



# CCRA-NJ 2025 OCTOBER VIRTUAL CONVENTION

## Saturday, October 18, 2025

**VIRTUAL**

Live, Virtual via Zoom Meeting  
 8:15am-2:30pm ET  
 CE POINTS: (5.0 NJ CE/.50 NCRA CEU)

**IN-PERSON**

Live, In Person at Dave & Buster's Event Space  
 274 Woodbridge Center Drive, Woodbridge, NJ 07095-1311  
 5:30pm-8:00pm ET  
 CE POINTS: (2.0 NJ CE/.20 NCRA CEU)

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

## PRICING – Choose your option!

### Option 1: Virtual Event Only (5.0 NJ CE/.50 NCRA CEU)

- Members \$165
- Non-Members \$255
- Associate Members \$100
- Students \$10

### Option 2: Virtual Event + In-Person Evening (7.0 NJ CE/.70 NCRA CEU + Dinner/Networking/D&B Game Play) - **Only 45 spots available! Reserve early. Special bundle pricing! Best Value!**

- Members \$235
- Non-Members \$325
- Associate Members \$170
- Students \$75 (Student Special: All registered students will receive a \$50 refund *after* the event if you are in attendance for the event)

### Option 3: In-Person Evening Only (2.0 NJ CE/.20 NCRA CEU + Dinner/Networking/D&B Game Play) –

*Only available if space permits after bundle registration. {Cannot guarantee onsite registration} Details released week of October 13.*

- Members \$95
- Non-Members \$125
- Associate Members \$95
- Students \$75 (Student Special: All registered students will receive a \$50 refund *after* the event if you are in attendance for the event)

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

## VIRTUAL

**8:15am-8:30am** – Welcome from CCRA-NJ Leadership

### SESSION 1

**8:30am-10:00am** – United by Skill: Voice and Machine Stenography Together  
POINTS (1.5 NJ CE/ .15 NCRA CEU)

**10:00am-10:15am** – Break

### SESSION 2

**10:15am-11:15am** – Hackers Hate This Seminar  
(1.0 NJ CE/.10 NCRA CEU)

**11:15am-11:30am** – Break

### SESSION 3

**11:30am-12:30pm** – Feng Shui for Court Reporters: Energize Your Space, Elevate Your Focus  
(1.0 NJ CE/.10 NCRA CEU)

**12:30pm-12:45pm** – Break and Raffle Drawing

### SESSION 4

**12:45pm-2:15pm** – The Anatomy of Excellence: Deconstructing the Path to Greatness  
POINTS (1.5 NJ CE/ .15 NCRA CEU)

**2:15pm- 2:30pm** – Closing Comments

## IN-PERSON

**5:30pm-6:00pm** – Welcome from CCRA-NJ Leadership / Networking / Appetizers

### SESSION 5

**6:00pm-8:00pm** – Court Reporter Quizzo  
(2.0 NJ CE/.20 NCRA CEU)

**8:00pm-10:00pm** – An evening of fun and games at Dave & Buster's

# PROGRAM

VIRTUAL

**8:15am-8:30am** – Welcome from CCRA-NJ Leadership

## SESSION 1

**8:30am-10:00am** – United by Skill: Voice and Machine Stenography Together

POINTS (1.5 NJ CE/ .15 NCRA CEU)

Presented by:

**Mary Ann Ridenour, RPR**

and

**Jennifer L. “Jen” Thompson, CCR, CVR-M, RVR**

**Certified Advanced-level EclipseVox™ Trainer**



*Curious about what makes a great voice writer before the amendment vote? Join us for an enlightening session that dives into the unique skills, tools, and techniques used by today's professional voice writers. This webinar will also walk you through the path to becoming a certified voice writer. We'll discuss educational programs, training requirements, and professional certifications. Voice writers and stenographers each bring valuable strengths to the profession, and this session will also spotlight how the two groups successfully collaborate to uphold the integrity of the record and meet the growing demand for accurate, realtime reporting.*

*By the end of this session, attendees will have a fundamental understanding and appreciation for:*

- *The core skills and qualities that define a successful voice writer.*
- *The comprehensive education and training pathway required to become a certified voice writer.*
- *The parallel roles of voice writers and stenographers in the reporting field.*
- *How collaboration and support between both reporting methods strengthens and supports the industry as a whole.*

**10:00am-10:15am** – Break

## SESSION 2

**10:15am-11:15am** – Hackers Hate This Seminar

(1.0 NJ CE/.10 NCRA CEU)

Presented by:

**Matt Lydy**

**Senior Technical Account Manager**

**VMware**



*Hackers hate this seminar—because it exposes their favorite tricks. From phishing emails to deepfakes and insecure Wi-Fi, you'll learn how to spot threats before they strike. This session will also explore how artificial intelligence is changing the court reporting industry, what you need to watch out for, and how to protect your professional future in a digital-first world.*

*Learning objectives:*

- **Identify common hacker tactics:** Attendees will learn to recognize prevalent cyber threats, including:
  - Phishing emails.
  - Deepfakes (videos and audio designed to mislead).
  - Insecure Wi-Fi practices.
  - Other online scams and social engineering techniques.
- **Implement practical safeguards:** Participants will be able to apply actionable strategies to protect themselves and their data in the digital realm by pausing before acting on urgent requests, verifying information directly, limiting online sharing, strengthening logins, and staying informed about evolving scam tactics.
- **Develop a security-first mindset:** The seminar will promote a proactive approach to online security, encouraging vigilance and careful consideration before clicking or engaging with potentially suspicious content.

