



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy.”

-Marie Curie



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THE GUARDIAN

College of Court Reporting

Issue 10

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I'm a Court Reporter, and I Play One on TV

By Megan Rogers



Cindy Sebo portrays a court reporter on *House of Cards* (in blue on right). Photo credit: Tracey Bolyston

More television shows are including court reporters in courtroom and other scenes, but working reporters know the chagrin of seeing an inaccurate portrayal. Several shows have been using real court reporters as extras to bring in some authenticity. Recently, NCRA members Sarah Linder and Cindy

Sebo, RMR, CRR, have made their small-screen debut playing the court reporter on television.

For me, the best part of this experience was just art imitating life, said Sebo, a freelance reporter from Bowie, Md., who appeared on *House of Cards*. “I was a court reporter for the House of Representatives, and here I am playing one on TV.

The two members had slightly different paths getting the part. Linder’s appearance on *Nashville* was prompted by the show calling Elite Reporting Services, located in Franklin, Tenn., where she works, “looking for a real stenographer.” One of Sebo’s friends went to a casting call for *House of Cards* where she heard the show was looking for a court reporter. The friend encouraged Sebo to submit a profile, which included her credentials and photos of her steno machine. “A few months later, I got a call from the casting agency telling me I was hired and what I would be doing,” said Sebo, who played the court reporter writing character President Frank Underwood’s State of the Union. The agency was particularly interested in her experience working at the House of Representatives.

Linder was given instructions on her wardrobe and when to show up for *Nashville*. *House of Cards* was using footage from a previous State of the Union, so Sebo had to match the court reporter from the footage, including wearing a wig. “They were very particular about matching me as closely as possible to the court reporter,” she said. “They showed me zoomed-in pictures of the real court reporter [including] her hair, her jewelry, her suit color, her steno machine.” Sebo added that it was particularly surreal that she recognized the court reporter from the photos.

Students of the Month

Donna Alexander

Donna Alexander started with CCR in the F15 semester. She is excelling in her SH-level class. She submitted over 60 self-evaluations during the summer semester, is finishing up her 140 literary and QA evaluations, and is starting on her 160 JC evaluations.

You are doing awesome,
Donna!



Ashley Guillermo

Ashley is a hardworking student who recently entered SH230 and is already working on her exit speeds for jury charge! She is also working on tackling her 180Q so she can start interning! Despite working part time and raising her daughter, she always makes time to practice and transcribe evaluations!

You'll be a professional reporter in no time, Ashley!

"The set is a crazy moving puzzle that never stops," said Linder. "The crew is the hardest working set of people I have ever seen. It was almost like synchronized chaos." Linder was on set for about 23 hours over the course of two days, but out of that time, "I was probably in the courtroom for a total of an hour tops while they were taping," she said. "It is unreal how many times they shoot one scene." Each shot was done at different angles with lighting and camera adjustments. "After watching what they were filming, I realized that this courtroom scene is probably not going to last very long when it comes to final edit on the TV show," said Linder.

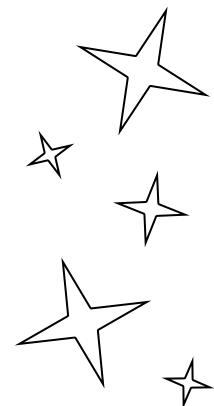
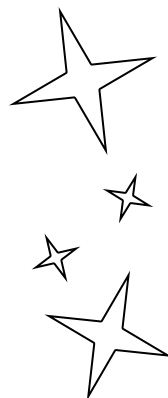
Sebo had a similar experience. "I was on set pretty much the entire time. If you've seen a State of the Union address, you may have noticed that the court reporter sits prominently in the front, so I was in every take," she said. When Kevin Spacey, who plays Frank Underwood, came in, Sebo explained, "We did the first take, and he was spot-on perfection. I was thinking, 'Wow, we are already done in one take?' Boy, that goes to show you how little I knew about filming. We ended up doing about 35 takes." Sebo also noted that because the House floor on set had only six to eight rows with extras standing in for the audience, it took several takes to replicate the 435 seats on the floor. She added, however, that the set was a striking resemblance to the real thing. "I felt like I was back at the House of Representatives going to work every day," she said. And, there was a familiar face among the extras. "Turns out [my friend] got called to be an extra, too, on the same day I was there shooting. She played a congresswoman in the audience, said Sebo.

Linder saw similarities to her regular work day as well. "I set up [my equipment] normally like I would any other day in court with my machine and laptop doing realtime for myself," she said. "I am not too sure if they actually got a shot of me writing on my machine."

For both members, the overall experience was enjoyable. "I met so many wonderful people during this process and, of course, became Facebook friends with them so I can keep up with their journeys of doing this day after day," said Linder.

