

## MEET YOUR 2023-2024 TCRA BOARD



**Amber Thompson, LCR, CCR  
TCRA President 2023-2024**

Amber started her reporting career in 2008 after attending Tennessee Career College. She has been a member of TCRA since 2007 when she was a student and was also a recipient of the TCRA student scholarship in 2008. She is a partner in Bridge Reporting, LLC.

Amber was born and raised in the Nashville area. She currently resides in Mt. Juliet with her family (Husband, J.D.; two children, Kaitlyn and Cooper; two rescue dogs, Henry and Bailey.) She spends her free time attending/watching various sporting events and musical theater productions, reading, traveling, attempting DIY home projects, and listening to podcasts.



**Sarah Motley, LCR  
TCRA President-Elect 2023-2024**

Sarah Motley was born and raised in Franklin, Tennessee, where she currently resides. She went to Centennial High School and saw a court reporter as a guest speaker in her criminal justice class in her senior year of high school and knew immediately that was what she wanted to do for a living.

Sarah started her court reporting education at Tennessee Career College in Nashville and ended up graduating from the Court Reporting Institute of Dallas. She has now been a working reporter in the Middle Tennessee area for 14 years, and has served in some capacity on the TCRA Board since 2017. Outside of her court reporting career, she loves spending time with her three sons; Micah, Jack, and Lucas.

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**Misty Brigham, LCR**  
**TCRA Vice President 2023-2024**

Born and raised in Gallatin, TN, Misty has never strayed from her roots. Since graduating from Tennessee Career College in Donelson in 2007, she has devoted her career to the Middle Tennessee area. It did not take long for clients and colleagues to catch on to her strong court reporting abilities, professionalism and amazing personality.

Misty served on the 2018-2019 TCRA Convention Committee and was then elected Vice President for 2019-2020. Due to shifting Board positions in late 2019, she moved to President-Elect. In February 2020, Misty also started her own business in addition to her role as President-Elect.

Misty has also been very active in bringing court reporting to the attention of young people with her participation in several Career Day events in local schools. In her words, "I love telling young ones about this amazing profession." In addition to her efforts of being the best she can in her profession, helping to promote court reporting whenever possible and serving her state association, Misty is also the very proud mother of three amazing children: Sammie, Kobe and Sophie. In early 2023, Misty and Sammie, her daughter, opened a new dance studio in Gallatin, S Studios. Their dream is coming true!

Misty still has her hands full on a daily basis but balances it all for the love of family. Her strong faith and love in God keeps her grounded and pulls her through every situation.

Misty looks forward to serving as your TCRA Vice President for 2023-2024 and is happy to serve for all Tennessee Court Reporters in any way she can.

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**Mindy Rutherford, LCR, CLR  
TCRA Past President 2023-2024**

Mindy has been reporting since 1992. She attended the Academy of Court Reporting in Columbus, Ohio. When not reporting, Mindy enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering at her local literacy center.



**Michelle Cessna, RPR, LCR  
TCRA Secretary/Treasurer 2023-2024**

Hi, my name is Michelle Cessna. I have been a court reporter for two years now and I just fell in love with this profession and all that it has to offer.

Here is a little bit about myself. I recently got married this past November to my best friend, Dylan, and in our free time we love to travel and go camping. I am also a proud aunt of two amazing little boys, who also take up a lot of my free time.

I look forward to being in a leadership role and serving to see how I can help and also what I will learn along the way.

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**Valerie Hall Gilliam, CRR, RPR, LCR  
TCRA Western Director 2023-2025**

I have been a freelance steno court reporter since 2000, after attending the University of Mississippi. I began this wonderful career in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, then quickly made my way to Memphis. This career has truly been a gift. I am so honored to work in this amazing profession.

Board service is an important task. It helps bring court reporters from all over the state together, to work for a common goal -- advancement of our profession. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.



**Dana May Webb, LCR, CCR  
TCRA Western Director 2022-2024**

Dana received her B.S. degree in 1997 in Business Management from Christian Brothers University. She began working at Alpha Reporting in 1998 while also attending court reporting school. Dana has been a Court Reporter since 2004. She has been a member of TCRA since 2007. As a member of the association, she has served on several committees including the educational committee, convention committee and nominating committee. She has served as TCRA President-Elect in 2016-2017 and President in 2017-2018 and for 2018 – 2019. She served as West Tennessee Director last year and is continuing on during this current term.

Among a few of the things that Dana enjoys most about being a Court Reporter is that every day is different, all the while being able to learn about a lot of different subjects. Of course, as she says, the income potential is an added bonus. Dana has several hobbies in her spare time, including spending time with family, playing tennis, golfing, reading, fishing, hunting with her boys, as well as watching them play baseball. She has been married to Stuart for 22 years and they have two sons, John (19) and Jake (16).



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**Kathy A. Samson**  
**TCRA Eastern Director 2022-2024**

Kathy grew up near Destin, Florida. After graduating from the Ole Miss court reporting program, she worked as a Mississippi Worker's Compensation Reporter, a freelance Certified Court Reporter in Chicago, and an Official Reporter in Memphis before returning to school and becoming a CPA in Knoxville, TN.

After 20 years as a practicing CPA, she decided she'd had enough of spreadsheets and returned to reporting in East Tennessee as a substitute reporter in criminal court. After substituting for about three years, she accepted the position of designated court reporter with Knox County Criminal Court.

She spends her spare time with her husband of 36 years, Brig. They have a daughter, Victoria, and a 4-year-old granddaughter, Ava (affectionately known as "Nugget"), who live in Charleston, SC. Kathy and Brig spend a lot of time traveling back and forth between Knoxville and Charleston so they can see them as much as possible!



**D. Rochelle Koenes, RPR, LCR**  
**TCRA Middle Director 2023-2025**

Rochelle Koenes began her career as a court reporter while on active duty with the Marine Corps in 1999. Upon her retirement from the Marine Corps in 2012, she moved to Tennessee with her family. After taking some time off she obtained her RPR and started working as a court reporter in Tennessee in 2015. She enjoys spending time with her family and has been married to her wonderful husband, Don, for 21 years who also works with her doing production and billing. She has an 18-year-old son, Seth who will be starting college in the fall of 2023. Other hobbies include reading and hanging with her cats: Luna, Coven, Hex, Ripley, Pandora, Bellatrix and Jinx.

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**Mary Patterson, LCR  
TCRA Eastern Director 2023-2025**

After attending the University of Tennessee and then transferring to court reporting school, Mary began her career in 1988. She had the privilege of training and working with her uncle in his Cleveland, Ohio court reporting firm. She finished her training in Knoxville because, as many people know, once you have lived in East Tennessee, every other place pales in comparison!

She has been reporting in Knoxville for over 30 years now and is a partner/founding member of Gateway Court Reporting & Video. Mary believes that our field has seen many, many changes over the years but that one of the things that has remained constant throughout is our passionate desire to produce an accurate record and to protect that record. She likes to stress to new reporters the importance of what we do. She looks forward to serving on the board and on the Scholarship/Mentoring Committee.

During the rare times that Mary is not working, she enjoys many hobbies with her husband (including traveling, boating, flying, and hiking) and spending time with their amazing grandson!

