



Fall 2017 e-Newsletter edition

President's Message

By: Linda Fifield



For those of you who know me, you know how much I love sports. In particular, I love the New England Patriots. I enjoy watching the game and the implementation of strategies to compete. I admire how Coach Belichick, Tom Brady, and the 50+ players work together as one unit to create the championship franchise that is the envy of the NFL.

The same philosophy applies to our profession. We are made up of many parts. For our profession to grow and remain relevant, we each need to play our respective roles as indispensable members of our team of court reporter professionals.

You, the individual court reporter, are on the playing field every day. Every time you go out and perform your duties as a court reporter, you leave an impression on your clients and the industry about yourself and the court reporting industry. Is that impression worthy of respect, one that engenders appreciation and loyalty? We admire the speed champions and those techie reporters who can do it all. Are you one of them? If not, do you have a strategy in place to improve your skill and realtime capability so you can wow the fans, your clients?

As a firm owner, it is your responsibility to provide the reporters on your team the proper training and materials needed to perform to the best of their ability. You need to support your reporters by any means necessary to help them navigate those sticky situations or facilitate those uncommon requests. You should be educating your clients about the products and services that you offer so that you become an indispensable member of *their* team.

Regarding the rest of the players on your team, they're the behind-the-scenes facilitators. Whether it's scheduling, production, or marketing, they interact with clients as well. It is crucial that their exchanges are efficient, helpful, and pleasant.

Needless to say, communication between reporters, firm owners, and facilitators is key. All working parts need to operate as one entity, united in goals and purpose. Shortcomings in one or more areas will not lead to successful, game-winning outcomes.

Court reporting, as a profession, is facing many challenges with ER, an older demographic, and too few schools bringing in new reporters. It's time for everyone to up their game and view court reporting as a profession versus a paycheck. Be tactical, strategize, and play an active role in your development as a reporter by earning certifications, promoting the profession with impeccable realtime and services, and doing something as simple as dressing for success as a professional court reporter.

STAR is the techie team for reporters who have a desire to learn about the latest and greatest that this industry has to offer. Here you can learn from seminars and fellow members how to make a stronger presence within the legal community. Here you are given many opportunities to be SuperSTARs. Take advantage of the resources at hand to become the G.O.A.T.

Thank you for a wonderful year as your STAR president. I am looking forward to seeing you all in my hometown, Boston.

STARs Needed

You have a chance to make our association even better! If you're interested in serving STAR on a committee or task force this year, please contact Melanie.Sonntag@planetdepos.com or at 630.452.6236. All extra talent is welcomed!

STARCON17

By: Linda Fifield



Fall in Boston. I can't think of a lovelier location to host STARCON17, especially since this year's foliage is expected to be more spectacular than usual.

Team Boston chairs, Linda Fifield, Jan Schmitt, and Karen Tyler, are looking forward to showcasing our seminar top picks to everyone. Whether you're a sole practitioner, firm owner, or a reporter who needs to learn Case CATalyst, we have it all.

Cindi Lynch will once again grace us with her presence and teach us all things Case CATalyst. Whether you're new to CC or a seasoned user, there is always something to learn. Patience, humor, and a deep understanding of the software makes Cindi the go-to person to help us be more proficient as an end-user. The master trainer that she is, she always hits a home run with attendees.

If you're interested in marketing online or via social media, we have a number of seminars that you'll find enlightening. From building a website, to hearing how a comedian and a musician use social media to promote their businesses, you'll come to an understanding that business is business and that our goals are the same. It's how you brand your unique message and present yourself to the public that differentiates you from your competition.

For those of us who face personal challenges when dealing with lawyers on a daily basis, causing us to sometimes lose our voice, Dr. Jenai Wu will talk about how we can overcome those challenges as she delves into the paralysis of Imposter Syndrome. We also have Lisa Knight and Merilee Johnson, the dynamic duo, who will give us all helpful tips and hints on how to find our voice to sell and promote realtime.

Internet security issues? Whether you're an individual or firm owner, you have invested in computers that hold your valuable information that needs to be protected. We have invited two experts in IT who will discuss the art of computer security. We all know the importance of backups and encryption. It's how far you need to go, without breaking the bank, to make it work for you.

