

1 Pittsburgh Sunday Morning - aired 6/5/16 @ 7 a.m.

2 DJ SEAN: This is *Pittsburgh Sunday*
3 *Morning*. My name is Sean McDowell. If you would like
4 to be a guest on the program -- if you're a member of a
5 group or organization that has an upcoming cause or
6 event that the listening community would be interested
7 in, doesn't necessarily have to be a local cause or
8 event, doesn't even have to be a non-profit cause or
9 event either -- contact me.

11:11 10 My name again is Sean McDowell, and my
11 email address is my first name; and you spell Sean
12 S-E-A-N -- sean@DVE.com. I'll get back to you as
13 quickly as I can.

14 Welcoming to *Pittsburgh Sunday Morning*
15 for the first time, it's three friends of ours joining
16 us from the world of court reporting. National Court
17 Reporters Association, www.ncra.org, Donna Cascio, who
18 initially reached out to me about what it is that court
19 reporters do.

11:11 20 Donna works in the courtroom for Somerset
21 County Court of Common Pleas. She served on the Board
22 of Directors for the National Court Reporters
23 Association. Donna is a Past President of the
24 Pennsylvania Court Reporters Association. She holds
25 the professional certifications of Registered

1 Professional Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter; Donna
2 was named a Fellow of the Academy of Professional
3 Reporters back in 2014; and fellowship in that Academy
4 is a professional distinction conferred upon a person
5 with outstanding and extraordinary qualifications and
6 experience in the field of shorthand reporting. They
7 are nominated for membership by their peers.

8 Donna, welcome to you and thanks so much
9 for making this happen.

10 DONNA: Thank you, Sean, for having us.

11 DJ SEAN: Pretty long introduction, too.
12 But so is Amy's. So is Mary Beth's coming up.

13 Amy Bowlen is the manager of realtime
14 captioning training. She was one of VITAC's realtime
15 captioners. So I had to look up VITAC, Amy. Vital
16 Access. You work for VITAC?

17 AMY: I do work for VITAC, for 27 years.

18 DJ SEAN: All right. So this is the
19 largest provider of closed captioning in the country,
20 responsible for captioning over 300,000 live program
21 hours per year, over 600 hours a day, and creating
22 verbatim, precisely timed captions for 57,000
23 prerecorded programs for years.

24 And VITAC's customers include every major
25 network, most cable channels, program producers,

1 corporations, government agencies. VITAC, Amy, are
2 they based here in Pittsburgh or they have just an
3 office here in Pittsburgh?

4 AMY: Our home base is here. Originally
5 in the downtown Pittsburgh area. We're located in
6 Southpointe now in Canonsburg.

7 DJ SEAN: Is everyone associated with
8 VITAC, besides Amy? Donna?

9 DONNA: No.

10 DJ SEAN: Mary Beth?

11 MARY BETH: No.

12 DJ SEAN: Okay. All right. Well,
13 welcome to you, Amy.

14 AMY: Thank you.

15 DJ SEAN: Wait a minute. And Amy holds
16 several National Court Reporters Association
17 certifications, including the Registered Diplomate
18 Reporter, Certified Realtime Captioner, Certified
19 Broadcast Captioner. Amy was awarded the distinction
20 of being conferred as a Fellow of the Academy of
21 Professional Reporters, so welcoming Amy.

11:13

22 The minute Amy got into the studio where
23 we're recording, we have a TV up, of one of those big
24 flat-screens, volume down, but she says, "Where's your
25 captioning?" And I said, "You mean the stream on the

1 bottom?" And everybody said no, that's not captioning.
2 So Amy got us straightened out here.

3 We also have Mary Beth Johnson, a
4 professor of court reporting at CCAC. Mary Beth was
5 named 2014 Educator of the Year at an NCRA convention
6 and Expo -- this is a couple years ago.

