

# CRB\* TODAY

COURT REPORTERS  
BOARD NEWSLETTER

GUARDING THE RECORD  
FOR CONSUMER PROTECTION



## Message from the Chair *Gregory Finch*

### CRB REMAINS VIGILANT

In California, as is echoed across much of the country, we find ourselves in dire economic times. Many of us have either lost wages or a job or know of someone who has. It's unfortunate that challenging times often prompt people to cut corners that they normally would not. Regrettably, such circumstances can cause unethical and even illegal business practices to flourish.

During these taxing times, the Court Reporters Board (CRB) remains dedicated to its mission of protecting public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring the integrity of judicial records through oversight of the court reporting profession. Despite reduced staff time and increased workload demands, the Board continues to hold court reporters to the highest level of professionalism. Budget reductions are requiring difficult cutbacks; however, such lean times do offer an opportunity to clearly define priorities and streamline business practices.

Our recently completed occupational analysis shows an increased emphasis being placed on ethics. As we move forward into the digital age, consumers will continue to want more, better and faster. I challenge all court reporters to maintain their code of ethics and impartiality through this time of transition. For at the end of the day, it is the stalwart court reporter that the judicial system relies upon to exemplify integrity and preserve the record.

### Law Change – Be in the Know

Updates to the Code of Civil Procedure 2029.500, effective January 1, 2010, have resulted in a change to the CRB's position on when Minimum Transcript Format Standards (MTFS) apply. Under the new rule, any deposition taken in California must follow California's designated MTFS as well as state reading and signing of deposition requirements. The ONLY exception to this new rule is in regard to federal depositions, as federal law supersedes state law.

## Inside this issue...

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Student Highlight .....   | 2  |
| How Are We Doing? .....   | 2  |
| West Valley College's Court Reporting Program Remains Strong .....  | 2  |
| Spring 2010 Compliance Review Site Visits .....                     | 3  |
| School Curriculum Review Task Force Update .....                    | 3  |
| California Commission on Realtime Reporting Clarification .....     | 3  |
| Dictation Exam Changes .....  | 4  |
| Examination Statistics .....  | 4  |
| Occupational Analysis Update.....                                   | 4  |
| CSR Spotlight.....  | 5  |
| Be Counted.....   | 5  |
| Help Construct an Exam.....   | 5  |
| Frequently Asked Questions .....                                    | 6  |
| Code Talk .....   | 6  |
| A New Generation of Court Reporters .....                           | 7  |
| Spread the Word .....   | 7  |
| Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative .....                    | 8  |
| Prevent a Claim - Check a License .....                             | 8  |
| Physical Protection of the Record .....                             | 8  |
| Court Reporters Board of California - Citations & Fines Issued..... | 9  |
| Court Reporters Board of California - Disciplinary Actions .....    | 9  |
| Nonresident Withholding Responsibilities .....                      | 10 |
| Board Calendar .....  | 10 |

## Student Highlight



April Gaskins is a bright, motivated student at the Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center's Argonaut Court Reporting Program in Sacramento. Driven to finish by February 2011, she has already achieved 180 words per minute (wpm) out of the required 200 wpm.

Prior to attending Argonaut, April had been an escrow officer for 11 years, making a six-figure income. With the failing economy, steady employment was no longer available, so she began researching career alternatives on the Internet. It was at that time that she saw an ad for court reporters and decided to explore it as an option. "I wanted a stable job that would continue to afford my family with the sort of lifestyle with which we had become accustomed. I found that court reporters can set their own hours and can obtain the sort of salary I desire," said April.

A resident of Elk Grove, April has been married for 12 years and has two children. At the same time April was going through her career change, her husband sold his company and decided to go into law enforcement. He graduated from the police academy in November 2009.

April enjoys the program at Argonaut. She appreciates the fact that it is a self-paced program and finds the teachers to be helpful and interested in student success. After graduating, she plans to go into deposition work and ultimately the courtroom. "I love the typing aspect of court reporting. Mastering the finger coordination is challenging and fun. I do believe I will be a good match for this profession. I enjoy the role of listening, and I think testimonies will be very interesting. It will also be neat to know that I am a part of the judicial process, making a difference every day with accurate and complete records," said April.