Last but not least, we have a few new vendors this year. Our hope is to bring in vendors that make sense in the court reporting business. Please take the time to visit everyone. They are a valuable resource.

STAR fortifies you with knowledge, food, drink and friendship.

Game on with Team Boston. We're hoping to hit a grand slam at this convention. See you there!

Introducing CaseViewNet Browser Edition™

By: James Kuta, Stenograph Product Manager

Realtime has never been easier! With CaseViewNet Browser Edition, users can view realtime feeds on ANY device with a browser and Internet connection. There is nothing to download or install. Just log in and get started: it's as simple as that!

How does it work? CaseViewNet Browser Edition uses CaseViewNet Cloud™. All you need is a CaseViewNet Cloud Session code and an Internet connection. The realtime participants will go to www.caseviewnet.com and use the Cloud Session Code and password given to them to log in. That's it!

Just in case you are not familiar with CaseViewNet Cloud, I will take a moment to explain what it is. CaseViewNet Cloud can be used by Court Reporters using any CAT software. It uses an Internet connection to securely transmit your realtime text to anyone, whether they are in the same room or located remotely. CaseViewNet Cloud uses a simple 6-character code called a Cloud Session Code to connect you and the realtime participants.

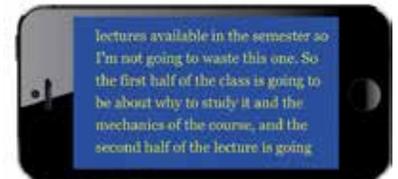
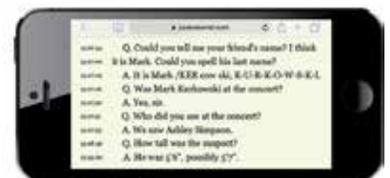
What are the features of CaseViewNet Browser Edition? Just because it is simple to connect with and use doesn't mean it's light on features.

Transcript View and CARTview™ CaseViewNet Browser Edition can be your go-to tool for CART jobs, as well as court and deposition work! Realtime participants can choose between the two available views to discover what works best for them.

Loads of Customization Options: Font type, font size, font color, background color, timestamps, page/line numbers, and more can be adjusted. Plus, they can be adjusted independently for both Transcript view and CARTview.

Searching and Marking: Realtime participants can search for keywords and phrases and mark text for later review.

Rapid Refresh™ In conjunction with CATalyst and a CaseViewNet license, CaseViewNet Browser Edition will instantly update with all of your editing changes.



You can begin using CaseViewNet Browser Edition right now! All you need is a Cloud Session Code. If you don't already have this code, or if you would like more information about CaseViewNet, please visit www.stenograph.com or call (800) 323-4247.



Social Media & Bedtime

By: Angie Ballman Punton

Do you have a “bedtime”? Perhaps a time you strive to be between the sheets during the week? How often do you fall asleep at that appointed hour?

I was watching a video on YouTube the other day (I'll come back to this...) that discussed the concept of bedtime for adults. As children, our parents told us we needed to be in bed “at a decent hour.” As in, “Kids, it's time for bed!” Thus, “bedtime.” When we become adults, however, and have the freedom to hit the hay whenever we deem it “time,” we often don't follow that age-old advice: “It's time for bed. We need our sleep!”

I'm as guilty as it gets when it comes to blowing off bedtime. I'm a night owl (and it appears I have given birth to one as well). When it comes to prolonging bedtime, I am a Certified Master. As I was saying, the other night I was watching a YouTube video on bedtime. The problem is that video on bedtime was delaying my own bedtime! Why am I watching YouTube videos instead of resting my weary eyes?

According to the video on adult bedtime, adults avoid going to sleep because it **delays the onset of tomorrow**. But wait a minute... tomorrow dawns a new day! A fresh start! The first day of the rest of your life! Why would we not look forward to its arrival, let alone purposely delay it?

