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Analysis and Advantages of Digital Court Reporting and Recording in the Courts, Deposition, and Administrative Hearings Markets

Wilmington, Delaware – November 28, 2016 – This paper is being published by the American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (AAERT). The Government Relations Committee of AAERT composed this paper to address the questions concerning the use of digital court reporting in the courts and freelance court reporting markets.

Independent studies conducted by the Federal and State Courts as well as national court reporting associations point out several problems with the court reporting and transcription process. Included in these are budgetary constraints in the courts, the lack of qualified personnel, and possession of and speedy access to the record. The traditional method of stenotype reporting is expensive while at the same time, the pool of qualified stenotype reporters is dwindling. Access to the record can take a considerable amount of time causing delays to the trial and appeals processes.

Since 1992, AAERT has advocated education, certification and networking opportunities for the digital court reporting and transcription community of court reporters. AAERT also promotes best practices to be used when providing digital court reporting and transcription services.

The Government Relations Committee, chaired by Rick Russell, researched these issues. The following document includes surveys of several of the current electronic recording equipment vendors, the compilation of the salaries paid to digital court reporters versus stenotype, and supporting documentation from industry studies and papers.

The conclusion of the paper demonstrates that digital court reporting is a more economical means of preserving the record. That when best practices are used, this method of court reporting and transcription is reliable as well as accurate. Finally, the digital reporting community is capable of filling the growing demand for court reporters in the courts and the freelance markets.

For more information about AAERT, contact Mike Tannen, Executive Director at mtannen@aaert.org or visit AAERT website for a complete, free copy: http://www.aaert.org/store/view_product.asp?id=7803777

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