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Local court reporting student wins scholarship
Gillian Hassert from Summit, N.J., is recipient of \$500 award

RESTON, Va., Dec. 4, 2024 —The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country’s leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, captioners, and legal videographers, has announced that Gillian Hassert, a court reporting student from Summit, N.J., and a student at Alfred State College in Alfred, N.Y., is the 2024 recipient of the Association’s Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) scholarship prize of \$500.

Four additional scholarships were also awarded in the amounts of \$250, \$750, \$1,000, and \$1,500. To be eligible to apply, students must currently be attending an NCRA-approved court reporting program, have an exemplary academic record, and have passed one skills test writing at 160 wpm or above at the time of submission. In addition, applicants must submit an essay on a topic chosen by CASE.



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Hassert said she learned about the court reporting profession from a friend of a friend, attended a free introductory course, and was approached by Alfred College about starting its court reporting program.

“I’m also an actor, and I wanted to find a career that I could pursue that would run parallel to performing. Since I often go through stretches of unemployment with performing, this was a perfect complement,” Hassert said. “Eventually I hope to be able to take depositions during the day and perform at night!”

Currently working on her exit exams, she anticipates graduating later this month. She plans to take her Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) exam in the spring of 2025 and hopes to work as a freelance court reporter taking depositions during the day while she pursues her acting career at night. She said she also hopes to eventually shift into captioning to serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities with the ultimate goal of captioning live performances.

Hassert added that she plans to use the scholarship funds to help offset the costs she has already incurred purchasing a new steno machine and soon to be professional software.

For more information on the [CASE Student Scholarship](#), please contact the Education Department at schools@ncra.org.

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](#).



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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 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.