

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS

APRIL 23, 2008

The State Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters convened at 8:22 a.m. in Room 117 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

Board Members Present: John Brandon, Shorthand Reporter, Chairperson
Patricia Masi, Shorthand Reporter
Walter Rochow, Shorthand Reporter
William Mangini, Public Member
Cheryl Stern, Public Member

Board Members Absent: Joseph N. DeFilippo, Attorney

Board Counsel Present: None

DCP Staff Present: Nelson Leon, Board Secretary
Vicky Bullock, Administrative Hearings Attorney

Public Present: Les Seligson, Shorthand Reporter and President CCRA
Marge Cunningham, United Reporters, Inc.
Guy Raboin, United Reporters, Inc.

Note: The administrative functions of this Board are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information call Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135.

Agency Web Site: www.ct.gov/dcp

Chairperson Brandon called the meeting to order at 8:22 a.m. The minutes from the January 23, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Brandon asked that the last sentence in paragraph five, page three, be stricken from the minutes due to a misunderstanding. Mr. Brandon made a motion to accept the minutes with the modification, Ms. Masi seconded, and all were in favor.

Attorney Bullock then swore in the Board's new member, Mr. Walter Rochow. Mr. Seligson then gave a brief summary as to Mr. Rochow's credentials. Specifically, Mr. Rochow has been a shorthand reporter since 1961, and holds licenses as an RPR, CSR, and LSR. All present welcomed Walter Rochow to the Board.

Mr. Brandon then apprised the Board that there are now five billboards across the state advertising the profession of Court Reporting. Mr. Brandon thanked Dolores Falzarano who negotiated on behalf of the State Association to keep the billboards up until another entity wished to rent the space. Mr. Brandon pointed out the billboards were paid for by the State Association and private funding.

Mr. Brandon then asked if there was any new business. Mr. Rochow asked if there exists any standardized reading and signing procedures being used for transcripts. He pointed out that every agency seems to have their own style when handling, reading and signing of transcripts. All reporters present agreed that differences do exist. Mr. Rochow felt that there must be a way to have a standardized procedure to comply with the Practice Book. Mr. Brandon agreed, and felt the problem was administrative. Ms. Cunningham agreed that the process is an "administrative nightmare". Mr. Brandon thought that perhaps there should be some recommended practice.

Mr. Seligson then suggested modifying the Practice Book. He thought Jerry Padula could work on re-doing the Book. Attorney Bullock then mentioned that changes to the Practice Book are judicial. Mr. Brandon had a concern that modifying the Practice Book is probably too drastic at this stage.

Ms. Masi suggested doing a proposal to modify the Practice Book, and Mr. Brandon said that he and Mr. Rochow could perhaps work on the wording for the modification. Ms. Masi offered to find out who is in charge of the Practice Book.

Ms. Cunningham asked if the courts took the original transcripts, and Patricia responded "only if the transcript is marked as an exhibit".

Under other new business, Mr. Brandon pointed out that his agency receives requests to certify a portion of a transcript. His feeling is that an agency should not certify a portion, but rather the entire document. Ms. Cunningham agreed that certifying a portion of a transcript should never be done.

Mr. Seligson then notified the group that free CEUs would be available to members of the Connecticut Court Reporters Association (CCRA). On May 22, 2008 CCRA will be holding a seminar at Briarwood College from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. From 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., CCRA will hold a general membership meeting, followed by a presentation by Dr. Kevin Colwell, Assistant Professor at SCSU entitled Recognizing Deception and Assessing Credibility....or, “How to Tell if Someone is Lying!”. CCRA members in attendance will earn .2 CEUs.

Legislative Update

Mr. Seligson distributed Substitute Bill No. 272 to those present. An amendment was made by the General Law Committee in Section 1 (b) changing a word from “later” to “earlier”. Mr. Seligson said the Judiciary Committee passed this unanimously. When asked if this had to go through other committees, Mr. Seligson replied that he did not think so. He thought the last step was the Legislature’s Commissioner’s Office.

Mr. Brandon asked the implementation date of this (if passed), and Mr. Seligson said it would be effective October 1, 2008.

Mr. Brandon asked if there was any more business to be conducted and, there being none, adjourned the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Brandon
Chairperson

The next meeting of this Board is scheduled for Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 8:15 a.m. in Room-117