7 Again NCRA, National Court Reporters
8 Association, www.ncra.org. Mary Beth Johnson has
9 taught court reporting for 38 years. All of her
10 students are members of the NCRA and the Pennsylvania
11 Court Reporters Association, and she attributes the
12 success of her court reporting program to the fact that
13 she is surrounded by local court reporters. They are
14 always willing to mentor, consult, teach, for
15 internships and employ CCAC graduates.

16 Mary Beth Johnson with us, particularly
17 grateful to the National Court Reporters Association
18 for offering a lifetime of encouragement to generations
19 of court reporters.

20 Welcome to you, Mary Beth.

21 MARY BETH: Thank you, Sean.

22 DJ SEAN: www.ncra.org. And again, I
23 want to thank Donna for reaching out to me, wanting to
24 raise awareness of what goes on in the world of court
25 reporting.

1 The court reporting profession -- I read
2 up on this for the last two days -- it's receiving
3 national recognition as a competitive and rewarding
4 career opportunity.

5 So Donna, or Mary Beth, Amy, you guys
6 want to get close to the microphones here. So
7 according to the information I was reading, more than
8 5500 new court reporting jobs are anticipated across
9 the entire country like within the next two years.

11:15 10 Mary Beth, this is what you do; and
11 Donna, currently there are more openings nationwide for
12 court reporters than the industry can fill. Also Mary
13 Beth.

14 MARY BETH: Oh, Sean, this is absolutely
15 true. We had students graduate last week; and of the
16 students who completed, they already were employed.
17 Their employers were paying them to come to school and
18 finish up their requirements because they didn't want
19 them to get a job anywhere else.

11:15 20 DJ SEAN: Wow.

21 MARY BETH: It is the most awesome career
22 for employment. It's the best kept secret. People say
23 to us, oh, do they still write on that little box?

24 Meanwhile there's captions on TV. If you
25 have ever been to PNC Park, underneath the Jumbotron, a

1 two-line caption?

2 DJ SEAN: Mm-hmm.

3 MARY BETH: Our Anna Cillo, a graduate of
4 CCAC, is the person who captions those games.

5 DJ SEAN: Oh, wow. That's one of your
6 graduates working there?

7 MARY BETH: Yes, sir.

8 DJ SEAN: Congratulations.

9 AMY: Penguins games.

11:16 10 MARY BETH: Penguins games as well.

11 DJ SEAN: Really?

12 MARY BETH: Wanda Proteau, one of our
13 graduates. Connie Lee, one of our graduates, captions
14 the Penguins games.

15 DJ SEAN: And that's all super high-tech,
16 I mean, at the Consol and also at PNC Park.

17 Okay, well, that's great news; and
18 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the
19 growth rate for court reporting salaries is expected to
11:16 20 increase by 14 percent through the year 2020.

21 Endless opportunities.

22 So, Mary Beth was just talking about some
23 of the opportunities that have already been filled here
24 in Pittsburgh, at PNC Park and at the Consol.

25 Mastering the art of typing characters

1 precisely. This is a profession that rewards
2 hardworking individuals focused on transcribing with
3 speed, accuracy and ethics.

4 I would think being a court reporter, or
5 even being a captioner, that would be a really
6 interesting job, too. I mean, if you're in a
7 courtroom, the stories that you must hear every day?

8 Donna.

9 DONNA: That is so true. Sean, in
10 Somerset County, it's a smaller court. We hear
11 everything from an adoption to a first-degree murder
12 case.

13 DJ SEAN: Wow.

14 DONNA: So it's a variety of things you
15 will hear. A witness's testimony that you'll take.
16 You're part of the justice system; and working in a
17 courtroom, I feel that the court reporter is there to
18 protect the rights of the individual, because in our
19 country, we have certain liberties and freedoms, and an
20 accurate record in the court proceedings and as an
21 adjunct and a help in the justice system is what
22 protects the citizens' rights.

23 DJ SEAN: Judges, attorneys, the
24 defendants, the plaintiffs, the charges, the jury, the
25 accusations; and it's the court reporter's

1 responsibility to transcribe everything verbatim.

