

**IL****CRA****ILLINOIS
COURT
REPORTERS
ASSOCIATION****SUMMER****2024**www.ilcra.org**ad infinitum****In this issue**

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President's Message



There's some great news to report on the legislative front. House Bill 4426, the legislation to renew the CSR Act, has passed both the Illinois House and Senate. Our Act has been renewed through 2030.

Passage of the bill is where we ended up, but the road to get there was certainly a bumpy ride. We were forced to take a few detours but were able to steer our way back onto the right path for Illinois stenographers with the "clean" CSR Act intact. I think I can speak for everyone on the board in saying there were many sleepless nights worrying about where we would land.

As a quick recap, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation had proposed a "clean" renewal of the CSR Act with a couple of minor modifications, which were administrative in nature, and some grammatical modifications to reflect current-day pronoun usage. ILCRA, of course, did not object to these minor modifications.

I won't give a blow-by-blow recitation of the back and forth that followed, but I do want to highlight a couple of important events to show the involvement of the ILCRA board. Once HB 4426 was approved by the Illinois House and moved to the

Illinois Senate, several versions of proposed amendments came to us from the senate president's office that we strongly objected to and other amendments where we agreed in principle but could not accept the language as proposed.

One example of such an amendment from the senate president's staff was to include voice writers under the CSR Act. There was a lot of discussion among the board about bringing in voice writers. In principle, the board had no objection to permitting voice writers to be licensed under the Act, if they were subjected to the same testing standards required of machine writers. Voice writers utilize "voice shorthand" to make a verbatim record as opposed to stenographers using machine shorthand, and the idea was that their use of "voice shorthand" would include them under the title and definition of "certified shorthand

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What ILCRA Does for Illinois Reporters

- **Works** to maintain your right to be certified.
- **Monitors, promotes, and lobbies** to pass legislation favorable to the interest of court reporters, captioners and CART providers.
- **Monitors** legislation affecting our professions on a statewide and national basis through both our Legislative Committee and our lobbyist.
- **Sponsors** an annual conference and one-day seminars including continuing education and the latest in reporting technology.
- **Publishes** *Ad Infinitum*, a quarterly online newsletter containing the newest up-to-the-minute reporting developments throughout the state, highlights of board meetings, advertisements of vendors and agency owners, and names and telephone numbers of ILCRA officers.
- **Serves** as an affiliated state unit of the [National Court Reporters Association](#).
- **Offers** members significantly reduced rates for the conventions and seminars.
- **Awards** Student Scholarships, a Distinguished Service Award, an Award of Excellence for an Outstanding Educator, and conducts [speed contests](#) each year.
- **Provides** resources on the ILCRA website, including the CSR Act, Court Reporters' Act, Rules and Regulations of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Transcript Act, and ILCRA Bylaws. It also includes officers' names and contact information as well as Committees and Committee Members. ILCRA Member Information is included on the website under "Find a Reporter."
- **Offers** an Online Student Mentor Program.
- **Promotes** student recruitment.
- **Organizes** letter-writing campaigns on issues affecting our professions.
- **Sends** representative members to legislative boot camps, leadership conferences, and the national convention for training and education.
- **Provides** reporters for demonstrations on request and attends career days throughout the state.
- **Provides** free CART brochures to its members.
- **Provides** a court reporters network through Constant Contact which allows ILCRA to immediately be in touch with members via email.
- **Serves** the membership with the phone number 703-729-4861 and a [website](#).
- **Provides** an association management company to assist members.

ILCRA MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain standards of excellence in verbatim shorthand reporting, to provide continuing educational opportunities and advocate technological advancements, and to promote a spirit of mutual assistance between the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting and its consumers.

President's Message

continued from front page

reporter." It became obvious to us pretty quickly, though, that the language being proposed to bring in the voice writers was a ruse, and even though it wasn't stated directly, we understood the true intent of these language changes was to create ambiguity and loopholes, which we felt could possibly create a scenario that would validate digital operators or even allow them into the Act. We objected and offered a counterproposal, part of which was this little gem that we found in another state's CSR act:

Applicants may employ any system of verbatim reporting by which a record is preserved, the accuracy of which shall be the personal responsibility of the shorthand reporter, provided, however, no system of direct electronic recording shall be considered a system of verbatim reporting for purposes of these regulations.

Sidenote: This sentence unfortunately didn't make it into the Act. We will add this one to the "legislative goals" folder.

Our proposed language must not have been well received because it was shortly after this proposal from ILCRA that the senate president's staff decided to ditch their efforts to bring in voice writers, citing, from sources, that they didn't expect this to be such a controversial topic (lol), and would work on establishing a separate act for the voice writers. So after much frustration and the addition of a few more gray hairs, counterbalanced with the valuable counsel of ILCRA board members, we ended up right where we started with IDFP's

proposed "clean" renewal, which is the bill that was ultimately passed.

As a sidebar, we will be watching for the introduction of a voice writer's bill. We plan to monitor this very closely and work with the voice writers if and when their bill is presented. From what we understand, we are aligned with the voice writers on most issues, including our viewpoint regarding digital button pushers.

