National Court Reporters Association
12355 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 610
Reston, VA 20191-3492
Tel: 703-556-6272 • Fax: 703-391-0629
800-272-NCRA (6272) • NCRA.org

Petra H. Mandigo Hulm
Clerk of Court
North Dakota Supreme Court
phulm@ndcourts.gov
701-328-2221

December 24, 2024

Re: 20240320 - Proposed Amendments to Fiscal Policy 206/Case Number: 20220232

Dear Clerk Hulm:

We the undersigned are advocating for the stenographic court reporter profession in North Dakota. The proposed changes to Policy 206 are not in the best interest of judicial integrity and urge the state courts to carefully consider the consequences of these amendments.

We also wish to recognize the courtesy and utmost professionalism of you personally as well as the state court system staff with the numerous inquiries to your office. We thank you for your service as a public servant and are grateful for your guidance in navigating the public comment process.

Stenographic court reporters remain the gold standard for capturing the record in state court systems due to their unparalleled accuracy, speed, and reliability. No technological alternative has yet been proven to compete with the skilled labor of an NCRA certified court reporter, who can produce realtime transcripts with an accuracy rate far surpassing automated systems. This profession is not only about technical skill but also about being part of a tight-knit community where the actions in one state can resonate across the country. When legislative changes are proposed that threaten the profession, the ripple effect is palpable; court reporters from around the nation rally in defense of their colleagues, demonstrating a unified front to safeguard the integrity and tradition of court reporting. This collective passion ensures that the profession continues to advocate for the irreplaceable value of human expertise in legal proceedings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Lemons

Keith R. Lemons, FAPR, RPR, CRR (Ret.)
President
National Court Reporters Association

Cindy L. Isaacsen

Cindy L. Isaacsen, RPR
President-Elect
National Court Reporters Association