## How Are We Doing?

The Court Reporters Board recently added a Customer Service Satisfaction Survey to the Web site. Now when you have contact with the CRB, you can fill out the survey and let us know about your experience. Your feedback is important to us. The survey can be accessed at <https://www.dca.ca.gov/webapps/crb/survey.php>.

## West Valley College's Court Reporting Program Remains Strong

Due to challenging economic times, the West Valley College Senate recommended the closure of the court reporting program at West Valley College in Saratoga. Community interest in continuing the program was extensive, with numerous letters from program supporters, including the CRB, in addition to well-attended public hearings. Compelling testimony was received by industry representatives, students, and community members in support of the court reporting program as well as other vocational education opportunities. While the program did prevail, continuing its more than 25-year history, misguided rumors of its imminent closing have greatly impacted admissions.

Stellar vocational programs such as those at West Valley College are more important than ever with so many adults facing layoffs and forced career changes. While training to become a court reporter does take longer than other vocational occupations, the pay is commensurate with a four-year degree salary and in many cases provides for a flexible work schedule.

To learn more about court reporting school opportunities in California, go to the CRB Web site at [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov) and click on the "Applicants" tab at the top of the page to find the "Private" and "Public" Schools link.

## Spring 2010

### Compliance Review Site Visits

This spring the Court Reporters Board Compliance Review team plans to complete the second and final phase of the compliance review process implemented in 2007, visiting the five remaining campuses which have not yet gone through the onsite portion of the review. Westec's Taft College in Kern County and Cypress College's Court Reporting program in Orange County will be visited in April, and Sacramento's Argonaut Court Reporting program at the Charles A. Jones Career & Education Center will be visited in May. The remaining schools will be contacted soon for scheduling in May and June.

Phase 2 site visits provide an opportunity for the Board to update and confirm student enrollment and program statistics. The reviews allow the team to verify faculty qualifications, observe classroom instruction, and tour the facilities. They also provide an opportunity for open dialogue with program administrators and students about ongoing issues and concerns as well as to respond to any questions that may arise.

Last autumn, Board staff conducted successful reviews of the court reporting programs at Bryan College's Gold River campus and Humphreys College in Stockton. School administrators at both sites were very helpful and provided detailed overviews of their curriculum, including graduation requirements, student disclosure policies, and online instructional resources. The CRB review team appreciates the time and effort schools contribute to ensuring successful site visits and looks forward to continuing and strengthening the Board's relationship with students, faculty, and administrators in 2010.

## School Curriculum Review Task Force Update

As part of the 2009 – 2011 Strategic Plan, the School Curriculum Review Task Force was charged with completing a comprehensive review of the regulations that govern court reporter school curriculum. After completing the review, recommendations were presented to the CRB at its February meeting and included current and future needs for the profession, such as technology, as well as updates to wording throughout the regulations to make it more consistent.

The Task Force also found that the total number of required curriculum hours is sufficient; however, a shift in the allocation of hours required for each subject was recommended. Consequently, the number of hours required for English increased from 215 to 240 and from 25 to 60 for technology. Conversely, medical hours required were reduced from 125 to 120, legal from 175 to 150, and transcript preparation from 55 to 25.

In keeping with the technology trends, the Task Force recommended allowing distance education learners to take qualifiers online. Due to public concerns, the Board has requested that the Task Force more clearly define in writing oversight and supervision guidelines for qualifiers and other examinations. Proposed language to address these concerns will be presented to the Board at its April 30, 2010 meeting.

Changes to the regulations are overseen by the Office of Administrative Law. The Board will post the proposed changes (tentatively set for June 11, 2010) for a 45-day public comment period, after which a public hearing will be held.

To view the minutes of the Task Force meetings, go to [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/about-us/scr-taskforce.shtml](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/about-us/scr-taskforce.shtml).

### California Commission on Realtime Reporting Clarification

The California Commission on Realtime Reporting is not associated with the State of California. It is a private organization that offers realtime certification to court reporters.

