



## MEET YOUR SPEAKERS

### ACRA Empowering Court Reporters

#### February 20 – 21, 2026



#### **Anissa R. Nierenberger RPR, CRR, CRC, CRI, B.S. Realtime Reporting**

• **30-year Captioner** • **Dictionary Jumpstart Founder** • **LearnToRealtime Instructor** • **STENŌphonătic® Creator**

**Anissa (u NEE suh) Nierenberger** is a certified professional realtime trainer. She has fun helping reporters boost their realtime skills so that they can continue to keep up with the rapid pace of technology and make more money!


As a very young girl, Anissa became intrigued with typewriters when she first saw and heard a blue IBM Selectric typewriter at her dentist's office. During a high school career day with a court reporter, she saw a steno machine and knew that steno was going to be her passion! Her career includes three decades of captioning news,


sports and tech captioning at Facebook and Amazon.

She has researched and created Dictionary Jumpstart, the only dictionary building program in the industry. DJ consists of 10 modules containing over 165,000 words that can be added to your dictionary at 1,000 words per hour!

Over 1600 stenographers have successfully attained their realtime goals and certifications after training with Anissa. Reporters turn to Anissa when they're ready to upgrade their careers!

Anissa is the author of four books that help reporters write shorter by learning brief families. Most recently Anissa has created STENŌphonătic, the first word building card game in English and steno!

 **Terrific Tidbits: (1.5 hours)** Top-Notch Tips for Transforming Your Talents! Terrific Tidbits is a delicious concoction of easy-to-learn brief couples, trios and families along with top-notch tips to take care of YOU! This rejuvenating webinar will inspire you to tune into what's important and transcend in the six areas of your well-being. Anissa will introduce you to her take-charge tools that will help you remain calm in chaos, grateful during growth and visualize your victories!

 **Shine with the Best of Anissa's Tips, Tricks & Brief Families! (1.5 Hours)**  
18 PowerPoints, 23 years of sharing knowledge, and 43 states visited to inspire and motivate reporters to BECOME their best realtime selves! Learn Anissa's most valuable methods, tools and tricks to help you on your realtime journey! Learn/Review SADA, FPP55, J/Y, Case/Eclipse tips, the value of repetition and consistency. Brief families can save the day! You do NOT want to miss this valuable review of 23 years!



## Dave Wenhold, CAE, PLC - NCRA Executive Director

**Dave Wenhold** has represented the court reporting and captioning professions as a lobbyist for more than 25 years. In his tenure at NCRA as Director of Government Relations and Public Policy, and now as Executive Director, he was successful in lobbying the Judicial Branch and the Executive Branch, and he has worked with Congress to earmark tens of millions of dollars for the court reporting and captioning professions. Wenhold is currently advocating to curb AI in the judicial system for the protection of all litigants with the introduction of NCRA's AI oversight legislation.

He is co-founder of Miller/Wenhold Capitol Strategies, a full-service lobbying firm based in Northern Virginia. Wenhold is a past president of the American League of Lobbyists and founder of the ALL Capitol PurSue Drive, an annual clothes drive held on Capitol Hill to aid Americans trying to re-enter the workforce, for which he was presented with the U.S. President's "Call to Service" award, the country's highest award for citizen volunteerism.

In 2008, Wenhold was selected along with three other lobbyists as one of the most effective association lobbyists in Washington by Association Trends. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Keene State College in Keene, N.H., the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation from the American Society of Association Executives, and the Professional Lobbying Certificate (PLC) from the American League of Lobbyists. In 2025 Dave received an honorary Doctorate Degree from his alma mater for his extensive philanthropic work and career of giving back.

### **Body Language (1 hour)**

Learn what everybody is saying to you and how to utilize those subtle signals to judge any situation. Whether it is in the elevator, the office, a courtroom, or a boardroom, the unconscious signals that a person's body sends out will allow you to better read them. This fun and interactive seminar will show you how to make an impact with others through nonverbal communication. Studies show that 93% of communication effectiveness is based upon nonverbal cues. So what is your body telling others?

Learning objectives: Understanding how nonverbal cues can help you in your day-to-day life in the workplace, create the ability to influence people with your skills. Build confidence by learning some tips and tricks in this seminar.

### **AI in the Legal Setting: (1.5 hours)**

This seminar explores the growing risks of artificial intelligence influencing the record-making process in both creative and legal contexts. Attendees will examine how AI-generated documentation and recordings can blur lines of authenticity, authorship, and accountability. We will discuss emerging challenges around admissibility, copyright, and data manipulation.

Learning objectives: Participants will gain practical strategies to safeguard integrity and legal compliance in an era of automated content creation and how you can advocate for the human element in legal proceedings. Get an update on NCRA's activities on Capitol Hill regarding fighting AI's intrusion into the record making process.



## Cindy L. Isaacsen, RPR - NCRA President

**Cindy Isaacsen** is an official court reporter for the 10th Judicial District Court in Olathe, Kansas, and holds the nationally recognized professional certification of Registered Professional Reporter (RPR).

She began her career in 1988 as a freelance court reporter in Clarksville, Tenn. In 1990, she worked as a freelance court reporter in Schweinfurt, Germany. She has also worked as a freelance court reporter at Fort Polk, La., and for several firms including Welker & Associates in Clarksville, Tenn., and AAA Court Reporting Company in Overland Park, Kan. Isaacsen also worked as an official court reporter for the 36th Judicial District Court in DeRidder, La.

