

# Travel Approval Form

Department: County Court at Law No. 1

Event Name: 2025 TCRA Annual Convention

Location: Austin

Event Dates: September 4-6, 2025

Purpose: ☒ Required Continuing Education/Certification  
☐ Job Training  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Attendees:

Janet McConathy \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Court Decision:	
This section to be completed by County Judge's Office	
	5-12-25

## Required Documents Checklist:

**\*\* Same-Day Travel - Commissioners Court Approval is not required \*\***

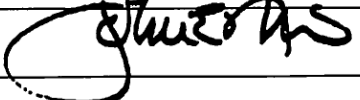
### Overnight Travel

- ☒ Travel Approval Form
- ☒ Registration Information or Confirmation
- ☒ Itinerary, Agenda, or Breakdown
- ☐ Hotel Information, Confirmation, or Hotel Reservation Request Form / *Does not need hotel - staying with another attendee.*

### For Out of State Travel, please also include:

- ☐ Cost Estimation Breakdown for Trip with Airfare, Rental Car, Meals, Hotel, Etc.
- ☐ Narrative as to why the Out of State Travel is necessary

Signature of Elected Official/Department Head:





## Registration Complete



You have completed the registration(s) listed in the payment receipt below. A detailed confirmation of each registration will be sent to the email address(es) on file for the registrant(s).

Email this receipt to:

Send

[← Back to Events](#)

## Registration(s)

**Total: \$450.00**

### Janet McConathy

Confirmation emailed to [janetmcconathy@gmail.com](mailto:janetmcconathy@gmail.com)

#### 1. 2025 TCRA Annual Convention

Thu, September 4, 2025 12:00 PM to Sat, September 6, 2025 10:00 PM CT

**Full Member - Early Bird**

Add to  
Calendar:



**\$450.00**

## Payment Information

No payment was made.

### Payment Instructions:

#### **OFFICIAL COURT REPORTERS SUBMITTING A PURCHASE ORDER:**

You may select this payment option if you registered online but your county will be mailing a check. However, after completing your registration by hitting the button below, it is required that you email TCRA ([TCRAHQ@EMBARQMAIL.COM](mailto:TCRAHQ@EMBARQMAIL.COM)) proof of the PO/request form that you have submitted to your county requesting payment.

**YOU STILL MUST SELECT THE "COMPLETE REGISTRATION" BUTTON IN ORDER FOR US TO RECEIVE YOUR COMPLETED FORM** and know payment is pending. You will receive a confirmation email after completing this form.

**DO NOT rely on your county to notify us of your registration details.** They typically do not forward registration forms to us and mail only the check, which may take several weeks/months for us to receive, and we must have proof in advance of your attendance and their intent to pay in order to honor the registration fee you signed up for.

**If you are paying by credit card,** please select the "Credit Card" tab above and enter payment information there to complete your registration.

### **PAYING BY PERSONAL CHECK:**

You may select this payment option if you are registering online but will be mailing a personal check. **YOU STILL MUST SELECT THE "COMPLETE REGISTRATION" BUTTON IN ORDER FOR US TO RECEIVE YOUR COMPLETED FORM** and know payment is pending. You will receive a confirmation email after completing this form.

**If you choose this payment option,** your full payment must be received by the cutoff date for each registration window or fees will increase (EB - 7/1, Reg. - 8/1, Late - 8/29).

## NEWS & EVENTS

### **CSR EXAM INFORMATION**

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

June 7, 2025 -  
CONFERENCE CALL  
July 19, 2025 -  
CONFERENCE CALL  
September 4, 2025 -  
Austin, TX

### **EVENTS**

**LIVE! Technology  
Webinar Series:**  
**May 3, 2025 - Auto  
Indexing Made Simple:  
Case CATALyst**  
**May 17, 2025 - Auto  
Indexing Made Simple:  
Eclipse**  
**June 14, 2025 -  
Reporter's Record -  
Start to Finish**  
**June 28, 2025 - Taming  
TAMES**

**2025 TCRA Annual  
Convention**

**Austin, TX**

**September 4-6, 2025  
REGISTRATION IS  
OPEN!**

# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA



## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH



8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Realtime Contest  
8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Speed Cup Contest  
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration Desk Open

**1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Choose one to attend:**  
**"Role" Call for Real Stenographers  
Used in TV Series**

**Presenters: Deana Tarver and Melinda Walker**  
**1.0 CE hour**

Picture this: Courtroom scenes in HBO Max's Love & Death featuring Melinda Walker and Paramount +'s Landman deposition setting with Deana Tarver. These two Texas stenographers were thrilled to be a part of these mini-series in highlighting the profession and boosting the credibility that court reporters are real and valuable. Come and listen as they share their stories.