Below is the conclusion reached by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in their Regulatory Sunset Act Report on the Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984:

"The Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 governs the licensure of shorthand reporting in the State of Illinois. The absence of licensing criteria for shorthand reporters would pose a significant and direct harm to the safety and welfare of the public and specifically the State's judicial system. The lack of regulation would eliminate the professional standards held by individuals who are a significant part of Illinois' court system and the protection afforded litigants, others using the State's court processes, consumers, and shorthand reporting services. Current evidence does not suggest that the imposition of the state's regulatory standards is such a burden as to outweigh the benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois in continuing the licensure and regulation of this profession. Consequently, the Act is necessary and appropriate to ensure the

health, safety, and welfare of the people of Illinois.

The Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act of 1984 should be continued to promote and enhance the safety and welfare of the public, without burdening licensees or commerce."

So here is my takeaway from this whole process. This board and ILCRA members CAN influence the legislative process! We will not sit back and let outside interests determine our worth or value or position in legal proceedings in Illinois. And the next time you hear someone ask, "What does ILCRA do for me," you can relay this victory with HB 4426 to answer that question. And this is just ONE example of how ILCRA supports all Illinois CSRs.

I thank every ILCRA member who contacted their representatives to sponsor and support HB 4426. I also share my extreme gratitude to our lobbyist, Brittan Bolin, our executive director, Dave Wenhold, and the rest of the ILCRA board for their work in getting HB 4426 enacted. If you happen to see or talk to Brittan, Dave, or one of the board members, please join me in thanking them for their work in protecting Illinois CSRs.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at ILCRA's convention this fall at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg. Mark your calendars for the weekend of September 20 and 21, 2024. Come, learn, mingle, and have a glass of wine with the rest of our great members!

Greg S. Weiland



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An Interview with Mick Davis, the writer/director of: *Everybody's Favorite Court Reporting Movie: Walden*



**By Brad Benjamin, CSR, RPR
Vice President ~ ILCRA**

Whatever you think of the movie *Walden* – love it, hate it, or haven't seen it – it is time to recognize that this is the only movie with a court reporter as its lead character. Someone took so much of an interest in our profession that they decided to make a movie about it. And I wanted to know why.

The following is an excerpt of my interview with Mick Davis which took place on the patio of Nua at The Crescent Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA, on July 3rd.

BB: What came first with *Walden*, the chicken or the egg? Did you start with the character and the story? Or did you start with the profession of court reporting – stenography – and build your story

from there?

MD: Yeah. I started with the profession. What happened was I was watching the Johnny Depp trial and – with Amber Heard, and I saw this lady sitting there, this court reporter, and it was fascinating to me because the first thing that came to my mind was "she's like a ghost." Nobody cares about her. Nobody talks to her. She just sits there, watching away. And then, when she's done, she packs up, leaves, and nobody says "thanks." Nobody interacts with her.

And, also, now what if – what kind of life does she have? Does she go home and take care of the kids and the husband? Or does she go out and take out bad guys just for fun? And then the lightbulb went off.

At the very same time, I'd been approached to do a movie, any movie, by producers in Atlanta. And they said, "Is there any movie you want to do?" I says, "Yeah. There is.

I want to do a movie about a stenographer." And they started laughing, because they went, "Hold on. Is that a court reporter?" And I says, "Yeah. But with a difference. This guy finds out he's got an illness, and then he decides to exact revenge on guys who got away with crimes."

And they were, like, "Let's do it." So I wrote the script, and we got Emile and went to Atlanta, and we shot the movie.

BB: The original title of the movie was *The Stenographer*. A bunch of us were aware while it was in production and it piqued our interest. Was changing the title something in order to make it a little more mainstream because a lot of people do not know what a stenographer is? Was it your decision or was it the company you were working with?

MD: No. it was the producer's decision. I think somebody told



them – you know, because they’ve got to sell stuff. My job isn’t to sell; my job is to create and shoot; and hope for the best. You know? So what happened was I always called it *The Stenographer*, I loved the idea of it because it had the mystery to it. And then somebody, one of the producers, said, “You know, *Walden’s* a better title for selling.” I don’t know if it is, I just love “*Stenographer*.” You know? So it wasn’t my call; it was their call.

BB: Talk to me a little bit about the research you did into stenography. Did you talk to any actual court reporters while you were writing the script and doing research?

MD: Uhm... you’re gonna hate me for this. You’re gonna hate me on this one. But I never actually did a lot of research. What I did do was I’ve always seen the old machine, the old Steno machine, and what happened was I thought “that’s the machine I want my guy to use.” I want him wearing a bowtie. I want him to feel like he’s caught in time, like, back in the days of *To Kill a Mockingbird* or something. You know? You know, the whole – it’s set in modern times. And then, on top of that, I want him to have this old machine that has been passed down from generation to generation. And this is what he’s been doing since he was a kid. So that was it.

And then the competition that I created was just that, it’s just a creation in my mind. I was, like, I need a thread in the movie that keeps my guy busy, and it also gives him a chance to have a love interest. And so I think the research side of

it, to be – wasn’t really – I never – I never did much for-good-or-for-bad because, when we had the screening and all the stenographers were there, no one stood up and said to me “You got it all wrong.” You know? They actually were, like, “It’s kind of cool, you know, the old machine and then the competition.” So hopefully I don’t piss off any stenographers.

