

## Did You Know?

### Reporters:

- There are over 3,000 Certified Shorthand Reporters in Los Angeles County and surrounding counties
- There are approximately 5,500 Certified Shorthand Reporters in the State of California
- There are approximately 2,175 bench officers in the State of California and not all of them require a Certified Shorthand Reporter.

There are, in fact, *more than enough Certified Shorthand Reporters* to staff official reporter positions throughout the state.

### Students:

- As of August of 2023, student enrollments are up. Potential students are on waitlists for many of our schools.
- Downey Adult School, as of September 8, 2023, had 145 people signed up. Downey's overall student population was 130 before adding Voice Writing to their curriculum. As of September 2023, Downey has over 200 students.
- West Valley, an online tuition-free school, has had to turn away potential students and currently has an enrollment of 175.
- Tri-Community currently has 110 enrolled in 2023, up from 84 in 2022.
- South Coast College currently has 180 steno students and is in the testing phase for a Voice Writing Program.
- Poway, a voice writing program, currently has 46 enrolled, up from 25 in 2020.
- College of Court Reporting currently has 180 students enrolled.
  
- While fewer "brick and mortar" schools remain, online schools have opened across the country and online schooling has become an even more popular way to attend court reporting school.

At [www.stenograph.com/court-reporting-school](http://www.stenograph.com/court-reporting-school), a quick search will confirm that, at this time, there are more than 30 Stenographic Court Reporter training programs around the country offering court reporter training that is either online, in-person, or both.

### Testing:

- Both online and brick and mortar schools are preparing students to qualify for the California Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) exam, by way of the Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification. The RPR is a certification earned through the National Court Reporters Association. It is recognized as the sole certification required to work in many states and is an alternative pathway to qualify for the California exam. It tests at speeds of up to 225 Words Per Minute.

- Students do not necessarily have to “graduate” from a school to sit for the Certified Shorthand Reporters exam. For instance, passing the RPR, Registered Professional Reporters, exam qualifies a student to take the California CSR exam. The fact is the number of persons qualifying to take the California CSR exam has increased since 2020.
- Though the number of accredited court reporting programs may have dwindled compared to the early 2000s, accredited programs are not the only way to qualify to take the California CSR exam. The CRB, Court Reporters Board, also recognizes and accepts CSR exam applications from potential test-takers who qualify to take the CSR exam through other means; for example, having a Registered Professional Reporters certification and/or meeting the criteria and qualifying through a court reporting program. [Eligibility for Examination - Court Reporters Board of California](#)
- In case you are unaware of what it takes to earn this prestigious certification, students must pass the CSR test with 97.5% accuracy. The test consists of a four-voice 200 WPM dictation that is 12-13 minutes long along with the academic portion containing English, legal, and medical terminology as well as other aspects of reporting.

#### **A HUGE SHIFT IS OCCURRING: NEW TO CALIFORNIA ARE VOICE WRITERS:**

- In September of 2022 Governor Newsom signed into law the use of Voice Writers in California.
- VOICE WRITERS are comparable to a stenographer. Voice Writers utilize a mouthpiece (MASK) and speak in shorthand; a stenographer uses their fingers to write in shorthand. Voice Writers provide realtime (sometimes referred to as “LiveNote”), readback, roughs, dailies, and produce transcripts just as stenographers do through their own CAT (computer-aided translation) software.
- VOICE WRITERS can get through school and be ready to sit for the CSR test in approximately nine to twelve months. Voice writer dropout rates are approximately 10%, which means approximately 90% of Students who enroll in school will take the test to become licensed California Certified Shorthand Reporters.

#### **RESULTS:**

- In March of 2023, 87 candidates registered to take the California CSR Exam. 4 were VOICE WRITERS.
- In July of 2023, 124 candidates registered to take the California CSR Exam. 17 were VOICE WRITERS. 11 passed the skills portion.
- VOICE WRITERS have been eligible to be certified and work in California for less than a year as of September 8, 2023, and are increasing in numbers. It takes approximately nine to twelve months to get through voice writing school and Voice Writing students are already taking the state exam. The number of Voice Writers will only keep increasing.

## **REPORTERS SUPPORTING STUDENTS:**

- Did you know that the increase in court reporting (stenographic and voice) interest has been largely done by stenographic and voice reporters themselves.
- In Southern California, the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association, in conjunction with the California Court Reporters Association, starting in March of 2019 through July of 2021, held 4-to-6-week AtoZ programs on their own time to introduce anyone interested to the profession. Those programs reached a total of 340 people.
- Since VOICE WRITERS were finally able to be licensed in California, the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association in conjunction with the California Court Reporters Association has held, to date, four online webinars introducing potential students to Voice Writing as a career option. Those webinars have reached 252 people.
- The Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association has attended seminars, conventions, high school career fairs, had meet and greets, and spent countless hours promoting the profession.