



**PROJECT STENO'S  
COVER YOUR BASES PROGRAM™**  
An Introduction to the  
Stenographic Reporting Profession

*A plan for introducing stenographic theory  
to military spouses, family members, and  
service members transitioning to the civilian workplace.*

[www.ProjectSteno.org](http://www.ProjectSteno.org)

[info@ProjectSteno.org](mailto:info@ProjectSteno.org)

508.438.0314

## DESCRIPTION

Project Steno's Cover Your Bases Program™ is a plan designed to bring awareness of the court reporting and captioning professions to military bases nationwide. Volunteers will deliver Nancy Varallo's Basic Training™ and speak about the many career options available today. The program is a hands-on opportunity to learn the basics of steno theory in a virtual classroom environment over six weeks, one day each week, as a first step before entering a two-year educational program. All materials (textbook/steno machines) will be provided at no charge. Students will be encouraged to practice two hours each day between the six sessions.

This six-week program offers a self-selection opportunity that helps one answer some important questions. Is stenographic reporting the right career for me? Do I have the interest, natural dexterity, grammar skills, motivation and discipline required to complete the next two years of school? If the answer is Yes, Project Steno will connect candidates who graduate from Basic Training with schools that accept GI benefits. If candidates are not eligible for GI benefits, Project Steno will direct them to our tuition assistance program. Details of our selective tuition assistance program (and an application) can be found at [www.ProjectSteno.org/students](http://www.ProjectSteno.org/students).

## HISTORY

Enrollment in steno schools has been declining for decades. The number of schools nationwide has also dropped significantly. This perfect storm of declining enrollment and fewer schools led to the creation of Project Steno, an ambitious undertaking of its founders (all volunteers) to formulate a systematic plan to boost recruitment and enrollment into reporting programs. The Project Steno team devised a comprehensive plan to address the inadequate recruitment of qualified students and their enrollment into successful programs. Project Steno's Cover Your Bases Program™ is one element of the plan.

NCRA commissioned a study conducted by Ducker Worldwide in 2013. The Ducker report projected a nationwide shortage of court reporters and captioners by 2018. And it's happening now. Firm owners and courthouses nationwide can't keep up with the demand and need to hire more reporters. The time is ripe for hardworking men and women to join this time-honored profession.

Flexibility and portability are hallmarks of court reporting. Online education, available wherever Internet access exists, presents a seamless learning environment for spouses and family members facing frequent relocation. It doesn't matter where you are; you can attend online court reporting classes.

The work of Project Steno to increase our ranks is perfectly aligned with the efforts of the Army Spouse Employment Partnership and other such organizations which address the need to educate, train, and employ these men and women. Expanded GI benefits to include military spouses have come at the right time.

Sonja L. Reeves, RMR, CRR, is currently an official court reporter in the United States District Court in Anchorage, Alaska. Sonja says: "My husband was in the Army for 25 years and I was able to report throughout his career, overseas in Korea and in seven different states in the United States. Due to my court reporting skill set and certifications through NCRA, I was always working before our household goods arrived."

## OPTIONS FOR TODAY

Stenographic court reporter training does not require a four-year college degree. With today's sky-high and ever-rising college costs, the value proposition of a court reporting career never looked better. Court reporters enjoy job mobility (have machine, can travel) and career choices such as working in a courtroom or doing freelance work, taking depositions of witnesses at law firms in civil litigation discovery. Another career option is broadcast captioning. Captioners provide the moving lines of text one sees on television. Personal captioning (often called CART) is provided for deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals in classrooms, business meetings, etc., anywhere ADA compliance mandates such accommodation.

One can train to be a court reporter or captioner and graduate into a wide-open job market, with high income potential – and have little or no student debt. What other professional field of work can offer job security, worldwide job opportunities, six-figure income potential, and little or no student debt? Learn more at [www.ProjectSteno.org](http://www.ProjectSteno.org).

A court reporting training program is typically a two-year curriculum offered in a community college or private online program. In Project Steno's Cover Your Bases Program™, students can learn the fundamentals of the keyboard and find out – at no cost – if this profession suits them. A high priority of Project Steno's mission is to get the right students into the right court reporting programs.

## PROJECT STENO

Project Steno invites you to donate to our drive to purchase machines for use by military spouses attending our Basic Training program. You can donate here: <https://projectsteno.org/donate-online/>

We invite you to watch and share our "Imagine" video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QkBATw4r74>

Founded in 2017, Project Steno\* is an independent, non-affiliated organization that relies entirely on financial support from the court reporting community. Its goals are to:

- Promote the stenographic reporting profession and recruit promising students;
- Partner with stenographic reporting schools and programs to graduate students in two years; and
- Defray education costs by awarding tuition assistance to qualifying students in schools and programs across the country.

Project Steno is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. It operates entirely on a not-for-profit basis. In January 2018 Project Steno launched its program of tuition assistance and placed its first students in stenographic reporting school. With the manifest enthusiasm of court reporters everywhere, Project Steno will continue to raise funds to promote widespread awareness of our unique profession and create a robust pipeline of students into court reporting schools and graduates into the field. Learn more at [www.ProjectSteno.org](http://www.ProjectSteno.org).

*\*Project Steno is the tradename of Project to Advance Stenographic Reporting, Inc. Project Steno's purpose is to build awareness of the careers available in stenographic reporting and captioning. Project Steno provides tuition assistance to select students who wish to learn stenographic reporting. Not all applicants will be received into the Project Steno tuition assistance program.*