BB: When I told people that I was trying to interview you, I said a lot of questions I’m going to ask, he can answer with four words: “it’s just a movie.” But people do get technical. It’s very interesting. But my whole purpose for doing this was the fact that someone took an interest in what we do and wanted to look into it and wanted to create a story about it. And I thought that was very important, and it’s something worth talking about. It’s something worth noting.

MD: You’re right in that, you know, it is just a movie. I did a movie years ago called *Modigliani* with Andy Garcia, and we had a rivalry between [Amedeo Modigliani] and Picasso in the movie, and there were a few other things in the movie. And, you know, we opened everywhere, all over the world, and Andy and I were traveling. Sometimes, people would stand up and go “Oh. You know, you used a song by so-and-so, and that wasn’t until 1940, and the movie’s set in 1920.” And Andy’s response was “This wasn’t a documentary; it’s a movie.” And there are 50 ways to play Hamlet. So some people want to play him one way, some people want to play him in a melancholy way, and so on. And that’s just the way it is.

So it is just a movie, but I think the nice thing is it kind of puts stenography on the map in terms of film because I think it’s the first movie about a stenographer. And I think that it shows that people who do this kind of job are so important and shouldn’t – you know, they shouldn’t be the ghosts of the courtroom.

I was thinking to myself when a cop is out all day working and he’s seen dead bodies, he’s seen children being abused, he’s seen women being abused, all these terrible things, then he has to go home at night and have dinner with his family and behave normal. How is that possible? You know, you can’t shut that off — you know, maybe some people can. And I thought the same for a stenographer. You have to sit there. You don’t get to talk. You take everything down, and it all goes into the head.

And I thought, with *Walden*, what if he takes the recording of every case and puts it in a box, “guilty” or “not guilty.” And he has stored this life, this whole room of, you know, essentially misery. You know? Because there’s so many terrible things he’s seen. Because he takes it in. He brings it upon himself to feel what people feel in a courtroom, and I thought that was a beautiful thing. You know? I thought it – these people have feelings that do this job. So what are those feelings? How do they manifest? And I just tried my way, which I hope was the best way possible, to do it, which was box after box of court recording.

This guy in some ways is almost like a savant, where he could recall a

case or look at a case and wonder “Why did that not guilty verdict happen?” It shouldn’t have been that.” And I’m pretty sure because we’re human, and you all have your own interpretation of things, but the court is the court, and you have to go by the law. So I just thought, for me, I was trying to load in as much as I could about the life of a stenographer. You know?

So it was about the human aspect of it as much, for me, as the job, you know, what they feel. And then I think Emile [Hirsch] did a very good job.

BB: How curious was Emile Hirsch about researching court reporting?

MD: Yeah. Emile, he takes his work very serious, and he’s – I mean, he’s just – I’ve watched a lot of extraordinary talent, and he’s up there with them. And when he read the script when we first met, just when we had a first meeting over a cup of coffee, and he had so many questions about it. He says, “Why does he feel about that?

Why does he go there? Why is it – what’s it like to be generational as a stenographer? And why the old machine as opposed to the new, modern machine?” I think he had a question for everything because he needed to fill out the character as completely as possible and then bring his own interpretation to that.

When he said yes and we made his deal, he went off and did his own research. Then, when we got to Atlanta, we got – I brought in a guy, a stenographer -- a couple, actually, two.

BB: Do you remember their names?

MD: Oh, no. But the guy was the sweetest guy. Actually, I’ve never met a bad stenographer... except for Walden.

The guy was great. He was a top guy in Atlanta. He came in, and we hired him as a tech advisor, and he sat with Kelli [Garner], who plays the love interest, and Emile, and they showed them what to do. And the actors, they’re great actors, so they

just picked up on it like that. You know? And they anticipate things. And he came to me at one point, and he said, “There’s not much else I can do for these guys. They really know what they’re doing,” which was great. But we kept him around for the whole movie so that we could – just in case. You know, something fell down and we needed advice.

But it was really about the character. It was about what he created. You know? That guy he created. You know, a lot of that was Emile conjuring up. You know, he was inspired by Heath Ledger whose joker was very inspirational. So he was inspired by a lot of different things, Sponge Bob Square Pants and stuff like that.

BB: [I regret not following up on that last comment, but apparently there’s footage out there of Emile Hirsch discussing the inspiration for the character of Walden, if anyone’s interested.]

MD: He did his own research and came to his own conclusions, and then he brought the character to me, and that was it. And we had a great fun, you know, fun time making the movie.

BB: Any chance of Walden Part II?

MD: We all want to do a sequel. I mean, there was also talk of a TV show in the vein of Dexter, but yeah. Emile wants to do it, I want to do it, Kelli wants to do it, the producers want to do it. Do I have an idea for the sequel? Yes. Am I gonna tell you? No. But it’s Walden maturing into ultimately what – evolving into what is perfection at what he does.



