

COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

(Virtual Meeting Conducted by Zoom)
205 W. 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Friday, September 27, 2024
(1:00 p.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl at 1:00 p.m. Members Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl; Molly Pela; Kim Tindall; Janice Eidd-Meadows; Shari Krieger; and Karen Usher attended by Zoom. Mellony Ariail, Whitney Lehmberg-Riley, and Kelly Hanna were not in attendance.

Staff members present by Zoom were Jeff Rinard, Commission Director; Scott Gibson, Commission General Counsel; Veena Mohan, Prosecuting Attorney; Sheryl Jones, Deputy Director; Melinda Saucedo, Compliance Manager; Tyees Holcombe, Judicial Regulatory Assistant; Kaneshia Daniels, Legal Assistant; and Leonardo Perales, Court Services Manager.

Agenda Item II. Opening Remarks

Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl thanked everyone for their attendance.

Agenda Item III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Upon proper motion by Molly Pela and second by Shari Krieger, the Board members voted to unanimously approve the May 17, 2024 minutes.

Agenda Item IV. Curriculum – Lamar College

The Commission Director introduced the curriculum of Lamar College. Cristy Smith, Program Director of Court Reporting with Lamar College provided an overview of the curriculum and answered questions from the Board.

Upon proper motion by Shari Krieger and second by Janice Eidd-Meadows, the Board members voted to unanimously approve the Lamar College curriculum.

Agenda Item V. Presentation by Court Reporters Associations Regarding the Court Reporter Shortage and Prospective Solutions to Address the Court Reporter Shortage

The Commission Director stated at the last meeting ideas were provided as solutions for the court reporter shortage and public comments were encouraged. The Commission Director stated Kim Tindall helped arrange the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA), Texas Deposition Reporters Association (TEXDRA), and Texas Court Reporters Association (TCRA) to provide presentations at the meeting. The Commission Director reported that as of this day there were 2332 certified shorthand reporters, 13 apprentices, and 11 provisional certifications. Since 2005, the number of court reporter certifications has lowered 15.35% from 2755 to 2322. Last year the JBCC certified 95 new court reporters, and certified 114 new court reporters this year. He reported that the Office of Court Administration (OCA) hired 3 new court reporters and sent out a bid for contracting reporters. The Commission Director introduced Mr. Perales as the Court Services Manager in charge of these contracts and hiring.

Judge Torres-Stahl opened the floor for court reporter associations to present information to help address the court reporter shortage. Kristen Anderson, immediate past President with NCRA, presented on NCRA's testing schedule and requirements for testing and association membership. Patrick Stephens, the President of NVRA, presented the NVRA's testing procedures and continuing education requirements. Rene White, President Elect and Lucille Wyatt, President, with TEXDRA provided a joint presentation with Gale Fiasco, past President with TCRA and JBCC liaison, to address the court reporter shortage. They provided information related to their testing schedule, statistics on student enrollment, and the implementation of a central location for court reporter job postings as ideas to address court reporter shortages.

Agenda Item VI. Update on Uniform Format Manual (UFM)

The Supreme Court is working to adopt the Uniform Format Manual.

Agenda Item VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Kim Tindall; Kelly Hanna; Janice Eidd-Meadows; Mellony Ariail; Shari Krieger; Sonia Trevino; Erika Williams; Leslie Ryan-Hash; Victoria Rodriguez; Crystal See; Melinda Garriga; Mark Kislingbury; Aron Rodriguez; Esther Delgado; Patrick Stephens; Veronica Velez; and Miah Parson.

Agenda Item VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.



Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl
Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board

10/10/25
Date