



Tennessee Court Reporters Association



## The Volunteer Reporter

### Tennessee Supreme Court Nashville, TN

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state's court of last resort. The five Supreme Court justices may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. They also interpret the laws and constitutions of Tennessee and the United States. The Supreme Court may assume jurisdiction over undecided cases in the Court of Appeals or Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for an expedited decision.



Attorneys may request to present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries, or testimonies in the Supreme Court. After Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments and reviewed the attorneys' written materials, or briefs, they issue written decisions, known as opinions. Tennessee Supreme Court opinions on federal constitutional issues can be appealed only to the United States Supreme Court, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.



### President's Message

Kristin Burke, LCR  
TCRA President 2021-2022

Change is inevitable, but is it always good?

We are back to work, back to school, and back to business, but we are still in a pandemic. I always have hope for humanity and our ability to endure. Time, faith and science will prevail, I'm sure, but for now, we will keep moving forward with all of the working knowledge we have gained over the past year and a half. We found that the wheels of justice keep turning, even in the most dire of circumstances, and I am so impressed with our profession and the professionals in it that have helped guide us to this point to keep those wheels turning. [Read more](#)

### Convention Thank You!

With "Each One, Reach One" Convention behind us and planning of next year's convention ahead of us, we are in full swing and in expectation of great things to come for TCRA! We are ever so grateful for everyone that chose to participate. We would first like to thank this year's sponsors in helping to make this year's convention a huge success: PT Litigation Services; Morgan Reporting; Elite Brentwood Reporting Services; Beres & Associates; Veritext; Accurate Reporting; ProCAT; Kristin Burke; Nashville Court Reporters; Wilson Reporting, and Omega Reporting. With the support of our sponsors, we were able to make this convention a reality! [Read more](#)



## Calling all TCRA members:

The Convention Committee is hard at work for next year's convention. Please watch your inboxes for a survey regarding your plans to attend in person or virtually, if offered. Please take the time to complete the survey to help the Convention Committee plan.

We want to  
hear from  
**YOU.**



*I'm back!!! And so are masks in our courtrooms!!! So let's ALL embrace the requirement with style!!! Order yours today!!! Free shipping!!*

<https://form.jotform.com/212213930556955>



### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Patricia Nilsen, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI  
TCRA Middle Director  
Education Committee Chair

On 8/7, the education committee members Sheila Wilson, April Lassiter-Benson, Greta Bourgeois and I met with President Burke. We discussed past TCRA convention seminars being available on the website and the logistics of getting CEUs for them. April will be looking into NCRA's requirements for CEUs for NCRA purposes. [Read more](#)



### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Katherine Gale, RPR, LCR, CSR (CA)  
TCRA Secretary/Treasurer  
Fundraising Committee Chair

We want to say GOOD-BYE, but we have to say HELLO to the masks again!!!! Many of our courthouses and federal buildings are mandating masks. But do not fear...your stylish Court Reporter masks are still here! Just click here and place your order! Shipping is free!

And for all our vendors...[Read more](#)



### SCHOLARSHIP/MENTORING COMMITTEE

Stefani Simmons, LCR, CVR, CCR (MS, AR)  
TCRA Western Director  
Scholarship/Mentoring Committee Chair

I am happy to introduce the members of the Scholarship/Mentoring Committee as myself, Jennifer Short, Tracy Hollis, Carol West and Janet Tilley. I am really looking forward to working with these ladies.

We have started [Read more](#)

## Welcome to TCRA

We extend a warm welcome to our returning Professional members:  
**Angela Butler** of Fayetteville, Tennessee  
**Linda Stevens** of Brentwood, Tennessee.



