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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Sarah Vaught Nageotte honored with NCRA 2024 Distinguished Service Award
Official federal court reporter from Cleveland, Ohio., becomes 63rd to earn the national award

RESTON, Va., Aug 6, 2024 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, today bestowed its highest honor, the 2024 Distinguished Service Award (DSA), on Sarah E. Nageotte, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, an official federal court reporter from Jefferson, Ohio. Nageotte was honored at a special awards ceremony held at the 2024 NCRA Conference & Expo Aug. 1-3 at The Galt House in Louisville, Ky.

The NCRA DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting and captioning professions, including service to NCRA as a member, a committee member, a director, or an officer of the Association. Other displays of distinguished work include contributing to the *JCR*, the official membership magazine, service to a state or local court reporting association, or service in the field of public relations or public affairs. Award winners are nominated by their peers and are recognized each year at the NCRA Conference & Expo.

Nageotte holds the nationally recognized professional certifications of Registered Diplomate Reporter (RDR), Certified Realtime Reporter (CRR), and Certified Realtime Captioner (CRC), and is a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters (FAPR).

She has been an official court reporter since 1998 and is currently employed by the U.S. District Court Northern District of Ohio. She has also worked as an official reporter for the Ashtabula County Common Pleas Court in Ohio, and the Crawford County Common Pleas Court in Pennsylvania.



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In addition to NCRA, Nageotte holds membership in the U.S. Court Reporters Association and the Ohio Court Reporters Association and is a past member of the Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association.

In 2014, Nageotte became the youngest president elected to lead NCRA. Since 2007, she has served on an array of NCRA committees and in all positions on the Association's Board of Directors. She currently is in her 17th year serving as a qualified grader for the Association's skills examinations. Her volunteerism over the years to NCRA has included service on the Officials Community of Interest Committee as well as the CAPR Verification, Social Networking, Policies & Procedures, New Professionals Advisory, Nominating, and CEO/Executive Director Search committees. She has served on the following Task Forces: New Affiliates, Strategic Alliance, Grassroots Realtime (TRAIN), and Education (VEETF), and has also served twice as a liaison to the Court Reporters Advisory Group of the U.S. Courts.

At the state level, Nageotte has volunteered for a variety of activities and committees for the Ohio Court Reporters Association (OCRA), where she currently also serves as its executive director. She is also a past president of OCRA. She currently serves on the Association's Website/Public Relations Committee. Other committees she has served on include the Proactive Planning Task Force and the Legislative, Marketing, and Certification committees.

A presenter at both the national and state levels, Nageotte is also the recipient of numerous awards including the 2015 OCRA Diplomat Award, the 2012 OCRA Legislative Award, and the 2008 OCRA Glenn W. Stiles, Jr. Distinguished Service Award. She has also been a frequent contributor to the *JCR* print magazine as well as state publications.

Nominations from her peers for NCRA's 2024 DSA included adjectives such as devoted, committed, and working above and beyond to promote and further the stenographic court reporting and captioning professions.

"Sarah's devotion to her profession is readily apparent in everything she does. She does so much more than observe. I have watched her evolve from a volunteer for OCRA to serving in the highest ranks of NCRA. She exemplifies professionalism in every interaction. She has made a tremendous impact on me personally and professionally," said Allison A. Kimmel, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, an official court reporter and broadcast captioner from Marysville, Ohio.

"I know no one with more enthusiasm about stenography than Sarah. She is an advocate for the profession, and she regularly takes extra steps to demonstrate to other court reporters how they can



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be better advocates as well,” added Marlana M. Haig, RPR, CRI, a freelance court reporter from Indianapolis, Ind.

“Sarah is a visionary leader with a great knowledge of governance, I believe she is deserving of the DSA because Sarah doesn’t stop with being a leader. Sarah is a cultivator of leaders ... she is continuously bringing up the next group of people to leaders,” noted Meredith A. Bonn, RPR, CRR, an official court reporter from Webster, N.Y.

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.

[The NCRA A to Z® Intro to Steno Machine Shorthand](#) 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](#).

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](#)

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) has been internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word for 125 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](#) 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.



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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, 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](http://NCRA.DiscoverSteno.org).