2 Are you guys sworn to secrecy as well if
3 you're covering a court case, or are you allowed to
4 talk about what you were transcribing that day? I
5 mean, can you take it home to your family?

6 DONNA: Sean, if it's a public record and
7 open to the public, there is no prohibition against
8 speaking about something; but there are areas where we
9 do maintain confidentiality.

11:18

10 DJ SEAN: Sure.

11 DONNA: And that's one of the things that
12 we learn. We have decorum in the courtroom. We don't
13 show expression or speak out if someone is obviously
14 not telling the truth. There a certain blanket of
15 expression that you must maintain to be in the
16 courtroom.

17 DJ SEAN: Right, I would understand that.

18 By the way, annual salaries of court
19 reporters and captioners can reach upwards of \$80,000.
20 That's a really nice living.

11:18

21 We're going to talk about what's the
22 difference between being a court reporter and a
23 captioner, but usually you're both.

24 AMY: Yeah, I think what's interesting is
25 people probably have this perception of what a court

1 reporter is. Maybe like they're thinking of a
2 librarian. It's so outdated.

3 DJ SEAN: Mm-hmm.

4 AMY: So when you hear court reporting,
5 it's really not the title or that doesn't describe what
6 we do. It's more about that machine and the skill we
7 have.

8 When you gain this skill and you can
9 master this skill, there are limited people who can do
10 this, and it opens so many doors and opportunities.

11 We mentioned that our headquarters is in
12 Canonsburg, Pennsylvania; but we have 150 captioners
13 across the country. They can work from their homes.
14 They have -- the technology is such that they can
15 transmit those captions through modems, through the
16 Internet. You have captioners -- you have court
17 reporters and captioners on the Senate floor, in the
18 House of Representatives.

19 DJ SEAN: Yes.

20 AMY: They're in the committee meetings.
21 It's amazing what can be done with this technology, and
22 the people who are using it are so creative.

23 Also, especially from my part of it with
24 the captioning, they are trying to help and give access
25 to people who need it. So they're in touch with those

1 consumers, and they're trying to do everything they can
2 to help them be able to be a part of business meetings,
3 conferences, conventions.

4 So all of those places are venues where
5 you would find what people tend to call a court
6 reporter, but it's a captioner.

7 DJ SEAN: Court reporters, yeah.

8 AMY: So we want to make sure that people
9 understand that this is not an outdated technology, and
10 so if you think of it not just as court reporting, but
11 that tremendous skill that we have and where it can be
12 used.

13 DJ SEAN: What a skill it is, and that's
14 Amy Bowlen right there; and these are three friends of
15 ours joining us from the world of court reporting and
16 captioning.

17 National Court Reporters Association,
18 www.ncra.org. So Amy Bowlen is here, and Mary Beth
19 Johnson is here, and Donna Cascio. Donna Cascio is
20 here with us as well.

21 This high tech, now, career, this
22 occupation of yours, highly skilled, it evolved from
23 your basic typewriter/carbon paper career into now
24 digitally-aided transcription, realtime viewing, CART
25 captioners, which we are going to get back to.

1 Just briefly, court reporting I guess
2 began in 63 BC when the Romans were recording Senate
3 proceedings for the future; so over 3,000 years ago,
4 people were taking notes verbatim at whatever meeting
5 was being held and they were writing them down.

6 Okay, Mary Beth. First of all, now, to
7 get out, teaching at CCAC as you have been for a long
8 time --

9 MARY BETH: Since 1989, I've been at
10 CCAC.

11 DJ SEAN: 38 years, congratulations.

12 MARY BETH: Thanks.

13 DJ SEAN: You don't need a traditional
14 four-year degree so you won't be coming out of college
15 or university \$100,000 in debt with a degree you may or
16 not be able to use, right, coming out as a court
17 reporter or a captioner?

18 MARY BETH: Absolutely. Our program is
19 two years in length; and the students who graduate from
20 court reporting get jobs -- this is the interesting
21 part about it, Sean.

