The top window has 'Allow Closed Captioning for this meeting' turned on (blue toggle) and 'Lock Caption Language for this meeting' turned off (grey toggle). The bottom window has 'Allow Closed Captioning for this meeting' turned off (grey toggle). In the bottom right corner of the screenshot area is the ACRA logo, which consists of a blue outline of the state of Arizona with 'ACRA' in white text inside, and a keyboard icon below it.



ARIZONA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

2024 MIDYEAR STRONGER TOGETHER

6 Continuing Education Hours

MULTI-STATE CONVENTION
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 22, 2024
DETAILS COMING SOON!



Nevada Utah Montana
Arizona COLORADO
BEAVER RUN RESORT
BRECKENRIDGE, CO



Our Presenters:



Katiana Walton

StenoFusion: Blending Passion with Profession; Principles of High-Frequency Magnum Steno Phrases



Judge Anna Young

"Nuts and Bolts" of the Juvenile Justice System



ACRA Board

TR'EUf/KWRA (Trivia) Time! Angela Miller, Treva Colwell, Tammy Gillett, and Terry Libretti

Stu's Views © 2004 Stu All Rights Reserved www.STUS.com



REGISTRATION:
WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG

STUDENT REGISTRATION:
OFFICE@ACRAONLINE.ORG

EVENT SPONSORSHIP:
WWW.ACRAONLINE.ORG/ACRASTORE

APRIL 27, 2024
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PHOENIX
39 E. MONTE VISTA RD., PHOENIX, AZ



ArizoNotes is published quarterly and e-mailed to members of the Arizona Court Reporters Association, 70 S. Val Vista Dr., Suite A3-602 Gilbert, AZ 85296. Please send address changes to ACRA at the above address or to office@acraonline.org or (480) 496-4010. The ACRA website is at acraonline.org and pdf copies of past issues are available for viewing. Please send editorial submissions to Terry Libretti 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 Robin Hirth at office@acraonline.org or (480) 496-4010.