

STUDENTS *Now*

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Summer 2022
July-August

A publication of the
**New York State Court
Reporters Association**
while *Meet The Pros* panel
meetings are on hiatus

Next *Meet the Pros* panel
meets September 25, 2022



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Future colleagues, welcome

A fantastic career awaits you. State and federal courts as well as deposition firms need your talent. Whether you choose the path of being a judicial reporter or prefer to be a captioner or CART provider, we need you in the workplace.

In the course of 2000 years, our skills have provided societies with impartial accounts of Parliamentary and Congressional proceedings, have disseminated pulpit preachings when they were the primary source of community knowledge, have streamlined trial proceedings by allowing uninterrupted extemporaneous speech, and have given communication access to the deaf community. Our profession has earned enormous respect from the judicial system and the disability community.

We are not old fashioned. And we are not going away. All you need to do is look closely at today's high-profile

proceedings, where professional reporters proudly blend into the background. View with a keen eye the yearly State of the Union Address, the Depp v Heard trial and the January 6 Congressional Hearings and you will see stenographic reporters capturing the important rhetoric of society.

We are the gold standard and have worked hard to create this incredible opportunity for you. Now it's your turn. We need you to work hard, graduate, and join us in the workforce. Then we need you to care about the record you make. We need you to learn and improve with each assignment. And we need you to be the best you can be.

NYSCRA is the oldest reporting association in America, and proudly has created the STUDENTS*Now* program to help you achieve your professional goal. We are delighted you have joined us.

Contributors

Contributors to this eNewsletter include reporters and reporting educators. We come from various areas of the country and represent several hundred years of experience. Our goal is simple: To help you be better than you were yesterday.

**Kathryn Dittmeier, Lynette Eggers, Harriet Brenner-Gettleman,
Reid Goldsmith, Gayl Hardeman, Karen Santucci, Dom Tursi**

Share this newsletter with other students

REAL-WORLD CIRCUMSTANCES

Professional Perspectives

Circumstance One: Engaging with Parties

During the trial of Depp v Heard, social media was alive with viewpoints about the reporter, many of which related to having contact with Mr. Depp. The reporter was photographed shaking hands with Mr. Depp, and casually hugging him at an after-trial gathering. Let's use this as a general teaching moment about dealing with parties and counsel.



Opinion

Professional reporters should avoid the "appearance of impropriety." We are officers of the court, and depositions are an extension of court proceedings. Our actions "carry the strength of real or imagined authority."

It is improper to offer public opinions (e.g., social media) on what we observe during judicial proceedings. It is equally inappropriate to engage in private conversations with a party.

Exchanging casual greetings with participants is an acceptable norm. If an unavoidable



conversation occurs with a party, the reporter should maintain a sufficient distance and volume that allows others to hear the discussion. Avoid (or be vague about) subjects that concern the litigation. A good practice is to imagine the exchange is being recorded.

When your involvement in the case is done and transcription has been completed, it is generally acceptable to associate with parties. If you have any doubt about doing so, consult deposition counsel or the court.

Circumstance Two: In Room with Witness & Counsel During Recess

A deposition firm once sought my opinion about the best way to handle this situation. An attorney requested that their reporter prepare an affidavit revealing the conversation she overheard between counsel and his witness, outside the presence of the questioning attorney, during a deposition recess. Let's use this as a general teaching opportunity about what to do in a similar circumstance.



Opinion

For many deposition reporters, recesses provide an opportunity to gather quotes, identify spelling concerns, and similar. It is not unusual that the same time is used by witness and counsel to confer, while the questioner is no longer in the room.

Professional reporters should project the appearance of being unaware of anything else occurring in the room. The reporter should be engrossed in what they are doing. If opportune, the reporter should actually leave the room during the break, even if only for a brief period.



1863 Michela
Machine

... Who invented the first system of shorthand?

The great orator and statesman Cicero created the first shorthand system in 63 BC, and named it for his "slave," Tiro.

... Or why it was created?