22 When I started, court reporters worked in
23 a courtroom or they took down sworn statements in
24 depositions. With the passage of the Americans with
25 Disabilities Act came the captions you see on

1 television.

2 DJ SEAN: Oh, wow.

3 MARY BETH: So as a result of that, the
4 other area is going into a classroom with a student who
5 is hearing impaired. Back in the day if you were
6 hearing impaired and you weren't born deaf -- because
7 if you were born deaf, then the American Sign Language
8 was your native language; but people late in life who
9 are deaf know English.

11:22 10 So a court reporting student -- a court
11 reporter would go into a classroom with an individual
12 who's hearing impaired, bring -- just what Donna is
13 doing. It was called CART, computer-aided realtime
14 translation; and the teacher would be lecturing. Say I
15 would be giving my lecture. Donna would be writing
16 what I'm saying, as she is right now on her steno
17 machine. The student who is hearing impaired is
18 looking at that transcript on the screen.

19 DJ SEAN: As it's being spoken.

11:22 20 MARY BETH: It is called in realtime.

21 DJ SEAN: In realtime, okay.

22 MARY BETH: Being able to raise their
23 hand, participate in the classroom experience. That
24 goes on here in Pittsburgh.

25 CART was pretty much born by one

1 gentleman named Larry Powell who worked at our school
2 and said to me: Can you have your students transcribe
3 these tapes? We taped a lecture in a classroom. I
4 said, absolutely not, Larry. We're going to show you
5 technology.

6 And so what happened is our court
7 reporting students went into class with our CCAC
8 students, started taking notes; and one of the CCAC
9 students graduated and went on to Pitt, and Pitt
10 actually then offered CART to that student.

11 Larry Powell went to CMU; and to this
12 day, he is providing this service for the CMU students.

13 DJ SEAN: Mary Beth just mentioned the
14 word CART, the acronym CART, and that's for
15 Communication Access Realtime Translation; and Donna is
16 sitting next to us now.

17 Amy is here, Mary Beth is here and Donna
18 is here, our friends from the world of court reporting
19 and captioners. And Donna right now is typing on a
20 stenograph machine?

21 DONNA: Yes.

22 DJ SEAN: Okay, there's only 22 keys on
23 it, and there's only four vowels; am I correct? Only
24 four vowels, and the rest are all consonants.

25 So we're going to talk about this machine

1 that Donna is working on right now.

2 Amy, what's the difference between a
3 court reporter and a captioner? They do the same thing
4 a lot of times; so if you're one, you're probably both?

5 AMY: Right. Originally most people were
6 trained as court reporters. We learn the same what we
7 call theory on the machine. The main difference is
8 that if you're a captioner, you're definitely writing
9 something realtime.

11:24 10 We can't make corrections; so sometimes
11 when you're watching captions on television, you will
12 see a mistake because we have like one second to make a
13 correction to a misstroke before it is transmitted to
14 an encoder as encoded.

15 DJ SEAN: That's amazing.

16 AMY: So there's nothing -- we're not
17 having pre-scripts. Nobody is telling us who the
18 guests are or what they are going to talk about.

19 DJ SEAN: What if you lose your place?

11:24 20 AMY: Well, it happens sometimes. It
21 definitely does happen sometimes. I'm not going to say
22 that we're always perfect. So if I just lose my place,
23 I hear a word and it's just not registering, sometimes
24 I do have to dash and just pick it right back up.

25 DJ SEAN: Right.

1 AMY: I mean, just to be honest, you're
2 going to have those things happen.

3 DJ SEAN: So if I'm working a network
4 news channel, as we were about 15 minutes ago, the
5 streaming sentences below the imaging on the screen,
6 that's not the captioning.

7 So Amy corrected me on that. She grabbed
8 the remote and like found out where the captioning is.
9 It is on the top of the screen, word-for-word whatever
10 the reporter, whatever words are being spoken, and then
11 you see the captions up on top.

12 Amy, so you introduce court reporters to
13 the world of captioning; and I thought this was really
14 interesting, there's a high correlation between
15 musicians and court reporters.

