

# THE GUARDIAN

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## Most Unusual Jobs

By: Nancy Hopp

In June, the JCR Weekly ran as a question of the week, “What is the most unusual job you have had using your court reporting skills outside of the traditional legal arena?” The question, which was posed on behalf of NCRA’s New Markets Task Force, elicited a number of responses ranging from captioning on a cruise ship to trying to get a statement from a dying inmate in the emergency room to working as an extra on the show *Bloodlines* on Netflix. However, one response was so unique that it led the JCR Weekly team to reach out to the respondent and find out more. NCRA member Nancy Hopp, RDR, CRR, CMRS, NCRF Trustee, chief operating officer of Midwest Litigation Services, St. Louis, Mo., was kind enough to share some of her more memorable jobs.

By far, one of the weirdest reporting jobs in her career that Hopp recalls took place at a bull auction. According to Hopp, “There’s not a lot to tell, unfortunately. It was basically standard auctioneer patter, although at an understandable speed, thank God. Some of the auction items were bulls, and some were...well, bull semen.”

Other interesting jobs Hopp said she has had over her career included flying to Texas to take statements in the investigation of the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster. “I went to both the Johnson Space Center and also to the University of Texas at Austin to report interviews with scientists involved in the design and launch of the shuttle,” she said. “I definitely felt like a witness to history in the making.”

Hopp also had the opportunity to work as one of the captioners for Pope John Paul II’s visit

to Saint Louis back in 1999. “It was an enormous event, with massive media coverage. Former President Clinton as well as former Vice President Gore and their wives were in attendance. The venues included the airport, outdoor plazas, and several huge auditoriums. The terminology and accent swere challenging and the security very, very tight,” she said. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime reporting experience, and I was honored to be on the Midwest Litigation Services team providing the captioning services for this historic event.”

Then, of course, there was the time that Hopp served as a scribe for two disabled law students taking the essay section of the Illinois Bar exam. “One student was paralyzed from the neck down, and the other had the most severe case of Parkinson’s disease I’ve ever seen. In both instances, they were unable to write and so would dictate their answers to me,” said Hopp. “Believe me, it’s a profound and intimate experience to serve as someone’s hands. Needless to say, I kept saving my CAT file every minute, horrified at the mere thought that a technical snafu could lose their work. They were both really nice guys and very inspiring as well. I can’t imagine the challenges they faced in their schooling as well as their daily lives. I know the paralyzed gentleman passed the bar and became a practicing attorney. I never did find out if the other fellow passed or not.”

In another instance Hopp was retained by *Money* magazine to report a generally wide-ranging discussion by a dozen married couples on their finances and how the economy affected them.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.”  
-Booker T. Washington

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## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### Sarah Fitzgibbon

Sarah is almost done with her schooling! She only needs her 225 Q&As to finish. She has worked so hard to get to this point and is pushing even harder now. We are so proud of you, Sarah! You will be working in no time!



### Kim Wilkerson

Kim started with CCR in the summer of 2014. She works very hard every semester, but her teachers found her work this past semester to be exemplary. Keep up all of your hard work, Kim! It is paying off!

The facilitator used Hopp's transcript to generate quotes for his magazine article.

For several years, Hopp said she also reported both lecture and training sessions for consultants at the Arthur Andersen Center for Professional Education, located on a campus in the Chicago suburbs. "Experienced consultants would come from around the world to hear lectures by luminaries such as former U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger and also Nicholas Negroponte, founder and chairman emeritus of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab, who spoke knowledgeably about the Internet's vast potential when it was still in its relative infancy and Mosaic was the most widely used browser," she said.

Hopp said the most interesting part of that job, though, was reporting the training sessions for young consultants from around the globe. "I felt like I was going to business school but without the homework or tuition! They discussed so many interesting business problems, and there was a real creativity to both the analysis and the people skills required to make process improvements. And, of course, they were extremely interested in my machine and realtime capability," she said. "One young guy who had been sitting behind me, watching my screen, asked if it was voice-recognition technology. Needless to say, I set him straight."

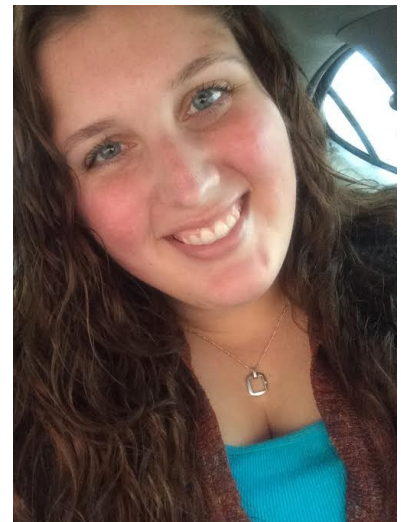
Hopp said she also spent several years reporting various meetings for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. "They would fly me around the country and serve some very delicious high-protein breakfasts! There were also many renowned speakers who addressed their Board of Directors meetings, including U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of the Interior at the time, as well as the Olympic skater Sasha Cohen," she said. "But most interesting to me were their research meetings, where food scientists would come in and report on the results of their research grants. I learned so much about protein and nutrition."