"You know, sometimes court reporting can be very challenging," said Sebo. Some days can be really tough, but this was a truly amazing day and something I'll never forget."

Re-printed from JCR



Words from a Wise Ol' Owl...



I have been reading a book recently about living each day with intention. The word intention at times is a little intimidating because it means purpose or your aim at something. How many times have we all wondered what our purpose really is? Well, that is a topic for another day.

Anyway, when you live each day with intentionality, there's almost no limit to what you can do. Especially if you break it down into one day at a time and not a whole lifetime. You, we, all of us can transform and change pretty much anything. A life of intention can bring about positive change and bring you a life that matters.

Did you watch Reese Witherspoon's emotional acceptance speech after she won the Best Actress Academy Award in 2006 for portraying June Carter Cash in *Walk the Line*? Witherspoon said that people often asked June how she was doing, and she'd say "I'm just tryin' to matter!" Reese went on to say that she understood exactly what June meant because she too was trying to make her life matter — by living a good life and doing work that meant something to somebody.

So what about you? The reason I am writing is to remind you that what you do matters to someone. The impact you have on someone today or in the future, the education you have embarked on and in the work you do or will do. You do matter. So, live intentionally and remember to make it matter.

Just saying.....A Wise Ol' Owl

August Evaluations Passed

These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of August.

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>16 SAPs</u></p> <p>LaDonna Younger</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>11 SAPs</u></p> <p>Martha Obstalecki</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>9 SAPs</u></p> <p>Nicole Wicks</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>8 SAPs</u></p> <p>Amanda Vernon Ashley Guillermo Lisa Major Morgan Goodman Maloney</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>7 SAPs</u></p> <p>Christine Angel Donna Alexander Jamie Bleicher Jamie Johnson Rachel Schmidt</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>6 SAPs</u></p> <p>Linda Hawkins-Brown</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>5 SAPs</u></p> <p>Brian Nelson Debra Selsavage Geneva Wildcat Jennifer Hall Kate Bush-McKee Linda Day Lori Sanders Robin Willey Sara Vaughn Taisha Herr</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>4 SAPs</u></p> <p>Cassi Knight Gabrielle Mosher Jessica Williams Kendall Willis Kiana Luke Oanh Dang Shana Jones Yvette Granados</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>3 SAPs</u></p> <p>Ashly Richter</p> | <p>Baley Sargent Carol Casstevens Clara Brooks Holly McKay Jessica Vanatta Kathleen Gravedoni Kelly Garland Kristine Rebar Michael Roberts Onni Beene Sindee Baum</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>2 SAPs</u></p> <p>Alisa Church Ashley Wilson Barbara Ufer Brett Schatzle Hannah Wilson Katherine Evangelou Kathleen Steadman Kathy Bruner</p> | <p>Najah Danner Shannon Gallo Summer Vaughan Taylor Behnke Valerie Lies</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>1 SAP</u></p> <p>Adam Marcus Alexandra Wiater Angela Viray Ashley Kramer Brandon Herman Brittany Moore Camille Montgomery Carolyn Collins-Santos Casi De La Torre Cheyenne Leneair Christine Saylor Elizabeth Hagstedt Eric Luft Jamie Dorgan</p> | <p>Jennifer MacDonald Jennifer Wesner Jessica Bustos Jessica Frizzell Karina Hannah Katelyn Berch Kristi Hendrick Kristina Meseck Lexi Klasing Madeleine Lauer Makeba Flanigan Melissa Hicking Stephanie McGinnis Tracie Blocker Veronica Stewart</p> |
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Q&A with Dee Boenau, 2016 Realtime Champion

Dee Boenau, RDR, CRR, CRC, is the winner of the 2016 National Realtime Contest and a user of ev360 Ultimate, the practice software developed by College of Court Reporting President Jeff Moody. Recently, we had a chance to interview Dee about her practice routine, experience using ev360, and her experience as a court reporter. This is an excerpt from our recorded session with Dee.

Q. How long have you been a reporter?

A. I have been a reporter since 1992. Twenty-four years.

Q. What certifications do you have?

A. I got my Registered Professional Reporter in November 1992, my Certified Realtime Reporter in July of 1997, my Registered Merit Reporter in November of 1999, my Registered Diplomate Reporter in November of 2004. Then I got my Certified Cart Provider in 2003 and the Certified Broadcast Captioner in 2004. I'm also a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters.

Q. What associations are you involved with in addition to your certifications?

A. Well, I'm a member of NCRA, and I'm also a member of the Florida Court Reporters Association.

Q. How long have you been doing realtime?

A. I have been doing realtime for 21 years. Since 1995.

Q. How often do you practice?

A. I try to get back on my machine for practice usually a few months before I compete, but usually I'm hunkering down at least a few weeks before the competition. And it's really to reacquaint myself with the Q and A, testimony portion because I don't do any testimony work; so I don't even hit the Q and A banks during the year until contest time and when I'm practicing.

