What is Court Reporting?

Court reporters (CSRs) are highly trained, licensed professionals who transcribe spoken words using a stenotype machine in a wide variety of settings. CSRs fill a critical role in the justice system, providing verbatim transcripts of judicial proceedings and ensuring that nothing compromises their accuracy. Court reporters are present in court hearings, trials, and depositions.

But opportunities in this field go beyond the courtroom. Broadcast captioners use court reporting skills to caption live television programs for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers. This includes news, emergency broadcasts, sports events, and more.

In addition, the skills gained on the stenotype machine may prepare you for other career options such as rapid data entry, scoping (computerized editing of transcripts for court reporters), and medical transcribing.

Court Reporting at College of Marin

The number of jobs for court reporters—now 21,500 nationwide—is expected to grow 18 percent from 2008 through 2018, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor rates the career prospects "excellent." In the Bay Area and Sacramento, "there's a real shortage—I'm always looking for the best students to hire," said Rhett Simmons, who owns an employment agency called West Coast Captioning. Freelance captioners who work with college students and at conventions earn $80 to $150 an hour. UC Berkeley has six captioner positions on staff that start at $60,000 per school year, plus benefits (San Jose Mercury News, 2010).

In the Bay Area, only two colleges and one private school offer court reporting programs – in Saratoga, Novato, and Dublin. The program at College of Marin, approved by the Court Reporters Board of California, is one of the best in the state.

For information on the Court Reporting Program contact:

Kristin Acredolo
Instructor and Program Coordinator
415.457.8811 ext. 8226
kristin.acredolo@marin.edu

http://www.marin.edu/IVC/programs.html

Library Resources at Indian Valley

The Indian Valley Campus (IVC) library reference collection includes many valuable resources for court reporting students including medical, legal and standard dictionaries; encyclopedias; atlases; California Codes for the Court Reporter; the Official and Freelance Compendiums; specialized glossaries; grammar and punctuation guides; and the Physicians’ Desk Reference.

Search the Online Catalog

The online library catalog is an electronic bibliographic database that describes the physical books, videotapes, and periodicals carried by our library.

Please use the following URL to search for materials located in the library at College of Marin:

http://malc.marin.cc.ca.us/screens/opacmenu.html

Search the Online Databases

A library database is an online resource that contains articles and information from print sources such as magazines, newspapers, journals, and reference books.

You may access our databases online by visiting the MyCom Portal:

www.mycom.marin.edu/

Once you have logged on, click the “Library/Learning Resources” Tab. Scroll down to the section marked “Library Online Databases.” There you will find access links to the databases.

Resources on the Internet

Find California Law
http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html

This is the official site for California legislative information. Law consists of 29 codes, covering various subject areas, the State Constitution and Statutes. Information presented reflects laws currently in effect. All California
Codes have been updated to include the latest Statutes.

State Bar of California
http://members.calbar.ca.gov/fal/MemberSearch/QuickSearch

Created by the state legislature in 1927, the State Bar is a public corporation within the judicial branch of government, serving as an arm of the California Supreme Court. All State Bar members are officers of the court. This site allows users to search for attorneys.

Professional Organizations

California Court Reporters Association
cal-cora.org

California Official Court Reporters Association
cocra.org

Court Reporters Board of California
courtreportersboard.ca.gov

Deposition Reporters Association
cal-dra.org

National Court Reporters Association
ncraonline.org

Speed-building Resources at IVC

Building 27, Room 229: Audio and video (A/V) dictation available for copying and downloading: DVDs, CDs, Mp3s. Speeds from 40 to 260+ words per minute.

Building 17: Accelerators and A/V resources available.

Marin County Law Library
http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/IS/Main/MCLL.cfm

20 North San Pedro Road, #2015
San Rafael, CA 94903
Telephone: (415) 499-6355

MARINet Library Consortium

Dominican University Library and the public libraries in Marin County offer a wide variety of resources that are available to anyone with a public library card in Marin. Please visit the following URL for more information:

http://www.marinet.info/

Need more help?

Do not hesitate to contact the reference librarian at College of Marin. We are here to help you find the information you need. You may visit in person or remotely, using the contact coordinates listed below.

College of Marin Library
Indian Valley Campus
1800 Ignacio Blvd., Novato, CA
415-883-2211 ext. 8505

askthelibrary@marin.edu
www.marin.edu/lrc

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