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NCRA celebrates passage of Michigan HB 5046

A major bipartisan victory for judicial integrity; this will be the first rate increase in the state since 1986

RESTON, Va., Dec. 19, 2024 —The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, proudly applauds the Michigan legislature for the successful passage of House Bill 5046. This historic legislation marks the first increase in the page rate for stenographic court reporters in Michigan since 1986, recognizing the invaluable role these dedicated public servants play in the administration of justice every day.

“Stenographic court reporters are the unsung heroes of our judicial system, serving with unwavering dedication to ensure that every word spoken in court is accurately recorded for posterity,” said NCRA President Keith R. Lemons, FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.). “Their commitment to precision, confidentiality, and professionalism underpins the integrity of legal proceedings across Michigan and the country,” he added.

“On behalf of our 12,000 members across 50 states, NCRA extends its heartfelt gratitude to Representative Nate Shannon, the primary sponsor of HB 5046, for his leadership and foresight in championing this crucial bill, as well as Representatives Carol Glanville, Kelly Breen, and Kara Hope,” said NCRA Executive Director Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC.

“We are also grateful for the overwhelming bipartisan support for this historic piece of legislation. Moreover, we recognize the efforts of the Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety Committee and its chair, Senator Stephanie Chang for their role in bringing this legislation to fruition,” he noted.

Special acknowledgment goes to the tireless advocacy of NCRA members and Michigan's court reporting community. Their dedication to advocating for fair compensation reflects their commitment not only to their profession but to the public they serve.

"HB 5046 is a testament to the hard work and resilience of Michigan's stenographic court reporters," said Colin Brehm, NCRA’s State Government Relations Manager. "This bill not only acknowledges the essential service provided by these public servants but also sets a precedent for recognizing the value of court reporting across the country."



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NCRA looks forward to advocating Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to sign HB 5046 into law, ensuring that Michigan's stenographic court reporters receive the compensation they deserve, which will undoubtedly encourage more individuals to join this noble profession.

The public is invited to learn more about judicial integrity and how to advocate for their community's stenographic court reporter by visiting the [NCRA Advocacy Action Center](#) and [resource library](#).

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 to text for more than 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.

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



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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).