

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF SHORTHAND REPORTERS

OCTOBER 22, 2008

The State Board of Examiners of Shorthand Reporters convened at 8:35 a.m. in Room 119 of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106.

Board Members Present: John Brandon, Chairperson, Shorthand Reporter
Patricia Masi, Shorthand Reporter
William Mangini, Public Member

Board Members Absent: Cheryl Stern, Public Member
Walter Rochow, Shorthand Reporter
Joseph N. DeFilippo, Attorney

Board Counsel Present: None

DCP Staff Present: Nelson Leon, Board Secretary
Vicky Bullock, Administrative Hearings Attorney

Public Present: None

Note: The administrative functions of this Board are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information call Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135.

Agency Web Site: www.ct.gov/dcp

Chairperson Brandon called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The minutes from the July 23, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Brandon made a motion to accept the minutes, Ms. Masi seconded, and all were in favor.

Nelson told the Board he had contacted Attorney Joseph DeFilippo, Board member, to inquire about his willingness to remain on the Board. Attorney DeFilippo said that he was interested in staying on the Board. Chairperson Brandon noted that he had not been in attendance at a meeting in over one year, and wondered if the Board could take any action regarding his absence. Atty. Bullock said that many Boards do have provisions for the dismissal of absentee members, but the Board of Shorthand Reporters does not specify this type of action for absentee members. Attorney Bullock then suggested the Board contact Attorney DeFilippo by letter to stress the concern of his absenteeism at meetings. Mr. Brandon said he would do so.

Mr. Brandon pointed out that he is aware of the distance Attorney DeFilippo travels to attend the meetings, and is aware of his busy schedule, but felt it would not make sense to retain him on the Board if he cannot attend meetings. Mr. Brandon asked Ms. Masi if she knew of an attorney who might be willing to replace Attorney DeFilippo, but Ms. Masi and Attorney Bullock felt it would be difficult for a trial lawyer to commit to our Board.

The Board then reviewed a sample of the letter that Ms. Tracy Gow, Chief Examiner, Connecticut Court Reporters Association sends out to those who have passed all four legs of the CT Licensed Shorthand Reporter exam. Mr. Mangini asked if there is a time limit that a candidate can keep a passed leg of the exam on hold, noting that the sample letter showed a four-year span between the first and final leg being passed. Mr. Brandon said there is no time limit, and that typically some time does pass until all four legs are completed. Mr. Brandon asked if the Board was to approve the letter, but Nelson pointed out that he was merely sharing the letter so the Board could see what the DCP receives when a candidate applies for licensure.

Nelson Leon received a call from Candace Mazor of the Waterbury Superior Court who wanted to verify that a Shorthand License is required to take a deposition. Mr. Leon said he would bring the question to the Board. A discussion ensued regarding the taking of depositions without a license. Mr. Brandon pointed out there are people who are unlicensed taking depositions, but this practice should not occur. Les Seligson, President of CCRA, made an announcement at a recent Court Reporting Conference that this should not happen, and suggested putting a statement on the CCRA website to reinforce the principle.

Ms. Masi pointed out that most local jurisdictions, such as New London, Windham, New Britain, Hartford, all use licensed reporters. It is possible that New Haven has used unlicensed reporters in the past. Mr. Brandon offered to call Candace and respond to her question.

Mr. Brandon asked Ms. Masi if the State of CT will ever hire a court reporter again. Ms. Masi responded that a candidate for a state job must work per diem for as long as three years. During this time, they are temporary employees with no benefits, although they do typically work 35 hours per week. She finished by saying the State does not even post court reporting positions internally any more.

Attorney Bullock asked if the Substitute Senate Bill 272 ever made it to the website. Nelson responded it had not, and Atty. Bullock said she could access the language from the CT General Assembly site and get it posted. She said the DCP tries to post all new laws on the appropriate websites.

Mr. Brandon apologized to the Board for not following up on the reading/signing of transcripts as discussed at the July 23 meeting, but promised to do so before our next meeting. Mr. Brandon also shared with the Board that he received an invitation to submit a bid to do the work on the CT General Assembly's testimonies and depositions. The packet he received on October 21, 2008 was very lengthy and detailed, but they wanted a response by October 24, 2008. He noticed that some of the examples of the page set-up were single-spaced, as opposed to the more common double-spacing that transcripts usually use. Ms. Masi shared that all legislative documents are single-spaced.

Chairperson Brandon asked if there was any more business to be conducted and, there being none, adjourned the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Brandon
Chairperson

The next meeting of this Board is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 8:15 a.m.