

**STENO TECH WORKSHOP 2026  
SPEAKER BIOS**

**Anthony D. Frisolone, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, CRI, CSR**

**Anthony has been a Stenograph Certified Independent Training Agent since 2008. In his 18 years in the training program, Anthony has conducted thousands of hours of individual and group Case CATalyst training sessions here in New York as well as across the United States and internationally.**

**Anthony works with CART providers and broadcast captioners as well as giving his time to individual students, schools, and many court reporting associations providing his services on a pro bono basis.**

**Brandi Ray, CSR (TX)**

**Brandi Ray is a sought-after speaker, coach, and advocate for wellbeing who equips professionals to overcome burnout and thrive.**

**A former overworked and overwhelmed court reporter herself, Brandi knows firsthand the toll that constant pressure and endless “doing” can take. Today, she partners with leaders, educators, and organizations across the country to help professionals shift from a life of overdoing to one rooted in being present, being intentional, and being balanced.**

**Through her signature message, “Being Over Doing,” Brandi empowers audiences to reconnect with their true selves, restore their peace of mind, and lead with clarity and fulfillment. With her engaging and relatable style, she not only inspires but equips listeners with practical tools to create lasting change in both work and life.**

## **Brenda Countz, CSR (CA)**

**Brenda Countz, California CSR No. 12563 has celebrated a cumulative 55 years as a Court and Congressional Stenographer, captioner and freelance realtime deposition reporter. During the 1970s in Washington, D. C., Ms. Countz built a reputation as a daily copy reporter in several landmark cases and she was an experimental writer in the early developmental phases of CAT technology. During the 1980s, as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Corps of Reporters she covered committee and subcommittee hearings in 48 of the 50 United States. During those years she was also a wife, mother and active member of her community.**

**In 1985, as the top producing reporter on the Corps of Reporters, she was rewarded with the assignment to report President Ronald Reagan's State of the Union Message. She was the first person of color to achieve that honor. This historic event was recently added to the U.S. House Of Representatives Oral History Project and Archives.**

**<https://history.house.gov/Oral-History/Women/Brenda-Countz/>**

**After leaving the House Corp of Reporters and relocating to Southern California, she has been a freelance realtime reporter and has covered depositions in Asia, South America and Central America. She is currently living her best life in Los Angeles, California traveling the world and enjoying what she calls her encore career as an Inspirational Leadership Speaker, author and vocalist. As a lifelong learner and lover of steno, she still likes to take realtime depositions in complex litigation.**

## **Denee Vadell, RPR, CCR-NJ, NYACR**

**Denee Vadell, a/k/a @StenoFluencer, is a highly skilled Court Reporter based out of New York City, boasting over a decade of experience as a CART provider and Realtime Captioner. She is certified on the national level as a Registered Professional Reporter, and on the state level as a Certified Court Reporter of New Jersey, and a New York Association Certified Reporter.**

**Graduating from Stenotech Career Institute in Fairfield, NJ in 2012, she embarked on a career by providing CART services to students at Rutgers University. Subsequently, Denee transitioned to a broadcast captioning career at VITAC, the largest captioning company in the United States, honing her expertise before pivoting to court work. In 2018, Denee assumed the role of Official Court Reporter in Bronx Criminal Court. And in January of 2024, she achieved a significant milestone in her career, earning a promotion to Senior Court Reporter at the New York County Civil Supreme Courthouse.**

**Denee Vadell is recognized as a consummate professional with a genuine dedication to promoting the court reporting profession. Her impactful presence on social media under the moniker “StenoFluencer,” has garnered a substantial following. Revolutionizing the industry through her viral TikTok and Instagram videos, Denee is converting viewers into aspiring court reporting students. Her captivating content has also drawn the attention of national news stations, radio stations, podcasts, newspapers including The New York Times and on the cover of amNY Law, and on a Hulu series: “Diddy On Trial: As It Happened,” where she plays the role of the stenographer showcasing her and her steno machine’s impact on a broader scale.**

