



IKIGAI

By Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, CRR • ACRA President

Ikigai (ee-key-guy) is a Japanese concept that means your “reason for being.” In Japanese, “iki” means “life,” and “gai” describes value or worth. Your ikigai is your life purpose or your bliss. It’s what brings you joy and inspires you to get out of bed every day.



Sabrina Lewis
ACRA President

One Westernized interpretation of ikigai focuses less on finding your bliss and more on finding your dream career.

This interpretation says you have found your dream career when what you do is:

- What you love
- What you are good at
- What you can be paid for
- What the world needs

At the intersection of what you **love** and what you are **good at** is your **passion**.

At the intersection of what you **love** and what the **world needs** is your **mission**.

At the intersection of what the **world needs** and what you can get **paid for** is your **vocation**.

At the intersection of what you are **good at** and what you can get **paid for** is your **profession**.

If you are reading this, there’s a good chance that court reporting sits squarely in the middle of your “ikigai Venn diagram,” your professional “sweet spot.”

You work hard. You enjoy the work. You’re compensated well for your efforts. You feel a sense of accomplishment.



Court reporting ticks all the boxes. Until it doesn’t.

What happens when you no longer feel passion for court reporting? You are working hard, enjoying your work, but you don’t feel you are being paid what you are worth. You feel that you are good at what you do, but your job takes up so much of your time that you have begun to lose your sense of accomplishment.

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Ikigai

continued from the front cover page.

- If your vision for your career has changed, create a new point of view.
- If there is a lack of harmony between your professional and personal life, change your rhythm.
- If you are suffering from burnout, let your light shine in a different place.
- If you are fighting boreout, look for ways to reengage.
- If you are feeling underappreciated, acknowledge the things for which you are grateful.

You are a court reporter – an intelligent, talented person with a strong work ethic. You can do anything you set your mind to. There is no reason to live a “set it and forget it” existence. Cookie cutters are for bakers.

When what you are doing no longer serves you, it is perfectly acceptable and prudent to step back, breathe deeply, reassess, then take whatever actions benefit you.

CART, captioner, official, freelance – or something else entirely – the choice is yours. Find your ikigai.



ALABAMA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS 2023-2024

NAME	POSITION/EMAIL
Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, CRR	President sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net
Mary Frances Heinfeld, CCR	President-Elect maryhccr@gmail.com
TBA	Vice President
Tatelyn Noda, CCR, RPR	Treasurer theacratreasurer@gmail.com
Vicki Clark, CCR, RPR	Secretary vicki.clark@alacourt.gov
Jennifer Kissic CCR	Immediate Past President jennifer.kissic@gmail.com
Cindy S. Greene, CCR, RPR	Parliamentarian greenecourtreporter@gmail.com
Lori May, CCR	District Director I lori.may@att.net
Saralyn Hicks Britt, CCR	District Director II saralyn.reports@gmail.com
Tracye Blackwell, CCR, RPR	District Director III tsblackwell2006@gmail.com
Paula M. Price, CCR, RPR, CRR	District Director IV paula.price@alacourt.gov



ALABAMA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

COMMITTEES

AUDITING	MEMBERSHIP
Chair: Pat Higgins, CCR, RPR pathiggins1967@yahoo.com	Chair: TBA
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	DATABASE
Chair: Ashley Dickey, CCR, RPR abdickey@bellsouth.net	Chair: Karen Strickland, CCR karenstricklandccr@gmail.com
NOMINATIONS	CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Chair: TBA	Chair: Pat Higgins, CCR, RPR pathiggins1967@yahoo.com
LEGISLATION	PUBLICATIONS
Chair: Cindy Greene, CCR, RPR greenecourtreporter@gmail.com	Chair: Amy Holland, CCR awholland22@outlook.com
WAYS & MEANS	WEBSITE
Chair: Paula Price, CCR, RPR, CRR paulamorganprice@gmail.com	Chair: Karen Strickland, CCR karenstricklandccr@gmail.com
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD	STUDENT MENTORING
Chair: Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, CRR sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net	Chair: TBA
CONVENTION PLANNING	ACRA STRONG
Chair: Mary Heinfeld, CCR maryhccr@gmail.com	Co-Chair: Jennifer Kissic, CCR jennifer.kissic@gmail.com
	Co-Chair: TBA

COST OF ACRA CONFERENCE VS. THE COST OF CEUs ELSEWHERE

By Ashley Dickey, CCR, RPR • ACRA Membership Services Chair

You must read the fine print. Not all sources that offer CEUs get them approved with NCRA or ABCR (Alabama Board of Court Reporting). ACRA's conference CEUs are always approved by ABCR. If you seek CEUs elsewhere, you must check to make sure that our licensure board will accept them.

Stenograph is offering Ascend training at \$22/month or \$220 annually. Right now, they have 16 hours of CEUs being offered online at \$250. But you must be a member of Ascend to take part. Also, you must submit your own NCRA CEUs for each course at \$45 for each.

ACRA offers many of the same speakers that NCRA does. You get to see national speakers at the local level. Having a smaller crowd means you can interact with speakers before or after sessions.

Members of ACRA have their CEUs retained on our website. If you get audited when renewing your Alabama license, you can log into your account on alra.org and access your CEU transcript. You can also check to make sure you are on track to earn the required CEUs needed.

ACRA submits NCRA members' CEUs to NCRA at no cost to the attendee. Most other sources offering CEUs require you to submit them yourselves at the end of the course, along with a fee.

When coming to an ACRA conference, attendees usually do not need to pay airfare fees to attend.

ACRA also offers food at our conferences such as an opening reception, a breakfast or snack, and the business meeting luncheon.

You do not have to be a member of ACRA to attend. If you are an NCRA member, ACRA still submits your CEUs to NCRA for non-members at no cost to them.

NCRA convention (2023) costs \$765 for a member, \$960 for a non-member. Then you have airfare, hotel, and food. NCRA does not offer food during breaks or any meals (except a reception/party possibly).

NCRA offers webinars that can range from \$55 for one hour to \$89 for one and a half hours (as members). Article and book tests are \$35 for members per CEU. So, if you watch a one-hour webinar as an NCRA member and then pay to submit it to NCRA, you will pay \$100 for one hour of CEU. You must submit the CEUs yourself.

Art Cochran, for example, offers grammar courses at \$100 per day for 1.0 CEU and you must still pay the \$45 submission fee. You must submit the CEUs yourself.

Overall, you get so many more benefits by attending ACRA's conferences. Please consider these factors in deciding how you will earn your required CEUs. I hope to see you in January at ACRA's annual conference!

ABCR BOARD MEETING NEWS

By Ashley Dickey, CCR, RPR • ACRA Membership Services Chair

IMPORTANT: License renewals were due by September 30th. Per law, if you failed to renew your license during that time, you are no longer allowed to work as a court reporter until you do so. Please contact Victor Biebighauser, ABCR's executive director, for more information.

ABCR held their latest board meeting September 22, 2023. There were a variety of topics covered. As a reminder, anyone can attend and observe their board meetings.