### Examination Statistics

#### Dictation Exam Changes

Candidates taking the dictation portion of the Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) examination are now required to furnish their steno notes with their completed examination. As technology is driving computers and steno writers, this new requirement is the most efficient and easy solution to the grading process, allowing for simple comparison of the candidates' steno notes to final transcripts.

The notes can be submitted either on paper or electronically on a CD. However, it is important to keep in mind that technology can fail, so whenever possible, it is recommended to submit paper notes, eliminating the chance for a technological glitch which could disqualify a completed exam. If choosing to submit electronic notes, they must be in a pdf or text format, not proprietary CAT software.

The Board will review a proposed policy change which includes the requirement for dictation exam transcripts to have line numbers, page numbers, and comply with the minimum transcript format standards effective June 25, 2010 (per California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 24, Article 8, Section 2473).

| Written Exam                         |       |      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------|-----------|
| November 1, 2009 - February 28, 2010 | Total | Pass | Overall % |
| English                              | 77    | 38   | 49.4%     |
| Professional Practice                | 57    | 32   | 56.1%     |
| <hr/>                                |       |      |           |
| July 1, 2009 - October 31, 2009      | Total | Pass | Overall % |
| English                              | 84    | 46   | 54.8%     |
| Professional Practice                | 70    | 51   | 72.9%     |

| Dictation Exam |       |      |           |
|----------------|-------|------|-----------|
| February 2010* | Total | Pass | Overall % |
| Overall        | 109   | 34   | 31.2%     |
| First Timers   | 42    | 24   | 57.1%     |
| <hr/>          |       |      |           |
| October 2009   | Total | Pass | Overall % |
| Overall        | 114   | 51   | 44.7%     |
| First Timers   | 50    | 34   | 68.0%     |

\* Could change after appeals.

#### Occupational Analysis Update

The court reporting occupational analysis that began at the end of 2008 has reached completion. The Office of Professional Examination Services (OPES) has now finalized the validation report. The new exam plan has been made public and is available for review. Knowledge of the plan is desirable for schools and students as it is the basis for every question contained in the two written portions of the CSR exam.

Writing, reviewing, and testing each exam question is time intensive; therefore, work has already begun on the construction of a database of questions for the new exam plan. It is expected that the new written exams will be ready for implementation in the November 2010 to February 2011 test cycle.

To view the occupational analysis, go to: [www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/formspubs/occupational\\_2010.pdf](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/formspubs/occupational_2010.pdf).

## CSR Spotlight

Mary Ann Sweeney has been a certified shorthand reporter for 17 years in Placer County. Today she manages 10 CSRs for the Placer County Superior Court, handling the scheduling, tracking of transcripts, evaluations, and continuing education requirements. “I enjoy working in the courtroom. The cases are always interesting, and I love the camaraderie I am able to have with lawyers, judges, and staff. I prefer the courtroom over depositions because of these relationships,” said Sweeney.



Early in her career she served as secretary for the California Court Reporters Association (CCRA) and Legislative Representative for the Northern California Court Reporters Association, believing that it was important to get involved at all levels of the industry so that she could have a solid grasp of her profession. She wanted to see first-hand what the associations’ roles and impacts were on court reporting, and she wanted to be a part of the process. Today she still takes an active role as a member of both organizations and

as an action team leader for Placer County, handling CCRA information distribution.

An ardent supporter of the CRB, she believes that a regulatory body is needed for court reporting oversight as it deals with the preservation of the record. “The record is of utmost importance as it stands at the core of the judicial system. Ensuring that the process is completed correctly and in a timely fashion is paramount. I’m grateful that the CRB is there ensuring excellence,” said Sweeney.

Mary Ann has been married for 16 years. She and her husband are native to Placer County and enjoy traveling, wine collecting, and golfing. She suffers from MS and was first diagnosed in 2005. Her proactive and positive attitude toward life has helped her to take a similar approach to her illness, as she participates in the MS walk and fundraiser each April and gets out and enjoys life to its fullest (see <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/walkMapRegion.aspx>).

## Be Counted

As mandated by the United States Constitution since 1790, the Census has conducted a count of everyone living in the U.S. every 10 years. Participation is required by law. The data collected is used to determine Congressional state seats, which local community services to provide, and how to distribute \$400 billion in annual federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments.

