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## **While Many College Graduates Plan a Summer Back at Home, Top Court Reporting Schools Report 100% Placement Rates**

*Department of Labor lists court reporting as a growth industry;  
Profession expected to grow by 10-20%*

(Vienna, VA) – As nationwide unemployment rates hover around 4.6 percent, representing nearly 8 million Americans out of work, one profession is seeing an unprecedented surge in growth and offers placement opportunities nearly unrivaled in today’s economy.

The profession? Court reporting.

While much of the potential workforce includes this year’s college graduates seeking that elusive first job, others may be contemplating a career change, and still others are heading back to the job market after time away to start families or follow dreams. Regardless of the situation, court reporting offers a highly skilled, long-term career with competitive wages and job security that many job seekers are looking for.

According to the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) there are approximately 35,000 judicial, broadcast captioning, CART and Internet information reporters in the U.S. The nation’s top court reporting schools are reporting 100 percent placement for their recent graduates and the U.S. Department of Labor reports that opportunities in captioning and realtime reporting are expected to grow by a minimum of 9-17 percent during the next decade.

“For any student whose primary goal upon graduation is to begin a rewarding, fulfilling, and dynamic high-tech career, court reporting is really something to consider,” said Mark J. Golden, CAE, Executive Director and CEO of NCRA. “Of course there’s never a guarantee that any individual student is going to get a job right out of school,” Golden said, “but the placement rates for this profession are exceptionally strong.”

Seven of the nation’s top court reporting schools, responding to an NCRA query, reported that all of the students in their 2004-2005 graduating class had gone directly from the classroom to the job site. According to research conducted in 2004 by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), nationwide only about 45 percent of college students have jobs at the time they graduate.

“Individuals spending hard-earned money and valuable time studying and learning new disciplines expect that investment to payoff,” said Golden. “Top students are attracted to this profession because it offers an opportunity for exciting, steady and technologically advanced careers. And because this is such a growth industry, opportunities exist for top students to begin their careers immediately upon completing their schooling.”

Reporting careers require from two to four years of technical training. More than 100 private and public community colleges and universities across the country offer an associate's and/or bachelor's degree in reporting.

Careers in the reporting field – specifically, the verbatim transcription of the spoken word to print – include not only the field of judicial reporting, but also broadcast captioning, communications access realtime translation (CART) reporting and realtime reporting to the Internet (Webcasting).

“Whether running a Webcast or reporting a trial in realtime to judges and court officials, court reporters are using the latest technologies to provide invaluable services in a wide array of fields. In addition, some 100 million Americans rely on television captioning to receive news and vital emergency information,” Golden said. “These individuals include the deaf and hard of hearing and people for whom English is a second language.”

A major reason for the increased demand for reporters and captioners is a Federal law that requires that all new television programming – including live news and sports events – be closed captioned. There is a severe shortage of qualified professionals available to handle the increased demand this law created.

In short, those who graduate from an accredited court reporting school leave with portable skills that are in high demand. According to compensation experts, they can also expect to be well-rewarded for their educational investment.

- **Judicial reporters**, who are commonly known as official or freelance reporters and work in court or in depositions, earn an average annual income of \$64,000.
- **Broadcast captioners**, who work for television stations or captioning companies, earn from \$35,000 to \$75,000 and more a year, depending on assignments and workload.
- **CART reporters**, who supply communication access services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, see annual income ranges between \$35,000 and \$65,000.
- **Internet information reporters**, who remotely caption to the Internet or provide Webcasting services, are usually paid at a rate of \$100-\$200 per hour.

“Reporting is an expanding profession that caters to a diverse range of individuals. Whether you’re a recent graduate, a single or stay-at-home mother, or someone considering an occupational change, reporting offers flexibility, good pay, and a career that allows you to give back to your community by providing essential services,” said Golden.

### **About the National Court Reporters Association**

NCRA is a 26,000-member nonprofit organization representing the judicial reporting and captioning professions. Members include official court reporters, deposition reporters, broadcast captioners, providers of realtime communication access services for deaf and hard-of-hearing people and others who capture and convert the spoken word into information bases and readable formats. Additional information is available by calling 800-272-6272 (TTY 703-556-6289) or visiting their Web site at [www.NCRAonline.org](http://www.NCRAonline.org).

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