Finally, Hopp said that her peak experience was reporting the NCRA business meeting. "Boy, talk about feeling the pressure to do a good job! As you can imagine, though, all the speakers were very understanding of the challenges of the job and treated me well," she said. "Looking back, I've sure had an interesting reporting career, haven't I?"

Re-printed from the JCR

## Indiana Court Reporters Association Annual Scholarship

The winner of the Indiana Court Reporters Association annual student scholarship is CCR's very own Jessica Frizzell! Jessica sent a very well-written essay to the association and received an award of \$500. To read her essay, check out our blog that is on our website at [ccr.edu](http://ccr.edu). Congratulations, Jessica! You earned it!



## Breast Cancer Awareness Month at CCR

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, College of Court Reporting is showing their support by participating in the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on Sunday, October 18. Making Strides events united more than one million people in nearly 300 communities nationwide with a shared determination to finish the fight against breast cancer. CCR hosted a campaign to raise funds for two awesome charities for breast cancer awareness month, which starts October 1st. All sales will be split between The National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. and the Pink Ribbon Society. We are looking forward to a great walk in our t-shirts!



### AUGUST EVALUATIONS PASSED

These students have all passed one or more SAP evaluations during the month of August .

<b><u>12 SAPs</u></b> Kristine Rebar Victoria Huntley	Jessica Frizzell Paulina Alanis	Tracie Blocker Valerie Melkus	Stephanie McGinnis Sue Harrison	Nadine Golden Onni Beene
<b><u>11 SAPs</u></b> Ashley Guillermo	<b><u>4 SAPs</u></b> Jennifer Hall	<b><u>2 SAPs</u></b> Alisa Church	Tami Taylor	Shari Conrad
<b><u>10 SAPs</u></b> Emma Mach	Kathy Stempeck	Amy Krueger	<b><u>1 SAPs</u></b> Abby Crouse	Sindee Baum
<b><u>9 SAPs</u></b> Debra Selsavage	Kimberly Murphy	Barbara Ufer	Amy Powers	Suleika Olivio
Jamie Bleicher	Monica Robinson	Brett Schatzle	Cassidy Johnson	Yolanda Pena
Jamie Johnson	Nicole Miller	Carol Casstevens	Christine Angel	Yvette Granados
<b><u>8 SAPs</u></b> Elise Townes	Robin Willey	Carolyn Collins	Christine Obermeyer	
Geneva Wildcat	Thomas Herman	Claire Baldi	Corree Brooks	
<b><u>7 SAPs</u></b> Adam Marcus	Tyler Adkins	Holly Harris	Debrina Jones	
Sheila Sinclair	<b><u>3 SAPs</u></b> Brandi Smith	Holly Reese	Denise Kurdziel	
<b><u>6 SAPs</u></b> Daisy Tamez	Brionca Tate	Jalene Hutseal	Erica Jenkins	
Dawn Molina	Christil McAllister	Jessica Vanatta	Heidi Masters	
Erin Claybrook	Christine VanDam	Jessica Wills	Holly McKay	
Jennifer MacDonald	Darby Valle	John Boutsis	Jamie Dorgan	
Julia Haven	Julie Domanico	Katelyn Berch	Jennifer Wesner	
Shivone Latortue	Kathleen Steadman	Katie Jaraczewski	Jessica Rhykus	
Taisha Herr	Kiana Luke	Kayde Rieken	Joan Yeatts	
<b><u>5 SAPs</u></b> Ashleigh Huston	Kirstie Anderson	Kelly Garland	Josey Loney	
	Kirstine Mowery	Kelsey Kerwell	Justina Foster	
	Lisa Major	Kolby Garrison	Karina Hannah	
	Martha Obstalecki	Lucetta Robertson	Kristen Stegeman	
	Natalie Sandi	Megan Reeves	Kristin Gertz	
	Sarah Hamilton	Melanie Segalla	Madeline Lauer	
	Taifa Stephenson	Rachel Quinn	Michael Roberts	
		Sherrona Williams	Michelle Kowalsky	

## JOB OPENINGS



Where: Leon County Courthouse  
Tallahassee, FL

Title: Court reporter

Annual Salary Range: \$52,444.80

Description: The essential function of the position within the organization is to stenographically record court proceedings and produce transcripts. The position is responsible for recording court proceedings, performing research, proofreading and editing recorded proceedings to produce transcripts, and assisting with training of other departmental personnel. The position works under general supervision independently developing work methods and sequences.

