

COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

Office of Court Administration
Tom C. Clark Building
205 W. 14th Street
First Floor Conference Room
Austin, Texas 78701
Friday, June 28, 2019
(1:00 p.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by the Hon. Lori Valenzuela, Presiding Officer, at approximately 1:06 p.m. Judge Valenzuela, Molly Pela, Kim Tindall, Deborah Hamon, and Whitney Lehmborg Riley attended by teleconference. Janice Eidd-Meadows and Robin Cooksey appeared in person. Staff members present were Jeff Rinard, Scott Gibson, Jilian Stengle, Michele Henricks, and Tyees Holcombe. Commissioner Velma Arellano attended in person.

Judge Valenzuela welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Board members reviewed and approved the prior Board meeting minutes from the February 22, 2019 meeting.

Licensing Manager Jilian Stengle provided the Board with an overview of the applications for endorsement. Approved applicants are required to take the written exam. Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted on the following applications for endorsement:

- Francine Dais (California and Oklahoma, attended by phone) – approved
- Debra Ann Dibble (Utah) – approved
- Theresa Ann Reese (Hawaii and California, attended by phone) – approved
- Kathy J. Szotek (Illinois, attended by phone) - denied
- Crystal Lynn Hereford (Arizona, attended by phone) - denied

Pam Marcinik, Co-Chair, TCRA Testing Advisory Council, presented a proposal for the court reporters' exam to be administered on-line. The Board voted to recommend to the Commission at the next meeting on August 2, 2019, that the court reporter exam be administered online with details on implementation to be addressed at a future date.

Jeff Rinard presented a legislative update on SB 891 effective September 1, 2019, and the process to implement the bill along with a 1st draft of JBCC Rule revisions for future discussion. Under the provisions of the bill, a stakeholder work group committee is to be formed to include members of the Advisory Board, TCRA and TEXDRA members, and a representative from a court reporting school. The work group will address provisional and apprentice certifications for court reporters and conditions under which court reporting firms are subject to disciplinary action for repeated failure to fulfill a commitment to provide court reporter services.

Matters under agenda item VII related to the court reporter shortage were mentioned with

actions taken, if any, as follows:

1) Reciprocity and Endorsement

2) States Substantially Equivalent to Texas - At February 22, 2019 meeting, the Board voted to authorize staff to approve endorsement applications for 8 states identified as having certification requirements substantially equivalent to Texas; Alabama, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oregon, and West Virginia (officials only). Certification to be issued upon successful completion of the Texas written knowledge test.

3) Statement of Proficiency – Upon proper motion and second, the Board voted to recommend to the Commission at the August 2, 2019 meeting, elimination of the Statement of Proficiency as a requirement to sit for the court reporter exam. The vote was 4 in favor and 2 opposed.

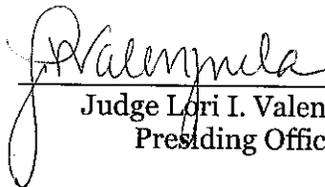
4) Provisional and Apprentice Certifications – Referred to stakeholder committee per SB 891.

5) National Certifications

Public comment was provided by Attorney Steve Bresnen (TCRA), Attorney Keith Oakley (TEXDRA), John Woodley, and Art Richardson. Written public comment was received from David Ross on the court reporter shortage.

Judge Valenzuela recognized the Advisory Board members, the associations, and the public for their work in addressing the matters before the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



Judge Lori I. Valenzuela
Presiding Officer

27 DEC 2019
Date