



## Meet the Speakers

### **R. Ashby Pate**

*Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC*  
*Birmingham, Alabama*  
[apate@lightfootlaw.com](mailto:apate@lightfootlaw.com)

R. Ashby Pate is an attorney at Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC in the firm's Birmingham, Alabama office. He maintains a general commercial defense practice, with a focus on international disputes, appellate work, and products liability. Ashby routinely takes on some of the firm's most important and controversial matters, including co-prosecuting former Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice, Roy Moore, in a widely-publicized judicial ethics trial. Ashby formerly served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Palau, where he helped design the island nation's first-ever jury-trial system and was the youngest justice appointed in Palau's history.

In addition to Ashby's day-to-day practice, he is an in-demand public speaker. Ashby's speeches highlight the importance of human connection in the practice of law and have resulted in his invitation to speaking engagements across the country. Ashby has given the keynote address, alongside Justice Anthony Kennedy of the United States Supreme Court, at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' Law Clerk Orientation in San Francisco as well as presentations to the American College of Trial Lawyers' spring meeting in Maui and the Alabama State Bar annual meeting.

Prior to law school, Ashby released two albums of original music and toured in the Southeastern United States in several different bands. Ashby is still an avid musician and is known to pick up his guitar and incorporate song into his speaking engagements. Today, Ashby is married and the proud father of two young girls.

### **Macky Outlaw, CPP**



*Private Investigator | Security Consultant*  
*Dawson, Alabama*  
[mackyoutlaw.com](http://mackyoutlaw.com)

Macky started his career as a Reconnaissance Marine and dedicated 9 years of his life conducting surveillance in the world's toughest locations. He then moved on to contract for the State Department where he conducted countersurveillance operations at embassies and consulates in the Middle East. He then brought these same skills home and has dedicated his life to providing a first-class client experience and to building a team of professionals.

### **Career Highlights and Training**

- Certified Protection Professional (CPP) - American Society of Industrial Security
- Licensed Private Investigator - Alabama
- Military Police Captains Career Course - US Army
- Worldwide Protective Services Course - US Department of State
- Platoon Sergeant - 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company - US Marines
- Marine Scout Sniper
- Basic Reconnaissance Course
- B.S. - Mount Olive University
- M.A. - American Military University



## **Cathy Penniston, RPR, CRI**

*NCRA Director | Broadcast Captioner*  
*Ottumwa, Iowa*  
[cpenniston@gmail.com](mailto:cpenniston@gmail.com)

Cathy L. Penniston is a freelance court reporter and captioner from Ottumwa, Iowa. Penniston spent 30 years working as an official court reporter for the state of Iowa before receiving a realtime captioning training grant and transitioning into a remote television broadcast captioning career. She has also worked as a freelance court reporter and a CART provider. Penniston currently teaches reporting classes at the Des Moines Area Community College, in Des Moines, Iowa. She also works as an independent broadcast captioner. In addition, she provides remote realtime of court proceedings in Arizona, Colorado, and Idaho.

Penniston has served as president, vice president, and secretary of the Iowa Court Reporters Association. She has volunteered multiple times to assist with the annual National Court Reporters Foundation phone-a-thon fundraising campaign and the Veterans History Project.

Penniston is the recipient of the Roy Voelker Memorial Award for Distinguished Service for the court reporting profession of the state of Iowa. She is also the recipient of the Indian Hills Community College Vision Award Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year in 2014.

Penniston holds a Master's Degree in Education from Clarke University, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Iowa Wesleyan College, an Associate's Degree from Indian Hills Community College, and an Associate's Degree in Court Reporting from the American Institute of Business. She holds the national professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Certified Reporting Instructor (CRI).