The revision to the Traditional Application for Licensure in ABCR's Rules & Regulations will take effect December 14, 2023, and then a current designation of RPR or CVR, with appropriate documentation, is equivalent to providing proof of completion of a court reporting school.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Revisions to the Alabama Court Reporters Association Constitution and Bylaws are available for review at www.alcra.org. Please review and be prepared to comment and vote on the proposed revisions.



alcra-4-you



ACRA

Alabama Court Reporters Association

Visit our website at: www.alcra.com



Proposed Changes to the Alabama Court Reporters Association *Constitution and Bylaws*

These are the proposed revisions to be voted on at the January 2024 Annual Business Meeting:

Article III – Membership

Section 2 – Classes of Members

The membership shall consist of six (6) classes.

- a) Professional Members
- b) Student Members
- c) Honorary Members
- d) Associate Members
- e) Retired Lifetime Members

Section 3 – Professional Members

- a) Any person who is a bona fide resident of the State of Alabama and who is skilled and primarily engaged in the verbatim reporting of proceedings by the use of shorthand symbols, manually or by stenographic machine, as an official court or legislative reporter, freelance reporter, captioner, or CART provider shall be eligible to become a Professional Member.
- b) Any full-time director and/or teacher of an NCRA-approved school or college who has had a minimum of three (3) years of experience engaged in the active practice of shorthand reporting shall be eligible to become a Professional Member.
- c) All Professional Member applicants shall be required to be **endorsed in writing by a voting member approved by the Board of Directors** as defined herein.

Section 7 – Retired Lifetime Members

- a) Any Professional Member of this Association in good standing who has paid Membership dues for a period of **twenty (20) fifteen (15) consecutive cumulative years** and who is no longer actively engaged in the practice of verbatim shorthand reporting shall be eligible to become a Retired Lifetime Member with all the rights and privileges of Professional Members.
- b) Retired Lifetime Members shall not pay annual dues.

Article V – Officers, Board of Directors, and Duties

Section 1 – Composition

- a) The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary, **and** Treasurer, **and Parliamentarian**, who shall be elected by the members at an Annual Business Meeting and whose term shall begin at the close of the Annual Convention at which they were elected and whose duties shall be set forth herein.
- b) Officers of this Association shall be current ACRA members and current NCRA members.
- c) No member may be elected to the office of President, President-elect, or Vice President unless that member has previously served as an Officer of the Association.
- d) The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of the President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Immediate Past President, four (4) Directors, and a Parliamentarian.
- e) The four (4) members elected as Directors shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors have been elected. The term of the Directors shall begin at the close of the Annual Convention at which they were elected and whose duties shall be set forth herein.
- f) There shall be four (4) Directors, one (1) from each district of the state. The four (4) Directors shall be divided into two (2) classes of two (2) Directors each, determined by the expiration of their terms of office, one (1) class of Directors to be elected each year, with Districts 1 and 3 to be elected in odd years and Districts 2 and 4 to be elected in even years **where possible. Exceptions to this schedule may be made as needed.**
- g) The member elected as Parliamentarian shall serve for a term of three (3) years or until their successor has been elected. The term of the Parliamentarian shall begin at the close of the Annual Convention at which they were elected and whose duties shall be set forth herein.

Proposed Changes to Constitution

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(h) The Executive Board shall consist of the Officers and Directors of this Association as defined in paragraph (a) and (d) of this section.

Section 3 – Duties

b) **President-elect.** The President-elect shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence or in the event of the President's inability or unwillingness to act. The President-elect, when thus acting, shall have the powers of and be subject to all restrictions placed upon the President. The President-elect shall automatically become the President of the Association at the time of the election at the next succeeding Annual Convention, and **his/her** duties shall begin at the close of that Annual Convention. The President-elect shall be in charge of convention arrangements and shall appoint the Nominating Committee. The President-elect shall perform such other duties as from time to time shall be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

e) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall receive all monies from any source paid into the Association and pay all bills allowed and approved in such manner as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Treasurer shall, at each Annual Business Meeting, submit a report of the finances of the Association to the Committee on Auditing, **to include all financial records for the Treasurer's current term of office** for inspection and audit as herein provided. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties as from time to time shall be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 7 – Meetings of the Board of Directors

(a) The Board of Directors shall hold at least four (4) meetings annually. Additional meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President or any two (2) members thereof. The time and place of all meetings shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Regular business meetings may be conducted utilizing electronic means provided a quorum of board members is present.

(b) The Annual Business Meeting may be conducted utilizing electronic means when necessary due to matters related to *force majeure*, such as an adverse weather phenomenon, pandemic, or other reasons related to the health and well-being of the public. The decision to hold an Annual Business Meeting by electronic means must be one made by a majority of the Board of Directors and shall be considered only when conducting an Annual Business Meeting in person cannot be accomplished.

(c) Executive sessions of the Board of Directors of the Association may be held at a regular business meeting or special called meeting as necessary to hear matters of a confidential nature or when matters regarding the professional integrity of a specific member(s) of the Association and other matters deemed relevant by the Executive Board as set out in Article V, paragraph (h), Officers, Directors, and Duties.

Section 8 – Quorum and Voting

a) A quorum shall consist of one-half (1/2) of the full voting membership of the Board of Directors.

b) Unless otherwise specifically provided by the Constitution and Bylaws, a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum of the Board of Directors is present shall govern. No member shall vote by proxy.

c) The members of the Board of Directors may participate in any regular business meeting by conference call and/or videoconference, and such participation shall constitute personal presence at such meeting.

d) A quorum for purposes of election of officers at an annual business meeting shall consist of one-half (1/2) of the voting members present **at the time** of the annual business meeting. All other business conducted at the Annual Business Meeting may be conducted so long as a quorum of the Board of Directors is present in person or by electronic means when in-person presence has been declared not viable.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1 – Standing Committees

b) **Committee on Membership.** This committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Association; the Vice President shall serve as chairperson. It shall be the duty of this committee to solicit eligible new members of the Association. They are to receive applications, investigate applicants, and submit applications and recommendations to the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of this Committee to implement and administer membership drives annually or as directed by the Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of this committee to publish ACRA's Annual Roster **on the ACRA website** no later than September 30 of each year, **including the solicitation of advertising and securing of printing services for the Roster.**

c) **Committee on Database Management.** This committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Association. The chairperson of this committee shall agree to remain in position for not less than three (3) years and shall be appointed by the current president of the Association every three (3) years. It shall be the duty of this committee to maintain ACRA membership records, to send dues renewal notices, to contact members who may be in jeopardy of losing membership for

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Proposed Changes to Constitution