16 So does that come from musicians being
17 able to read music versus what, you guys on your
18 stenography?

19 AMY: It's the dexterity in your fingers.

20 DJ SEAN: Oh.

21 AMY: Because it's speed. We have to
22 have this combination of speed and accuracy.

23 To graduate from school, the speeds are
24 225 minutes a minute. Donna and I are both certified
25 at 260 words a minute, but there is -- quite frequently

1 you're writing upwards of 300 words a minute.

2 You've heard the political arguments; and
3 you can see right now, we have CNN on. They have got
4 four people. Oftentimes they're all speaking at once,
5 they're speaking so quickly.

6 DJ SEAN: How do you do that?

7 AMY: So you have to have a good -- you
8 have to have a lot of word knowledge, first of all.

9 DJ SEAN: You have to be a decent
10 speller, I would imagine.

11 MARY BETH: Absolutely, Sean. The maid
12 made the bed. You have to have a mind to know which
13 maid did the making of the bed.

14 DJ SEAN: Oh, man. Let's go back to CART
15 captioners. I mentioned earlier, Communication Access
16 Realtime Translation. So this technology is used in
17 classroom settings, like Mary Beth pointed out, to
18 assist students who are deaf and hard of hearing.

19 Realtime viewing, was this already
20 discussed? Because there's so much to talk about that
21 you guys handle every minute of every day.

22 What is realtime viewing?

23 MARY BETH: Look up there, Sean.

24 DJ SEAN: Oh, okay. So that's the
25 captioning.

1 AMY: Right.

2 DJ SEAN: And I'm looking at it in
3 realtime. Okay.

4 DONNA: As well as on this computer; and
5 this computer goes with me into the courtroom every day
6 and it plugs into a computer that my Judge has on the
7 bench, and so he sees what's going on. He views it as
8 it's being said.

9 Oftentimes if there's a quick exchange in
10 the courtroom and an objection, he'll check the screen
11 to read the question to see what the attorney's
12 objection was, and then he's able to make a ruling on
13 the spot.

14 You talked about a long time ago we used
15 carbon paper and so forth; and these machines used to
16 have that paper that came out the back, remember that?

17 DJ SEAN: Oh, yeah, right. Like one of
18 the old calculators from like the '60s or '70s that
19 your father used.

11:27 20 DONNA: You've seen that in the movies,
21 in the old movies. They always had someone sitting
22 there. And you would have to get the -- if the Judge
23 wanted to check something, he'd stop the proceedings,
24 the court reporter would have to go to the paper, fold
25 it back, and read from steno notes, which is what I'm

1 showing you here on this side.

2 Letters of the alphabet, that are written
3 in different combination. A T and a K together on the
4 left-hand side is a D. I know that's a D. So that
5 word is D-O, "do." The next letter is a T. That's
6 "the," and this is S-A -- you mentioned we only have
7 four vowels?

8 DJ SEAN: Yeah.

9 DONNA: An E and a U together means an I,
10 so that's S-A-I-M. And if you're thinking
11 phonetically, that's a long A sound.

12 "Do the same" -- T-H-I -- that's an N and
13 a G. "Do the same thing."

14 DJ SEAN: This is rocket science to me.
15 To you guys, it's what you do every day.

16 How do you type phonetically with just 22
17 keys? And Donna sent me some notes. I laughed out
18 loud. This is so amazing. It was a script; and to me
19 it had just a bunch of letters on it, but what it
20 really said was, in court reporter language, was: "A
21 court reporter can write this faster than you can read
22 this."

23 But it was just a bunch of letters to me
24 on a piece of paper. How do you learn how to type,
25 phonetically, with four vowels?

1 AMY: Well, we take those four vowels and
2 we combine them to make the long vowels that aren't on
3 there. But it's a theory. It's called a steno theory.

4 And then what happens is we have
5 specialized software on our computers, and we basically
6 tell the software, this is the way I write this word.
7 So if it's a six-syllable word, I write it in six
8 strokes. If it's a one-syllable word, I can write it
9 in one stroke.