At the national level, she served on NCRA's Election Committee in 2016-2017, and as a regional representative, and as Vice Chair for the National Congress of State Associations (NCSA). Isaacsen has also served on various committees, including the Finance Committee, the Brand Ambassadors Council, and the Student/Teacher Committee. She was elected to serve a three-year term as member of NCRA's Board of Directors in 2018-2019. She was then elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer until she was elected Vice President.

At the state level, Isaacsen has served on the board and twice as president of the Kansas Court Reporters Association. She has also served as a speaker for several state associations. She is a graduate of the Stenograph Institute of Texas.

### **From Chaos to Calendar: Timing is Everything (1.0 hour)**

This session is designed to help participants transform disorganized schedules into structured, efficient time management systems. Through practical strategies, proven techniques, and interactive discussions, attendees will learn how to prioritize daily tasks, optimize calendars, and maintain productive habits. You will walk away with a clearer, more sustainable approach to managing time effectively.



## **Dr. Mark Head, Ph.D.**

### **Motivational Speaker / Coach / Facilitator/ Trainer**

**Dr. Mark Head** has been a lifelong resident of Troy, Alabama. He is a 1989 graduate of Charles Henderson High School and holds both a bachelor's degree and Master's Degree in Special Education from Troy University. In 2006, he earned his Educational Doctorate from Nova Southeastern University. He spent 30 years in public education serving in a variety of instructional and administrative roles. Dr. Head spent nine years as a special education teacher and athletics coach. He also served as assistant principal and principal of a K-12 school for three years before returning home to serve as principal of a K-8 school. Dr. Head then moved to the district level as an assistant superintendent serving as the administrator for prevention and support/special education. Over the 12 years in this role, Dr. Head oversaw all aspects of special education, Section 504, Mental Health, System Discipline, Teacher Evaluation, Principal Evaluation, and many other programs. He also served as an administrative mentor before retiring in 2021. Dr. Head now works as a Head Coach and Content Lead for Kids First Education, Alabama Division.

### **Confronting Test Anxiety and Dealing with Difficult People (1 hour)**

This interactive seminar explores two critical challenges faced by professionals in high-stakes environments: performance anxiety and interpersonal conflict. Participants will learn evidence-based strategies to manage test-related stress, improve focus, and build confidence under pressure. The second half of the session dives into practical techniques for navigating difficult personalities—whether in the workplace, courtroom, or classroom—with emotional intelligence, assertiveness, and resilience. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to enhance both their personal well-being and professional effectiveness.



## Quenesha Grayson, IT Project Manager, AOC

**Quenesha Grayson** serves as the IT Project Manager for the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts (AOC), where she oversees technology initiatives, supports cross-department collaboration, and guides projects from planning through implementation.

She joined AOC in 2023 as a Court Specialist before transitioning into IT, first working in Municipal Support and later moving into her current project management role. Her earlier experience in healthcare data entry and probate services strengthened her skills in data organization, reporting, and process improvement, with Excel as a core tool throughout each stage of her

career.

A graduate of Lurleen B. Wallace Community College with an associate degree, she continues to expand her expertise through hands-on technical work and training initiatives. She has led multiple instructional sessions on internal applications and software, known for her clear, approachable teaching style.

She brings a strong focus on communication, structure, and practical problem-solving to her Excel session, hoping to help court reporters apply spreadsheet tools in ways that make their work more efficient and manageable.

### Excel Like You Mean It: From Steno to Stats (1 hour)

*“Empowering Court Reporters to turn data into decisions, one cell at a time.”*

The goal of this session is to help guide court reporters through the essential Excel skills that simplify the real tasks they handle every day, from job logs to billing, transcript tracking, and scheduling. Designed for beginners through intermediate users, it shows how to transform raw information into organized, accurate, and useful data. Participants will learn formulas, tables, sorting, filtering, and productivity tools that streamline their workflow and help them make smarter decisions, one cell at a time.



### **Michael L. Cumpton, Attorney at Law, Published Author**

Michael Cumpton is a founding partner of the law firm of Ryan, Hicks, Cumpton & Cumpton, LLP and he has practiced law in Mobile for over 30 years. He is a certified tax planner and has lectured to groups of attorneys throughout the country. He is the author of two books and numerous scholarly articles.

Mr. Cumpton works with clients in the United States and internationally. He is considered a dynamic presenter who explains complex issues in an entertaining way.



### **Gary Hicks, Attorney at Law, Published Author**

Gary Hicks is a founding partner of the law firm of Ryan, Hicks, Cumpton & Cumpton, LLP. Mr. Hicks practices in the areas of tax planning, estate planning, trusts, and business organizations.

Mr. Hicks is a member of the Alabama State Bar, the Florida State Bar, the Elder Law Section of the Alabama State Bar, and the American Bar Association. He is also a member of the American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys. Mr. Hicks has co-authored two books on estate planning and tax matters. Mr. Hicks has practiced law in Mobile for over 40 years.

#### **The One Big Beautiful Tax Advantage: What Every Court Reporter Should Know (1.5 hours)**

Discussions on how the new tax laws can be used to save you money individually and in your Court Reporting business. We will also review how the use of LLCs and corporations and other business organizations can help you reduce taxes. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OB3) became law on July 4, 2025. The tax provisions in the law offer major benefits for most individuals and businesses. We will discuss the top tax savings tips for you !!