



September 18, 2008

Ms. Tori Pittman RDR, CRI
President
North Carolina Court Reporters Association
P.O. Box 47
Wake Forest, NC 27588-0047

Dear Ms. Tori Pittman,

As you may have heard, earlier this summer the National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF) reluctantly advised us that it would no longer be able to continue funding the Court Record Manager position at the Center for Legal and Court Technology (previously *The Courtroom 21 Project*) at the nation's oldest law school located at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Although the National Verbatim Reporters Association is continuing its support, and the NCRF has graciously agreed to make a small donation to signal its continuing support, it is not enough to sustain the position. Accordingly, I am writing to request the assistance of your state association.

When the Foundation first funded the position in 1993, it was with the intent that the Registered Professional Reporter would become a highly visible image of court reporting, which understated what actually happened. Since the beginning, our court record managers have demonstrated realtime and explained court reporting to countless justices, judges, lawyers, court administrators, and law students, whether visiting the McGlothlin Courtroom in person or by videoconferencing. They have served as true ambassadors to the bench and bar of the United States and around the world.

Our present Court Record Manager, Diane Mason Gray, RPR, CRR, CVR, has been especially successful and appreciated. Besides the more usual aspects of her admittedly unusual job, she also takes care to attract young people into court reporting, mentors reporting students, and teaches law students about making the court record.

The elimination of this position would be most unfortunate, especially in light of the visibility she has provided to court reporting in this objective academic setting. Therefore, in order to save this important position, I am writing to every state's court reporting association requesting your financial assistance. We know that the economic times are hard, but we ask that you consider commitment to a donation of at least \$500.00/year for three years.

Your association will receive our deepest gratitude and appropriate recognition on our web site. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write or call.

Sincerely yours,

Fredric I. Lederer
Chancellor Professor of Law & Director
Center for Legal and Court Technology