Because, the video explained, we live such busy lives, we often don't have much time to relax, decompress, and do what we enjoy. For many of us, those quiet nighttime hours are a tiny, precious slice of heaven; a window to chill and zone out after all the duties of the day are complete. Ahhhh! That makes perfect sense! We want to maximize the time we have before calling it a day and starting all over again in the morning. Perhaps I'll enjoy one more episode of Friends on Netflix, or one more chapter of this great book on my tablet, or maybe I'll take one more peek to see what my friends are up to on Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat...

When I started to reflect on my nighttime habits, I realized that pretty much every single night, instead of choosing to shut off the lights, shut off my phone and get some much-needed ZZZZZs, I find myself with phone in hand taking one last perusal. How quickly 10 minutes can turn to 30 minutes...or much more! Trust me, I am plenty remorseful when my alarm goes off and I lost 45 minutes of precious sleep, thanks to social media. When I think about it (and clearly I had not prior to seeing this video), it's ridiculous.

I'm not always the best sleeper, and I was curious if my bad phone habits could be related to my sleep patterns. As it turns out, wasted sleep isn't the only negative effect of screen time before bed. Here are a few additional drawbacks worth pondering:

Phone/tablet use suppresses melatonin production, a hormone that helps you fall and stay asleep.

Cell phone and tablet use keeps your brain awake and stimulated as you absorb streams of photons. This stimulation obviously contributes to making it harder to fall asleep when you do eventually put your device down for the night.

Push notifications throughout the night (texts, Snapchats, Facebook comments, Tweets) make your phone light up / buzz, potentially awakening you from your slumber and disturbing your sleep cycle.

This reminds me: Do you know there is a Do Not Disturb button on your phone? So helpful! You just have to get in the habit of remembering to turn it on at night... and off in the morning.

I'm glad I stayed up to watch a YouTube video on sleep that fateful night because it resulted in much-needed reflection on my adult bedtime habits. Going forward, bedtime is going to be a phoneless, social media-free experience. After all, even “social media gurus” have to have to draw a line in the sand in order to invite Mr. Sandman to do his thing...

Sweet dreams, my friends!





Talk Steno to Me - A Word a Day

By: Donna Urlaub

Twenty-eight days ago I was on a job during which Northwestern came up a lot. Of course, in Chicago, with Northwestern Hospital and Northwestern University, chances are most reporters are going to encounter Northwestern pretty frequently, and write it: NORT/WERN.

So I started thinking about a better way, and gave NOERNT a whirl. Definitely a keeper. I'll never write NORT/WERN again, unless they're talking about North Western Avenue.

That night, on the Chicago Court Reporters FB page, I posted:

I discovered a useful brief today: NOERNT - Northwestern

The response was gratifying, to say the least. It is clear to me that seasoned, veteran reporters need and want to write shorter, but where to begin?

So I started posting something every day. On Day 5, one of the reporters called it A Word A Day. To say that she created a monster is an understatement; I think about my next word more than I care to admit. So I started numbering my posts, and today was Day 28: STHI = sympathy. STHI-D = sympathized.

Many of my posts have appeared in previous STARdotSTAR issues, so I'll just share a few here. I'm compiling all posts in another document. If you're interested, email me (donna@urlaubbowen.com) and I'll send it to you.

Day 6 - NERK = network - LOP = laptop

Day 7 - W-K = welcome - YOURK = you're welcome

Day 8 - TROGS = interrogatories - TRAGS = answers to interrogatories

Day 9 - GRIFM = algorithm

Day 11 - MOIL(S) = motion(s) in limine - FLAN = willful and wanton

Day 12 - OUB = obvious - OUBL = obviously

Day 13 - TOLG = technology

Day 14 - STAUBL = substantial - FID = fiduciary

Day 15 - WRAU = withdraw - WRAUG WRAUN WRAUL

Day 18 - LIGS = litigation

Day 19 - WAEL = eventually

Day 21 - SKIF = executive SKIF-D = executive director

Day 22 - NAEM = enemy MAEM = medium VIM = victim

Day 23 - N-D = indeed MAOEUM = meantime

Day 24 - AOL = although

Day 27 - NOEM = nursing home Top of Form

STAR Members Shine in Las Vegas



The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) honored STAR Member Nancy Varallo with its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) at the Premier Session held during the NCRA 2017 Convention in Las Vegas. NCRA's DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting profession. Nancy is a 30-year veteran of court reporting and a past NCRA president. Nancy is not only a STAR member but a frequent speaker and vendor at STAR events.

