

# Why I Chose Court Reporting

By: Stephanie M.

I happened along the court reporting profession 35 years ago by accident. I've enjoyed it since the moment I was first learning how to write on my stenograph machine and absolutely love my decision to become a court reporter.



Planning on being a teacher, I had gone to college for a year and a half and wasn't enjoying my experience. I knew that I wanted to do something else, but had no idea what until I was introduced to court reporting by my cousin who was going to school for court reporting at the Stenotype Institute of South Dakota (SISD) in Sioux Falls. After talking with her about court reporting, I immediately transferred into court reporting school, and I haven't looked back since. After a little over 2 years of studying to be a court reporter, I graduated and started working as a deposition reporter in the Olympia/Tacoma area. Every deposition was unique, making every day a new experience and challenge. After just a couple months of work, I knew this was the profession for me. I believe court reporting is the most interesting of professions. Every day is a new case and so an interesting new story.

After doing deposition work for approximately 8 years, we moved back to South Dakota, and I started teaching court reporting at my alma mater SISD. I found it enjoyable working with court reporting students, encouraging them, and helping them through the program. When the owner/operator decided to sell, I went back into deposition reporting again. I soon remembered the reason why I went into court reporting. There's just never a dull moment. In all my years of deposition reporting, I officed out of my home. Working out of your home only adds to the enjoyment of the profession. Working out of your home allows you to be very organized in both your personal and professional life.

In 2018, the desire for benefits steered me to accept a job offer as an official court reporter. This has been a great experience. I enjoy working with the attorneys more frequently, the judges, other court reporters, courthouse personnel, and law enforcement. I enjoy the constant difference in your schedule and really enjoy the challenge of court trials and jury trials. Court reporting always has been and always will be a constant challenge, making it always exciting. It continues to this day to be very interesting, very challenging, and rarely dull! Sincerely, there is no profession I'd rather be a part of or work as than a court reporter.