11:29 10 DONNA: What I have just brought up to
11 you is my personal dictionary. So what's happening
12 when my steno machine is connected to my computer,
13 which is loaded with my software, I have a dictionary;
14 and within an instant, a piece of a second, I write
15 something here, it goes through the dictionary and
16 finds it exactly, and throws it up on the screen.

17 So here is the word "looping." And
18 that's how it writes it.

19 MARY BETH: Is Sean in there?

11:30 20 DONNA: Yes, Sean is in there.

21 DJ SEAN: All right. How does my name,
22 Sean, S-E-A-N, how does it look on a stenography
23 machine if you're a court reporter.

24 MARY BETH: Right there.

25 DONNA: S-H-A-U-N. For the "AHN" sound.

1 That's Sean.

2 MARY BETH: You know what, I think if we
3 show you the letters of the alphabet, it might be
4 really interesting, Sean.

5 When I start to teach a class, I'm going
6 to say the letters of the alphabet, and Donna is going
7 to write them. And after each letter she is going to
8 write the letter with F-P-L-T, which is a period, so
9 Sean can actually see the letters come up.

11:30

10 DONNA: Okay.

11 DJ SEAN: These are our friends from the
12 world of court reporting and captioning right now.

13 We have Donna here, we have Mary Beth, we
14 have Amy. Okay, go ahead, Mary Beth.

15 MARY BETH: A, B -- and B is P-W -- C,
16 and C is K-R. Because for example cat, even though
17 it's spelled K-A-T -- C-A-T in English, it's K-A-T in
18 steno, because you hear the sound of K.

11:31

19 And think about why you have to do that.
20 I sent something in the mail. So Donna, write that,
21 sent. One red cent. The scent of the perfume. They
22 all sound the same.

23 DJ SEAN: They do.

24 MARY BETH: You need to be able to
25 differentiate them on the steno machine.

1 DONNA: See the difference, and they all
2 came out. Sent, cent and scent.

3 DJ SEAN: You're pretty good at that,
4 Donna.

5 DONNA: Thank you.

6 DJ SEAN: A court reporter can write this
7 faster than you can read this, is what I was reading
8 earlier today.

9 Mary Beth and Amy, since -- well, Mary
10 Beth, you have been teaching this for years and years;
11 and Amy now, you've been with, is it --

12 AMY: VITAC.

13 DJ SEAN: Yes, for also a long time.

14 How long does it take someone typically,
15 I think Mary Beth you might have mentioned it's a
16 two-year program at CCAC.

17 Is that about how long it would take
18 someone typically to learn the 22-button keyboard on a
19 stenograph machine? About two years?

11:32 20 MARY BETH: It's a two-year program.
21 Some people graduate in less than two years. We had an
22 individual who completed in a year, Tristan Hannaford,
23 super star. We have people who are in school longer.
24 Maybe they have children, they have a part-time job,
25 they can't spend as much time practicing.

1 DJ SEAN: Right.

2 MARY BETH: Because the key to this,
3 Sean, is practicing, and concentration.

4 I say to my students, look at a Pirate
5 game. Look at the expression on that pitcher's face.
6 All he wants to do is throw a strike. He doesn't want
7 to hear any sound, any clapping, any noise. He wants
8 to concentrate on that pitch.

9 And that's what we need to do. We have
10 to concentrate on the word. When you hear the word
11 "sent" in a sentence, you have to know which word it
12 is.

13 DJ SEAN: Yes.

14 MARY BETH: Stroke it correctly. So your
15 mind is constantly thinking, what word is that.

16 My classic example is my son. When I was
17 teaching, I was pregnant and I would say, cat, to my
18 students. K-A-T, K-A-T, and they would write it; and
19 he couldn't spell, and I'm sure it just translated to
20 him.

