

Court reporters have evolved from the elite scribes of ancient times into information managers and information technologists who capture, preserve, and disseminate spoken information as readable text in many venues:

- Captioning for television
- Communications Access Realtime Translation (CART) for persons with hearing loss
- Legislative, judicial, and government activities
- Legal depositions
- Documenting the proceedings of conventions and business meetings
- Streaming text over the Internet

This instantaneous conversion of the spoken word into text is called realtime translation.

## Realtime Certifications

Court reporters who have successfully completed testing by any of the following organizations may use the appropriate initials after their names.



**Certified  
Realtime  
Reporter**

**CRR**



**Realtime  
Verbatim  
Reporter**

**RVR**



**Federal  
Certified  
Realtime Reporter**

**FCRR**



## The Courtroom 21 Project

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# A Guide for Attorneys and Judges to Realtime Reporting



Three arbitrators hear an international alternative dispute resolution with the chief arbitrator appearing via videoconference while the transcript appears in realtime on a webcast.

**The Courtroom 21 Project:**  
*Where the Past  
Combines with the Present to  
Produce the Future.*

## What is Realtime Court Reporting?

Realtime reporting provides the judge and counsel with a text transcript while the proceedings are taking place. Because it is done in real time, it is called realtime reporting. The only two ways of making a realtime record are the stenographic method and the voicewriting method.

Both stenographic and voicewriting reporters are specially trained and utilize proprietary hardware and software, usually in conjunction with a notebook computer, to turn spoken words into readable text for others to view, search, or annotate.

Not every court reporter is a realtime reporter. Becoming a realtime writer requires extensive training, specialized hardware and software, plus lots of skill and experience.



## National Associations Encourage Realtime

The National Court Reporters Association, the United States Court Reporters Association, and the National Verbatim Reporters Association encourage their members to embrace new technologies by offering continuing education seminars and workshops as well as certified realtime reporter tests and certifications.

## Ensure the Best Translation of YOUR Important Proceedings

Here are some things you can do to help your reporter provide the best possible realtime service:

- As soon as you think you may want to employ realtime for your situation, be certain to let the freelance or official court reporter know right away.
- Provide in advance a list of case cites, appearances, witnesses, and any special vocabulary associated with your case. The reporter will pre-load

all this information into her writing system in advance - allowing him or her to recall complex terms or unusual names with a single stroke. This results in a faster and more accurate text stream for you to use on site.

- As a participant, speak up, enunciate clearly, and be aware of the reporter who is realtimiting. Speak at a moderate rate, as though you were using an interpreter.
- Expect some unintelligible words (called “conflicts” or “mistranslates”) in the realtime feed, which is technically a rough draft. The reporter will edit the text later when preparing the official transcript.
- Because writing realtime is an art that requires extreme concentration and effort, allow plenty of



breaks for the realtime reporter (at least five to ten minutes per hour).

With just a little forethought and

some extra awareness, you can make a big difference in the quality of your realtime feed.

## The Law Requires Accommodation for Disabled Court Participants

Realtime text translation may be the answer if your case involves an individual with hearing loss. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodation be made for a juror, witness, or other participant who is deaf or hard of hearing. A court reporter who is a qualified CART provider can provide the individual with a realtime feed of court proceedings — and satisfy the law.



## What Can I Do With Realtime?

Realtime transcription is especially useful for attorneys and judges during trial proceedings. In the past, court transcripts were only useful after the fact. Today, with the advent of litigation support technology such as Binder™ by RealLegal, CaseView® by Stenograph, LiveNote, and other similar products, judges, attorneys and paralegals may easily mark any line or portion of a transcript with one keystroke, issue code, send selected text to remote experts, even communicate with others via instant-messaging — with complete privacy.

During the proceedings, reports may be prepared on the instant transcript or previously stored transcripts. Comparisons of prior testimony for impeachment purposes can be made instantly. Each litigation-support product offers a variety of cutting-edge tools to be used in conjunction with the realtime feed.