**Freelance Forum: Charting Your Course  
from Prep to Parade**

**Presenters: Terri Hill, Reva Rincon, and Lorrie Schnoor**  
**1.0 CE hour (Ethics)**

This session explores the foundational experiences that can shape a successful start in freelance court reporting. Topics include working at a court reporting firm prior to certification, how scoping one's own work builds a clearer perspective in how to write cleaner and fosters rapid improvement, and how thorough preparation before certification can lead to early opportunities on high-profile cases. Attendees will gain insight into how strategic early choices can set the stage for long-term success.

**2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. - Choose one to attend:**  
**From Float to Finish Line:  
Planning Your Financial Future**

**Presenter: Marques Bono**  
**1.0 CE hour**

This seminar will discuss the key elements of financial planning, including protection, investing, tax planning, and retirement planning. Particular focus will cover how to maximize your workplace retirement benefits in your overall retirement plan.

**FORCE From beads to briefs:  
A Mock Depo in the French Quarter**

**Presenters: Anica Diaz, Lorrie Schnoor, Gabriela Silva, Erica Wofford**  
**1.0 CE hour (Ethics)**

Join the FORCE Committee as we explore the ins and outs of being a freelance reporter through a mock deposition. You will learn basic skills and tricks of the trade that will help you navigate the deposition setting.

**3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Got ET/THEUBGS?**

**Presenters: Robin Cooksey and Jo Anne Horn Leger**  
**1.5 CE hours (Ethics)**

Learn about the do's and don'ts for ethical behavior. Using Texas rules, codes, and AG opinions, we will learn how to apply ethics principles in a fun and interactive way. If you have watched Let's Make a Deal, then you will want to attend this fun session! Be randomly selected to answer the correct ethics questions and you could win ... unless you get zonked!!

# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

**7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Registration Desk Open**

**7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Exhibitors Open**

### **8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Annual Business Meeting**

TCRA Members may attend the Annual Business Meeting.  
Non-members will not be permitted to attend.

**8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast Served**

**9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

### **Master Your Calm: How to Keep Your Head While Everyone Around You Loses Theirs**

**Presenter: Sarah  
Ciavarri**

**1.0 CE hour**

This is your survival kit for staying cool under fire! Imagine handling high-stakes moments without the sweat, sidestepping stress, and responding like a pro when the heat is on. This keynote will arm you with quick, powerful techniques to stay collected when others are spinning out, helping you lead with clarity, communicate effectively, and keep your confidence strong—even when things get intense. Get ready for insights, humor, and practical hacks that will make calm your new superpower.



**10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Break**

### **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Choose one to attend: Crowning Your Future: Tips for Retirement Success**

*Presented by TCDRS*

**Presenter: Richard Ashcraft**

**1.5 CE hours**

TCDRS provides survivor benefits as well as disability and service retirement benefits for more than 870 counties and districts across Texas. Join us for a presentation to get a better understanding of how your TCDRS plan works. We'll cover "from hire to retire" including beneficiary details, survivor benefits, vesting and eligibility requirements, account growth if you leave employment, retirement payment options, and much more.

### **Safe in the Crowd: Strategies to Stay Aware and Protected #1**

**Presenter: Tammy Jo "TJ" McCleney**

**1.5 CE hours**

We all need to be more aware of our surroundings. In TJ's two sessions she will teach you what to be aware of and watch for in the situations we are in during our lives. Reduce your risk of becoming a victim! Know your surroundings, know your options, identify a threat, run, hide or fight! *These sessions will cover different material and do not have to be attended in conjunction with each other. You may attend both, or one or the other.*

# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA

## Friday, September 5th (cont'd)

**12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Lunch On Your Own**

**1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. - Choose one to attend:**

### **Safe in the Crowd: Strategies to Stay**

#### **Aware and Protected #2**

**Presenter: Tammy Jo "TJ" McCleney**

**1.0 CE hour**

We all need to be more aware of our surroundings. In TJ's two sessions she will teach you what to be aware of and watch for in the situations we are in during our lives. Reduce your risk of becoming a victim! Know your surroundings, know your options, identify a threat, run, hide or fight! *These sessions will cover different material and do not have to be attended in conjunction with each other. You may attend both, or one or the other.*