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nonpayment of dues, to maintain an accurate count of ACRA membership **in conjunction with the Committee on Membership.**

d) **Committee on Nominations.** This committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Association, none of whom shall be an officer thereof. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate Officers and Directors of the Board of Directors for the following year. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall forward to the editor of the ACRA newsletter the prospective slate of nominees and an accompanying biographical sketch for publication in the newsletter at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting. **At least one of the Nominating Committee members and all nominees shall be present at the entire Annual Convention of the Association.** This committee shall follow the guidelines mandated in the *Guidelines for Committees on Nominations and Distinguished Service Award* ~~and Scholarship.~~

e) **Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.** This committee shall be composed of three (3) members of the Association, one (1) of whom shall be a Past President of the Association. It shall be the duty of this committee to conduct a continuing review of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and to propose such amendments as, in their judgment, are deemed necessary to coordinate and simplify the Constitution and Bylaws and to eliminate conflicting and/or ambiguous provisions thereof.

f) **Committee on Legislation.** This committee shall be composed of not less than three (3) members of the Association. It shall be the duty of this committee to see that members are informed of matters involving legislation affecting reporters which are under consideration by the Alabama Legislature and to directly assist in the passage of legislation when requested by and with the approval of the Board of Directors. No legislation shall be pursued by this committee without prior approval of the Board of Directors.

g) **Committee on Publications.** It shall be the duty of this committee to publish the ACRA newsletter at least quarterly. The chairperson of this committee shall serve as the editor of the newsletter.

h) **Committee on Membership Services.** It shall be the duty of this committee to act as a liaison between the Alabama Board of Court Reporting (ABCR) and the Alabama Court Reporters Association (ACRA), **to attend meetings of the Alabama Board of Court Reporting, and other duties as determined by the Board of Directors.**

i) **Committee on Ways and Means.** It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate and evaluate methods of fundraising and, upon approval of the Board of Directors, implement fundraising projects.

j) **Committee on Distinguished Service Award.** This committee shall be composed of the President as chairperson, the Immediate Past President, and the immediate past recipient of this award. It shall be the duty of this committee to recommend to the Board of Directors a recipient for the ACRA Distinguished Service Award. This committee shall follow the guidelines mandated in the *Guidelines for Committees on Nominations and Distinguished Service Award.*

(k) **Committee on the Alabama Court Reporters Manual.** This committee shall consist of at least two (2) members and may increase to more members as determined by the Chairperson of the committee. The duties of this committee are to maintain the accuracy of the Manual, working with the Administrative Office of Courts, on an annual basis and publish any changes on the ACRA website as well as assist in notifying the Alabama court reporting community at large of any updates or changes in any laws relative to these procedures. At times of a full manual rewrite, the current Chairperson of this committee shall chair any task force formed to accomplish the rewrite of the entire manual.

(l) **Committee on CCR Testing.** This committee shall consist of tested and certified members in good standing. The duties are to prepare a notice of test dates and send to the Committee on Database Management to be published on the ACRA website at least 30 days prior to each test date; to receive applications from candidates to take the CCR Exam from the Treasurer upon payment of the test fee by the candidate; to send confirmations to the test candidates, attaching the requirements of the actual test, the NCRA Code of Ethics, NCRA's What Is An Error?; to attend the CCR Examinations given twice annually and monitor the timing of the tests; to assure that the test is administered properly, according to NCRA Guidelines; to participate in grading each skill portion transcribed by test candidates; to send out official results on ACRA letterhead; to archive official test results digitally and maintain paper copies of the skills tests and the transcriptions of same on paper for (10) years; to prepare a report for the Board of Directors of the most recent test date prior to the next board meeting and to disseminate such report in summary annually at the ACRA Annual Business Meeting and to the Director of ABCR; other duties as directed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Special Committees and Task Forces

Special Committees or Task Forces may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. Upon completion of the task assigned to the special committee or task force, the chairman of same shall present a final report to the Board of Directors and the committee or task force shall be dissolved by majority vote of the board members.

Section 2 – Previous Constitution and Bylaws Superseded

All provisions of the previous Constitution and Bylaws of this Association are hereby replaced by the provisions hereof.

Revised January 2024

DID YOU NO...TARY?

By Ashley Dickey, CCR, RPR • ACRA Membership Services Chair

I hope you have found that the Court Reporters Manual is an essential reference for you. If not, allow me to enlighten you as to some of the information available for you in it.

Authority to Administer the Oath. Official court reporters, special roving court reporters, special court reporters, supernumerary court reporters, and other court reporters licensed by the Alabama Board of Court Reporting may administer an oath to a witness in a deposition or a judicial proceeding. Further, they may swear a witness remotely by the use of audiovisual or videoconferencing technology if the deposition or judicial proceeding is conducted with the use of audiovisual or videoconferencing equipment that allows the court reporter and the witness simultaneously to view and to orally communicate with each other, provided that the court reporter can positively identify the witness. [Rule 29\(G\), Ala. R. Jud. Admin.](#)

Governor Ivey signed Senate Bill 275, which permanently authorizes remote notaries public commissioned in the state to remotely notarize electronic documents. This was effective as of July 1, 2021.

Act 2023-548, which became effective September 1, 2023, amended some sections of the Code of Alabama 1975 relating to notaries public.

This Act requires an applicant for a notary commission to complete a training program prepared by the Alabama Probate Judges Association and the Alabama Law Institute that reinforces and updates the applicant's knowledge of all matters relevant to the appointment, authority, duties, and legal and ethical responsibilities of a notary public.

A notary public who is commissioned as of the effective date of this Act shall be required to complete the training requirement upon submitting an application for the renewal of his or her expired commission.

Act 2023-548 also increases the bond required of a notary public from \$25,000 to \$50,000. All existing notaries public functioning on January 1, 2023, shall continue to function pursuant to their existing bond for the remainder of their existing commission.

The form and content of any notarial act on an instrument to be recorded in the public records, including the court system, shall include an oath, acknowledgment, and signature of each party to the document, or his or her mark, and the signature of the notary public and their seal of office by either ink stamp or embossed impression.

Additionally, it provides for criminal offenses of Class C misdemeanors and Class D felonies, which are all outlined in Act 2023-548.

I encourage you to not only refer to the Court Reporters Manual for more information, but also to review the entirety of Act 2023-548 and the new revisions to Rule 29, Ala. R. Jud. Admin.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION -

Participate & Get Involved!

By Paula Price, CCR, RPR, CRR • District IV Director

Hello, my fellow Alabamian court reporters.

I hope as we approach the end of this year that you are well and pleased where your successes have brought you. As I reflect on my experiences in my career, I am grateful for the many opportunities I have embraced to try new and different things that our career gives. Serving on the Board as a Director has been one of the recent experiences and provided lots of learning for sure. I am amazed at the incredible strides this board makes in fostering a vibrant community of court reporters across our great state. I really encourage each of you to get involved with our association and see where you are needed. We all have something to offer. It has been eye-opening to see the many ways our association looks out for our interests.

Since I have been a court reporter, there's always been some form of technology vying for our profession. Our association continues to advocate for the interests of court reporters in Alabama daily. I would encourage each of you to participate in any advocacy efforts to ensure our voices are heard and our concerns are addressed. AI is all the rage right now. I'm anxious to see how we can incorporate this new technology into our profession, and being a part of this wonderful association, I am hopeful to figure this out.