A Tribute to Nancy Hopp: Friend, Colleague, Mom, and Remarkable Woman

By Debbie Weaver
dear friend; VP of Community
Relations - Lexitas

When I first met Nancy Hopp more than 30 years ago, I would have never dreamed that our relationship would take the course it took. But I'm so very grateful it did. From our first encounter as co-presenters at a court reporting seminar to Nancy joining my company as President and beyond, Nancy became my best friend and someone who was integral and indispensable in my life – both personally and professionally. Our shared experiences as young moms, working court reporters, agency owners/managers, and women trying to make our way in the professional world forged a bond that somehow kept growing stronger year after year.

Nancy wasn't just a colleague – she was a pillar of strength and an anchor in my life. We traveled together, raised our children together, and navigated the highs and lows of our lives side by side. Long after we had already become close friends, she came to work for me at Midwest Litigation Services, where her dedication and attention to detail became an instant asset to the company. Nancy's expertise and leadership were instrumental when Midwest rebranded as Alaris and was eventually acquired by Lexitas.

Our friendship was built on a foundation of mutual respect and

complementary skills. Nancy was the organized, spreadsheet-driven, detail-oriented half of our dynamic duo, taking meticulous care of operations behind the scenes while I thrived on building relationships and doing the public-facing work. We balanced each other perfectly, each bringing our strengths to the table in a way that came naturally to both of us.

Nancy was a huge asset to me at Alaris, but her entire professional journey was impressive. A graduate of Northern Illinois University and MacCormac College, she dedicated over 40 years to the court reporting and legal support field. She began her court reporting career in 1978 with Sonntag Reporting Service and in 2003 began working at Summation Legal Technologies (later AccessData Group), where she served as a professional development manager, court reporting liaison, and partnership manager. In 2012, she joined me as President and later COO of Alaris.

Nancy served as a court reporter, Executive VP and firm partner, litigation support software liaison, COO, and President. Beyond her official roles, she also wrote dozens of articles and delivered more than 50 national and international presentations on court reporting technology, realtime reporting techniques, litigation support software, electronic evidence, customer support, and marketing.

Nancy also covered numerous high-profile cases and events, including the NASA Space Shuttle Challenger



accident investigation and the meeting between Pope John Paul II and former President Bill Clinton. A lifelong learner, mentor, and teacher, she never slowed down and always stayed current in her field. Nancy's contributions to the industry were substantial, and the people who worked with her will feel her presence and her impact for years to come.

When she retired just a couple years ago, Nancy embraced life with the same passion and vigor she brought to her career. She traveled the world with family and friends, making memories and experiencing new cultures. As she had done long before she retired, Nancy also dedicated her time to volunteering at the Keyway Center for Diversion & Reentry, demonstrating

her unwavering commitment to giving back to the community.

Nancy was passionate about her volunteer work. She was actively involved with Keyway, the National Court Reporters Association, the National Court Reporters Foundation, the Illinois Court Reporters Association, Victor Wooten's Center for Music & Nature, Partners in Health, St. Louis Community College, the Association of Litigation Support Professionals, Women in eDiscovery, State of Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation Certified Shorthand Reporters, and Career Colleges of Chicago. She wasn't just casually involved with many of these organizations, but served on committees and boards that guided them and helped make them more effective and impactful. Her altruism truly defined her, and she was consistently committed to using her time and talents to make the world a better place.

Thankfully, Nancy's contributions were recognized while she was still with us.

In 2000, she received the Illinois Court Reporters Association's Distinguished Service Award. And just last summer, the National Court Reporters Foundation awarded Nancy the prestigious Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism, recognizing her lifelong dedication to the profession and her outstanding volunteer work. This award was a testament to her constant, unwavering altruism and her devotion to lifting up the lives of others, which truly embodied who she was.

Another of Nancy's greatest passions was music. From her early years spent mastering the piano to instilling a love of music in her children, Nancy's life was one long music festival filled with endless melodies and rhythms. As an adult, she learned to play the bass guitar and played in a band in the St. Louis area. She also loved her impromptu jam sessions with her son, Nick, who inherited his mom's affinity for music. Nancy's devotion to music extended far and wide, taking her to Victor Wooten's Center for Music &

Nature, the National Blues Museum in St. Louis, and countless live music events across the country.

After living in St. Louis for more than a decade, Nancy returned to the Chicago area with her partner Scott at the beginning of 2024 in order to be closer to her kids, Stephanie and Nick, of whom she was so incredibly proud. It was a new chapter in her life – one filled with love, adventure, and the comfort of being close to family and friends.

Nancy Hopp was an indescribably wonderful woman whose impact on my life and the lives of so many others cannot be overstated. Her legacy will undoubtedly live on through her family, friends, and the countless people whose lives she touched with her kindness, care, and limitless love of life. While the time we spent together will never be enough, I am grateful for the 30 years of friendship we shared. I will always cherish the memories we made together, and wherever I go, I will always feel her presence there with me.