By Executive Order, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger established the California Complete Count Committee. The members of this committee will serve without compensation and at the pleasure of the Governor. The Committee is responsible for a robust outreach strategy in an effort to avoid an undercount and the possible loss of a Congressional seat.

The 2010 Census Questionnaire contains just 10 questions that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All responses are kept confidential. For more information on California Complete Count, go to [www.census.ca.gov/](http://www.census.ca.gov/).

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## Help Construct an Exam

Have you ever wondered how the CSR exam is developed? Why not find out in person? The CRB contracts with the OPES to develop the exams used to ensure that newly licensed court reporters have the basic competency required to practice safely and successfully. While OPES experts have the know-how to develop an effective exam, they do not have the necessary content expertise. As a working court reporter, you can provide that expertise by participating in one of the two-day examination workshops scheduled throughout the year in Sacramento. If a workshop is more than 50 miles from your place of residence, travel costs can be reimbursed. All participants also receive \$150.00 per day to cover meals and incidentals. Participating in the examination process is a fun and social way to give back to your industry.

For more information, or if you are interested in participating, contact Kim Kale at (877) 327-5272.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. While it is only acceptable to stop reporting testimony and go off the record if all parties agree, what is appropriate when one attorney asks to have an exhibit marked for inclusion in the transcript while the opposing counsel objects?**

A. Court reporters are not able to determine the admissibility of an exhibit. If there is a disagreement among the attorneys, the exhibit should be marked and then sealed for confidentiality. This preserves the record, yet maintains any private information that may be contained within the exhibit.

**Q. I never received a renewal form, and now I'm being told my license is delinquent. I think my ex-partner got it and never forwarded it to me. This whole mess is not my fault.**

A. Your CSR license must be renewed by the last day of your birthday month each year. The CRB sends a courtesy reminder to your address of record approximately six weeks in advance. Business & Professions Code 8024.6(b) requires licensees to notify the Board in writing of a change of address within 30 days after a change occurs, providing both the old and new addresses.

**Q. I have heard that license renewal fees are going to be increasing. Is that true?**

A. Yes, it is true. The Board decided to increase the annual license renewal fee to \$125 at the February meeting in

Los Angeles. The new rate will take effect July 1, 2010. (Note: Please do not use tape or staples when submitting your renewal.)

**Q. As an attorney, I have found myself needing to contact a court reporter from a proceeding that occurred several months ago. Where can I quickly and efficiently access information that will provide me with a phone number for the reporter?**

A. Unfortunately, while court reporter license status and address of record are available to everyone, phone numbers are not, due to privacy issues. To ensure that you have such information when you need it, be sure to ask reporters for a phone number during the proceeding and file it for future use.

**Q. After returning from a break, I found attorneys looking at my laptop screen and scrolling through the testimony. I'm concerned that they may have changed something. How can I prevent this sort of thing from happening again?**

A. In today's technological age, there is a growing sense of entitlement to information. The attorneys may have thought they were saving you the trouble of reading back the testimony. However, it is legitimate to be concerned about the integrity of the record. It is easy to inadvertently hit a key, deleting or changing the text. Unattended computers should always be locked. Use "Control+Alt+Delete" to access the Task Manager screen so you can lock your computer while you are away.

## Code Talk

Did you know that Government Code Section 68561 requires that an interpreter present at a court proceeding be court certified? According to the Judicial Council's Web site, interpreters are only considered certified if they have passed the Court Interpreter Certification Examination or the approved American Sign Language exam and fulfilled the corresponding Judicial Council requirements. Most violations of this Code occur at depositions, which, according to Government Code Section 68560.5(a), are court proceedings. The CRB believes that it is the responsibility of the attorneys to ensure that deposition interpreters are court-certified; however, court reporters should also be aware of the requirements in the event that they are called upon to arrange for interpreting services.

A list of court-certified interpreters can be found at the Judicial Council Web site ([www.courtinfo.ca.gov](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov)) under the "Programs" tab at the top of the page, then the "Court Interpreters" tab in the left column, under which is the "Search for an Interpreter" link.