Alabama Court Reporters Association is member-driven, so your involvement is crucial to our success. Whether you are interested in joining a committee or contributing to future FTRs, or sharing your experience at events, we always welcome your participation. I look forward to our annual conference in January each year. Our president-elect has worked hard planning a fun and informative time for everyone. Please plan to come to Birmingham and get those much-needed CEUs on January 19th and 20th, 2024. And while you're thinking about our conference, remember our basket raffle. If you can't create your own basket, please bring something you would like to donate and we will put things together for a basket and raffle them off for our association. I hope to see you all there.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Have you visited the ACRA Website lately?

Please visit us at www.alcra.org. We are working on adding lots of information for our members. *We welcome any suggestions you have for content on our website.*

ELEVATOR PITCHES*

Contributed By Liz Harvey, Lin Riffle, and Lisa Migliore Black

WHY DON'T YOU JUST RECORD THINGS?

Because it still has to be transcribed later by someone, and that process is inefficient and less secure. Even with advances in technology, it still takes four or more transcriptionists to do the same work as one stenographer can do in the same time frame. And when recordings are sent to multiple transcriptionists, who may be located anywhere in the world, the chances of errors increase. More importantly, the security of your client's private and confidential information could be compromised. We always use good technology to make our jobs better and easier, but just recording things is old technology and a step backwards, not forwards.

AREN'T YOU WORRIED YOU'LL BE OUT OF A JOB?

Not at all. Court reporters are early adopters of technology. Our writers are fully computerized. We have sophisticated software that utilizes the latest technology to instantly translate what we write into a readable transcript that requires minimal editing later. While there are many advances in technology, no other system is even close to being able to replicate what we do. Problems with overlapping speech, dialects and accents and speech patterns and noisy environments cause unacceptably high error rates in recording systems, even utilizing the latest voice recognition. Have you ever watched TV captioning that lags behind, misses entire exchanges, or contains nonsense? That's AI translation. When you see high quality captions, you're seeing a trained and skilled stenographer at work.

OH, YOU DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY STILL?

There's nothing old-fashioned about what we do. Our writers are fully computerized. We have software that enhances our skills to provide an instantaneous real-time transcript to anyone in the world, with higher accuracy rates than any voice recognition system currently in use. What's old-fashioned is simply recording proceedings and having to transcribe it later.

DON'T THEY JUST RECORD THAT NOWADAYS?

They're trying, but they will never replace the human brain. Have you ever run the closed captions on your TV? Sometimes they're really bad? That's when AI is doing the translating. The ones that are really good, make sense, and provide true accessibility to the viewers are done by a human using the same equipment and software as a court stenographer. If you're a litigant in a civil suit, a wrongfully accused defendant in a criminal matter, or you have a child custody issue, do you want a computer to "guess" at what is being said with predictive text? A highly trained professional stenographer that interrupts to clarify the record when necessary, has multiple backups, protects personal information and biometrics, and does a word-for-word review and certifies the final transcript is the better option.

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Elevator Pitches*

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WOW, THEY STILL DO IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY?

I have an audio backup that I use as an aid to transcription. Say a prescription name was said on the record. I can listen to the audio to help me find the spelling. What I don't do is release the audio to anyone or allow it to be sent via an unsecure connection over the Internet. Think about how some banks use voice recognition to allow you to log in to your account information over the phone. Your voice is a biometric identifier and something you wouldn't want to be in the hands of just anybody who could use it in a nefarious manner to hack your account. Hopefully, laws and regulations will catch up to the technology and hopefully protect us.

WHEN ARE YOU ALL GOING TO COME INTO THE DIGITAL AGE?

Have been for years. I've been using computer-aided transcription since I started court reporting. Realtime was a great advancement, allowing instant access to my draft transcript in the court or deposition room and now even remotely. My stenographic notes are watermarked with the time of creation and other metadata to protect the integrity of the record.

I'VE HEARD THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF COURT REPORTERS.

There's a shortage in a lot of fields: veterinarians, electricians, the service industry, even transcriptionists. For years, young adults have been steered toward traditional four-year degrees instead of considering a trade or business college program. NCRA has a program called A to Z that allows interested individuals, whether high schoolers or adults looking for a new career, to try out steno before they commit to a program. Most students can graduate in two to three years. If you're interested or know someone who is, I can give you some information.

WHAT IS DIGITAL REPORTING?

If you've encountered digital reporters before, you should be concerned about how and where your transcript is being prepared.

Digital reporting may sound high tech, but the digital reporter is merely recording and making "tag notes," not a full record of the proceedings. Digital reporters cannot keep up with the spoken word, and their tag notes are nothing more than a few words jotted down in haste, riddled with typos. Attorneys take more useful notes, quite frankly.

Digital reporting is nothing more than after-the-fact transcription that's typically not typed up by the person recording it, making it far more likely that testimony will be missed or inaccurate. Additionally, the digital reporter who recorded the deposition is more than likely fraudulently certifying its accuracy without ever having seen the transcript in final written form. Essentially, there's a good chance your transcript is being handled from start to finish by someone with little to no training or experience or true responsibility for the quality of the transcript produced.

If automated speech recognition is utilized to transcribe the proceedings, that comes with its own set of potential breaches of confidentiality. There's the potential for interception as it's uploaded to the cloud, and because the tech isn't reliable or accurate enough alone, gig workers across the globe are tasked with transcribing it. Think of the personal information

Elevator Pitches continues on page 13.*

*Elevator Pitches**

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that most transcripts contain: name, address, date of birth, Social Security numbers, and names of family members—all things that could be sold on the black market for nefarious purposes. Couple that with the biometric data that is contained in a video or audio file, and you have all the ingredients needed to create a recipe for disaster in terms of identity theft. ASR also had well-documented gender, race, and age discrimination built into it because of the data used to build its algorithms.

Speech recognition will continue to develop, but it's simply not an experiment you should be willing to take with your case.

*An elevator pitch is a brief (think 30 seconds!) way of introducing yourself, getting across a key point or two, and making a connection with someone. It's called an elevator pitch because it takes roughly the amount of time you'd spend riding an elevator with someone.

Recipes

Creamy Taco Soup

1 pound pork sausage
1 pound hamburger meat
1 small yellow onion, chopped
2 blocks of cream cheese
2 cans of tomatoes or Rotel
2 packs of taco seasoning
2 teaspoons of chili powder
4 cups of chicken broth
1-2 tablespoons Cilantro;
dried or fresh
shredded cheese

**Can add whole kernal corn
and/or black beans. I usually
add three (3) cans of corn.

Directions

Brown meats and add onion
to saute with meat. While
meats are browning, put taco
seasoning, cream cheese, and
tomatoes in Crock-Pot.

Drain grease from meats, then
place meat into Crock-Pot.
Pour in chicken broth. Cook on
low for four (4) hours or high
for two (2) hours.

Serve with shredded cheese and
Tostito chips.