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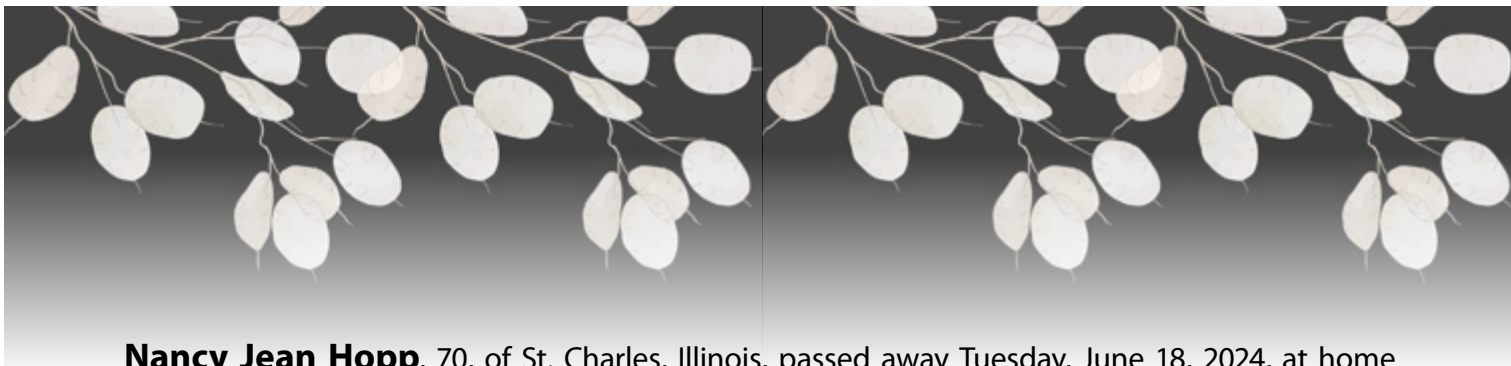
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Nancy Jean Hopp, 70, of St. Charles, Illinois, passed away Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at home surrounded by family. She was born July 17, 1953, in Joliet, Illinois. Nancy was a graduate of St. Francis Academy, Northern Illinois University, and MacCormac College. She worked for over 40 years in the court reporting and legal support industry as a court reporter, court reporting firm partner, litigation support software liaison, and president of a court reporting firm.

In her retirement, Nancy traveled the world with family and friends while also volunteering her time at Keyway Center for Diversion & Reentry. After living in St. Louis for over 10 years, she returned to the Chicago suburbs with her partner, Scott Krejci, at the beginning of 2024. One of Nancy's greatest passions was music. She spent her childhood and teenage years mastering the piano. In motherhood, Nancy instilled a love of music and musicianship in both her children.

Later in adulthood, she learned to play bass guitar and would go on to play in a band, participate in camps at Victor Wooten's Center for Music & Nature, play at the National Blues Museum in St. Louis, and attend countless live music events across the country.

Nancy is survived by her two adoring children, Stephanie (husband, Andrew Klinsky) Hopp and Nicholas Hopp; her loving partner, Scott Krejci; her brothers, Jim (Lisa) Marenche and Bob Marenche; and many beloved cousins, nieces, and nephews. She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Stephanie (Biegun) Marenche; and her dear friend and former husband, Gary Hopp.

A celebration of life was held on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in Aurora, Illinois. If you would like to make a memorial contribution in Nancy's name to her favorite organizations, please visit the Ever Loved webpage below.

<https://everloved.com/life-of/nancy-hopp/obituary/>



*Nancy Hopp receives
The Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism,
NCRA Convention & Expo, Dallas, TX 2023*

Voice Writing...Fact or Fiction

**By Lorie Kennedy,
President-Elect**

According to the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA) website, "Voice writers are professionals who have been highly trained to capture the spoken word with the capability to convert it into text by means of computer-aided transcription software." NVRA has its own certification process, offering the Certified Verbatim Reporter (CVR), Realtime Verbatim Reporter (RVR), and even the Certificate of Merit (CM), in addition to others, but does voice writing have the potential to cure the stenographer shortage in Illinois and across the country? Can a six to 12-month training program turn voice students into the rigorously-tested professional shorthand reporters that are licensed by Illinois standards?

I know, I know, when it comes to alternative means of capturing the record, Illinois court reporters have heard it all. We've been fighting digitals and AI companies, even just tape recorders for as long as I've been licensed, which is 26 years now for me; and each and every time, those alternative means have failed. But those failures will not stop opportunistic individuals from coming out with whacky ways to do our jobs as long as we stenographers can't fill the need. Illinois stenographers have consistently delivered amazing product and service on time, on demand, and even instantaneously. We've given

the client magic, and they want more. Illinois needs a solution, and it's time to think outside of the box.

Quite frankly, I'm tired of fighting digitals. Let's find a solution we all can agree on that works. There's strength in numbers; and in my opinion, there's room for all of us. Stenographic reporting isn't going anywhere. Some people are tactile learners, some people are visual learners, some people learn in combinations. The magic court reporters produce is built on well-learned foundations, whatever method it was. Real problems are never fixed with a one-size-fits-all solution, and Illinois has a real problem.

In doing my research of voice writing for this article, I was given a name. "You have to talk to Jannie Condley. She's a voice writer and she's realtime certified." Realtime certified in voice? I wasn't completely surprised by this; however, I had only ever heard of one other person in the country doing it, so I truly thought that was more of a one-off anomaly. Here it is now, I've got a friend of a friend doing voice realtime. A couple text messages from my friend later, and I had an email thread started with Jannie.