**Richard S. Sciré,  
Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CRMS**



**RPR**

*Official Court Reporters – Twelfth Judicial Circuit*  
Sarasota, Florida

[richardscirefcra@gmail.com](mailto:richardscirefcra@gmail.com)

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Long Island natives Richard S. Sciré, RPR, and Michael A. Sciré, RPR, CMRS, are twin brothers and two of the eight Official Court Reporters in Florida's Twelfth Judicial Circuit. They stenographically report the felony court hearings and trial proceedings in The Judge Lynn N. Silvertooth Judicial Center in Sarasota, Florida. Michael serves as Lead Reporter, overseeing the four reporters in Sarasota. Richard serves as President-elect for the Florida Court Reporters Associations' Board of Directors and is the editor for *The Florida Reporter*, the magazine for the Florida Court

Reporters Association. Michael serves as associate editor of the magazine and Central Director for FCRA. They are both realtime writers and also provide CART services in their circuit courthouses.

The Twins attended the Court Reporting program at the Sarasota County Technical Institute, where Richard graduated in 1998 and Michael in 1999. In 2007, they were inducted into the school's Wall of Fame as Distinguished Alumni. After they each graduated, they worked as freelance reporters for Metzger Reporting Services in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in Punta Gorda, Florida. Richard left Metzger Reporting in 2000 to work in Sarasota for Vincent Lucente & Associates. Michael left Metzger in 2002 to pursue the Sarasota official position. After six months, when official positions became available, Michael recruited Richard where they have been "partners in crime" ever since.

In addition to reporting, they each have authored articles in the *Journal of Court Reporting* and are NCRF Angels. They have served on committees for their state association and conducted several seminars previously. They have presented to their circuit's State Attorney's Office, educating attorneys on how to make a record. Michael and Richard were featured on two Florida news programs for being twin court reporters and also provided testimonials for *For The Record - A Court Reporting Documentary*. They also shared the title and page of "Messrs. August" in NCRA PAC's *Men of Court Reporting 2014 Calendar*. In 2015, they were part of the keynote speaker panel at the NCRA Annual Convention in New York City. In September 2016, they were interviewed for *Stenographer's World*. That interview now serves the legal community in obtaining their education credits. In April of 2018, they conducted a seminar during the convention for the Mississippi Court Reporters Association. In the spring of 2019, they presented two seminars during the Hawaii Court Reporters & Captioners Association's annual convention.

Recently, they reunited with the documentary filmmaker on a new project where they launched MartiniAndaMovie.com, viewing and critiquing films as well as conducting interviews for the Sarasota Film Festival. That endeavor led to their own segment on a weekly radio show called *The MMM Show* (a/k/a *The Movies, Music, Money Show*).

In their free time, the twins enjoy being men about the town, attending as many social events as possible. They can almost always be seen together creating laughter and entertainment wherever they go, from parties and film festivals, to ziplining and skydiving. If life is the party to whom everyone was invited, they are most assuredly going to have a great time.

**Sherrie Hielt**



*Executive Director*  
*Family Services of North Alabama*  
Albertville, Alabama  
[www.familyservicesna.org](http://www.familyservicesna.org)

Sherrie Hiett graduated from Geraldine High School in 1994 and from Snead State Community College in 1996. She went on to Lee University in Cleveland, TN, where she graduated with a B.A. in Christian Education and a minor in Bible.

Sherrie has been a Student Pastor and Worship Pastor in church for almost 20 years. Serving in churches has given her a wide range of experience in counseling and a better understanding of how to help those who have experienced trauma and/or abuse.

She joined the Family Services of North Alabama team in September 2016 as the Victim Services Director of DeKalb County and later moved to the Victim Services Director of Marshall County. As an advocate, Sherrie stands in the gap between the victim and all the services they may need to help cope with the trauma they have experienced.

In April 2018, Sherrie was named the Executive Director of Family Services of North Alabama and has worked to expand their services and increase their funding. They now have the Sexual Assault Services Program, Youth Suicide Prevention, Internet Safety Program, Youth Tobacco Prevention, and the Parenthood Program.