ACRA EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2024 NOMINEES

Immediate Past President
Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, CRR

President
Mary Hicks Heinfeld, CCR

President-Elect
Cyndi Tumlin, CCR, RPR

Vice-President
Karen Strickland Planz, CCR

Secretary
Paula Price, CCR, RPR, CRR

Treasurer
Vicki Clark, CCR, RPR

Director, District I
Lori May, CCR*

Director, District II
Saralyn Hicks Britt, CCR

Director, District III
Tracye Blackwell, CCR, RPR*

Director, District IV
Travis Atkins, CCR

Parliamentarian
Cindy Greene, CCR, RPR⁺

* Currently serving 2-year term; ⁺Currently serving 3-year term

GET ACQUAINTED WITH OUR 2024 NOMINEES

BIOGRAPHIES



Sabrina Lewis
Immediate Past President

Sabrina Lewis, CCR, RDR, CRR, has been a court reporter since 1978. Sabrina has worked as a federal official, state official, and a freelance court reporter. She served on the Alabama Board of Court Reporting. Sabrina has presented seminars at the national and state level and has published articles in the National Court Reporters Association's Journal of Court Reporting and the Alabama Court Reporters Association newsletter, For The Record (FTR).

Mary Frances Heinfeld, CCR, attended the court reporting program at Gadsden State. She has been employed by the State of Alabama as a court reporter for 27 years. Prior to that, she began her career with Bain & Associates as a freelance reporter. In 1996, Mary became the roving court reporter for Tuscaloosa County. She was appointed to her current position as an official court reporter in 2006 and has served with the Honorable Brad Almond since 2008. Her previous service to our profession includes the ACRA Executive Board of Directors and various ACRA committees. She attended the National Court Reporters Association's Bootcamp, the Leadership Conference, and served on NCSA for one year.

Mary is the mother of two boys, Ford (31) and Thomas (21). She loves to travel and is an avid reader.



Mary Hicks Heinfeld
Nominee for President



Cyndi Tumlin
Nominee for President-Elect

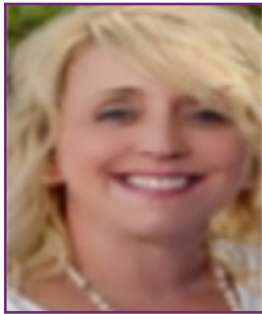
Cyndi has been court reporting since 1987 and is an RPR. After graduating from Gadsden State, she freelanced with Shoemaker & Associates in Huntsville and then as a firm owner of DeKalb Reporting Service for another dozen years. 1999 brought about transition to an official court reporter, serving DeKalb and Cherokee Counties for the next 16 years; then in 2015 transferring to Jackson County serving with the Honorable John H. Graham to present.

Cyndi lives in Rainsville up on beautiful Sand Mountain. She has two adult, married children and five lively grands who call her Lovey. This Lovey gig is truly a little slice of heaven right here on earth. She has served ACRA on two different occasions as District II Director, Treasurer, President-elect, President for two terms, as well as Immediate Past President. Cyndi also serves on the PAC Governing Committee through NCRA, as well as chair of the NCSA Southern Region within NCRA.

Get acquainted with our... continues on page 16.

Get acquainted with our . . .

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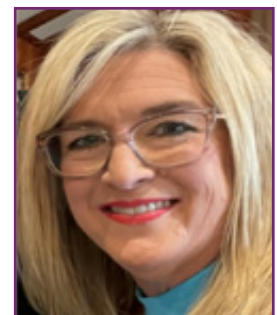
Karen Strickland Planz
Nominee for Vice-President

I received an associate degree in court reporting from the Court Reporting Institute of Dallas in 1987. Upon graduation, I moved to Birmingham, Alabama, and started my career with Foshee & Turner. In 1989, I moved to Dothan, Alabama, and together Stephanie German and I formed Court Reporting Associates, Inc.

In 2006, I began working for Alabama Office of Courts for Judge Denny Holloway for two years. After which, Judge Butch Binford received his appointment to the bench upon Judge Holloway's retirement in 2008. I continued working for Judge Binford and have now been an official court reporter for 17 years.

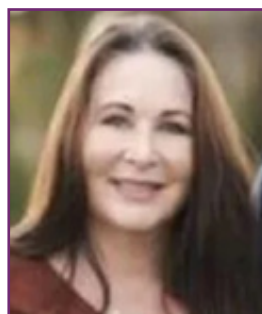
In my free time, I enjoy gardening, working out, cooking, and spending time with my grandchildren.

Paula Morgan Price, CCR, RPR, CRR, is a 1987 graduate of Gadsden State School of Court Reporting and is presently working as an official in the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Baldwin County for Judge Scott Taylor where she has worked for the last 20 years. Paula worked in freelance in Lafayette, Louisiana; shortly in Atlanta, Georgia; freelance/deputy official in Melbourne, Florida; official in Pensacola, Florida; and came home to Bay Minette in 2004 where she had always dreamed of working.



Paula Morgan Price
Nominee for Secretary

Paula is married to her high school sweetheart, George, whom she married in 2011. They share their home with two one-year old black goldendoodles, Axel and ZuZu, and a 14-year-old Yorkie-Poo named Ellie. They have two adult children, Tyler and Haley, and four grandchildren who keep them busy. In our spare time, we enjoy the beach and outdoor activities.



Vicki Clark
Nominee for Treasurer

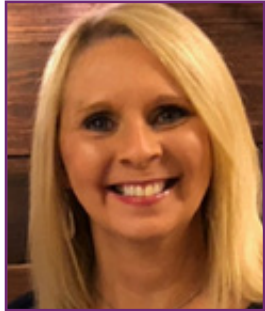
I am so honored to be your new Treasurer. From being pregnant with our first child and ringing the bell at Prince Institute in 1989, I still love being a court reporter! I freelanced for 10 years and then became an official in 1999. I have had the pleasure of working for two fantastic circuit court judges in Montgomery – Judge Tracy McCooey (1999-2014) and the amazing Judge Greg Griffin (2014 to present). I am so blessed!

I have been an RPR for approximately 11 years. Now, wife of 35 years to my very supportive husband, Chris, and mom to Ryan (33), Alyssa (24), and Peyton (18), I have the goal of becoming a CRR one day! Never give up! Always keep trying! Please email or call me anytime! I love discussing our wonderful career!

Get acquainted with our . . . continues on page 17.

Get acquainted with our . . .

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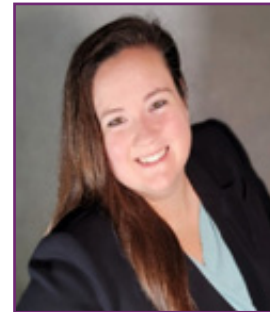


Lori May
Director, District I

Lori May, CCR, has been a court reporter since 1991. After attending Gadsden State Community College, Lori moved to Sebring, Florida, for a year where she had the opportunity to do court and freelance work. She moved back to the Birmingham area in 1992 and worked with National Court Reporting until 1995 when she married Mike and moved back to her hometown of Oxford, Alabama. She worked with Noble & Associates Court Reporters until 2001 when she and Mike moved to Chelsea, Alabama. This move gave her the opportunity to start May Court Reporting.

