

## [Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association](#)

### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Court Reporters Oppose LA Superior Court Efforts to Expand the Use of Electronic Recordings**

Sacramento, CA – The Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association (LACCRA) strongly opposes efforts by the Los Angeles Superior Court to expand the use of electronic recordings in courtrooms beyond what is already allowed under California state law. This hasty decision was made in spite of the Legislature’s recent rejection of SB 662, a bill that would have expanded electronic recording in the courtroom. Despite assurances to the contrary, the court’s order will put litigants at risk of faulty recordings, incomplete or inaccurate transcripts and, most importantly, does not guarantee the ability to appeal their cases.

**“As guardians of the record, court reporters who produce accurate, verbatim transcripts are indispensable to the access to justice all litigants deserve,”** said Cindy Tachell, President of the Los Angeles County Court Reporters Association. **“We are dismayed that the Los Angeles Superior Court, after failing to invest in a strong court reporter workforce time and again, is now using the court-created crisis to threaten access to quality transcripts. We agree with the court that access to justice is the backbone of our society, and [poor-quality](#), electronic recording threatens that access. The LA Superior Court needs to start working with us to *effectively* recruit and retain qualified court reporters instead of actively undermining this vital profession.”**

FACT: The LA County court has misspent millions of dollars targeted for recruitment and retention of court reporters. This is a highly skilled profession that takes proper training. Instead of meaningfully recruiting new candidates, the court spent money on a perfunctory advertising campaign on buses and billboards that did little to generate qualified applicants. The court was even forced to return \$3.5 million in unspent recruitment and retention funds to the state.

FACT: This year, the Legislature passed two bills, now on the governor’s desk, that will increase the number of available court reporters and ensure more litigants have access to an accurate, verbatim court record, and the protections that come with it.

- [AB 3252](#) will protect access to justice by enabling court reporter vacancies to be filled with qualified applicants more quickly. The bill also increases transparency for litigants by requiring court reporters to state their license number during court proceedings.

- [AB 3013](#) will allow 11 superior court systems to conduct pilot projects to study the potential use of remote court reporting.

FACT: There is a strong interest in, and future for, court reporting. In fact, with the advent of voice writing, court reporting programs are now at capacity as interest in the profession grows. Other California counties are successfully recruiting and hiring reporters instead of attempting to force the use of potentially faulty and inadequate electronic recording technology.

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