## A New Generation of Court Reporters

Born between 1977 and 1989, Generation Y, also known as Millennials, are the fastest growing segment of today's workforce. Understanding the characteristics that define a generation helps facilitate successful work relations between the generations. So, with that in mind, what do we know about Generation Y and what drives them?

According to Bruce Tulgan, founder of Rainmaker Thinking, common characteristics among Millennials include:

- High expectations of self – They aim to work faster and better than their predecessors. In terms of the court reporting industry where anything under 97.5% recording accuracy is considered poor, this is good news.
- High expectations of employers – This generation wants fair and direct managers who are highly engaged in their professional development. Gen Y court reporters will likely be more engaged in the types of jobs they accept, and they will desire clear explanations of what they can expect in return.
- Lifelong learners – They seek out creative answers to complex challenges and view colleagues as vast resources from whom they can gain knowledge. With court reporting being dynamic in nature and offering new experiences daily, it is likely this group of individuals will be drawn to the field for employment.
- Immediate responsibility – This group desires instant results and meaningful work from the onset. Having control over the record in the court room, Gen Y is likely to find great satisfaction in court reporting.
- Goal oriented – They prefer being given smaller, measurable tasks with tight deadlines so they can see progress. This too seems to be a perfect match for the court reporting field.
- Computer savvy – The first generation to enter the workforce with computers having been a household commodity their entire lifetime, Gen Y is truly computer savvy. As the court reporting profession continues to move into the electronic age, this will be a skill to be envied.

This new workforce has been raised by helicopter parents that hovered, pampered, and nurtured their children. However, they also enrolled them in team sports and activities from an early age and enforced the fact that there are no losers. These experiences molded people that are high-performing team players, yet also high maintenance. They believe in their own worth and aren't afraid of authority.

Gen Y also finds value in work, but believes their job is not their life. They do not ascribe to the values of the Traditionalists (World War II generation) who deeply identified with their careers. A balance between work and life is a core value of Gen Y. They seek out jobs that accommodate family and their personal lives. They want employment with flexibility, telecommuting options, and paternity and maternity benefits.

For the first time in history we have four generations in the workforce at once. Each generation has their own unique experiences that define them and provide them with unique skill sets as well as challenges. Gen Y will push to redesign and restructure the way business is done. They are certain to be an asset to the court reporting industry and to the workforce of the 21st Century.

### Spread the Word

If you're reading this, chances are good that you have already joined the CRB listserv. Belonging to the listserv affords you automatic e-mails regarding Board updates and the CRB Today newsletter.

Help the CRB spread the word about the listserv by checking with fellow reporters to see if they have joined. An informed industry is a professional industry, and joining is a quick and easy online process. Simply go to the CRB website ([www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov)) and click on "Join CRB E-Mail Notification List."

## Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative

Over a two-year period, the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) will implement the new Consumer Protection Enforcement Initiative (CPEI) to overhaul the enforcement process, allowing for quicker investigation and prosecution timelines through administrative improvements, increased enforcement resources, and the active pursuit of legislation that reflects current legal trends.

The program costs will not use General Funds, but rather funds gathered through licensing fees and DCA resources. Once fully implemented, DCA anticipates the boards to be able to reduce the average enforcement 3 year completion timeline to 12 to 18 months.

Senator Negrete McLeod introduced Senate Bill 1111 on February 17, 2010 in an effort to help the Healing Arts Boards of DCA more efficiently investigate and prosecute consumer complaints against licensees. Unfortunately, the bill failed to make it out of committee. While this was a disappointment to DCA, it is by no means the end of the Department's efforts to move forward with implementing process improvements, staff development, performance measures, and adding enforcement resources to meet these goals. The Department will work with its boards to adopt regulatory language that provides authority for board executive officers to quickly investigate and prosecute licensees who violate the law. For more information, go to: [www.dca.ca.gov/about\\_dca/cpei/index.shtml](http://www.dca.ca.gov/about_dca/cpei/index.shtml).

### Prevent a Claim – Check a License

Unfortunately, there are instances of unethical individuals using license numbers that belong to others and of reporters practicing without a valid license. Therefore, before hiring a court reporter, be sure to ALWAYS verify who they are and the status of their license.