21 And E-U is I. So how do you teach
22 someone. It's like voodoo, E-U is eye.

23 DJ SEAN: These are our friends -- this
24 is fascinating stuff to me -- from the world of court
25 reporting and captioning. National Court Reporters

1 Association, www.ncra.org. Donna Cascio is here.

2 Donna works in the courtroom for Somerset County Court
3 of Common Pleas. She's on a stenograph machine right
4 next to us right now, attempting to explain to me how
5 this works.

6 Amy Bowlen is here, manager of realtime
7 captioning training. Amy has worked with VITAC here
8 for years and years and years. This is the largest
9 provider of closed captioning in the country. They
10 work with all the major networks and the cable channels
11 and everything.

12 And Mary Beth Johnson is here. She's
13 been teaching court reporting over at CCAC for
14 38 years.

15 I want to thank Donna again for wanting
16 to raise awareness of what goes on in the world of
17 court reporting.

18 What if somebody has a really thick
19 accent? What if you're in a courtroom and maybe you're
20 talking to someone who barely speaks English? How does
21 that work with a 22-key stenograph machine, and only
22 four vowels again? But you're maybe listening to
23 someone who's Russian or maybe listening to somebody
24 who might be Spanish?

25 DONNA: Sean, it works because we have a

1 brain. We are not a tape recorder. Our ear can hear a
2 sound, and the human brain can distinguish that, along
3 with what Mary Beth said, concentration on that.

4 And it does take concentration. You
5 can -- it is true, people with accents, it is harder to
6 hear; but once you get into the cadence of that kind of
7 speech and you listen earnestly, it really does come
8 through. The human brain is amazing.

9 DJ SEAN: So Mary Beth mentioned that two
10 of your students, one of them is in charge of the
11 captioning at the Consol for Penguins games?

12 MARY BETH: Two, actually, at Consol.

13 DJ SEAN: Okay, two at Consol.

14 MARY BETH: Yes, sir.

15 DJ SEAN: Coming out of CCAC, being
16 instructed by Mary Beth Johnson, professor of court
17 reporting there, and also 2014 Educator of the Year, as
18 determined by the NCRA, National Court Reporters
19 Association.

20 So two of her students working the
21 Penguins games. Everything is digital there at the
22 Consol. One of her students in charge of captioning
23 over at PNC Park for the Pirates; right?

24 MARY BETH: Yes, sir.

25 DJ SEAN: Just to remind everybody again,

1 this court reporting profession that we are talking
2 about this morning, it's receiving national
3 recognition. It's a really competitive and rewarding
4 career opportunity. Salaries reach upwards of \$80,000
5 a year, and 5500 new court reporting jobs are being
6 anticipated across the country in the next two years.

7 There are more openings nationwide for
8 court reporters, captioners than the industry can fill.
9 It's a profession that rewards hardworking individuals
10 focused on transcribing with speed, accuracy and ethics
11 really interesting stuff, because you would think as a
12 court reporter, you're hearing all these stories in a
13 courtroom from the judges, the attorneys, the
14 defendants. And it's your responsibility to transcribe
15 everything verbatim.

16 AMY: Sean, could I -- I just want to
17 inject one thing.

18 DJ SEAN: Sure.

19 AMY: Because you have three ladies
20 sitting here. We had really hoped to have one of our
21 male colleagues with us, but they were all committed to
22 work today.

23 But we wanted to stress that this isn't
24 just a profession for women and it's not just a
25 profession --

1 DJ SEAN: Good point.

2 AMY: -- for young ladies.

3 This is a great profession for men; for,
4 you know, people who are going back for a second
5 career.

6 There's so much opportunity. So we don't
7 want it to look like this is just for the girls, you
8 know.

9 DJ SEAN: Well, thanks Amy. And I was
11:36 10 just going to mention, male or female, you can get a
11 job as an official court reporter in courtroom; you can
12 freelance, self-employed court reporters in service to
13 the legal profession, or any industry that might have a
14 meeting, you know, with all of its shareholders, its
15 employees, whatever. Maybe they need a court reporter
16 to transcribe everything.

