**Have you thanked your captioner today?**

**Celebrate your captioner during NCRA’s 2024 Court Reporting & Captioning Week**

2024 Court Reporting & Captioning Week, hosted by the [National Court Reporters Association](https://www.ncra.org/), is happening Feb. 3-10 and marks the perfect opportunity to showcase the skills of your station’s captioners and to share with your viewers more about the unique careers stenographic court reporting and captioning offer.

Please help us showcase this unique profession and increase the public’s awareness of what stenographic captioners do. Captioners do wonderful work to help better the lives for millions of Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing by providing captioning in real time for live sporting and theater events, church services, movie houses, and many other venues.

Please consider inviting your captioner to appear on one of your network’s morning programs or local news broadcasts to demonstrate how captioning works, share stories about the various captioning jobs they’ve been involved with, and shine a light on the importance of captioning.

Included below are some fun and interesting facts about the stenographic captioning and court reporting profession:

* Capturing the record of important proceedings dates back to the fourth century B.C.
* The ampersand (&) is one of the earliest forms of shorthand.
* There are official court reporters who are employees of the court, freelance deposition reporters, broadcast captioners, and CART captioners (Communications Access Realtime Translation — often employed in classroom settings to assist students who are deaf and hard of hearing).
* In an emergency situation, broadcast captioners can provide vital information to 50 million Americans who are deaf and hard of hearing.
* Court reporters and captioners use cutting edge technology to bring the spoken word accurately to text in real time.
* There is a steady need for more stenographic court reporters and captioners to fill positions across the nation.

Court reporters and captioners rely on the latest in technology to use stenographic machines to capture the spoken word and translate it into written text in real time. These professionals work both in and out of the courtroom recording legal cases and depositions, providing live captioning of events, and assisting members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with gaining access to information, entertainment, educational opportunities, and more.

If you’re looking for a career that is on the cutting edge of technology, offers the opportunity for work at home or abroad, like to write, enjoy helping others, and are fast with your fingers, then the fields of court reporting and captioning are careers you can explore at [*NCRA/discoversteno.org*.](https://www.ncra.org/discoversteno)

[The NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](https://www.ncra.org/discoversteno) program, a free online six-week introductory course, lets participants see if a career in court reporting or captioning would be a good choice for them. The program is an introduction to stenographic theory and provides participants with the opportunity to learn the basics of writing on a steno machine. There is no charge to take the course, but participants are required to have access to a steno machine or an iPad they can use to download the [iStenoPad app](https://www.ncra.org/home/students-teachers/careers-in-court-reporting-captioning/find-a-job/ncra-a-to-z-online-program-machine-rental).

To arrange an interview with a working court reporter, captioner, legal videographer, or a current court reporting student, or to learn more about the lucrative and flexible court reporting or captioning professions and the many job opportunities currently available, contact *pr@ncra.org*.

[About NCRA](https://www.ncra.org)

*The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 12,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator, and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership.* [*NCRA’s STRONG Committee*](https://www.ncra.org/home/get-involved/ncra-strong---home) *promotes stenographic captioning and court reporting as the best means to maintain the accuracy of the record. One of its missions is to combat false proclamations that digital and automatic speech recognition (ASR) methods of capturing the spoken word are equal to superior to stenographic means and/or that these methods are less expensive.*

*Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to be one of the fastest areas of projected employment growth across all occupations. According to* [247/WallSt.com](https://247wallst.com/special-report/2020/06/26/college-majors-with-the-lowest-unemployment-3/5/)*, the court reporting profession ranks sixth out of 25 careers with the lowest unemployment rate, just 0.7 percent. Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at* [NCRA DiscoverSteno.org*.*](https://www.ncra.org/discoversteno)