OMG, Jannie's energy and vitality can be felt even through the words of her email, which by the way was punctuated perfectly. Jannie Condley (pronounced Jay-knee) is an official reporter in Russellville, Arkansas. Licensed since 2013, this self-taught powerhouse is merit and realtime certified through NVRA and a Certified Court Reporter through the State of Arkansas. A self-described

overachiever, Jannie is also an Eclipse trainer on the voice side of the software. Jannie "fell into voice" while working other jobs such as owning a bridal shop, running a domestic violence shelter, and even working as a civilian with local law enforcement. While getting ready for work in the morning, she was able to speed build to the Today Show. Now, that is helpful. When I was in court reporting school, they recommended you didn't even work part-time.

Later that night, I was able to spend some time on the phone with Jannie. Most of what we chatted about was discussed previously by email, but the sincerity and emotion behind Jannie's words speaking about protecting the record were there. I questioned her skill in different complex scenarios where digital has failed, and this girl can still make a record. I even asked if she could keep working if the power went out, and she can. Her record is verbatim, and her license is on the line just like ours. In previous years, Jannie has served on the credentialing team for the State of Arkansas and the NVRA, and to say I was impressed is to say the least, most recently even starting a website shop to help young reporters, even working reporters, build a professional wardrobe.

I'm glad I was open to exploring what voice writing was and had to offer. I never would have met Jannie otherwise. It's inspiring to see the different directions people can take this profession. I encourage you to be open to it, also. We're all in this together.

The Future of ILCRA and YOU

By Georgia Northway, RPR, CCR, CSR

As I begin to approach my descent into my last year of board service, I think about the future of the ILCRA board and probably share an ego-based worry like most parting presidents: What are they going to do without me?

This fear is more based in a lack of volunteers stepping up to fill vacancies on the board as opposed to my own service hubris. The one attribute of my

time on the board that I can be sure I did to the absolute limits of my ability was simply not quitting.

Throughout my eleven years on the ILCRA board, my personal life was in a constant state of upheaval until 2022. I lost my father in 2011, and from 2013 to 2021, I moved five times to three different states, got married, got divorced, held five board positions, attended Boot Camp and countless seminars and conventions; I participated in CSR Act defense, legislation battles, and addressed the Illinois Supreme Court regarding civil rules of procedure.

Despite my personal life being more or less a wreck for the same decade I served, the ILCRA board was not something I was willing to walk away from; though I assuredly could have, with understanding and without shame.

But I would not do it. Despite all that I experienced throughout those tumultuous, nomadic years, I felt a strong desire to stay with the ILCRA board, to fulfill the promises I made to the board and to myself. Now I offer direction and reminders and historical information as best I can to our current

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Congratulations!

By Greg S. Weiland, President

ILCRA member **Patti White, RDR, CRR, CRC**, has been elected to serve on the 2024-2025 Board of Directors of the National Court Reporters Association. Thank you for your continued service to our profession, Patti! Congratulations on your successful election! ILCRA is very proud of you!



Sending out huge congratulations to our very own **Tina Dillon, CSR, RPR, CRR, CCP**, for taking first place overall in the realtime competition at Florida Court Reporters Association's StenoCon24! In the literary portion, Tina's score was an astonishing 99.336%, and in the testimony portion, her score was equally astounding at 98.684%. Brilliantly done, Tina! We are all so proud of you!



leaders and our leaders in training.

As time continues marching down that long and winding road to current day, in a few months ILCRA will have another changing of the guard for some of our board positions. There are shifts that must occur, and it is time to call on each and every one of you to consider ILCRA board service.

Throughout my eleven years on the board, I have seen two major concerns people bring up consistently: “I don’t have the time,” and “I don’t know how to contribute.” Let me do my best to mitigate those concerns.

Let’s talk about time first. Yes, ILCRA board service does demand some of your time. For the majority of service, you can count on needing to respond to emails weekly, sometimes more. The most demanding part of board service is adhering to deadlines and assembling speakers and vendors for conventions. That can take months of planning, when it’s done right. You want this process to take months, lest you find yourselves scrambling 60 days out to throw together a conference.

When certain people in the Illinois legislature attempt to destabilize the CSR Act, or proponents of Digital attempt to bypass laws and regulations in order to practice in Illinois, then it does become an all-hands-on-deck situation. Those can be intense weeks.

But if I’ve learned anything in my time on the board – and despite still not feeling fluent in legislative endeavors – no one is better equipped to direct legislation impacting Illinois CSRs better than an Illinois CSR.

And the unfortunate reality that awaits us on the flipside of this coin is all the time in the world, should we lose the

strength of ILCRA, lose the resistance we have against Digitals, lose the strength in numbers we have as an ILCRA board to come together and repair an eviscerated CSR Act when legislators try to “amend” that which protects us all as Certified Shorthand Reporters.

That actually flows right into the other concern a lot of potential board members express: “I don’t know what I could contribute.”

Meaningful board service requires just a few things: a passion and a love for the job you hold, the ability to work with others through intelligent debate, and a willingness to donate your time and energy to ensure we can all continue as certified court reporters, to guard the record, and impartially protect all litigants involved in the court process.