**Beyond her professional endeavors, Denee serves as an Ambassador for the School of Court Reporting at Plaza College; is the Past-Chair of the Membership, Marketing, and Outreach Committee for the National Court Reporters Association; served as First Department Director for the New York State Court Reporters Association; and currently serves as a President-Elect for the New York State Court Reporters Association.**

**As for her creativity, she is the creator of StenoFluencer and Steno Barbie; the co-creator of Steno Sport alongside Ms. Shaunise Day, Founder of Steno in the City; the organizer of Steno Social where she hosts pop-ups around NYC for aspiring stenographers and professionals to socialize; and the visionary behind Steno Vision, where she hosts annual virtual vision board parties for the court reporting and captioning community, welcoming their friends and families to join in the experience.**

**As the Recipient of the 2023 Steno in the City People's Choice Award; Recipient of the 2023 Women's History Month Honoree Award by the Gender Fairness Committee - 12th Judicial District; Recipient of the 2024 Rising Star Award from Dallas Salutes Black Excellence in Stenography; Recipient of the 2024 Carl Saucedo Grant awarded by the National Court Reporters Foundation; Recipient of the 2024 Excellence in Advocacy Award from Plaza College's School of Court Reporting; Recipient of The 2025 Public Advocate Award awarded by the Office of the New York City Public Advocate, Jumaane D. Williams; and Recipient of the 2025 Impact Award awarded by JoyTutor at the Celebrations of Courage event, Ms. Vadell is all talent and a lot of business, too.**

**Despite her demanding career and extensive involvement, Denee remains devoted to her family, prioritizing her role as a proud boy mom and dog mom.**

**For those seeking motivation, inspiration, and insight into the multifaceted roles of a stenographer in the field of court reporting and captioning, @StenoFluencer is the source. Denee Vadell's passion and expertise illuminate the path forward in this captivating career.**

**Jessie Waack, RDR, CRR, NYACR, NYRCR, CCRR, CSR (TX),  
CCR-NJ, CCR-WA, CSR (CA)**

**Jessie has extensive experience serving on the board of various court reporters associations across the multiple states she has lived in. She spent four years on the board of the Wisconsin Court Reporters Association (WCRA), two years on the board of the Californian Deposition Reporters Association (DRA) and has worked with the New York State Court Reporters Association (NYCSRA). Her accomplishments include organizing several conventions across multiple states, implementing a pro bono program to help those in need while helping get funding for court reporting schools as well as presenting several webinars on various topics.**

## **Judy Lehman, MBA, RMR (Ret.), CRI (Ret.), FAPR, RSA, CLR**

**Judy Lehman is the Director of Court Reporting Services for RevolutionaryText and brings decades of leadership, education, and technology expertise to the court reporting profession. A retired Illinois Official Court Reporter with 27 years of service, Judy has dedicated her career to advancing stenographic reporting through education, innovation, and professional service.**

**Judy has served in numerous leadership positions with the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), including Director and member of several influential committees. Her service includes the Technology Evaluation Committee and RSA Subcommittee, Speed and Realtime Contest Committee Chair, Officials Committee Chair, Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee, National Committee of State Associations, Finance Committee, and Chief Examiner for the RPR and RMR certification exams.**

**An accomplished educator, Judy previously served as Director of the Court Reporting Program at Sparks College, where she taught all court reporting courses, English, and managed financial aid administration. She also worked as a RealLegal Consultant and later served as an adult education instructor for the Federal Workforce Investment Solutions–Richland Community College Consortium, teaching computer applications, software training, professional development, and résumé writing. In addition, Judy retired from Lake Land College Information Services, where she further expanded her expertise in technology and education.**

**Judy is a Past President of the Illinois Court Reporters Association (ILCRA) and has been recognized with both the Distinguished Service Award and the Award of Excellence for her outstanding contributions to the profession. She has also served on the ILCRA Contests Committee, preparing, dictating, and grading contest materials. Throughout her career, Judy has been a sought-after presenter for organizations including NCRA, ILCRA, WCRA, the Illinois Public Defenders Association, and Illinois Court Reporting Services, sharing her expertise in court reporting, technology, and professional development with reporters across the country.**