Q. What is your best practice tip to finish court reporting school?

A. School was a long time ago for me, so all I remember is being focused on my speed. Focus on my speed and practice, practice, practice.

Q. What is it like to participate in a national speed or realtime contest?

A. Well, it's exciting and it can be a bit nerve-wracking. But I participate because I'm really testing myself, and at this point I'm also competing against my past record. But I've learned to have fun with it. It's a lot of mental prep going into the competition because you know you're going to be sitting in a room full of extremely talented people, and it almost feels like you're going to be taking part in history because you're sitting in that room with so many talented writers. I try to put myself in the mindset that I'm on the job. I try to imagine that I'm sitting on one of my jobs and that helps to ease the nerves.

Q. So what's your next goal to achieve now that you're the 2016 Realtime Contest Champion?

A. When I first started competing, I never thought the speed contest was something that I could go for. But over the years I have qualified for all three overall, but in 2013 I placed second in the realtime and the speed overall. So that has me thinking that at some point I would like to win both. It's quite the feat to do, but that would be my next goal to win both of those and then retire from competing.

Q. How do you use ev360 Ultimate to improve your speed?

A. Well, I just dive right into the program. I absolutely love the program. When I'm using ev360 Ultimate, I'm writing everything in realtime. I'm writing as though people are watching. I'll use the different workout plans that ev360 offers, so I can write the dictation at different speeds. I like the different plans like Let's Get Aggressive or the Rollercoaster. I'll start out writing at a goal speed and move it up or down, but what I love about ev360 is that I can take the same dictation and slow it down to write it for complete control and perfection. The audio quality is great. The other feature that I love is if you use the My Realtime portion, it's grading your accuracy as you're writing.

Q. Have you tried out any of the games we've added to ev360 Ultimate?

A. Well, actually I just tried some out yesterday. It's easy (to get through the times you don't want to practice) when you can use a game for your practice. They're really clever, and I look forward to using them more. It's a great thing to do when you're too tired to just sit there and do straight dictation.

Q. Would you recommend ev360 to a reporter looking to become a realtime reporter?

A. Oh, absolutely. The instant grading of the My Realtime is the best part. It's giving you instant feedback, and you cannot beat that. I highly recommend it.

Q. Are there any other words of advice you have for reporters or students who are looking to improve their writing and build accuracy and speed?

A. You do need to practice, and that's what I like about this program because it makes your practice more productive.



Stephen Zinone with Dee Boenau at this year's NCRA Awards Luncheon.



Position: Official court reporter

Location: 8th Judicial Circuit, Illinois Circuit Courts, Adams County, IL



Position: Freelance reporter

Location: Summit City Reporting, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

If you would like more information about any of these positions, please contact

Natalie.Kijurna@ccr.edu

What's New at CCR?

It's been a busy summer recruiting court reporters! #PlusOne



In August we attended Hobart, Indiana's, annual Lakefront Festival! It was a great opportunity to recruit more court reporters for this profession and to get people signed up for our second session of our free Hooked on Court Reporting class!



In September we attended Valparaiso, Indiana's, annual Popcorn Festival! We passed out popcorn to those who came to visit the future location of CCR!



CCR Instructor Eileen Beltz and Alumna Jennifer Wesner represented CCR at the Arizona Court Reporters Convention in September!



It's that time of year again! We've been attending local career and college fairs in Northwest Indiana to share this lucrative career choice with local high school students! Pictured here is our setup at East Chicago Central High School.



College of Court Reporting
 111 West Tenth Street, Suite 111
 Hobart, IN 46342
 Phone: 219-942-1459
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WWW.CCR.EDU



Birthdays are in bold print! Happy birthday, CCR students and faculty!

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3  | 4 | 5 Geneva Wildcat Karina Hannah | 6 Pamela Wyatt Kathy Bruner | 7 Valerie Trim Brittney Vance | 8 Michelle McClean LaDonna Younger Ashley Richter Eric Luft Jr. |
| 9 Nicole Burns | 10 Lisa Morton Columbus Day | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Amanda Streeting 180-200 Multivoice | 15 |
| 16 Holly (Pam) McKay Melissa Hicking | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Faculty Meeting | 21 140-160 Multivoice | 22 Lisa Major Jessica Vanatta |
| 23 | 24 Gabrielle Mosher | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Jay Vettickal | 29 |
| 30 Brett Schatzle Martha Obstalecki | 31 Alexandra Wiater  | | | | 180-200 Multivoice | |