

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS

MAY 30, 2007

The State Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters convened May 30, 2007 at 8:40 a.m. in Room 117 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

Board Members Present: John C. Brandon, Chairperson, Shorthand Reporter
 Joseph N. Defilippo, Attorney
 William Mangini, Public Member
 Cheryl Stern, Public Member

Board Member Absent: Susan K. Whitt, Shorthand Reporter

Board Vacancies: One Shorthand Reporter

Board Counsel Present: None

DCP Staff Present: Nelson Leon, Board Secretary

Public Present: Christopher J. VanDeHoef, TCORS
 Les Seligson

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

Mr. Brandon talked about Robert Miller not being an official member of the Board, and that the letter he received from the Governor's office was a thank you acknowledgement for expressing his interest on an appointment to the Shorthand Reporters Board. Mr. Brandon stated that the regulations reflect three shorthand reporters to be appointed by the Governor from a list submitted by the Connecticut Court Reporters Association. Mr. Brandon had spoken to Mr. Miller personally and thanked him for wanting to be on the Board.

Patricia Masi and Tracy Gow were mentioned as qualified candidates for appointment on the Board. Both Ms. Massi and Ms. Gow are licensed Shorthand Reporters in Connecticut and do not own a Shorthand Reporter business or school, giving the Board a neutral member who is not affiliated with a Shorthand Reporter business or school. Ms. Gow has expressed an interest in serving on the Board, and has sent paperwork to the Governor expressing her interest on serving as a Board member.

Mr. Brandon, Mr. Seligson and Attorney Defilippo discussed Bob Miller's background and experience, who is highly respected, and suggesting that he would be a real asset to the Board.

Questions were raised as to whether or not Tracy Gow is a freelancer. Questions were also raised as to whether or not Susan Whitt is a freelancer as well, which would make the Board over-represented in this area, and that having two agency owners would be a detriment to the individual reporters. It was suggested that Patricia Masi would be a great candidate in that she was from Hartford Superior Court.

Mr. Brandon indicated that the procedure for Board appointments is already in place, and that we need to get recommendations concerning any vacancy appointments.

Mr. Brandon discussed changes to Substitute Senate Bill 1298 "An Act Concerning Shorthand Reporters". Mr. VanDeHoef expanded on Substitute Senate Bill 1298 with regards to specific revisions which impact on licensure, suspensions, revocations, penalties, hearings, etc. Mr. Brandon suggested striking out line 57-66 on page-3.

The Board discussed provisional licensure and full licensure, the potential impact of provisional licensed reporters being abused by agencies who do not always do the right thing, and who may resort to concentrating more on profit rather than the best interest of the provisional licensed reporter.

Mr. Brandon stated that the provisional license allows for an individual to get into the profession and that there is a need for more shorthand reporters due to the already low numbers of licensed Connecticut Shorthand Reporters.

The Board continued discussion regarding the potential low pay for extraordinary complex work by agency owners, which in the end hurt the consumer; the need for further discussion to discuss ways to advertise to attract court reporters to Connecticut via television, radio, bill boards, bus billboards, mailings, etc.; the need to educate the public on what a court reporter is, what it takes to be a court reporter; the need to bring up the level of pay and respect for the court reporters function; test standards; test pass ratio being less than 50% and the dwindling number of Court Reporters.

Attorney Defilippo asked about those who are not going with provisional licensing or are unlicensed, and as for Attorneys who have no way of knowing about licensure or work product, how are we going to attack this problem, and that people need to be helped on reaching the bar for licensure.

Mr. Brandon said that the only way to protect the Shorthand Reporter industry in Connecticut is to audit and evaluate random complaints, that there is an incredible shortage of Shorthand Reporters in Connecticut that is big and has become complicated.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Brandon
Chairperson

The next meeting of this Board is scheduled for Wednesday, August 29, 2007 at 8:15 a.m.