You do not have to be well-versed in anything ILCRA does before becoming a board member. The only requirements are that you hold a current CSR license – with the exception of regional representatives; those offices come with geographical parameters (check the bylaws on the ilcra.org website for those details). Beyond holding a CSR, the rest of the board will welcome you and bring you along for the ride as you navigate board service together.

I would be remiss to not mention the perks of board service, too. One of the things this introvert has truly enjoyed is getting to know my fellow CSRs scattered throughout the state. I cannot say with enough emphasis, court reporters are an incredibly intelligent and hard-working group! I am so grateful for the friendships and the camaraderie that serving on

the ILCRA board has brought with its responsibilities, and those are relationships that will last well beyond my time on the board. ILCRA can be hard work, but when you’re working alongside friends and cohorts, overall, it is an enjoyable experience.

ILCRA board members also get convention fees waived. As an ILCRA board member, you will work together to assemble and organize annual conventions and the Marathon during license renewal years. That work is rewarded by way of attending those conventions without the cost of the convention being conveyed to you. There are also certain reimbursements available for the cost of attending conferences or board meetings when that situation arises.

This year, it is our regional representatives and legislative representative that we are calling on for nominations. The process for being considered for these positions begins with submitting a nomination form — yes, you may nominate yourself.

Visit <https://www.ilcra.org/call-for-nominations> to fill out the form online, or use the form included in this issue.

Once you fill out the form and follow the directions, ILCRA will contact you shortly thereafter to complete the process. We look forward to your submissions!

Still unsure if executive board service is something you can commit to? We have committees as well that need members. Committee work is more relaxed and is a great route by which to prepare yourself for the ILCRA Board.

As we look to the future of our profession, we must look for our future leaders in order to secure the integrity

of the record and the integrity of the profession. We have been lectured several times over the years; no one is coming to save us. We must be our own super-heroes and save our own

day. While showing up seems to be the hardest part of saving the day, I would encourage anyone who has a spark of excitement at the idea of ILCRA Board service, submit your nomination today

and bet on yourself as a hero for the future of all Illinois court reporters.

Don't forget



REGISTER NOW



2024 ILCRA Annual Convention

September 19 - 21, 2024
Schaumburg, IL



ILCRA Call for Nominations

Nominating Committee Chair, Georgia Northway is now accepting nominations for the following ILCRA offices.

These positions are up for elections:

- Region One Freelance
- Region One Official
- Region Two Freelance
- Region Two Official
- Legislative Representative

Region One Representative

For purposes of this Association and bylaws of this Association, Region One is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Henry, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Mercer, Ogle, Rock Island, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will and Winnebago.

Region Two

For purposes of this Association and Bylaws of this Association, Region Two is defined as that region of Illinois consisting of the following counties: Adams, Alexander, Bond, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clay, Clinton, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Johnson, Knox, Lawrence, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac, McDonough, McLean, Menard, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Peoria, Perry, Platt, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Richland, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, Stark, St. Clair, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Williamson, and Woodford.

Responsibilities of serving on the Board:

The Executive Board meets approximately every six months on Saturday or Sunday in various locations throughout the state or online. We undertake a variety of projects with the work divided according to your ability and available time. All candidates must have email capability.

Some characteristics of a great board member are a willingness to give of his/her time, the ability to have open discussions and to respect other's opinions even if they differ from his/her own, leadership qualities, professionalism, and business acumen. It is important that the Board is comprised of members from all areas of the court reporting profession.

You may nominate yourself or any other ILCRA member who is interested in volunteering time and talent in furtherance of the profession by filling out the form on the next page and returning it to Georgia Northway (gb.rollins17@gmail.com). Also required is a written acknowledgment of a willingness to serve by the nominated candidate.

This is the opportunity you've been waiting for! Do not wait to be asked – volunteer!!
Give something back to the profession that has given you so much.

2024---2026 ILCRA NOMINATION FORM

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATION PAPERS IS August 20, 2024.

Submit to: Georgia Northway at gb.rollins17@gmail.com

I recommend the following ILCRA professional member for consideration as a candidate for the open office(s).
Please use additional sheet if necessary.

Office: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I support the candidacy of this individual for the following reason: _____

Office: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I support the candidacy of this individual for the following reason: _____

Office: _____

Nominee's Name: _____

Nominee's Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I support the candidacy of this individual for the following reason: _____

My Name: _____ My Signature: _____

My Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The nominee may forward their willingness to serve in this capacity by email to gb.rollins17@gmail.com

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Spread the word!

Encourage someone you know to explore court reporting, captioning, and CART as a career. Ensuring that qualified reporters are in the field is the only way to protect the profession and to fight digital technologies from taking over our industry.