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Professional	168
Associate	3
Student	5
Total	176

**2021-2022  
TCRA  
Officers  
and  
Directors**



Kristin Burke  
President



Mindy Rutherford  
President-Elect



Misty Brigham  
Past President



April Benson  
Vice President



Katherine Gale  
Secretary/Treasurer



Tracy Hollis  
Western Director



Stefani Simmons  
Western Director



Jennifer Checuga  
Middle Director



Patricia Nilsen  
Middle Director



Debbie West  
Eastern Director



Jennifer Short  
Eastern Director

Meet your 2021-2022 TCRA Officers and Directors! Your association is in good hands with these highly qualified reporters. We are grateful for their willingness to donate their time and talents to benefit us all. You can find their biographies [here](#).

## **RULES, REGULATIONS, AND RED TAPE**

Looking for information about licensing? Court reporter licenses in Tennessee are issued by the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting through the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance.

For questions about licenses, please use this link:  
[Tennessee Board of Court Reporting](#)



## **TCRA MEMBERS SHINE ON THE NCRA BOARD**

**Max Curry** (NCRA President 2019-2020 and Past President 2021-2022) and **Keith Lemons** (NCRA Director 2019-2021) are two very accomplished gentlemen in our profession who give back often to our beloved profession. At NCRA's convention in Las Vegas, NV, they have both wrapped up their service engagements for our national organization. Thank you, Max and Keith, so much for your dedication and selflessness. Your Tennessee reporting family appreciates you! [Read more](#)

Best Wishes On Your New NCRA Position to **Saba McKinley Roberts!** [Read more](#)



Max Curry



Keith Lemons



Saba McKinley Roberts



### NCRF recognizes Laurel L. Eiler with Altruism Award

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) presented the 2021 Santo J. Aurelio Award to Laurel Eiler, FAPR, RDR, a court reporter from Brentwood, Tenn. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon held at NCRA's Conference & Expo held July 29-Aug. 1 in Las Vegas, Nev. [Read more](#)

### NCRA CASE Scholarship renamed to honor leader of women's suffrage movement

At TCRA's 2020 convention, part of speaker Linda Hershey's seminar spoke to the incredible importance of Tennessee court reporter Sue Shelton White. Following her presentation, NCRA took action to rename in her honor its CASE Scholarship. Let us not forget a quote from Margaret Mead:  
*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

[Read more](#)



### Students Corner

#### Drillmaker for Students/Educators

by Christopher Day

A student recently explained to me that they had to create a drill for set of briefs they wanted to learn. In my view, the best way to do this would be creating a repetitive dictation of the brief(s) a person wants to drill, marking that for dictation, and then practicing at some kind of speed. I know minimal computer coding, and have made tools to try to help students and educators cut down on busywork in the past, but because my coding knowledge is so limited, I've never quite mastered it enough to make it easy for people, and consequently, the tools I've designed go underused. [Read more](#)



### Quick Links

**TCRA Certified Court Reporters:**

CCR forms for reporting CEUs or requesting a transcript are in the Member Benefits section of our website. You must log in to access them.



**Mindy Rutherford, LCR, CLR**  
**TCRA President-Elect**  
**TCRA Newsletter & Social Media Committee Chairperson**

The Volunteer Reporter is a publication produced quarterly for members of TCRA and other interested parties and is dedicated to the improvement of our profession and to provide a link between TCRA and its members.

Letters for the newsletter are welcomed and will be printed according to space availability. The Newsletter Committee reserves the right to edit letters according to space and formatting requirements or as ethics require, so long as the original meaning remains intact. Additionally, research articles may be written to earn TCRA CEU credits. Author must submit online and receive approval of such in order to earn CEUs. Contact the Newsletter and Social Media Committee for details.

Submission and advertising deadline is 15 days before publication date. Material received after deadline will be held for next issue.

Statement of fact, opinion, and all advertisements are made on the responsibility of the author and do not imply endorsement on the part of TCRA or its officers. Reprint rights are granted to all NCRA-affiliated publications, with appropriate attribution.

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
06 Labor Day	11 Columbus Day	02 Election Day
24 TBCR Meeting	21 Macon County Career Fair	11 Veterans Day 14 TCRA Board Meeting
	31 Halloween	25 Thanksgiving

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