At the CRB Web site ([www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov](http://www.courtreportersboard.ca.gov)) you can click on "License Verification" to check the license number of the court reporter. Also ask for and make a copy of the court reporter's pocket license and ask to see some form of photo I.D. Not only are you protecting yourself by doing so, but also your clients and co-workers.

## Physical Protection of the Record

What happens when the record disappears while in your custody? What do you do if you are robbed and your equipment and the testimony you transcribed are taken? Of course you would contact the police, but did you know that you also have to contact the attorneys involved with the case to inform them that the reported testimony has been lost? In addition, if your laptop or steno machine contained any personal information, by law you are required to notify each affected person in writing of the breach of security. The types of information that trigger such notification are an individual's name, plus any of the following: a social security number, driver's license or California identification card number, or financial account number with any required PIN or password (California Civil Code section 1798.82-1798.84).

Loss of the testimony could require the parties involved to redo the deposition. Additionally, as the opposing counsel will know what questions are going to be asked, they can prepare accordingly, potentially changing the outcome of the proceeding. As a result, it is likely that a written complaint will be filed against you with the CRB.

While it may seem that such an instance is unavoidable and not the fault of the reporter, there are many ways to avoid such a situation. To physically protect the record, consider downloading the electronic files onto a thumb drive at the end of the proceedings and placing it in a pocket or purse until it reaches your office. Alternatively, the encrypted file could be emailed to a password protected email account and/or a backup repository service. Be sure to never leave equipment in an unattended vehicle in a visible location. Place equipment in the trunk when leaving a deposition or courthouse rather than transferring it to the trunk at the location where you intend to leave the vehicle, as such activity may alert would-be thieves that there is something of value in an unattended car. If your vehicle doesn't have a trunk, cover the equipment to make it as inconspicuous as possible.

Taking an active role as guardian of the record is serious and will have serious consequences for all involved if security is breached. Be conscious at all times of the information you are reporting and of the different places it is being stored. For more information on privacy protection, go to the Office of Privacy Protection at [www.privacy.ca.gov](http://www.privacy.ca.gov).

## Court Reporters Board of California - Citations & Fines Issued August 2009 - March 2010

| RESPONDENT NAME - CITY                  | LICENSE NO. | DATE ISSUED | VIOLATION  | SATISFIED |
|---|-------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| Ardon, Janet - San Diego, CA            | 11579       | 2/26/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts...  | No        |
| Stinnett, Julie - Shingle Springs, CA   | 11578       | 2/16/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts...  | No        |
| Hallford, David B. - Fremont, CA        | 2788        | 2/16/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | Yes       |
| Koeslag, Kim - Riverside, CA            | 11864       | 2/16/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | No        |
| Berry, Shelly - San Marcos, CA          | 9896        | 2/16/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | No        |
| Kubat, Veronica - Newport Beach, CA     | 6360        | 1/26/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | No        |
| Bush, Candace - San Clemente, CA        | 11579       | 1/26/2010   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | No        |
| Coughlin, Dianne - Sacramento, CA       | 10418       | 11/3/2009   | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | Yes       |
| Bertini, Toni - Laguna Hills, CA        | 8380        | 3/5/2009    | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | Yes       |
| Pokersnik, Susan - Malibu, CA           | 10298       | 10/21/2009  | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): Gross negligence, incompetence... unprofessional conduct.  | Yes       |
| Sanchez, Maria - Riverside, CA          | 12531       | 10/21/2009  | Business & Professions Code Section 8016: Engaging in the practice of shorthand reporting without a certificate of licensure in full force and effect.   | No        |
| Thompson, Peppina - San Francisco, CA   | 7433        | 10/19/2009  | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct... availability, delivery, execution and certification of transcripts...  | Yes       |
| Culy, Candyce - Fresno, CA              | 9065        | 9/22/2009   | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): Unprofessional conduct; Section 8025 (e): Repeated unexcused failure...to transcribe notes of cases on appeal.   | No        |
| Barney, Kathleen - Westlake Village, CA | 5698        | 9/17/2009   | Business & Professions Code Section 8025 (d): ...incompetence in practice of shorthand reporting; Section 8025 (j) in conjunction with CA Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2473: Failure to comply with the Minimum Transcript Format Standards. | Yes       |

The Citation and Fines remain posted for one year from the date initially issued. To find out whether a specific licensee has ever been issued a Citation and Fine prior to the date shown, or to obtain further information on a specific Citation and Fine, please contact the Board office toll-free at 1-877-3-ASK-CRB (1-877-327-5272).