## **Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RMR, CRR**

*Federal Court Reporter*  
Birmingham, Alabama  
[sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net](mailto:sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net)

Sabrina Lewis is a federal official court reporter in Birmingham, Alabama. She has been reporting since 1978, beginning her career freelancing in Chicago. Sabrina is a past member of the Alabama Board of Court Reporting. She is a member of the National Court Reporters Association and serves as the District I Director for the Alabama Court Reporters Association. Sabrina has led an A to Z Program in Birmingham, Alabama. She is mentor to numerous students and reporters. She is also a participant in NCRA's National Speed and Realtime Contest Competitions yearly and was a presenter at NCRA's 2019 Conference in Denver, Colorado.



## **Honorable John H. Graham**

*Thirty-eighth Judicial Circuit Judge*

Scottsboro, Alabama

[john.graham@alacourt.gov](mailto:john.graham@alacourt.gov)

Judge John H. Graham lives in his hometown of Stevenson, Alabama, an 1850 community landmark that he and his long-suffering wife rescued from destruction-by-neglect. They have two adult children. The Judge has a history degree from Berea College in Kentucky and a law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law. He was appointed Circuit Judge for Jackson County in 2006 and has thrice been re-elected without opposition. He serves on several committees for the Circuit Judges Association and is vice president of Drug Court Professionals. *He is a much sought-after speaker for seminars, old ladies' clubs, TV reporters out of good subjects, two-lane road carnivals, and funerals for the unchurched. He is an Episcopalian, a gardener, an amateur historian, an outdoorsman, was a pioneer on the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, and is a noted practitioner of the Powerpoint® arts and sciences.*

## **Wally Lowery**

*Director*

*Alabama Judicial College  
Administrative Office of Courts*

Montgomery, Alabama

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Wally Lowery, Director, Alabama Judicial College, AOC. Wally has been working with the Alabama Judicial System for over twenty-five years. As the Director with AJC, he provides continuing education to over 3,500 court system employees. Wally also has a faculty certification certificate with the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. He earned his Masters of Science degree in Criminal

Justice Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Troy University. Wally is also an Adjunct Instructor for Troy University. He has taught Court Administration, Survey of Criminal Law, and Juvenile Justice. As of 2019, he has instructed over 75 classes, including online courses with Troy E-campus and Faulkner University, and is currently Board President of the Troy City School System. *Wally has also been mistaken as the notorious "Masked Supervisor," making personal appearances at various conferences, seminars, television, and radio shows.*

## **Paula McCaleb**

*Executive Director*  
*Alabama Board of Court Reporting*  
Montgomery, Alabama  
[paula@leadership-alliance.org](mailto:paula@leadership-alliance.org)

Paula graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Troy University at Montgomery. Her background includes twenty years' experience as a professional regulator; five years' prior experience in state-wide associations; and founder of Leadership Alliance, a professional management firm, in 2004. As President of Leadership Alliance, Paula represents three licensing programs for the State of Alabama. She has been featured in RSVP Magazine's "The List" for her professional accomplishments. Paula is Executive Director of Alabama Board of Court Reporting where her responsibilities include managing the court reporting licensure program to ensure the Board's mission and goals are adhered to for the optimal relief of consumers of court reporter services in Alabama as provided in the Board's enabling statute.

## **Katiana Walton**

*Course Creator and Facilitator*

*Lady Steno Speed Clinic*

Miami, Florida

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Katiana Walton has been freelancing as a court reporter since the spring of 2008. In spring of 2008, she joined social media under the handle *Lady Steno* and began sharing her love and wealth of ideas and information with the stenography community. Due to her ever-growing desire to write realtime and shorten her writing, she left for Houston, Texas, in 2013 to attend the Mark Kislingbury Academy. She was enrolled for nine months, the duration of the Magnum Steno theory. Since 2014, Katiana has been providing realtime for legal and CART proceedings. Katiana speaks on the following topics:

Practicing Techniques, Realtime Development, Scoping Efficiently, Shortening Shorthand, Salable Rough Drafts workshop, and Speed Clinic Trainings.