

**Court Reporters** typically take verbatim reports of speeches, conversations, legal proceedings, meetings, and other events when written accounts of spoken words are necessary for correspondence, records, or legal proof. Court reporters not only play a critical role in judicial proceedings, but every meeting where the spoken word must be preserved as a written transcript.

Court reporters document all statements made in official proceedings using a stenotype machine, which allows them to press multiple keys at a time to record combinations of letters representing sounds, words or phrases. These symbols are then recorded on computer disks, which are then translated and displayed as text in a process called computer-aided transcription. Stenotype machines used for real-time captioning are linked directly to the computer. As the reporter keys in the symbols, they instantly appear as text on the screen. This is used for closed captioning for the hearing-impaired on television, or in courts, classrooms or meetings. In all of these cases, accuracy is crucial because there is only one person creating an official transcript.

Although many court reporters record official proceedings in the courtroom, the majority of them work outside the courtroom. **Freelance Reporters**, for example, take depositions for attorneys in offices and document proceedings of meetings, conventions, and other private activities. Others capture the proceedings in government agencies of all levels, from the U.S. Congress to State and local governing bodies.

Court reporters who specialize in captioning live television programming for people with hearing loss are commonly known as **Stenocaptioners**. They work for television networks or cable stations captioning news, emergency broadcasts, sporting events, and other programming. With CART and broadcast captioning, the level of understanding gained by a person with hearing loss depends entirely on the skill of the stenocaptioner. In an emergency situation, such as a tornado or hurricane, peoples' safety may depend entirely on the information provided in the form of captioning.

### **Salary Information:**

- Court Reporter  
\$29,820 Entry Salary (Finger Lakes Region, NYS Department of Labor, 2007)  
\$42,920 Median Salary (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2007)  
[\*Salary varies based on education/advanced degree, work-experience & setting/location.]

### **Additional Information:**

- National Court Reporters Association: [www.ncraonline.org](http://www.ncraonline.org)
- United States Court Reporters Association: [www.uscra.org](http://www.uscra.org)
- National Verbatim Reporters Association: [www.nvra.org](http://www.nvra.org)