## **Julie Samford, Former CSR (TX, LA)**

**Julie Samford has been in the court reporting industry for almost 40 years. As a former court reporter in Texas and Louisiana, she is able to explain complex software concepts through the lens of her own experience.**

**Julie has been with Advantage Software in varying roles for the past 25 years; sales, consulting, social media management and software training. Julie has done many Eclipse webinars that are currently available and listed on [eclipsecat.com/juliesamford](http://eclipsecat.com/juliesamford).**

**Julie also started Realtime Ready in January 2000 and has done all sorts of technology seminars and training at court reporting conventions all over the world.**

## **Mary E. Pierce, CSR (CA)**

**Mary E. Pierce, has been licensed in the State of California as a Certified Shorthand Reporter since July 1983. From 1983 to 2001, Mary worked as a staff reporter for two different agencies in the greater Los Angeles area. Since January 2002, she has owned and operated Pantera Court Reporters in Huntington Beach, California.**

**Mary served on the Board of Directors of the Deposition Reporters Association of California (CaIDRA) from February 2018 until April 2022 in various capacities, including serving as president from 2020 to 2022. She now serves as the co-chair of the legislative committee for CaIDRA.**

Mary has published several articles, including the April 2022 article in *The Daily Journal* entitled "Make Sure Your Court Reporter Is Really A Court Reporter," a widely circulated article that she co-authored with Melissa Buchman, a family law attorney in Beverly Hills.

From 2022 to 2024, when it was disbanded, Mary was a member of the highly respected and incredibly hard-working NCRA STRONG Committee, a group dedicated to exposing the truth and educating all those who use court reporting services about the pitfalls, shortcomings, and dangers of digitally recording legal proceedings and the use of AI/ASR in the transcript thereof.

## **Sue A. Terry, FAPR, RPR, CRR, CRC**

Sue A, presently serves as an official court reporter and is a past president of the National Court Reporters Association and the Ohio Court Reporters Association. She has chaired and served on numerous NCRA committees and task forces, including the Technology Evaluation Committee, Discover Steno Committee, Nominating Committee, Finance Committee, Distinguished Service Award Committee, Education Content Committee, TRAIN Task Force, Communications and Outreach Committee, and numerous additional task forces.

Sue chaired the NCRA STRONG Committee, the authors of the NCRA White Paper. She has also served on the Gigatron Advisory Committee, the SUN Liaison Committee, and the Thomson Reuters LiveNote Advisory Committee. Throughout her career, Sue has been a frequent presenter for the National Court Reporters Association, the Ohio Court Reporters Association, the Ohio Supreme Court, bar and paralegal groups, and numerous state court reporting associations.

Sue is a Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Certified Realtime Captioner. She has received the distinction of being inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters. She is also the only person in NCRA's history to receive both the NCRA Distinguished Service Award and the Jim Bouley Family Altruism Award in the same year.

## **Tim Falk, CLVS**

**Tim Falk has been a legal videographer for 18 years. He is currently the owner for Remotely LLC, a national remote legal video firm. In addition, he has recently help found Advancing Legal Video, a non-profit professional organization by and for legal videographers. He has consulted with many court reporters over the years about their technological needs and questions. Tim believes that the more you know about technology, the more empowered you are to take necessary risks and the more value you can provide to your clients. He and his wife have five daughters – who might just know more about technology than he does.**

## **Tracy Thompson, RPR, RMR, CRR, CRC, RDR, CRI**

**Tracy Thompson is a veteran court reporter with 39 years of experience, including 24 years as an official federal court reporter writing realtime daily. She is the Owner and Director of LearnToRealtime and specializes in helping court reporters improve translation quality through practical, experience-based training.**

**Drawing on nearly four decades of reporting experience, Tracy teaches simple, effective techniques that help reporters write cleaner realtime, reduce editing, strengthen dictionary management, and build lasting writing confidence.**