### **FORCE Mardi Gras Mayhem:**

#### **Court Is Now in Session**

**Presenters: Holly Craven, Laura Payne,**

**Leslie Ryan-Hash**

**1.0 CE hour**

Join the FORCE Committee and walk through a day in court with the FORCE Committee. We will explore a typical court docket and discuss different types of hearings held. We will also touch on basic components of a court trial.

**2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Break**



**3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

### **A Parade of Legislative Updates**

**Presenters: Amy and Steve Bresnen, Mellony Ariail, Kim Cherry, and Gale Fiasco**

**1.5 CE hours Ethics/Rules**

The 2025 legislative session has presented unprecedented challenges for our profession. Join our dedicated lobbyists, Steve and Amy Bresnen, along with our Legislative Chairs, as they illuminate the vital effort required to advocate for our field during this crucial time. Learn how your support is essential as we navigate this complex landscape together.

**4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Break**

**4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. - Choose one to attend:**

### **Officials Forum - Oh, Have You Heard?**

**Presenters: Charletta Breed and Dee Dee Jones**

**1.0 CE hour (Ethics)**

This session will educate both Official Reporters and Deputy Reporters regarding recent legislative updates. It will also hopefully bring clarity to some little known and/or vague rules regulating reporters. There will also be a Q&A session for any additional lingering questions.

### **Steno in Sync: Adjusting Your**

#### **Stenograph Writer for a Smoother Ride**

**Presenter: Karen Peck**

**1.0 CE hour**

Many adjustments can be made to Stenograph writers manufactured after 2009. We can modify the entire keyboard or individual keys to better fit your writing style. We will also discuss the ergonomic advancements introduced over the years. The improved ergonomics and the extensive adjustments help you write cleaner, resulting in increased comfort and reduced editing.



# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA



7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. - Registration Desk Open

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Exhibitors Open

8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
Coffee & Pastries Served

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

## Thrive and Prosper: Eight Keys to Longevity and Vitality for Professional Court Reporters

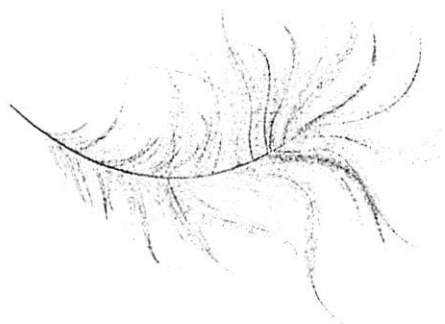
Presenter: Gena Anderson

1.5 CE hours

Discover the essential strategies for achieving longevity and improving your quality of life as a busy professional in the demanding field of court reporting. This interactive presentation will guide you through actionable steps tailored to your unique challenges, empowering you to create a personalized plan for better health and sustained success both in and out of the courtroom.



10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Break



11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - Choose one to attend:

## Revelry in Realtime: Captioning for Crowds and Concerts

Presenter: Isaiah Roberts

1.0 CE hour

Does putting your realtime feed up on a client's laptop freak you out? What if you had to do it in front of 50,000 people who were screaming and cheering for their favorite band? Ever wondered how to provide realtime captioning in multiple languages? This seminar will walk through how to get over the jitters and the tech needed to take your skills to the next level, and just how much our involvement and personal interests can help us in this profession! Don't miss out on learning how to adapt your skills to multiple different applications.

## Reporter's Records & Post-Conviction Writs

Presenter: Jessica "Jessi" Shaye Freud

1.0 CE hour (Ethics)

In non-capital cases, two sections of Chapter 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure deal with post-conviction writs of habeas corpus: 11.072 deals with writs for individuals on community supervision and 11.07 for individuals with final felony convictions. This presentation will review these statutes and discuss similarities and differences between post-conviction writs and the more familiar direct appeal. Before these cases can be heard, it is vital that the reporter's record is submitted to the court hearing the writ.

# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA

## Saturday, September 6th (cont'd)

### 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. President's Banquet & Luncheon

### 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Choose one to attend: Untangling the Beads: Tech Essentials Made Simple

**Presenter: Cody Alexander**  
**1.0 CE hour**

Dealing with the daily challenges of IT can be the most stressful part of a court reporter's job. It doesn't have to be! Join us as we take a small, fun dive into the technology essentials you need.

### Let the Pages Roll: Producing a Depo from Scheduling to Signature

**Presenters: Anica Diaz and Kimberly Morales**  
**1.0 CE hour**

Gain valuable insights into the full lifecycle of transcript production from the viewpoint of a reporting firm. This seminar will cover best practices in formatting, quality assurance, timeliness, and collaboration between reporters and office staff. Learn how firms manage client expectations, maintain consistency, and ensure compliance with industry standards—all while streamlining workflow and supporting reporter success.

### 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Break

### 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Choose one to attend: Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler... But Follow the Rules!

**Presenter: Kim Xavier**  
**1.5 CE hours (Ethics)**

Without rules, there will be chaos. So let's brush up on the basics. This session will be a review of important rules that every court reporter from newbie to veteran can use.

### From Tension to Tempo: Pain-Free Reporting...REALLY!

**Presenter: Kenneth Moench**  
**1.5 CE hours**

Court reporters are tasked with a very challenging job, while seated for long hours every day putting stress on their low backs, neck, shoulders, arms, wrists and hands. Understanding how you can open all of those areas up and keep them open, restoring blood supply and lymphatic drainage throughout your body is the first step to becoming pain free. We will help you with that and give you strategies to stay that way.



# 2025 TCRA ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA

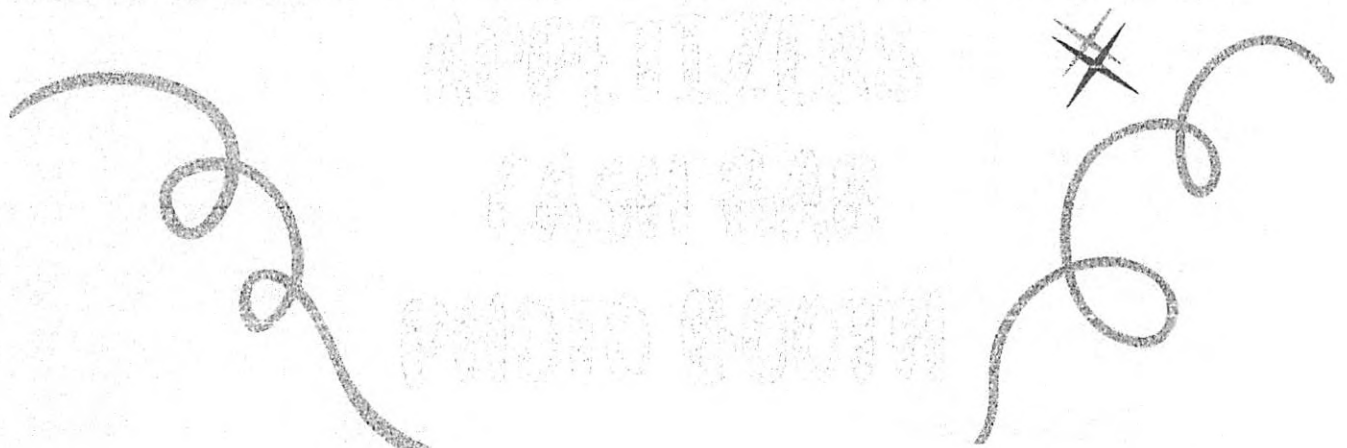


**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH**

**7:00PM TO 10:00PM**



**THE NIGHT OF  
YOUR LIFE.**





# CONVENTION LOCATION

## AUSTIN MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN

304 East Cesar Chavez Street, Austin, TX 78701

### RESERVATIONS

[Click here to reserve your room at the group rate.](#)

\$259/night + taxes and fees

*Rates for upgrades will be subject to availability and not at the group rate.*

The cut-off date for room reservations is August 14th  
or earlier if the room block sells out.

*Act early to ensure room and rate availability,*

*but please do not book a room until you have also submitted your registration to TCRA. This prevents people who are registered and certain they are attending from being able to reserve a room.*

### VALET:

Overnight guests booked within the TCRA group block receive a \$10/day discount on valet parking.  
Guests not booked within TCRA's block will be subject to the hotel's standard valet rate.