Believing that the upcoming discussions about forming the new Roman government might be important to future generations, he invented Tironian

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED? A Collection of Curiosities

From The Gallery of Shorthand

Notes to capture them. Thus, it is not surprising that the US and Roman governmental structures contain many similarities.

... Who invented the first practical steno machine?

In 1863, Italy's Antonio Michel-Zucco invented the first working steno machine. The Italian Senate adopted its use in 1880, where it has remained in continuous use. It became computerized in 1982.

... Or when shorthand was first used to report a trial in the US?

Trial records in 1865 America were made by attorneys and the judge writing notes by hand. Slow, tedious, and riddled with delays, the records were "awful."

Pitman shorthand writer Philander Deming believed that using his shorthand skill in court would shorten trials and create an accurate and complete record. He ultimately received permission from trial judge Charles R. Ingalls to report the murder trial of *People v Matthew Brumaghim*, in Albany, New York, in 1865.

This was the first trial ever reported by a stenographic reporter and brought unprecedented efficiency to the conduct of trials. And – oh, yes. The case was dismissed during trial based upon Mr. Deming's record.

REMARKABLE SPEED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Courtesy of The Gallery of Shorthand

Zest for supremacy in all endeavors is a natural human trait. Shorthand is no exception. Here are some shorthand speed feats that you may find interesting.

Shorthand contests are of ancient origin. It has been written that Titus Caesar, "was capable of writing shorthand with the greatest rapidity." It should be no surprise that he never lost a speed contest.

The first modern shorthand contest was conducted in 1847. The National Court Reporters Association made speed contests part of its annual conventions in 1909.

Pen shorthand writers demonstrated remarkable shorthand skills at 280 wpm. It was in the 1950s when machine shorthand writers showed incredible contest-speed skills, setting new records of accuracy along the way. Speed contests continue to this day.

Speed champions are those with the highest combined accuracy on three 5-minute readings: 220 wpm Literary, 240 wpm Legal Opinion, and 280 wpm 2-voice Q&A.

