

Q&A

Work Smarter, Not Harder

I think that the best tip for working smarter, not harder, would be to use your networking abilities. After 27 years in this field, all working within the court system as an official in Illinois, I have been helped countless times by fellow reporters I have gotten to know through seminars, associations, etc. I use the NCRA Online Forum and the Illinois Court Reporters Association discussion forum to get fast answers to any questions I may have that relate to any number of areas in court reporting. In addition, from time to time I have been known to Google other court reporting state associations for answers to court reporter issues. The best part of this tip is you often look very smart, and it also appears as if you can get the answers you need for yourself and others in a very short period of time. As an added bonus, you get to meet exceptionally bright people who share similar interests with you.

*Kristin Ashenhurst, RDR, CRR
Macomb, Ill.*

As a working reporter, I found I wrote a fast and accurate record by writing several strokes without hesitation rather than trying to memorize every brief form that was available. I believe that as a student it slowed my progress to try to make sense of briefs that were not natural to me.

Anonymous

Know when to call it quits for the night. Choose a time when most jobs let out — maybe between 4 and 7 p.m. — close your home office door, don't take any more work-related calls, and leave your work load to be picked up again in the morning.

*Courtney Sowards, RPR
Warren, Mich.*

I live by the rule: Don't try to reinvent the wheel. I proudly claim that I copy from the best.

*Virginia Kling
Long Beach, Calif.*

al Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Supported by technology leaders Microsoft and GeoTrust, the NNA has developed the components of the system: an Electronic Notary Seal and a National eNotary Registry.

As the nation's first statewide, operational eNotarization network, the system is expected to serve as a working model for the nation. Notaries are official, state-appointed witnesses for important transactions, and they provide a critical service in protecting the public against forgeries, mortgage fraud, and, increasingly, identity fraud.

The NNA is the nonprofit professional association for America's 4.5 million Notaries Public. Please visit www.nationalnotary.org for more information.

JUDGE TO CONSIDER NEW EVIDENCE IN CASE AGAINST COURT REPORTER

A Colorado Supreme Court judge refused the prosecution's request to jail a former court reporter for refusing to produce transcripts for multiple cases from 1999 to 2002. The Supreme Court also refused to take up Barnes' appeal on the case. The proceedings regarding the transcripts included attempted murder and sexual assault convictions. The court reporter, Valeri Barnes, stopped working on the transcripts in August 2004 when she left her job and began employment in the federal courts and has since refused to complete them. She cited that she was not legally obligated to complete the work and that health concerns related to breast cancer treatment prevented her from doing so. A June 3 hearing has been scheduled to consider new evidence regarding Barnes' health problems and to formally hear the Supreme Court's decision on reconsidering an appeal submitted by Barnes.

TEXAS APPROVES CHANGES TO ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES POLICY

The Texas Court Reporters Certification Board has approved the following changes/additions to its policy on electronic signatures:

1. Modify the previous policy by eliminating the keys requirement for encrypted digital signatures. At the September 17, 2005, board meeting, the board approved encrypted digital signatures with keys as a secure method for court reporters when using electronic signatures. It was later determined that the keys requirement may be too onerous and subsequently, the board approved encrypted digital signatures (with no keys) as a secure method for electronic signatures on the first certification (i.e., to

certify the accuracy of a transcript).

2. Power of attorney and faxed signatures were determined to be unacceptable methods for electronic signatures on the first certification (i.e., to certify the accuracy of a transcript), to become effective 90 days hence from the January 28, 2006, board meeting.

For more information, please visit www.tcra-online.com/.

PENNSYLVANIA LAUNCHES ELECTRONIC NOTARIZATION SYSTEM

The National Notary Association, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of State and a special team of the Commonwealth's county recorders, launched a statewide electronic notarization system on February 2, at the Nation-

STENO BRIEFS

Court Briefs

BY PATRICIA NILSEN

adversary
advice of rights form
allocate

AEFRS
VORM
KLAOUT

allocation	KLAOUBGS	drug enforcement	DRUFRMT	marijuana	MARN
BOP	BO*P	Eastern District	AOEFRD	money laundering	MAURNG
Bureau of Prisons	BAOURPS	ecstasy	EKTS	motions in limine	MOILS
cocaine	KWAIN	Federal	FRAL	package	PAG
calculate	KLAIT	Federal Rules	FRAOULZ	plastic bag	PLAB
calculation	KLAIBGS	forfeit	FOIFRT	Probation Department	PRARMT
contraband	KRABD	fraudulent	FRAUNT	probation officer	PRAUFR
controlled substance	KRUBS			Southern District	SOUD
Count 1	KWUN	Government Exhibit	GIBT	Special Agent	SPAGT
Count 2	KWAO	grand juror	GROR	special assessment	SPEMT
Count 3	KWAOE	grand jury	GR-J	speedy trial	SPRAOIL
Count 4	KWOUR	gross pecuniary gain	GR-PG	Speedy Trial Act	SPRAKT
Count 5	KWAOIF	gross pecuniary loss	GR-PLS	substantive	SBAEF
Count 6	KWIX			summary judgment	SMUMT
Count 7	KWEFN	heroin	HAIRN	superseding indictment	SPAOIMT
Count 8	KWAET			supervised release	SPRAOELS
Count 9	KWAOIN	indictment	DAOIMT		
Count 10	KWEN			waiver of indictment	WAIFRMT
DEA	DAEFPLT	Lanham Act	LAKT	with intent to supply	SBAOI
defraud	DWRAUD	law enforcement	LAUFRMT	with intent to distribute	SBIBT
downward	DWARD	magistrate	MAJT		
downwardly depart	DWARLT	magistrate court	MOURT		
		magistrate judge	MUJ		

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