



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Joseph A. Zayas
Chief Administrative Judge**

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New York State Courts Celebrate National Court Reporting and Captioning Week

NEW YORK—Court reporters play a vital part in our justice system—and with the many opportunities available within the New York State Courts to be part of this dynamic, rewarding, and well-paying profession—the Court System, during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week (February 3-10) and through various efforts, is paying tribute to its highly skilled corps of court reporters, shedding light on what they do, why it’s important, and the qualifications required to join their ranks.

Court reporters, using the latest technology and working in a range of court settings, provide verbatim recording and transcription of arraignments, trials, and other proceedings, capturing the spoken word and converting it into real-time text, ensuring a complete, accurate, and enduring record. The job requires speed, accuracy, and attention to detail, in addition to other qualifications. It’s a profession built on precision and veracity—driving the National Court Reporters Association’s anniversary theme, “125 Years of Accuracy and Integrity.”

Calling attention to the pivotal role of court reporters in our justice system and the urgent need for more court reporters in courts across the State, the Court System is amplifying its social media messaging—highlighting videos featuring court reporters discussing their duties and career paths (see links below)—and displaying and disseminating recruitment posters, to inform the public about full-time, part-time, and per diem opportunities for court reporters in judicial districts around the state.

Court System happenings during National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, among others, include a visit from Albany’s Channel 13 News to Albany County Supreme and County Court to observe court reporters in action and talk about their critically important work with Supervising Judge Christina Ryba and court reporters from

the courts' Third and Fourth Judicial Districts; and a joint news conference with Plaza College in Forest Hills, Queens—the nation's largest court reporting degree program—to highlight this meaningful profession, watch court reporters at work, and learn how to prepare and apply for court reporter jobs in the New York State Courts, with representatives of the courts' court reporter corps and Human Resources Division on hand to discuss the nuts and bolts of the job, including how to start a court reporting career.

“We are indebted to our court reporters for their valuable contributions. The work that they do each day is critical to the Court System’s mission and operations,” said Chief Administrative Judge Zayas. “In recognition of National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, I am pleased to join in celebrating our highly trained and dedicated corps of court reporters and encouraging students, job seekers, and others to learn more about the rewarding career opportunities available, from court reporter trainees to senior court reporters, in courthouses across New York.”

“I am so proud of our extraordinarily capable and diligent court reporters whose work is integral to the fair administration of justice. As we commemorate National Court Reporting and Captioning Week, it is my great pleasure to laud their meticulous, year-round efforts. Let us all express our gratitude for their outstanding work,” said First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George.

“Court Reporters are crucial to ensuring there is an accurate record of court proceedings. I appreciate their contributions to the justice system,” said Justice Ryba.

“Court Reporters serve an essential role in the New York State Courts. They are responsible for meticulously recording proceedings with unwavering precision. In every courtroom, their presence is indispensable, guaranteeing that every statement is accurately captured, thereby upholding the standards of fairness and accountability,” said Christy Bass, the Court System’s Director of Human Resources. “We hope to make more people aware of this gratifying profession and the career opportunities available in courts statewide to fulfill this important role.”

“Court reporting is one of the most lucrative and rewarding careers that, regrettably, so few people are aware of. Although various forms of electronic recording have their place, they really are not suited to replace the human court reporter. Real-time transcription and Communication Access Realtime Translation services are here to stay. Artificial intelligence, as it relates to voice recognition, is exactly that, artificial,” said Michael DeVito, principal management analyst for the Court System’s Office of the Record. “The New York State Courts, which are in great need of court reporters, are committed to the continued use of the human court reporter. It is our hope that, by raising awareness, guidance counselors and student advisers will inform their students about this exciting career option.”

The Careers in the Courts: Court Reporter vignette is available at <https://youtu.be/rLlgN3XPeOg>

This video features court reporter Cyndi West, who discusses the importance and variety of her work. "It's always something different. You can come in one day and you're doing a murder trial. You can come in the next day, you're doing a trial in Surrogate's Court or an adoption. The next day you could be doing a contested matrimonial. It's fascinating. It's never dull and I absolutely love it."

A video spotlighting court reporter Denee Vadell, who explains her role and talks about her own career path, is available at <https://cmi.nycourts.gov/vod/WowzaPlayer/ucs/2024-CR-Recruitment>

For more information about court reporting career opportunities in the New York State Courts, go to <https://ww2.nycourts.gov/careers/courtreportertitles.shtml>

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