

### DAUGHTER OF SLAIN COURT REPORTER SUES SHERIFF

The daughter of Julie Ann Brandau has filed suit against a Fulton County sheriff and eight deputies, blaming them for the death of her mother. Brandau, a court reporter, was killed during a shooting spree in March 2005 in an Atlanta courthouse.

Christina Sholte's lawsuit alleges that the sheriff and deputies did not provide adequate protection for the defendant, Brian Nichols, who is charged with the shootings. He is charged with overpowering a deputy, taking her gun, and killing Brandau; the presiding judge, Rowland Barnes; and two others. Nichols was at the courthouse attending a hearing on a rape charge against him. According to Sholte, the killings could have been prevented if the sheriff and his deputies would have responded to information received about the danger posed by Nichols.

Judge Barnes' wife, Claudia Barnes, filed a wrongful death suit in October

against the sheriff and several of the deputies.

Reported in the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* on January 31.

### SUPREME COURT SUSPENDS REPORTER FOR UNTIMELINESS

A court reporter in Arkansas has been suspended for continually turning in transcripts late. She is to remain on probation until January 2007 to give her time to catch up, according to court officials. The court reporter cites work overload as the reason for the delay. Many of the attorneys who have worked with her described her as a hard worker whose work is above reproach.

### HIGH-TECH ENABLES EMPLOYEES

An article in the *Society for Human Resource Management Online* reported that 36 percent of the working population uses some sort of assistive technology in the workplace. It discussed the different resources available to assist those who are blind or have poor eyesight, are deaf

or hard of hearing, and have other disabilities. Many companies mistakenly believe that accommodating those with disabilities will burn a hole in the company's pocket, but there more than 2,000 companies in the marketplace that provide assistive technologies. Many government programs and states offer loan programs and grants to businesses in need of assistive technology. Medicare covers those with disabilities over age 65 and the federal government also offers tax incentives to businesses to help defray these costs.

### IN MEMORIAM

#### ROBERT D. CHURCH

Former Associate Member Robert D. Church, who retired last year after more than 30 years with the Mississippi Judicial College, died November 1 in Oxford, Miss., after a brief illness.

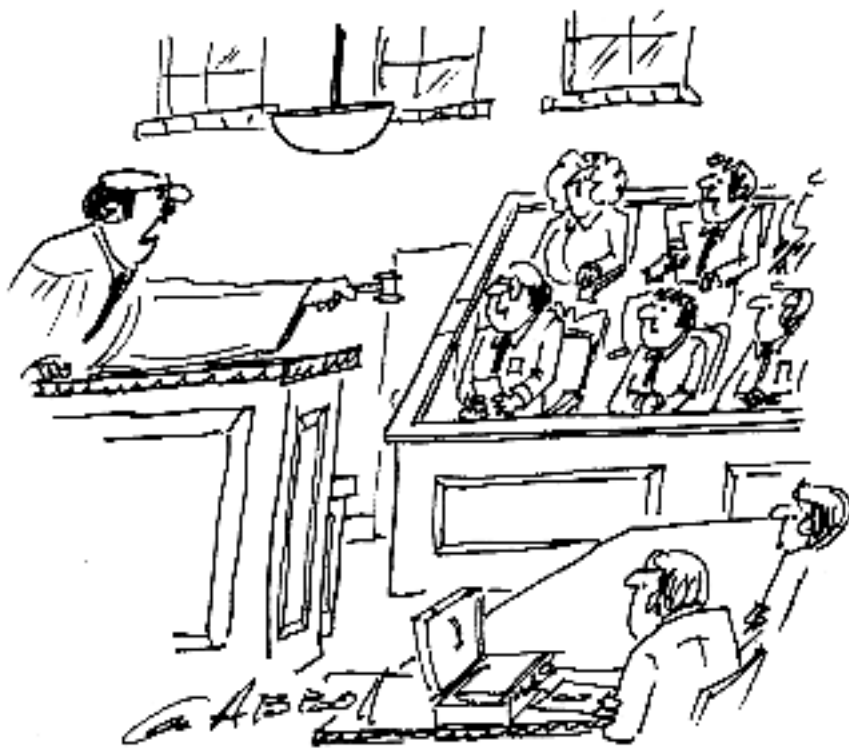
Although Bob worked with many of the professional legal associations in Mississippi during his tenure with the Judicial College, he had a special place in his heart for the court reporters of the Mississippi Court Reporters Association. Bob traveled to many NCRA conventions over the years and made many court reporter friends from around the country. He was an advocate for continuing education for Mississippi court reporters and insisted that the top speakers from the NCRA conventions come to Mississippi to educate our reporters as an integral part of Mississippi's annual court reporter seminars.

From my first MCRA meeting in 1982, I will always picture Bob patrolling the hallways and herding all the socializing court reporters to the start of the seminars, adamant that we stay on schedule.

Bob was married to Juanita England for 54 years. She preceded him in death. They had a son, Robert Jr., and the apple of Bob's eye was his granddaughter, Caroline England Church.

Bob has passed away, but he will always be loved and fondly remembered by the court reporters of Mississippi and from around the country.

Cay T. Wisner  
Biloxi, Miss.



"Just read the verdict. We don't give you a drum roll."