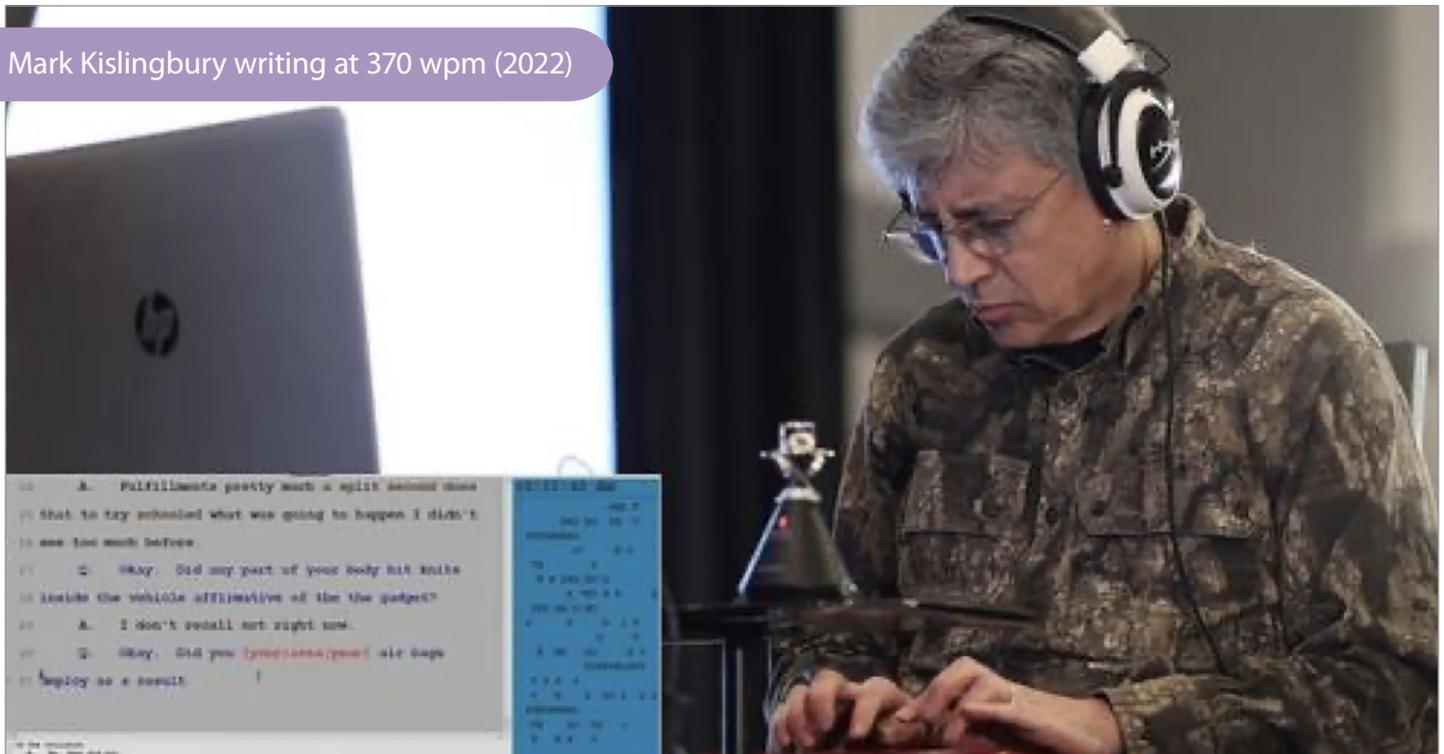
Fastest Speed Records

Mark Kislingbury
370 wpm I(1 minute) 2022

Dom Tursi
300 wpm (5 minutes) 1981

As realtime reporting evolved to giving people with hearing loss immediate access to speech, reporting jobs increased into medical settings, university classes, business meetings, television, and a wide range of conferences. Most days now, we might simply walk down the hall

Mark Kislingbury writing at 370 wpm (2022)





and do a deposition or provide CART remotely over the internet from our home office. Court reporting and CART assignments have taken some of us across the U.S. and into other countries. There have been lots of challenges along the way, and never a dull moment.

In court reporting there are many rewards – monetary, personal growth, lasting friendships, and the satisfaction that can only be found for a profession you love.

When you are waist-deep in assignments, worrying about the next speed-building test, and studying for that final, you might well ask yourself, “Is all this effort going to pay off some day?”

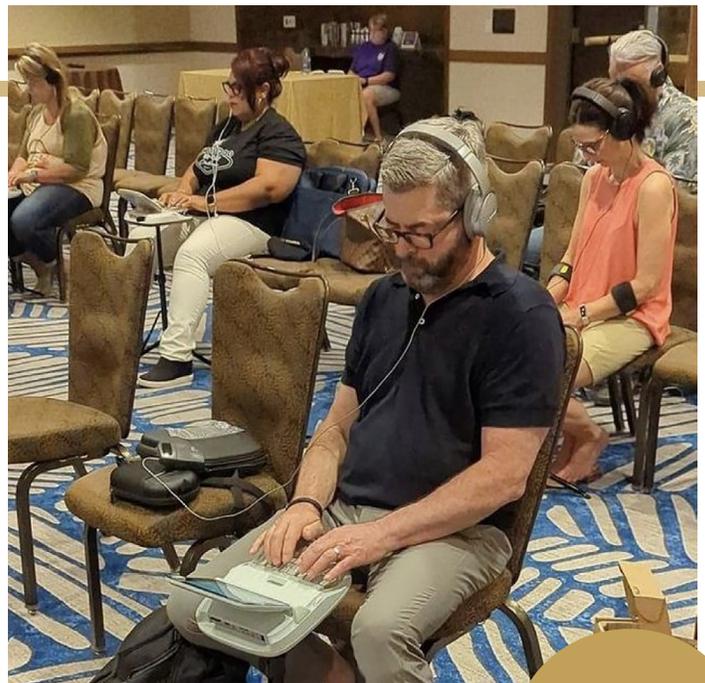
Consider that a fair question, especially coming from all those who have gone before you. It addresses a core issue of – is there value in getting an education beyond where you sit today. Be reassured. The potential benefits are enormous. Not only are there economic benefits, but over a lifetime, you just never know where your skill will take you and/or whose life you might touch.

