

***We are proud to present the candidates for the  
VCRA Board of Directors for 2024-2025***

**Officers**

**President - Michele Eddy, RPR, CRR, CRI, CCR - Alexandria,  
Virginia**



I have been reporting for over 30 years, covering depositions, trials, and arbitrations, specializing in real-time, roughs and expedites, and I love the challenge of IP litigation. Since June 2020, I've been working for the International Monetary Fund as a verbatim reporting officer, enjoying the world of economics and the new challenge and change of pace. I love to spend time with my family and my 2-year-old grandson Finn. I also enjoy traveling, hiking, running, cycling, and shelling in my spare time, preferably on a warm beach in the south.

**Vice President - Dana M. Pon, RPR, CCR - Virginia Beach, Virginia**



I am a freelance reporter/firm owner from Virginia Beach. I have been reporting for over 20 years all over Hampton Roads and the Eastern Shore. We have a nice mix of criminal and civil work, although I prefer to do felonies because the cases can be so interesting. I always have a story to tell! I'm a huge animal lover, but I especially love cats. I have three of my own, and I also volunteer with the SPCA on the weekends. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, dining with friends, hanging out with my nephews, or watching a good series on TV.

## **Treasurer - Rachel Cramer, CCR - Chesapeake, Virginia**



I've been working as a freelance reporter in the Tidewater area since graduating from Reporting Academy of Virginia in 2001. Since 2013, I have served on the Board of VCRA in some capacity, either as a director or as Treasurer. My career has shaped into becoming a very busy overflow/backup reporter for many of the local court reporting firms and independent reporters in Hampton Roads, and in 2016, I became the main reporter covering Department of Labor Administrative Law Judge hearings in Newport News. I couldn't have picked a better fit as this wonderful profession allows me the much-needed schedule flexibility required as a single mom of two amazing boys with special needs. I have also put my notary credentials to good use by becoming a signing agent conducting real estate closings throughout the area.

## **Secretary - Paula Maddern, CCR - Chesterfield, Virginia**



I have been a freelance reporter for 12 years, working in and around Richmond the entire time. I love learning new things and meeting new people, and court reporting has given me a unique opportunity to do both. Getting involved with VCRA has been a great experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve. When I am not working, I can be found either in the gym, on the tennis court, or training with my Rottweiler named Astrid.

## **Immediate Past President – Christopher Reho, RPR, CCR, CSR – Houston, Texas**



I have been a court reporter for over 15 years.

I started my career with a small firm in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2010, my wife and I moved to Richmond, Virginia, where I worked as a freelance reporter for 13 years. In 2023, we moved our growing family to Houston, Texas.

I have a son named Isaac, who is one year old.

In my free time, I like to play video games and travel with my wife, son and two dogs.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Term Directors**

#### **Director - Kimberly L. Ribaric, RPR, CCR - Palmyra, Virginia**



I have been a freelance reporter for over 25 years in this great profession. Being on the VCRA Board as a director has been a learning experience, and I look forward to serving again. In my free time, I enjoy traveling, gardening, cooking, and going to sporting events with my family.

## **Director – Stephanie Barnes – Woodbridge, Virginia**



My name is Stephanie Barnes. I have been a freelance reporter in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area for about seven years now. I have done everything from depositions, Senate Committee hearings, trials, arbitrations, and school board meetings. I also have experience working for InnoCaption as a captioner. So far, I would say captioning was immensely rewarding, especially as I captioned during the height of COVID, and in my own way, helped many stay connected. My passion, though, is depositions.

Since being a freelance reporter, I have had two amazing children, who are now two and four. Freelance has allowed me the opportunity to both pursue my passion and raise my small babies, which I am eternally grateful for.

I look forward to serving on the board and bringing whatever expertise and assistance is needed. This career holds a special spot in my heart, and I look forward to promoting the profession in any way I can.

## **Director – MaryTheresa “Terri” Ferris, RPR – Roanoke, Virginia**



I have been a freelance reporter for 40 years, most of that time in Roanoke, Virginia, and the surrounding area. I graduated from Youngstown State University’s court/conference reporting program with an associate degree. I then started my reporting career in Akron, Ohio before marrying my husband Ray and moving to Roanoke.

I have loved being a freelance reporter, as it has enabled me to work and raise my family with the freedom of setting my own schedule.

I look forward to serving on the VCRA board and getting involved in helping promote and encourage others to join this very rewarding profession.

In my spare time I like to read and travel. I especially enjoy entertaining and spending time with my family and friends.



## **Director – Taylor Smith – Alexandria, Virginia**



I am currently a newer reporter looking to spread the word about the different avenues court reporting offers. After school, I captioned real-time for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. I moved to Virginia in April of '22 and started taking depositions as a freelance reporter. I have taken depositions in so many areas and have even had someone interested in the field shadow me during a Zoom depo. I love showing people what this career is all about!

In my free time, I enjoy exploring my new state with my husband, cooking, hiking, and crafting. We are huge animal lovers and have three cats -- all rescued from his vet clinics.

## **Director – Ruth Levy, RPR – Richmond, Virginia**



I have been a court reporter for almost 32 years, starting my career doing daily copy in Toronto, Canada, my dream city, at the age of 20. After moving to Richmond in 1994 with my husband Ty, I worked at various freelance firms (usually more than one at a time) and loved the flexibility it afforded me as I raised my son and daughter. I wanted to become a court reporter since the 10th grade when a court reporter came to my typing class explaining her career. I can't imagine doing anything else!

Last April I decided it was time to try something new and became a Federal Official Reporter for Judge Hannah Lauck in the Eastern District of Virginia. It has been challenging but rewarding as I learn more about the criminal and federal side of court work. The consistency of the days are a welcome change as an empty-nester!

In my free time (nights and weekends now!), I love to cook, play pickleball, read, do puzzles, and spend time with my family and friends (and Mojo the cat). I love meeting new people and learning new things - court reporting (and life!) has always offered both.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Term Student Liaison**

### **Student Liaison – Natalie Jones – Moseley, Virginia**



I am currently a student with both SimplySteno and CRAH (Court Reporting at Home).

I graduated from Virginia Tech in 1999 with a degree in English and eventually moved to Richmond with my family in 2005. I began my studies a few years ago after having the opportunity to shadow a Virginia reporter in a deposition.

I am a mom of four, so my journey has been slow, but I am determined to finish within the next year. In my free time I enjoy live sports, poker, reading, and cross-stitching.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Term Student Liaison**

### **Student Liaison – Kate Flora – Richmond, Virginia**



I'm currently a court reporting student working on learning Magnum Steno Theory and about to start speeds. I also manage my own business as a proofreader for court reporter clients all around the country, which is how I was introduced to the wonderful world of court reporting!

I moved to Richmond almost 6 years ago after graduating from Bridgewater College with a degree in English. I'm so excited to get more involved with the CR community around here! In my spare time I'm usually reading, doing yoga, or spending time with my partner and our two cats.

## **Executive Director**

### **Liz Whitlock – Round Hill, Virginia**



I have been VCRA's Executive Director since September 2023. I am a retired Air Force Officer with 26 years of service. I come with 35 years of administrative and management experience and my greatest professional gift is building human connections. I also work as a mobile notary public and loan signing agent.

In my spare time, I enjoy travelling internationally and spending time with family and friends. My favorite hobby is playing with my adorable 7-year-old grandson.

***The Nominating Committee would like to recognize and thank the following Board members who will be completing their Board service:***

Tasiana T. Basdekis, RPR

Sindie Bragg, RPR, LCR, CCR

Ziyacdah Atkinson Coleman, CCR