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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCRA presents CASE Award of Excellence *Eileen Beltz, CRI, CPE, an educator from Avon, Ohio, earns honors*

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Aug. 12, 2017 — The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, broadcast and CART captioners, and legal videographers, today announced that Eileen Beltz, an instructor at the College of Court Reporting in Valparaiso, Ind., was awarded the 2017 Council on Approved Student Education (CASE) Award of Excellence. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon held during NCRA's Convention & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 10-13. Beltz is from Avon, Ohio.

NCRA's CASE (Council on Approved Student Education) Award of Excellence recognizes the important role student education plays in the court reporting profession and honors educators for their dedication, outstanding achievement, and leadership. Recipients are nominated by an NCRA member.

Beltz holds the nationally recognized professional certification of Certified Reporter Instructor and Certified Program Evaluator. She worked as a freelance court reporter and part-time instructor upon graduation from the Academy of Court Reporting in Cleveland, Ohio. She soon began instructing full time and was awarded the Steno Instructor of the Year for both 2003 and 2004 by the Academy.

In 2007, Beltz co-authored a court reporting curriculum for Stautzenberger College in Brecksville, Ohio, and served as director of that program. In 2009, she received the designation of Master Teacher from the Ohio Association of Career Colleges and Schools.

She is a recognized presenter at the national and state level and has served as a dictator for a number of state speed and realtime contests. She is active in the Ohio Court Reporters Association (OCRA), serving on the contests committee. In 2012, OCRA bestowed the Associate Award upon her. Most recently, she was honored with the 2017 Martin Fincum Award by OCRA for outstanding contribution to diligently promoting the goals of the profession.

At the same luncheon, three court reporting students were awarded CASE scholarships based on their winning entries in an essay-writing contest. Lisa Erickson, a student at Prince Institute in Elmhurst, Ill., was the first-place winner of the 2017 CASE scholarship. Maggie DeRocher, of Des Moines Area Community College in Newton, Ia., earned second place, and Meredith Seymour of Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wis. earned third place. The first-place winner will receive \$1,500; second place, \$1,000; and third place, \$500.



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As part of the application process, students submitted an original essay on the topic “Describe what the professions of court reporting and captioning are like today from your perspective. What do you think those professions will be like in the next ten years?”

All three winning essays focused on the growing demand for reporters and captioners as well as a positive outlook for the future.

Applicants were also required to be current students at an NCRA-approved court-reporting program, hold student membership with NCRA, write between 140-180 wpm, and submit three recommendation forms, among other criteria.

The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) also announced that Valerie Melkus, RPR, Charleston, S.C., was named recipient of the 2017 New Professional Reporter Grant, and that Laurel Stalnaker, a student from Sumner College in Portland, Ore., is the recipient of the 2017 Robert H. Clark Scholarship.

Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at crTakeNote.com.

About NCRA

The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 16,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent through the year 2020. For more information, visit NCRA.org.