



WASHINGTON COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION

2023 SPRING CONFERENCE

DOMINICK “DOM” TURSI

Following 60 years of full-time court reporting, in September 2021 Dom Tursi retired. He had nearly three reporting careers. He reported in federal court his last 25 years. For the preceding 15 years, he was a freelance reporter and principal, with offices on both coasts of the United States, Hong Kong and in London. He reported assignments worldwide, from Cairo to The Philippines. Dom's first 20 years were as an official reporter in the New York State court system-Long Island.



One of the first East Coast reporters ever to use a computer for transcription, he wrote realtime as early as 1985. Dom is one of the first reporters to internationally telecommunicate steno, delivering 36 running days of daily copy in Hong Kong with no onsite assist – in 1988!

Founder, director, and instructor at the Verbatim School of Court Reporting for more than a decade, many of his graduates continue to populate deposition suites and courtrooms. Dom has served as an expert witness to reporting groups and law firms, as a computer consultant to several companies, and was part of Stenograph's CaseCatalyst and CaseView development teams. He has authored numerous monographs for NCRA and for federal and state associations.

He has lectured on shorthand history to associations and civic groups throughout America, in China and in Belgium, and speaks to numerous elementary and high school classes yearly as part of USDC Judge Bianco's civics program.

He is past president of both the United States Court Reporters Association and the New York State Court Reporters Association and is recipient of New York's Distinguished Service Award. He is a Fellow of The Incorporated Phonographic Society of London, the world's oldest organization of shorthand writers, and in 2015 received the prestigious Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism from NCRF.

His reporting credentials include being three-time NY State Shorthand Speed Contest Champion (Perfect Paper, 280 wpm Q&A), and World Shorthand Speed Champion (300 wpm Q&A, 5 minutes, 24 errors) in 1981 – a record still unbroken.

He created two reporting think tanks to examine issues in the world of reporting and designed The Cicero Forum – a program that teaches the practical aspects of the profession to new and novice reporters, giving them practical working skills before starting their careers.

In September 2010 Dom opened The Gallery of Shorthand in the lobby of the federal courthouse in Central Islip, NY. It has received international recognition. And in 2015 he authored The Legends of Shorthand – a look at the pivotal people responsible for the evolution of the timeless profession of shorthand. A shorthand historian, Dom currently is a teacher, presenter, author, mentor, and the 2021-22 President of the NYS Court Reporters Association.



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HISTORY OF SHORTHAND

Using the Ten Epochs of Shorthand, this lecture describes the 5,000-year evolution of the shorthand profession. Epoch I traces the literacy of civilizations, beginning with creation of writing by the Sumerians in 3500 BC and the Egyptians in 3100 BC.

The journey continues with Epoch II, the creation of shortened forms of writing in China (207 BC). Epoch II focuses on creation and use of the first system of shorthand by Italy's Cicero in 63 BC. Epoch IV describes the abolition of shorthand during the Dark Ages, followed by renewed interest about 700 years later. In Epoch V, some 400 years later, relates shorthand's revival, which led to 250 years of shorthand development by the Masters of Shorthand.

The presentation proceeds to revolutionary shorthand inventions by little-known Phineas Bailey, then Isaac Pitman and John Robert Gregg, in Epoch VI, and then shorthand's proliferation through Europe, in Epoch VII. Epoch VIII describes the spread of shorthand in America and then morphs into machine shorthand in Epoch IX. Epoch X, titled Shorthand in the 21st Century, speaks to embracing computerization and creating text from shorthand, with modern-day applications.

EVOLUTION OF MACHINE SHORTHAND

This presentation is an expansion of Epoch IX. It begins with an explanation of early attempts to create a mechanized shorthand device, in the early 1800s in France, Germany, and Italy. It proceeds to describe some 50 shorthand machines around the world, underscoring "The Important Three" in America, and paying tribute to the earliest practical machines – in England and Italy.

Growth of shorthand machines in the early 1900s is punctuated by development of the Stenograph company and its importance to machine shorthand.

Machine keyboards from around the world are compared. Time is spent describing the reasons for, and those involved in, creating the first computerized steno machine. The background of paperless keyboard writers and evolution of instant-translating machines rounds out the presentation.

This entire lecture is peppered with factoids about key inventors.



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ERIN DUNCAN, WA CCR, RMR, CRR, CRC
CHRISTIE LEATIOTA, WA CCR, RDR, CRR, CRC

A CAREER AS AN OFFICIAL IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY



Erin Duncan is a former live captioner who had practically no experience in the legal field but was ready for a fun new challenge in court. Christie Leatiota started freelancing after finishing school and then made the leap to Superior Court after a year and a half taking depositions. They will both give an introduction to working as official court reporters in Snohomish County Superior Court, including an overview of daily life in the courthouse – the good, the bad, and the ugly.

These energetic and positive officials will detail their very different paths to Superior Court, and they will be available to answer all of your questions and explain the perks of being an official, so you can determine if this might be the right place for YOU!



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MICHAEL HENSLEY, RDR

Mike Hensley, RDR, is a freelance deposition reporter from Irvine, California. He is a leader of the new generation of court reporters, having completed his entire schooling remotely and online.



Despite being young within the profession, Mike has worked hard to achieve goals that are highly valuable in the industry. His greatest achievement is obtaining RDR certification within the first five years of being a court reporter. He has also covered a wide array of proceeding types including complex technical, pharmaceutical, and intellectual property cases while providing realtime transcripts to those clients.

Technology provides for some of his greatest thrills, and he has a strong passion for inspiring and teaching others to develop new skills and abilities in many aspects of the court reporting trade. His energy and enthusiasm are infectious and will inspire seminar audiences to seize the day and turn their dream goals into realities.

FEAR NO TECHNO

You may have the belief, or some similarly limiting idea, that it's "too overwhelming" to integrate technology into your everyday personal or professional practice. In this seminar, we will shatter those limitations and open your eyes to the ways you can easily and effectively make technology work for you and not against you so that you can become your very own tech wizard and finally "work smarter, not harder."



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CHARLIE SWIFT, ESQ.



Charles Swift is the Criminal Department Head of Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America (“CLCMA”). He has more than 28 years of experience as a criminal defense attorney, first as a Navy JAG, then in private practice. Since 2014, he has been exclusively practicing federal criminal defense at CLCMA. Charles is most known for winning the U.S. Supreme Court case Hamdan v. Rumsfeld for his client, Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Guantanamo detainee. Following his military career, Charles was a visiting professor and head of the Humanitarian Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, before leaving to enter private practice in Seattle. He has been a regular contributor on the topics of military law and terrorism for national news programs including MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, NPR, and Fox News. He has received numerous awards for his advocacy, including recognition as a Distinguished Alumnus at Seattle University School of Law, ACLU’s Roger Baldwin Medal for Distinguished Service, and was runner-up for Lawyer of the Year in 2005 as well as being named by National Law Review as one of the 100 Most Influential Lawyers in 2006 by the National Law Journal.

TALKING TO THE MEDIA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SPEAK.

Charlie Swift will address the basics of effectively presenting a message in a media interview, including story composition, interview formats, and talking points. In the second half of the presentation, Charlie will work with the group to develop talking points concerning the court reporter shortage and the dangers of relying on digital court reporting.