



# Computer Assisted Court Reporter

## Georgine Wolf

My plan was not to become an electronic-assisted court recorder. Honestly, I didn't have much of a plan after school. To be completely honest, I dropped out of high school. All I really wanted to do was to go to work with my dad driving a truck – an idea he was far from thrilled about when he found out I quit school.

I worked odd jobs here and there until I realized I needed to go back to school and at least obtain my GED. While attending classes, I met my husband. I knew his cousin when we were in grade school, and when I found out he had horses – well, that pretty much sealed the deal. I'm a horse lady; I love horses.

After we obtained our GEDs, we did just about everything together. We traveled for a couple of years, training and running racehorses, then eventually married and had two children. At that point, I knew we needed something more stable – a steady income and benefits. I dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but with two very young children, attending school simply wasn't possible at the time.

When my youngest started school, I enrolled in the paralegal program at Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City and graduated in 1997. I was eager to use my new skills in the legal field, but things didn't quite fall into place. Instead, I went to work for a mobile home transport company, where I managed DOT compliance files, stayed current on regulations, and worked as a dispatcher. As the company grew, I realized my heart was still in the legal field.

When a secretary position opened in Court Services, I applied. The opening existed because CourtSmart was being installed, and the person I replaced had moved into the CourtSmart Recorder role. As CourtSmart became more widely used, it became clear that a backup recorder was needed. I loved working with the program and recording proceedings, so I applied – and was selected – for the backup position.

In 2004, the CourtSmart Recorder was injured and ultimately retired. After serving as the backup for four years, I stepped into the role. While I had once hoped to





become an attorney, I realized this position allowed me to be part of the court process in a different – and incredibly fulfilling – way.

CourtSmart was originally used in just two courtrooms; today it’s utilized in nine, recording a wide variety of hearings. This has been the best position I have ever had. I love witnessing the court process, and I continue to learn something new all the time. I’ve been doing this work for 21 years, and I still truly love what I do.

I am responsible for recording the court proceedings and keeping the official court record – a responsibility I take great pride in. I also enjoy training others and emphasizing the importance of our role. I encourage anyone interested to seriously consider a position as a Court Reporter or Court Recorder.