The purpose of this newsletter is to build two kinds of bridges between your educational experience and your chosen career path. The first bridge is one of skill – your ability to perform at a speed level that is valued by your future employer. The second bridge is that of learning – the ability to continue your skills and education any time you want to.

THE LOOK OF CONCENTRATION

The stenographic goal of every student is to write fast. When asked to describe how to achieve speed, teachers and mentors tell students to concentrate – that is, to focus on sound; to eliminate thought.

We present this opportunity to actually see what that looks like by observing high-speed contestants working to accomplish the same thing you strive for: pure concentration.



NYSCRA's STUDENTS*Now* Program

Inaugurated in April 2022, student reporters are invited to attend monthly events that feature an opportunity to **Meet The Pros**. All are moderated by Reid Goldsmith.

Past sessions:

Session 1 "Tests and You"

April 24, 2022

Panel: Mark Kislingbury

Stephanie Hicks

Jessie Waack

Session 2 "Dictionary Building and You"

May 22, 2022

Panel: J. Edward Varallo

Anissa Nierenberger

Joshua Edwards

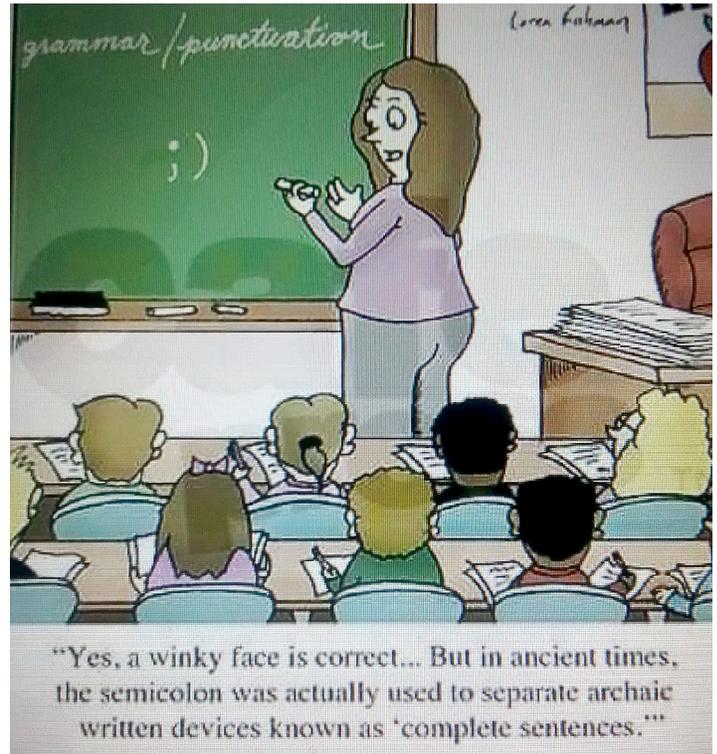
Session 3 "Practice and You"

June 26, 2022

Panel: Rich Germosen

Ron Cook

Next panel - September 25, 2022



SPELLINGS

Courtesy of The Cicero Forum

Four Words Reporters Should NEVER Misspell/Misuse

all right Always two words

it's/its If it means "it is" or "it has," use the apostrophe

For all others, use the single word

you're/your If it means "you are," use the apostrophe

For all others, use the single word

a lot Always two words. Never one word
[Note: allot means "to allocate, distribute"]

TRANSCRIPTION TIP

Few documents are as potentially important as transcripts of sworn testimony. As such, they are the epitome of being formal documents, worthy of the most formal use of words. Know what you don't know – then know it.