Mike and Lori have been married for 28 years, and they have a Miniature Schnauzer named Cooper. When Lori isn't working, she enjoys playing piano and singing at their church on the Worship Team.

Saralyn Hicks Britt graduated from Gadsden State's Realtime Reporting Program and obtained her Alabama CCR certification in April of 2021. She operated as an independent freelance reporter until 2022 when she entered the world of court officialship in Jackson County. She now serves as an official in Huntsville, Madison County. She is a current member of ACRA and NCRA. Her personal passions are scuba diving, dogs, and melding the worlds of tradition and technology.



Saralyn Hicks Britt
Director, District II



Tracye Blackwell
Director, District III

My name is Tracye Blackwell, CCR, RPR, and I am honored to be nominated as the new District III Director. After graduating high school in 1988, I enrolled into Prince Institute the very same year. I "rang the bell" in April of 1991 and have been freelancing for nearly 33 years now. I have been blessed with many wonderful mentors through the years, and I strive to pay it forward to the reporters that I am fortunate enough to build relationships with. I think knowledge is power and that we can all continue to learn and grow by coming together in this great profession.

I live in Montgomery with my husband and best friend, Mark. We have two daughters and sons-in-law and the most precious granddaughter, Wyatt. I truly love what I do and look forward to serving my district and association and hopefully making new friends along the way.

Get acquainted with our . . . continues on page 18.

Get acquainted with our . . .

continued from page 17.



Travis Atkins
Director, District IV

I graduated from Jacksonville State University in 1992 with a BS in Marketing. In 1997, I decided to go back to school for court reporting. I completed the program at Faulkner State in 1999 and was hired as a freelance reporter by Lois Robinson. I am beyond grateful to this day to Lois for all she taught me about being a reporter and to Barbara Littlejohn, Lois's office manager and my proofreader, who still corrects all my mistakes and makes me look professional.

I was hired as a Roving Court Reporter in the 13th Judicial Circuit, Mobile County, in 2008. The Honorable Charlie Graddick hired me as his official in 2013. When he retired in 2017, I was hired by the Honorable Sarah Stewart, now Justice Stewart, and stayed with her until her election to the Supreme Court in 2019.

I'm currently with the Honorable Wesley Pipes who is also the Presiding Judge of our circuit. It's exciting to work for the Presiding Judge in a busy circuit such as ours where you assist in lots of administrative duties in addition to your official reporting duties. It gives you a great perspective on how all functions of the courthouse operate and I'm grateful for the opportunities Judge Pipes has provided me.

My spouse, Jeff, and I have been together for 30 years and love to travel internationally. We currently have one rescue dog, Lily Grace, who will be 11 years old in January. We live right on the parade route for Mardi Gras, and she enjoys the parades and parties as much as we do.

I'm looking forward to assisting all the wonderful people who have helped make ACRA what it is today. If there is anything I can do to help anyone in my district, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cindy Greene, CCR, RPR, is in her 31st year as a court reporter. The first eight years of her career, she was a freelance court reporter. In 2000, she began working as a Mobile County Court Reporter at Strickland Youth Center in juvenile proceedings for a Circuit Judge, District Judge, as well as two court-appointed Court Referees. She is currently an Official Court Reporter in the 13th Judicial Circuit in Mobile, where she has been employed since 2004. Cindy is a past president of ACRA and is currently serving on ACRA in the first year of her three-year term as Parliamentarian and is the Legislative Chair.



Cindy Greene
Nominee for Parliamentarian





2024 "Steno in Steel City" CONFERENCE

January 19 - 20, 2024

Friday, January 19, 2024

5 CEUs available for Friday

7:00 to 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet located in the Daffodil Foyer		
7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION		
8:00 a.m.	OPENING REMARKS		
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.	In the Niche of Time	Johnny Dyess	1.5 CEUs
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	BREAK		
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	Active Shooter Situation - What Should You Do?	Chief Alex Miles	1.0 CEU
CONCURRENT SESSION Magnolia Room	Student Breakout Session What I Need to Know that I Didn't Know I Needed to Know	Margaret Turner, CCR, RPR Alan Peacock, CCR, FAPR, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CRC Candace Wood, CCR Cindy Greene, CCR, RPR	STUDENT SESSION
11:15 - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN		
1:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Inside The Murdaugh Trial	Mike Watkins, CSR	1.5 CEUs
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAK		
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Alabama Board of Court Reporting Panel	Victor Biebighauser Judge Claude Hundley Parian Tidwell, CCR, RPR, RMR, CRR Alan Peacock, CCR, FAPR, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CRC Margaret Turner, CCR, RPR Mary King, CCR, RPR, RMR	1.0 CEU
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	OPENING RECEPTION		Sponsored by TBA Friends, Music, Hors d'oeuvres

Saturday, January 20, 2024

5 CEUs available for Saturday

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION		
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Actual Intelligence: Protecting the Official Record	Jennifer Kissic, CCR	1.0 CEU
9:00 - 9:15 a.m.	BREAK		
9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	Court Reporting Current Events	Saba McKinley Roberts, RPR, CRI	1.0 CEU
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	BREAK		
10:30 - 11:30 p.m.	Coping with Generation Gaps in the Workforce	Wally Lowery	1.0 CEU
11:30 - 1:30 p.m.	ANNUAL BUSINESSS MEETING & LUNCHEON (LUNCH PROVIDED)		
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Preparing for High Profile Trials (part 1)	Judith Bellinger, RPR, CRR	1.0 CEU
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	BREAK & BASKET DRAWING		
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Preparing for High Profile Trials (part 2)	Judith Bellinger, RPR, CRR	1.0 CEU



Thank you for attending!



“Steno in Steel City”

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 19 - 20, 2024

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON + BIRMINGHAM PERIMETER PARK

MEET THE PRESENTERS

JOHNNY DYESS was born and raised in Elba, Alabama and attended Elba High School and the University of Alabama. He worked at Kleinerts, Inc., for 13 years. Johnny was a private contractor for 12 years. Currently, he is employed at Elba High School, where he has served for 11 years as Head of Groundskeeping and Assistant Football Coach.



CHIEF ALEX MILES is a native of Tuscaloosa County and graduated from Northside High School in 1997. Chief Miles started his career in law enforcement when he enlisted in the military in March 1997. Upon graduation from high school, Chief Miles attended US Army One Station Unit Training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, where he completed basic and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) training in his primary MOS of Military Police Officer (95B). Throughout his military career, Miles worked in both an active-duty and reserve capacity serving at various locations throughout the world. Chief Miles was deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, and numerous natural disasters including Hurricane Katrina. Miles also served as a Small Group Instructor and Total Army Instructor/Trainer from 2006-2011 with the 1st MP BN, 200th TRNG RGN where he helped train soldiers in obtaining the Military Police Officer MOS.