Local Court Reporter Training Programs

College of Court Reporting*

111 W. 10th Street, #111, Hobart, IN 46342
866.294.3974 www.ccr.edu

Lake Land College*

5001 Lake Land Blvd, Mattoon, IL 61938
217.234.5253 www.lakelandcollege.edu

MacCormac College*

29 E. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60602
312.922.1884 www.maccormac.edu

South Suburban College*

16333 S. Kilbourn Ave., Oak Forest, IL 60452
708.596.2000 www.southsuburbancollege.edu

*NCRA Certified

Juvenile Court Briefs

By **Andrea Jent, CSR**

21st birthday BAO*IRT

Abuse BAOUS

Admonish the parent/s that they must cooperate with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, they must comply with the service plan and correct the conditions that required the minors to be in care, or they risk termination of their parental rights

MORB/MORB

Adoption DAOPT

Advocate VAKT

Agency AGS

COURT REPORTING AND CAPTIONING

- Online classes with Zoom component for theory and speedbuilding courses
- Self-paced speedbuilding classes
- Rent-to-own steno writer option
- Textbook rental program
- Core classes taught by court reporters
- Special admission process includes tests in English grammar, keyboarding, and interest inventory
- Affordable, pay as you go tuition



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lisa Earp
Business Instructor
Director of Court Reporting
Office Professionals Program Coordinator
217-234-5356
learp@lakelandcollege.edu

LAKE LAND
COLLEGE



<https://www.facebook.com/LakeLandCollegeCourtReporting>

Agency has made reasonable efforts HAO*IMZ

Any and all unknown fathers NA*UFL

Appeal rights AOEPTS

Best interest B-RT

Best interest hearing B-RGT

Birth certificate B*IRT/B*IRT

Biological BL*G

Care for, protect, train, educate, supervise, or discipline KA*IRZ

Contrary to the health, safety, and well being KO*NTS

Critical decision KR*IT

Custody and guardianship CA*IG

Detention DENGs

Detention hearing DH*

Diligent search D*ERPBLG

Directed consent D*IR

Disposition SDOGS

Dispositional SDOLGS

Dispositional hearing SDO*LGS

Dispositional order SDOERD

Dispositional report SDORT

Drug test DRUGT

Failed to correct the conditions that were the basis for the removal of the child/ren from the home during any 9-month period following the adjudication of the neglected or abused minor under the Juvenile Court Act FA*IKT

Failed to maintain FA*ILD

Failed to maintain a reasonable degree of interest, concern, or responsibility FA*ILD/FA*ILD

Fictive kin F*IK

Final and irrevocable consent to

adoption by a specified person or persons FAO*IKTS

Fit, able, and willing FWA*I

Fitness F-NT

Fitness hearing F-NGT

Foster care case manager FO*ES

Foster care F*K

Foster parent F*P

Guardian G-RD

Health, welfare, and safety WHA*IS

Illinois Juvenile Court Act *IJ

Immediate and urgent necessity MURN

Indicated report AO*IND

In the interest of AO*INT

Incarcerate KRAIT

Indeterminate AO*IND

Intact case AO*IK

Integrated assessment *INT

Interest, concern, or responsibility KAO*INTS

Irrevocable AO*IR

Knowing and voluntary NA*IR

Locate LOEKT

Matter of immediate and urgent necessity MAO*IN

Motion for termination of parental rights MO*EFTS

Neglect GLEKT

Permanency PERMZ

Permanency goal PERL

Permanency hearing PERG

Permanency order POERD

Permanency report PERT

Petition for adjudication of wardship P*F

Protective custody PR*T

Public service work PAO*UBL

Putative father PAO*UT

Reasonable efforts REFRTS

Reasonable efforts or substantial progress RAO*ES

Return home within 12 months RAO*ETS

Satisfactory SAEF

Service provider SP*

Shelter care SH*K

Shelter care hearing SH*KD

Specified person or persons SPO*EP

Stipulate STIPT

Stipulation STIPGS

Subsidize SWAOIZ

Subsidized guardianship SG*

Substantial progress SPROG

Substitute care pending determination of termination of parental rights STUT/STUT

Surrender SURD

Temporary custody T*EM

Termination of parental rights TO*EP

Unfit, unable, or unwilling FIT/FIT

Unfit, unable, or unwilling to care for, protect, train, educate, supervise, or discipline the minor/s and placement with her/him is contrary to the health, safety, and well being of the minor/s FIT/FIT/FIT

Unsatisfactory SNAF

Unsupervised SNUP

Join ILCRA

Membership with the Illinois Court Reporters Association has its privileges!
As a member, you receive exclusive benefits, including:

AD INFINITUM - our quarterly e-newsletter

Discounted **ILCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION** and Seminar registration fees - a savings of \$100

BRIEFS, BRIEFS, and MORE BRIEFS

COMPLIMENTARY ADVERTISING in ILCRA's *Find a Reporter* locator

Exclusive use of the **ILCRA MEMBER LOGO** to highlight your professionalism

MEMBER-ONLY access to the Website with the latest legislative news

But wait, there is more! ILCRA members also receive the following valuable benefits:

Office Depot: 15% - 25% average annual savings on select paper and office supplies

Pengad: 10% off all full price products

ProCAT: 25% off WinnerXP Software; 15% off Impression Writer

RepAgencyWorks: 25% discount off the set-up fee for RepAgencyWorks Court Reporting Management Software

Reporting Solutions: 20% off PDF-it service

Click here to [JOIN or RENEW ONLINE!](#)

ad infinitum

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