17 You can work in Washington, DC, or in the
18 State Capitol, Harrisburg. Assisting the hearing
19 impaired in educational and legal settings.

11:37 20 This past February it was 2016 court
21 reporting and captioning week, sponsored by the NCRA,
22 National Court Reporters Association, highlighting the
23 contributions of stenographic court reporters.

24 Donna has a stenography machine right
25 next to us here. Captioners, the contributions they

1 make to society, showcasing the growing number of
2 career opportunities existing in this field, court
3 reporting and captioning.

4 Two-hands, 22 keys, four vowels, and
5 being able to type 225 words per minute: Your impact
6 as a court reporter is limitless.

7 Some quick questions -- you know, I have
8 to make them quick because we're almost out of time.
9 Amy, Mary Beth and Donna. Do you need to be
10 recertified or retrained every few years or something?
11 Do you need that on an annual basis?

12 DONNA: We -- once you are -- you pass
13 the tests and you become certified, we continue
14 education. It's called Continuing Education Units,
15 CEUs; and our fabulous state association, Pennsylvania
16 Court Reporters Association, which we are all members
17 of, holds wonderful seminars every year where we can
18 get all our continuing education.

19 I would like to mention that one of our
20 members of the Pennsylvania Court Reporters
21 Association, from Harrisburg, is going to be sworn in
22 as the President of the National Court Reporters
23 Association in Chicago at the beginning of August.

24 DJ SEAN: Oh, yeah.

25 DONNA: So she's a friend of ours.

1 DJ SEAN: Congratulations.

2 DONNA: And we're delighted that Nativa
3 Wood from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, will be the new
4 President of NCRA.

5 DJ SEAN: Well, congratulations to
6 Nativa; and again, you can be a court reporter or a
7 captioner on an 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. basis. You can
8 find plenty of freelance work as well, and they make a
9 really good buck.

11:39 10 Generally speaking, Amy and Mary Beth,
11 you're the teachers; so again, I think we touched on
12 this. The training period, it's about two years to
13 become proficient or at least -- proficient or
14 certified as a court reporter or captioner. About two
15 years. It's not a four-year program.

16 MARY BETH: That's correct. It's a
17 two-year program, and we are beginning a new class
18 August 22nd at CCAC, the Allegheny campus on the North
19 Side.

11:39 20 So anyone who's interested in court
21 reporting, call me, text me, email me. I'm ready to
22 teach you.

23 DJ SEAN: Thanking again from the
24 fascinating world of court reporting, captioning, Donna
25 Cascio -- Donna is the one who brought this entire --

1 this, this -- I didn't know anything about court
2 reporting until Donna reached out to me in an email.

3 Thank you, Donna.

4 Amy Bowlen and Mary Beth Johnson.

5 National Court Reporters Association, www.ncra.org.

6 Oh, I was going to ask one more question
7 quickly. Donna, what's the "Take Note" campaign? Is
8 that still happening or has that already come and gone?

9 DONNA: The "Take Note" campaign is the
10 National Court Reporters Association way to reach out
11 to folks to hear about our profession, learn about it,
12 and entice them to go to school. Learn this
13 profession.

14 As you said, it's not a four-year degree.
15 You don't come out with four years of debt. Many
16 college students I know of come out after education and
17 don't have a good-paying job at all.

18 DJ SEAN: Yes, I know.

19 DONNA: So this is really an opportunity
20 locally and nationwide.

21 DJ SEAN: There's a lot of jobs right now
22 in this field, court reporters and captioners. They
23 make a really good buck, too.

24 So again, thanking Donna Cascio, Amy
25 Bowlen and Mary Beth Johnson. National Court Reporters

1 Association, www.ncra.org. Thanks, guys.

2 AMY: Thank you, Sean.

3 DONNA: Thank you, Sean.

4 MARY BETH: Thank you, Sean.

5 www.ccac.edu.

6 DJ SEAN: This has been Pittsburgh Sunday
7 morning. My name is Sean McDowell.

8 (CD concluded.)

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