In 2007, Miles began his civilian law enforcement career with the University of Alabama Police Department. In May 2008, Miles began employment with the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy until being moved to the position of investigator with the Criminal Investigations Division in March 2009. In May of 2011, Miles was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

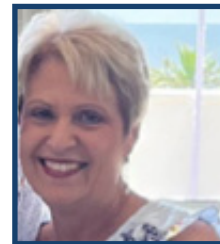
Meet The Presenters continues on page 21.

Meet The Presenters

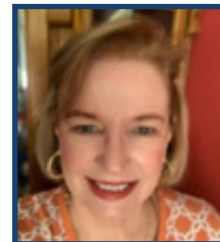
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In May of 2021, Miles was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. In January 2023, he was promoted to the rank of Chief. Throughout his career at the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Miles has attended numerous continuing education and developmental courses to include FBI SLEDS course, FBI and NRA firearms instructor's courses, FBI sniper school, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office (SEB) SWAT school. Miles has held numerous titles and responsibilities to include Jail Sergeant, CID Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Sergeant, Internal Affairs Investigator, Training Coordinator, Honor Guard, Sniper and Tactical Team Operator, along with K9 handler (Bloodhound) and K9 Unit Commander. Miles is currently assigned as Chief of Administration.

MARGARET TURNER, CCR, RPR has been a freelance court reporter for over 35 years. She graduated from Prince Institute at a time they had a school in the Mobile area. She holds licenses in Alabama, Mississippi, and Georgia, and previously held a license in Tennessee. Margaret has served on the ACRA Board in several capacities and currently serves on an NCRA committee as well as is a member of ABCR. Margaret enjoys reading, playing the piano and traveling. She has been married to her husband for 32 years and has one 30-year-old son. Margaret loves the profession and has a passion to keep it growing and as strong as the day she first began court reporting.



CANDACE (CANDY) WOOD, CCR is from Mobile, Alabama. She graduated from Shaw High School, where she began her career in the legal field working for school credit as a runner for a law firm. Subsequent to high school graduation, Candy worked at a couple of large law firms in Mobile as a legal secretary for 12 years and where she was first introduced to court reporting, her dream job. Eventually, Candy graduated from Prince Institute of Court Reporting in 1991 and joined Bay Area Reporting. In 1994, she founded Associated Reporters of Mobile and then, in September of 2021, joined Prolegal Court Reporters.



ALAN PEACOCK, FAPR, RPR, RMR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CCR was appointed for the Freelance Court Reporter Position on the Alabama Board of Court Reporting on January 31, 2019. His education background consists of AA Interpreter Training Program, Spartanburg Community College and a BS Education of the Deaf from the University of Southern Mississippi. Alan attended Biggers College of Court Reporting. He is a freelance court reporter and CART captioner with 30 years' experience in the court reporting and captioning fields. Alan's Accomplishments/Achievements are FAPR – Fellow of Professional Reporters, RPR – Registered Professional Reporter, RMR – Registered Merit Reporter, RDR – Registered Diplomat Reporter, CRR – Certified Realtime Reporter, CRC – Certified Realtime Captioner. He is state certified in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Illinois. Alan enjoys travel and time with his family and four dogs.

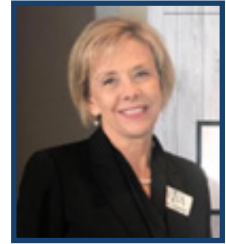


Meet The Presenters continues on page 22.

Meet The Presenters

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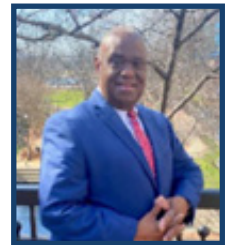
CINDY GREENE, CCR, RPR is an official court reporter for the 13th Judicial Circuit in Mobile, Alabama. She is in her 31st year as a court reporter. The first eight years of her career, she was a freelance court reporter. In 2000, she began working as a Mobile County Court Reporter at Strickland Youth Center in juvenile proceedings for a Circuit Judge, District Judge, as well as two court-appointed Court Referees. She is currently an Official Court Reporter in the 13th Judicial Circuit in Mobile, where she has been employed since 2004. Cindy is a past president of ACRA and is currently serving on ACRA as Parliamentarian and Legislative Chair.



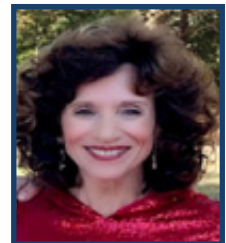
MIKE WATKINS has been reporting since 1991, beginning with work in Jasper, AL, at Walker County Court Reporting Firm. From 1991-94, he worked for several court reporting firms until he took an officialship position in Florence, AL, where he worked for three judges (Don Patterson, Alice Matin, and Mike Jones). In 2000, he began freelancing again with Adams and Holt in Charlotte, N.C. In 2002, Mike took an official position with the state of South Carolina and has been with them for almost 21 years. His two most high-profile trials were State of South Carolina versus Jamie Baldwin and State of South Carolina versus Alex Murdaugh.



JUDGE CLAUDE HUNDLEY was appointed to the District Court bench by Governor Robert Bentley on October 5, 2011, and then appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the Circuit Bench on December 5, 2018. Judge Hundley has presided over the Adult Drug Court since being originally appointed to the bench in 2011. He received his undergraduate degree and Master's Degree from the University of Alabama. His Juris Doctorate degree came from the University of Alabama School of Law. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he was engaged in a litigation practice for 26 years, handling cases throughout Alabama with a concentration on civil defense in the North Alabama region. He also served as a Bar Commissioner with the Alabama State Bar, previously serving as a substitute city judge for the City of Huntsville, City Prosecutor for the City of Madison and the City of Guntersville, Alabama, as well as a Special Circuit Judge between 2001 and 2004 in Madison County. He was President of the University of Alabama Law Alumni Association from 1998 to 1999. Judge Hundley was a member of the Board of Directors of Alabama Law School Foundation and presently serves on the University of Alabama President's Cabinet as Vice President, as well as its Executive Committee.



PARIAN TIDWELL, RPR, RMR, CRR, CCR was appointed to the Official Court Reporter position on the Alabama Board of Court Reporting on February 16, 2017. She was appointed Chair of ABCR on February 16, 2021. Parian is a 1981 Graduate of Lippert Court Reporting College, Plainview, Texas.



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On March 9, 1981, she began her career as an Official Court Reporter for the State of Alabama in the Seventh Judicial Circuit; Calhoun County; Anniston, Alabama, having the privilege to work for the Honorable Samuel H. Monk, II, and the Honorable R. Joel Laird, Jr., until 2005. In August of 2005, Parian had the privilege of being the Official Court Reporter for the Honorable Karen K. Hall for 18 wonderful years. As of August 1, 2023, she was honored to begin working for Judge Christian M. Comer, Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit; Madison County; Huntsville, Alabama.

Her accomplishments/achievements include the following: 1986 – National Court Reporters Association Registered Professional Reporter, 1994 – 1995 President of Alabama Court Reporters Association, 1999 – Alabama Court Reporters Association Distinguished Service Award Recipient, 1999 – National Court Reporters Association Registered Merit Reporter, 1995 – 2005 Editor, For The Record, Alabama Court Reporters Association Newsletter, 2007 – Alabama Certified Court Reporter, 2009 – National Court Reporters Association Certified Realtime Reporter. Parian is a member of the National Court Reporters Association and the Alabama Court Reporters Association.

