



WHAT USA AND CANADIAN COURT REPORTING FIRM OWNERS ARE SAYING –
“WE NEED REALLY GREAT COURT REPORTERS.”

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I just attended the STAR (Society for the Technological Advancement of Reporting) conference in Savannah. Many highly respected and important court reporting firm owners were there from all over the USA and Canada. What I heard over and over again was, “I need another court reporter, not a regular court reporter, but a realtimer that can get out quick rough drafts and expedites.” The firm owners were describing talented, clean writers that could hook up realtime.

When I hear from a reporter trying to find work, I look at their resume, how long they have been in the field and what version of their CAT software they are on. I find out what model of machine they are writing on. I ask the reporter to send me their raw transcript before any editing so I can see if they write clean. I find out if they have taken the CCRR or CRR and/or if they’ve passed any speed tests or gotten advanced certifications.

Some people are trying to make court reporters out to be another commodity implying, “All court reporters are the same. Let’s make a deal at these low rates, and whatever court reporter we send you, or machine we set you up with, will be good enough.”

As my mentor Tony Hsieh says, “Good enough is not great.” The survival of our profession depends on great court reporters. I would hope no one strives to be “good enough.” Being good enough is not going to cut it in the future. We have to be great.



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