**11:15am-11:30am – Break**

### **SESSION 3**

**11:30am-12:30pm – Feng Shui for Court Reporters: Energize Your Space, Elevate Your Focus**  
(1.0 NJ CE/.10 NCRA CEU)

Presented by:

**Laura Carucci, CCR, RPR**

*Step away from transcripts and into tranquility! In this interactive and informative session, we'll explore how to apply the basic principles of feng shui—yes, with a little fun twist—to your workspace. Whether you're at home, in the depo room, or in court, your environment influences your mental clarity, posture, and even your patience with long days. Learn how to create a balanced, energizing setup that supports your workflow and wellness.*

#### **Learning Objectives:**

*By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:*

- **Understand the basic principles of feng shui and how they apply to workspace design.**
  - Learn about energy flow (chi), the five elements, and the bagua map in a simple, court reporter-friendly way.
- **Identify common workspace energy blocks and how to clear them.**
  - Clutter, tech tangle, bad lighting—learn how these disrupt not only chi but also your stenographer sanity.
- **Create a calming and focused stenography environment, whether at home or in court.**
  - Learn tips for arranging your chair, steno machine, desk, and tools to encourage better posture and flow.
- **Incorporate meaningful and energizing items into your workspace without going overboard.**
  - Think plants, crystals, calming colors, or even your favorite quote—balanced and intentional, not distracting.
- **Boost mindfulness and resilience with simple environmental shifts.**
  - Discover how your surroundings can support you during stressful moments and long trials.

**12:30pm-12:45pm – Break and Raffle Drawing**

### **SESSION 4**

**12:45pm-2:15pm – The Anatomy of Excellence: Deconstructing the Path to Greatness**  
POINTS (1.5 NJ CE/ .15 NCRA CEU)

Moderated by:

**Robert T. Tate, CCR, CRR, RMR, CRC**

*This seminar will delve into the specific journeys of court reporters who strive to achieve greatness, their motivations, challenges, strategies, and reflections. You will learn not only about the specific achievements of the individuals but also gain insights into their mindset, strategies, and lessons learned on their journey to the summit of the court reporting mountain.*

*The professionals you will meet in this session are: Jennifer Billstein-Miller, RMR, CRR, CCR-NJ, CCR-WA, CCR-NM, CSR-CA; Rich Germosen, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CSR-CA, CCRR-CA, CCR-NJ, CRCR-NJ, NYACR, NYRCR; Carol Farrell, RDR, RMR, CRR, CRC, CRI, FCRR, CCR-NJ; and Rachel Cicalese, CCR, RPR, CRR.*

*Learning objectives:*

*By the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:*

- **Identify** the key motivations that drive successful court reporters to achieve excellence in their field.
- **Analyze** the common challenges faced by court reporters during their journey towards peak performance and how these challenges were overcome.
- **Articulate** specific strategies and techniques employed by high-achieving court reporters for skill development, productivity, and professional growth.
- **Recognize** the importance of mindset and self-reflection in a court reporter's continuous improvement and journey towards becoming an expert.
- **Apply** lessons learned from the experiences of successful court reporters to their own career paths, identifying actionable steps for personal and professional development.
- **Discuss** the impact of specialized skills and continuing education on career advancement and achieving higher levels of success in the court reporting profession.
- **Formulate** a personal plan for leveraging insights and strategies shared in the seminar to enhance their own court reporting journey.

**2:15pm- 2:30pm – Closing Comments**

**IN-PERSON**

**5:30pm-6:00pm – Welcome from CCRA-NJ Leadership / Networking / Appetizers**

## SESSION 5

**6:00pm-8:00pm** – Court Reporter Quizzo

(2.0 NJ CE/.20 NCRA CEU)

Moderated by:

**Paula Horovitz, RMR, CRR, NJ-CCR**



*Ready to flex your brain and have some fun? This two-hour quizzo is made just for court reporters who love words, trivia, and a little friendly competition. We'll go through rounds on Latin phrases, medical and legal terminology, oddball idioms that pop up and make you pause, and even New Jersey trivia.*

*No stress, no studying — just a fun way to brush up on things you hear at work all the time (and maybe learn something new too). Get ready to laugh, learn, and maybe win a prize!*

### **What You'll Get Out of It:**

- Be able to spot Latin terms like a pro.
- Feel more familiar with medical words.
- Know your legal vocab a little better.
- Pick up some fun NJ trivia (because why not?).
- Catch on to idioms that people say but don't always make sense.