Education and Training:

- Two-year vocational school education in court reporting; or two-year education at a certified Court Reporting Institute.
- \* Two years working as a court reporter may be substituted for the two years vocational education, but must currently have your Registered Professional Reporter certification from the National Court Reporters Association.

Licenses, Certification, and Regulations Required:

Requires valid certificate as a Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) or higher, e.g., Certified Real Time Reporter.

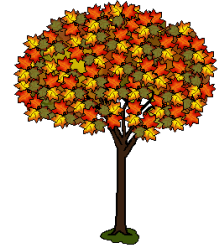
Special Comments:

- Ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally.
- Ability to manage multiple projects, priorities, and activities.
- Ability to plan, edit, and proofread reports, articles, and other written materials.
- Ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with members of the judiciary, state court personnel and the public.
- Must be knowledgeable of court operations and administration
- Must be proficient in the use of Word, Word Perfect and Excel.
- Experience in the legal system will benefit the successful applicant.
- A thorough criminal and civil background check will be conducted on all final applicants.
- An application addendum is required for final applicants.
- Reference check of previous and current employers.

Position available no earlier than Monday, October 5, 2015.

## Reflections on My Career

By: Gayle Hays



Driving my car the other day here in Seattle, it occurred to me that I had graduated from Kenosha Technical Institute in Kenosha, Wis., as it was called then, 40 years ago in June 1973 with an associate degree in Court and Conference Reporting. I'd like to tell you what that education has meant in my life.

I come from a blue-collar family with five siblings, so college was never a possibility for me. But I definitely knew I didn't want to be a waitress the rest of my life in the small town of East Troy, so I flipped through the KTI programs book. I can still recall the picture of the young lady sitting at the steno machine. I had zero knowledge about it but I signed up. Getting through two years of school was the toughest thing I ever did, especially getting my speed up to where I could keep up with someone talking. And I got whipped into shape with my math, anatomy, business law, and philosophy (which I didn't like). Back then tuition was free. I only needed to buy books and get myself to school the hour each way, rain, snow, or shine, in my little Volkswagen Beetle.

Of course, everything has changed since then. There's no more carbon paper or Wite-Out. It's gone from typing to realtime on a computer. I started out my career filling in at court in Waukesha County, including the awful day when two people were murdered in the next courtroom. I freelanced in the Walworth-Kenosha-Racine County area for many years and then moved to Seattle in 2001.

I knew I could always take care of myself and my family financially, without having to depend on anyone. When I moved to Washington, I found a job in pretty much 15 minutes because I'm a Registered Professional Reporter, and that means something. Every working day has been interesting. Even if the subject of the lawsuit is, say, plumbing, it means someone's life and someone's money. I haven't had a 9-to-5 job in decades. I answer to no one since I'm incorporated as my own company.

Some testimony has been challenging, and I've heard terminology on everything from toxicology to blood-splatter science. I'll do research for my transcripts until it's absolutely correct. The highlight here in Washington was the occasion when I did realtime before the Washington State Legislature on huge screens around the room on hearing-impairment issues.

And now I'm on the cusp of retirement. I don't know who said that if you have a job you love, you never work a day in your life, and that's very true for me. I haven't "worked" since 1973.

COLLEGE OF COURT REPORTING

111 West Tenth Street, Suite 111  
 Hobart, IN 46342  
 Phone: 219-942-1459

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**ANY SUGGESTIONS?**

*Your CCR newsletter is always changing.  
 Contact Jen at [jen.lewis@ccr.edu](mailto:jen.lewis@ccr.edu) with  
 any ideas that you may have for the next  
 one. It is much appreciated!*

*October*

*Birthdays are in bold print! Happy birthday, CCR students and faculty!*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Semester Break	28	29	30	1	2	3 Kassandra Walter
4	5 Geneva Wildcat Karina Hannah  Semester Begins	6 Tiffany Perkins	7	8	9	10 Lisa Morton
11 Christine Obermeyer	12 Columbus Day 140-160 Multivoice	13	14	15 Faculty Meeting	16 Abby Crouse Ehmay Liggins Holly (Pam) McKay	17 Sweetest Day 
18	19 Stephanie Inman  180-200 Multivoice	20 Linda Hawkins- Brown	21	22 Lisa Major Jessica Vanatta	23	24
25	26 140-160 Multivoice	27	28 Jay Vettickal	29 Brionca Tate	30 Allison Oosterhaus Brett Schatzle  Costume/ Halloween Potluck Luncheon	31 Susanne Kostaras Alexandra Wiater Halloween