The above respondents' Citation and Fines that reflect "Satisfied" have been satisfactorily resolved. Payment of a fine is not an admission to the violation.

## Court Reporters Board of California - Disciplinary Actions

The disciplinary actions listed below cover the period of time from August 2009 to March 2010. To find out whether a licensee has had disciplinary action prior to August 2009, or to obtain further information on specific disciplinary action for a licensee listed below, please contact the Board office toll-free at 1-877-3-ASK-CRB (1-877-327-5272).

A disciplinary action is a formal proceeding that includes the basis for the action sought against the licensee. These disciplinary actions are held in front of an Administrative Law Judge and allow for attorney, testimony, and challenges as provided in the legal system. The Administrative Law Judge then issues a decision that the Board can accept, reject, or send back for additional information. Disciplinary cases can result in license suspension and/or a probationary status with conditions.

| RESPONDENT NAME - CITY          | LICENSE NO. | ACTION  | EFFECTIVE DATE | CHARGES  |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|----------------|--|
| Heard, Patrick - San Francisco  | 11055       | Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order: 3 years probation; \$2,250 cost recovery. | 12/23/2009     | Business and Professions Code Sections 8025(d), Unprofessional conduct; 8025(f), Loss or destruction of stenographic notes...  |
| Ionescu, William - Ladera Ranch | 11417       | Automatic Suspension  | 10/12/2009     | Business and Professions Code Section 8025.1 ...Failure to submit to, or to schedule, a physical or mental examination...  |
| Goldsmith, Hope - San Diego     | 12794       | Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order: 4 years probation; \$2,000 cost recovery. | 9/21/2009      | Business and Professions Code Sections 8025(d): Gross negligence... 8025 (e): Repeated unexcused failure... to transcribe notes of cases on appeal... California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2475 (b)(4): Comply with legal and/or agreed-to delivery dates and/or provide prompt notification of delays. |

### COURT REPORTERS BOARD OF CALIFORNIA - DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS PENDING

|                                 |       |                     |            |   |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------------------|------------|---|
| Ionescu, William - Ladera Ranch | 11417 | Accusation          | 3/1/2010   | Business and Professions Code Section 8025(d): Failure to comply with mental health examination.                                      |
| Samples, Sarah - Riverside      | N/A   | Statement of Issues | 1/14/2010  | Business & Professions Code Section 480 (a)(1): Conviction of a crime; Section 493.   |
| Cavin, Karen - Riverside        | 8562  | Accusation          | 12/15/2009 | Business and Professions Code Sections 8025(d): Willful violation of duty, gross negligence, or incompetence; unprofessional conduct. |

## Nonresident Withholding Responsibilities

In general, when hiring an out-of-state, independent court reporter to perform services in California, if payments exceed \$1500 in a calendar year, seven percent of the remaining payment total for the year must be withheld and submitted to the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) (per California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 18662). An independent contractor is defined as a firm or an individual who is hired to perform specific tasks and is not an employee of the hiring organization. Nonresident, independent contractors may include, but are not limited to, court and deposition reporters and deposition firms as well as other nonresidents who perform court or deposition reporting-related services in California.

Nonresident withholding is a tax prepayment, similar to the Employment Development Department's payroll tax withholding on California residents' wages. While laws governing nonresident withholding are not new, the FTB is trying to increase the awareness of this law to ensure compliance. For more information on nonresident withholdings, forms, and procedures, go to the FTB's Web site at [www.ftb.ca.gov](http://www.ftb.ca.gov) or call (888) 792-4900.

## BOARD CALENDAR

### BOARD MEETING

**APRIL 30, 2009**

Sacramento  
DCA Headquarters  
1625 North Market Boulevard

### CSR DICTATION EXAMINATION

**JUNE 25, 2010**

Los Angeles  
Sheraton Gateway LAX  
6101 W. Century Boulevard



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