**8:00pm-10:00pm** – An evening of fun and games at Dave & Buster's

## RAFFLES

Don't miss out on the 50/50 opportunity at this year's convention. Tickets must be purchased at the time of registration! *Drawing will take place after the 12:30pm break during the virtual program!*

- \$5 for 8 tickets
- \$10 for 16 tickets
- \$20 for 35 tickets



## CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS



NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

CEs will be provided for both NJ State and NCRA. In order to receive CE credit, you must be registered for the convention and paid in full, logged in via a device that showcases your full names (edit the name if you are using someone else's device or account / no nicknames or initials), take the 'are you still with us' poll that will pop up during each session, and answer the evaluation survey questions.

# ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

**Laura Carucci, CCR, RPR, Advanced Interior Alignment, Reiki Master Teacher**, began her court reporting career in 1986. Her services include Planning Board, Zoning Board, Mayor & Council, Board of Education matters, medical boards, PERC, OAL, BPU, arbitrations, mediations, depositions, audio transcriptions utilizing various technologies. Beginning in 2000 she began her practice of space clearing, Feng Shui, Reiki, Rocks & Reiki, Chakra Balancing & Auric Cleansing, Blessing Ceremonies and Hypnosis.



**Paula Horovitz, RMR, CRR, NJ-CCR**, has been reporting since November 2015. She began her first five years as a freelancer in New Jersey, covering mostly personal injury cases. In 2019, Paula became an official at the New York County Family Court in Manhattan, NY. In 2021, she made the leap to federal court, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY). She now works at the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey in Trenton. Paula has served as a board member with the CCRA-NJ almost her entire professional career. She is also the 2024 recipient of the Stanley Rizman Distinguished Service Award and is currently president-elect of the CCRA-NJ.



**Matt Lydy**  
**Senior Technical Account Manager**  
**VMware**

Matt Lydy is a freelance IT security consultant. He was formerly a Senior Technical Account Manager with VMware. He has 20+ years in the information technology industry and holds numerous industry certifications, having started his career working with technology from Novell, Microsoft, and VMware. He has earned his education from various institutions, including Washington State Community College, Ohio University, and DeVry Institute of Technology.



**Mary Ann Ridenour, RPR**

Mary Ann has been a freelance firm owner in Charleston, SC, since 1992. She served on the SCCRA board as director, secretary, and vice president. She served three terms as president.

Her past experience with NCRA includes being one of the original RAINmakers and serving two consecutive terms as chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics.

She has presented on a wide range of topics at both the state and national levels.





**Robert T. Tate, CCR, RPR, RMR, CRR** has been a freelance firm owner in New Jersey and an Official Court Reporter with the United States District Court, District of New Jersey. He began his court reporting career in 1975. He served on the CCRA-NJ board as director, secretary, vice president and president. He served two terms as president.

Over the years he has presented on a wide range of topics.



**Jennifer L. "Jen" Thompson, CCR, CVR-M, RVR**  
***Certified Advanced-level EclipseVox™ Trainer***

Jennifer Thompson has established a remarkable career in the legal industry since she began as a paralegal in the late 1980s. In 1993, Jennifer transitioned to the role of court reporter, marking the beginning of her significant contributions to the profession. Recognizing the scarcity of voice writing schools and the growing demand for such education, she co-founded the first voice writing court reporting school in South Carolina in 2000. This pioneering effort significantly impacted the industry by providing essential training and resources.

Throughout her career, Jennifer has worn many hats, including owning a court reporting firm, instructing court reporting students, and working as a freelance court reporter. Her leadership abilities have been widely recognized, as evidenced by her service as President of the South Carolina Court Reporters Association in addition to other Board positions. She is also a long-standing member of the National Verbatim Reporters Association (NVRA), reflecting her commitment to the profession on a national level. Additionally, Jennifer is licensed in Georgia and actively participates in the Georgia Court Reporters Association.

Renowned as one of the industry's leading experts in voice recognition, Jennifer has assisted and created realtime training curriculum for a number of voice writing schools across the country, conducts private training sessions, online webinars, and various educational programs. Her expertise is further solidified by her certification as an advanced-level EclipseVox™ realtime trainer. Jennifer frequently shares her knowledge at technology seminars, workshops, and association conferences, where she is a sought-after speaker and presenter. She is proud to be one of the two-person training team for all branches of the US Military JAG reporters world-wide.

Jennifer Thompson's career is a shining example of how dedication, innovation, and leadership can drive substantial progress and recognition in the legal industry. Her contributions have not only advanced the field of court reporting but have also ensured the continued education and development of future professionals.



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**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**