

COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes

(Virtual Meeting Conducted by Zoom)
205 W. 14th Street
Austin, Texas 78701
Friday, May 17, 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 approximately 1:01 p.m. Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl, Kim Tindall, Mellony Ariail, Janice Eidd-Meadows, Kelly Hanna, Shari Krieger, and Whitney Lehmborg-Riley attended by Zoom. Molly Pela and Karen Usher were not in attendance.

Staff members present by Zoom were Jeff Rinard, Melinda Saucedo, Scott Gibson, Veena Mohan, Tyees Holcombe, and Kanasha Daniels.

The Board members reviewed and approved the prior Board meeting minutes from the July 21, 2023, meeting.

Jeff Rinard introduced agenda item IV Uniform Format Manual. The Manual is still pending with the Supreme Court. There has been a change to figure 23 since going to the Court for approval.

Jeff Rinard introduced agenda item V. Mr. Rinard presented ideas to provide a solution for the court reporters shortage. He acknowledged a shortage has been confirmed from reports and in speaking with both associations, TEXDRA and TCRA. He provided a snapshot of JBCC licensees. There was total of 6,737 active licensees. Of those, 2,161 were court reporters, 255 were court reporting firms, 3,367 were process servers, 457 were guardians, 33 were guardianship programs and 464 were licensed court interpreters.

The JBCC attempted to previously address the shortage by utilizing endorsements. There have been approximately 95 court reporters certified by endorsement. The JBCC endorses candidates from 18 states. Additionally, there have been 14 apprenticeships and 11 provisional court reporters. There has been a 22% decrease in court reporters since 2005. In 2023, at the end of the fiscal year there were 2,148 court reporters. This number fluctuates between 2,100 and 2,200. There was a strong push by the association to bring in students. The JBCC saw an increase in licensees in fiscal years 21 and 23 however the overall numbers went down.

OCA has recommended hiring certified court reporters as staff to conduct hearings statewide. OCA has been collaborating with TCRA to develop a feasible plan for this initiative and will be posting positions soon. Other options are to accept RPR and RMR certifications from the National Court Reporters Association instead of requiring individuals to take the exams. Additionally, there was a recommendation to establish a certification for digital court reporting, although no specific plan for implementation has been developed yet.

The board asked questions about the recommendations and shared their feedback regarding the court reporter shortage in their counties. Recommendations will be sent into JBCC regarding the shortage for

further discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

Public comment was provided by Sonia Trevino, Lucille Wyatt, Melinda Garriga, Deana Tarver, Emmelia Tsougarakis, Jo Holmgren, Laurie Shearer, and Joanna West.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.



Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl
Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board

9/27/24
Date