

Court reporters are guardians of the record. They are front and center at the hearings of not only small cases, but also in highly publicized cases – criminal trials, millionaire divorces, government corruption trials, lawsuits against everyone from rock groups to elected officials to ballplayers.

An “official” court reporter works in the courtroom along side a judge – whether it be the county courthouse or the federal courthouse. Officials report proceedings in juvenile cases, divorce cases, felony trials, probate matters, etc. Official court reporters are called the Guardians of the Record.



Freelance reporters take statements, depositions, and zoning hearings among many other proceedings. Freelance reporters can work just in their general area, or they can travel throughout the world in their job.

Broadcast captioning: Have you ever noticed the words coming across the bottom of the television screen of what people are saying? That is captioning provided by a court reporter. It is a good possibility he/she is sitting in their house in their flannel pants while working! An Illinois reporter captions at the Jumbotron for the St. Louis Cardinals and captioned the World Series!



CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation) reporting is another application of captioning. A CART provider will sit next to a deaf or hard-of-hearing student in all their classes and realtime the class so that the student can read everything that is being said by the teacher and the fellow students. CART is also provided at hearings, church services and meetings.

Webcasting: With the growth of online conferences, court reporters have found their services in demand on the Internet. They provide realtime reporting of sales meetings, press conferences, product introductions, and technical training seminars and instantly transmit them to all parties involved.



There is **great demand** for closed captioning. There is a shortage of skilled and trained captioners. There are four court reporting colleges in the Chicago-land area, Midstate College in Peoria, and John A. Logan College in Carterville. There is even an online school, which is Hobart College of Court Reporting (www.ccr.edu)

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics had earnings for court reporters of between \$30,680 and \$60,760 for the middle 50% of court reporters.