

First Supplement to Memorandum 2020-39

**Statutes Made Obsolete by Trial Court Restructuring (Part 7):
Court Reporter Compensation Statutes**

The California Court Reporters Association (“CCRA”) is a statewide organization that includes both official reporters and deposition reporters. CCRA has submitted a comment on Memorandum 2020-39,¹ which is attached as an Exhibit.

CCRA “recognizes the need to update court reporter compensation statutes to reflect the State’s trial court restructuring.”² The group “has gone so far as to incorporate a workgroup into [its] sponsored legislation in recent years” to address matters such as developing “a truly statewide approach to compensation” and updating the statutory rate for official court transcripts and copies.³

Due to the pandemic, however, CCRA says that it needs to focus on other matters now.⁴ It thus “respectfully requests that work be deferred on updating compensation statutes until conditions are right for productive discussions.”⁵

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Gaal
Chief Deputy Counsel

1. Any California Law Revision Commission document referred to in this memorandum can be obtained from the Commission. Recent materials can be downloaded from the Commission’s website (www.clrc.ca.gov). Other materials can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s staff, through the website or otherwise.

The Commission welcomes written comments at any time during its study process. Any comments received will be a part of the public record and may be considered at a public meeting. However, comments that are received less than five business days prior to a Commission meeting may be presented without staff analysis.

2. Exhibit p. 1.

3. *Id.*

4. *Id.*

5. *Id.*



August 10, 2020

Barbara Gaal
Chief Deputy Counsel, California Law Revision Commission
400 Mrak Hall Drive
Davis, CA 95616

Re: Memorandum 2020-39: Request to Defer Work on Court Reporter Compensation Statutes

Dear Commission and Chief Deputy Counsel,

The California Court Reporters Association (CCRA), a statewide organization with diverse membership, including official and deposition reporters, requests that the California Law Revision Commission (Commission), at its upcoming meeting on August 13, 2020, defer any work on updating court reporter statutes until the stakeholders can convene and discuss appropriate amendments.

CCRA recognizes the need to update court reporter compensation statutes to reflect the State's trial court restructuring. Additionally, there is a need to update the statutory rate for official court transcripts and copies. This needs to be done as quickly as possible. However, further changes, such as county-specific rules related to reporter compensation, should be the product of stakeholder debate and discussions before pursuit of statutory changes should be advanced.

We do believe there is value in exploring how to incorporate a truly statewide approach to compensation. CCRA has gone so far as to incorporate a workgroup into our sponsored legislation in recent years to address these matters. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting challenges on the profession and our members, we need to focus on protecting the profession and the health and well-being of our membership. Now is not the time for the Commission to initiate such a pursuit when key stakeholders have not been able to engage on these issues.

For these reasons, CCRA respectfully requests that work be deferred on updating compensation statutes until conditions are right for productive discussions.

Sincerely,

Sandy M. Walden, President
California Court Reporters Association