STAR Past President Rosalie Kramm was recognized by the National Court Reporters Foundation with the 2017 Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism. The award was presented during the Awards Luncheon at the convention. The Santo J. Aurelio Award is given to a working court reporter with more than 25 years of experience who has given back to the profession and to the court reporting community.

NCRA also announced the 2017 class of Fellows of the Academy of Professional Reporters. STAR Members Jan Ballman and Doreen Sutton were recipients and were recognized during the luncheon as well. Fellowship in the Academy of Professional Reporters is a professional distinction conferred upon a person with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and experience in the field of shorthand reporting.

STAR members were also applauded for their speed and accuracy during the various speed and realtime competitions, including STAR Board Member Donna Urlaub and Vice President Melanie Humphrey-Sonntag who placed 8th and 10th, respectively, in the Literary Speed Contest.

Congratulations to these hardworking and very deserving stars!



Time to Run the Case CATalyst® Updater!

By: Vickie M. Main, Stenograph Project Manager

Case CATalyst V18.50 was released on August 9, 2017. Don't wait to get the latest version of Case CATalyst. There is something for everyone in this release! Here are just a few of the changes.

LET'S TALK PDF!

There are several enhancements to printing to PDF. If your jurisdiction requires or requests PDFs with bookmarks, or you want to provide an added benefit for your clients, you got it! Bookmarks are often used for examinations, exhibits, requested documentation, etc., and allow the viewer to click a bookmark and instantly move to that location in the transcript. Version 18.50 includes PDF Bookmark Text On/Off format symbols that are easily inserted into an index template and are added automatically to all your transcripts after that. CATalyst's Build Index feature gathers the information and when printed to PDF, the information displays under the Bookmark section of the PDF. If you select the Include Attachments option when printing to PDF, attachments display under the Attachments section and attachments are hyperlinked in the body of the PDF. You can even encrypt (password protect or prevent printing and/or copying) a PDF without a digital signature.

PTX EXPORT!

PTX export now includes an option to export the transcript with timestamps. You can select Clock or Elapsed timestamp format. When you open the PTX in either the RealLegal E-Transcript Viewer™ and/or RealLegal E-Transcript Bundle Viewer™, the timestamp setting in Options needs to be selected to display and select the position of the timestamps.

FINISH 'EM!

A Reporter Suite™ Invoice ID option has been added to Finish 'em's E-mail Options. For those of you using Reporter Suite, you can easily obtain an Invoice's ID and automatically include a You can view, print, download and pay your invoice by [clicking here](#).link in the e-mail. Reporter Suite (<https://www.reportersuite.com>) is a third party application that allows users to manage reports, invoices, payees, expenses and time tracking from almost any device with an internet connection. For more information about Reporter Suite, please see their web site.

MODIFICATIONS!

You can now change your font style and size in more lists/tables.

The speed when accessing files using the Browse feature in dialog boxes has been improved and also when opening the print dialog.

RTF/CRE import for Eclipse and StenoCat transcripts improves the handling of 'guessed translation' situations and fields. Also improved the importing of native Eclipse files!

An issue that may have caused translation to hang or lockup when ending realtime due when outputting to CaseView to some unused COM ports has been corrected.

An issue where a suffix may not have attached to a root word when multiple delete strokes were written between the root word and suffix has been corrected.

Several very rare causes of Exception 3 errors have been corrected.

ARE YOU MISSING OTHER VERSION 18 FEATURES?

If you aren't using Case CATalyst V18, you are missing a lot of great features! Some include free Cloud Backup with Edge, Cloud Backup System Tray notifications, Brief It enhancements, Text Power Defines, All in One Options, Request Live Suggestions, Initial Cap On/Off format symbols and more! A complete list of new features, improvements and fixes are available in the Case CATalyst Release Notes! It is time to run the Case CATalyst Updater to get the latest and greatest version of Case CATalyst!

