

# The Amazing Fields of Realtime Reporting

## Freelance Court Reporting

The freelance court reporter is typically an independent contractor who works somewhere different every day -- at a law office, deposition room, medical office, or other office environment. Using a high-tech steno writer and a laptop computer equipped with state-of-the-art software, the freelance court reporter captures every word spoken on the record during a deposition, hearing, or meeting. Those words are then instantaneously transcribed into English and are immediately available for viewing, annotating, and searching on the attorneys' computer screens in the room or across the Internet at a remote location. The unedited transcript can be used by the attorneys immediately as they review the day's testimony and prepare for other witness testimony. A fully edited transcript is available quickly afterwards.

## Broadcast Captioning

Working from their home or an office, broadcast captioners produce readable English text of live television programming. The captioner listens to the audio of a program and uses a realtime-capable steno writer, software, and a computer linked to the television station via modem or the Internet to produce readable English text of live TV programming within seconds. Captions may be used by consumers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, but they are also widely displayed in environments like airports, bars, restaurants, and fitness facilities. Due to legislation which requires equal access via captions, broadcast captioning is one of the fastest growing fields of court reporting.



## CART Writing & Webcasting

Working at a school, university, church, or other live venue, Communication Access Realtime Translation writers provide live event captioning to individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Using a steno machine and portable computer, along with realtime technology, instant text is streamed for the viewer. This technology allows an individual equal access to information being said in the room that other systems cannot achieve due to the rate of speed achieved by a CART writer. Webcasting reporters use their skills to create live captions for participants in business events which are streamed in realtime via the Internet.

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### Official Court Reporting

The official court reporter, typically an employee of the court, works in a courtroom setting. Using a high-tech steno machine and a computer, along with realtime technology, the official court reporter captures every spoken word said in the courtroom, which is instantaneously transcribed into English and is immediately available for viewing on the judge's and attorneys' laptops, iPads, and smart phones in the courtroom and remote locations across the country. A fully edited transcript is available quickly afterwards. This is the fastest technology available for capturing the spoken word and providing a readable, searchable, and complete record.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Court Reporting is listed as one of the Best 50 Careers for 2011.

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The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that careers in Court Reporting will grow 18 percent between 2008 and 2018—a good deal faster than the average for all occupations.

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The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires 100 percent of new programming in the top 25 markets to be captioned. This has created a high demand for Realtime Court Reporters.

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The average length of time it takes to become a Realtime Court Reporter is 33 months.

The Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters, also known as MAPCR, has more information on their website regarding court reporting in general and court reporting schools in Michigan.

So go to [www.MAPCR.org](http://www.MAPCR.org) to learn more about this amazing and exciting career. Remember...

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