MARY R. KING, CCR, RPR, RMR was appointed to the Official Court Reporter Position for the Alabama Board of Court Reporting on February 25, 2022 and serves as the current Secretary. She is a 1979 graduate of the Prince Institute of Professional Studies, Montgomery, AL.



Mary's work experience includes the following: December 2000-present: Official court reporter, 15th Judicial Circuit; Judge James Anderson 2016-present; Judge William Shashy 2000-2016; March 1982-November 2000: Freelance court reporter, Dunn, King & Associates, Montgomery, AL; June 1979-March 1982: Freelance court reporter, Richard Wilson & Associates, Montgomery, AL. She is a member of the National Court Reporters Association and the Alabama Court Reporters Association.

VICTOR K. BIEBIGHAUSER PROFESSIONAL HISTORY: Alabama Board of Court Reporting - Executive Director, November 2020-Present
South University, Montgomery, AL - President June 1994-December 2018 (retired)
CareerCom Corporation, Middletown, PA - Interim President and CEO, March 1993-May 1994; Senior Vice President and Secretary, February 1991-February 1993; Vice President, Administrative Services, April 1987-January 1991
Association of Independent Colleges & Schools, Washington, DC - Associate Executive Director, September 1985-March 1987; Assistant Executive Director, November 1978-August 1985; Program Specialist, February 1976-October 1978



EDUCATION:

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA - B.A. degree in History
Georgetown University, Washington, DC - Institute on Comparative Political and Economic Systems

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PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Alabama Association of Private Colleges & Schools, former president

Christchurch Anglican, vestry member 2010-2012, rector search committee member, 2013-2015, treasurer 2021-present

Chemical Addictions Program, member, board of directors, vice chairman

Pegasus Title, Inc., member, board of directors

Montgomery Rotary Club, past member board of directors, past member Rotary Foundation board of directors

Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100

River Region United Way

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Service to Independent Education, presented by Association of Independent Colleges & Schools, October 1986

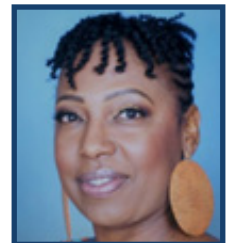
Doctor of Humane Letters, honorary degree conferred by Jones College, Jacksonville, FL, June 1986

Paul Harris Fellow recipient, accorded by Montgomery Rotary Club

JENNIFER, KISSIC, CCR received her court reporting degree from Gadsden State Community College in 2001. She worked as a freelance court reporter for two years. In 2003, she began working as an official court reporter for the 29th Judicial Circuit in Talladega County, Alabama, where she continues today for Presiding Circuit Judge Chad E. Woodruff. Jennifer is a member of the National Court Reporters Association and is a licensed court reporter in the state of Alabama. She has served on the Alabama Court Reporters Association board in many capacities and is currently the immediate past president. Jennifer currently co-chairs the ACRA Strong Committee, which seeks to educate about the importance of utilizing stenographic court reporters.



SABA MCKINLEY ROBERTS, RPR, CRI is a freelance court reporter and holds a degree in court reporting from Downey Adult School, Downey Calif., in 1990. She holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) and Court Reporting Instructor (CRI). She is also licensed and certified in the states of California and Tennessee.



Her professional experience includes providing stenographic reporting and transcription services for all court-related hearings in Los Angeles County, and on staff providing CART captioning services to students at Long Beach City and El Camino colleges and the University of California, Los Angeles. She launched her own agency, Divine-Scripts, LLC in 2014. Since moving to Tennessee, she has rebranded her agency with the name McRob Realtime Reporting, Inc.

At the national level, McKinley Roberts has presented on CART captioning and her Realtime Mastery program. She also served on NCRA's Captioning Committee from 2011 through 2020. Saba is currently a District Director for the National Court Reporters Association.

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At the state level, McKinley Roberts is a past chair of the California Court Reporters Association's (CCRA) Mentoring Committee, and she served on the organization's board of directors from 2013-2015. She has also served on CCRA's Captioning Committee and holds membership in the Deposition Reporters Association. McKinley Roberts has also authored numerous books on CART and realtime skill building.

WALLY LOWERY has been working with the Alabama Judicial System for over thirty years. As the Director of the Alabama Judicial College, he provides continuing education and training to over 3,500 court employees. He earned the Judicial Faculty Certification Certificate with the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Wally was also an Adjunct Instructor for Troy University from 1999-2021. There he taught multiple classes in Court Administration, Juvenile and Community Corrections Procedures, and Access to Justice. He earned his Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Troy University.

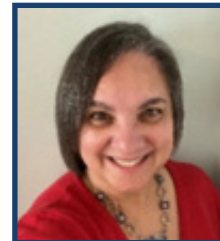


From June 2009 to July 2019, Wally was appointed to serve on the City of Troy Board of Education. He served three terms as President of the Board. He has served on the Alabama School of Alcohol & Other Drug Studies, Alabama Tobacco Prevention & Control Advisory Board, Montgomery Judicial Chapter for Alabama State Employees Association and is currently the Chairman of the National Fundraising Committee with the National Association of Judicial Educators.

On his off time, Wally co-hosts a Sports Talk Show on C-Spire Network entitled "Sports-Chat with Neal and Wally". You can also see their productions on CS2- YouTube and Facebook. Wally is also an avid folk-art painter and has sold his works to art lovers in 47 states and six countries worldwide.

JUDITH BELLINGER, RPR, CRR, TEXAS CSR, NEW MEXICO, CCR, WASHINGTON CCR

has been a freelance court stenographer since 1984; graduated from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio. She taught at the Stenotype Institute in Indianapolis, Indiana, is Past President of the then Indiana Shorthand Reporters Association, and served on several committees with ISRA. She has reported and provided realtime services for various high-profile depositions and trials throughout her career, including the NFL, NBA, NCAA, a 10-week murder trial in Indiana, State v. Camm, and most recently, the Depp v. Heard trial in Fairfax, Virginia. She also provides stenography services for several unions during their conventions and has provided CART for students at IUPUI, Purdue University, the former Wishard Hospital in Indianapolis, and The Indiana School for the Deaf. She considers her career a passion, not a job.





Amy Holland, CCR
Seventh Floor, County Courthouse
714 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401



Address SERVICE Requested

For The Record is published by the Alabama Court Reporters Association on a regular basis each year.

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

March 15, 2024
June 15, 2024
September 15, 2024
December 15, 2024

Deadline for articles and ads is **30 days** immediately preceding the above publication dates. Please submit articles, ads, etc., in **DIGITAL FORMAT** attached to an email to:
Amy Holland, awholland22@outlook.com

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sabrina.lewis@bellsouth.net

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1/4 Page for 2022 issues: \$40
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Submit payment to:

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