

tion of witnesses, and closing arguments. It was excellent practice for the UCLA law school team as well as for the student court reporters.

The Court Reporting Department shared with the UCLA team NCRA's pamphlet, "Making the Record: A Guide for Attorneys." This booklet was written to "help the bench and bar better understand the factors that help make a clear record." The booklet points out that the record is used before, during, and after trial for trial preparation, briefs, impeachment purposes, and appellate review, and that attorneys and court reporters work together to create the best record. Thus, attorneys and future attorneys need to be aware of how the record is created and how to make the best record (like reminding witnesses to answer out loud instead of just nodding their heads).

Judge Balmages ruled on objections and kept order in the trial and then gave the student attorneys feedback at the conclusion, after which everyone was

invited to stay for pizza and soft drinks. As the participants mingled and discussed the day's proceedings, it was agreed that this mutually beneficial activity should be repeated on a regular basis.

Vykki Morgan, RDR, CRI, CPE, is an instructor at Cerritos Community College in Norwalk, Calif.

MEDIA WATCH

ER GETS FAILING MARKS IN ILLINOIS

The February 25–26 edition of the Waukegan, Ill., *News-Sun* reported that courts in Illinois are seeking reporters after many digital audio installations in various suburban Chicago counties were found to be inadequate replacements.

Staff writer Art Peterson wrote that court administrators had reduced court reporter staffing to minimum levels in many courts as electronic recording sys-

tems were installed.

"However, the technology has proven to be a failure in some courts and mediocre in others, with bright spots only here and there, depending on which manufacturer's system is used," Peterson wrote. "On the McHenry County side of Circuit Court, half the courtroom systems were deemed failures; the Lake County side avoided installing the electronic systems.

"The Illinois Legislature recently removed court reporters from the oversight of the Supreme Court and shifted them to the chief judges of each circuit.

"Now the chief judges have the authority to bring staffing levels of human court reporters back up to at least adequate levels, and to use electronic recording where live court reporters are not available."

WHERE THOSE TV CAPTIONS COME FROM

The Glens Falls, N.Y., *Post-Star* published an article discussing the technical



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MEMBER PROFILE



Name: Henry J. Karasch, RMR

Occupation: Freelance reporter and owner

Hometown: West Chester, Pa.

Member since: 1964

What do you love about being a court reporter?

Reporting — and, of course, God — have given me the opportunity to work in three states and three wonderful cities. I've progressed from official reporter for 20 years and then as a

freelancer for 20 years to becoming an agency owner doing work worldwide and loving every minute.

What has been the highlight of your career?

Presenting my only daughter with her diploma from the Orleans Technical Institute as a court reporter.

What are you currently reading?

The Power of Now by Eckhart Tolle.

What words do you live by?

You get more out of living by giving.

process in which live television captions are fed to subscribing networks. Once captioners dial into a phone line that plays a live feed, they send the transcription into a computer-aided transcription system. The text is then sent to a caption encoder via a modem, and the coded text is then sent out to the various subscribing networks. Several of the challenges discussed are live sporting events, which are usually fast-paced and often involve rapid-fire commentary. Local dialects can challenge the captioner as well, as they may not be familiar with certain terms. TV stations are now required by the FCC to provide closed captioning during emergencies or face penalties.

FAULTY COURT REPORTING MAY LEAD TO NEW TRIAL FOR CONVICTED KILLER

Raleigh-Durham, N.C., news media reported in February that an incomplete and incoherent transcript may result in a new trial for convicted killer Travis Walters. Walters was found guilty of killing Betty Jane Oxendine and was sentenced to death. He might get a new trial because the transcript is considered by some to be unintelligible enough to prevent the appeals court from reviewing the case. A second court reporter found the original reporter's notes to be missing testimony and key information. The court will

decide whether to conduct a new trial.

GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPTS CHALLENGED

Kentucky newspapers reported that Attorney General Greg Stumbo's office has been accused of altering transcripts in the special grand jury investigation of Gov. Ernie Fletcher's administrative personnel. Thirteen people were indicted in the case. The Transportation Cabinet has accused Stumbo's office staff of producing the transcripts themselves instead of hiring a court reporter. The cabinet's attorney, Rob Roark, notes that there are numerous inconsistencies in the transcript, most visibly noted by handwritten notes that display conflicting messages as well as differences between the transcript and audio recording. Roark has requested the Personnel Board to disregard the written transcripts.

STENO BRIEFS

Federal Court Briefs

BY ANTHONY FRISOLONE

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 airport AEURPT
 assistant U.S. SDAUS
 attorney

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 Central Intelligence Agency KAE/NAME
 CIA KAE
 Crime Family/cocaine KRAOEUF
 cocaine base KAEN
 crack cocaine KROIB
 KROIK
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 DR-J
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 Immigration Customs Enforcement AOEUS/NAME
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 Magistrate Judge MU*-J
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