



NEW YORK STATE COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION First in America

# the Transcript

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June 2023

Dominick M. Tursi

1943 - 2023



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## Video Released In Memory of Dom Tursi

**By Christopher Day**

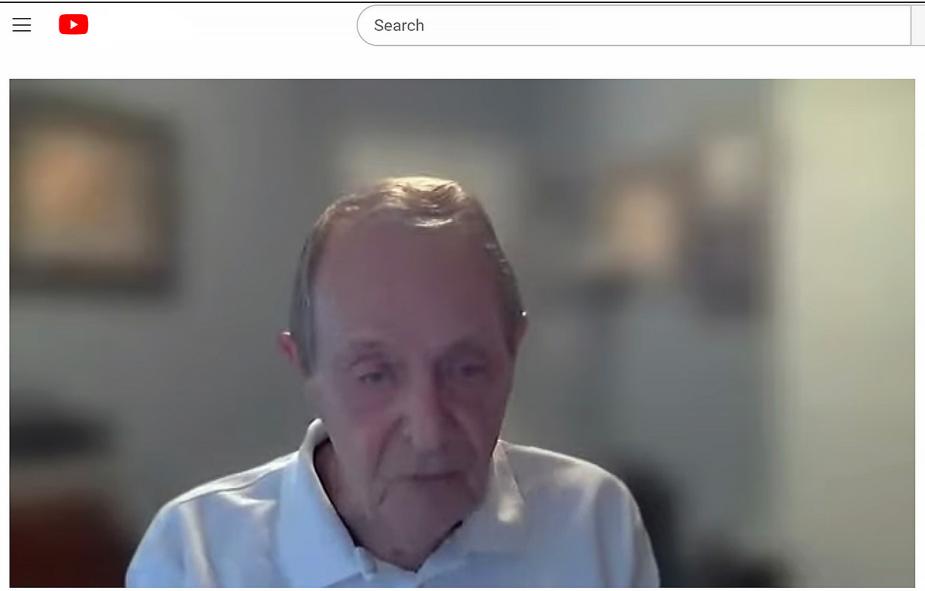
stenonymous.com

Dom Tursi, one of New York's most beloved and well-known court reporters and mastermind behind the Gallery of Shorthand, has passed away. I had the privilege of sitting down to talk to him in 2021 during a recorded interview, but it was never released. I'm now releasing it so that all reporters may get to hear Dom speak and remember this man that loved our field so much.

It's tough for me. When I was a young reporter and didn't know anybody, I got taken advantage of. I reached out to a few people for help and guidance, and he was one of the people that helped me forward, helped me maintain hope, and ultimately changed my mind about leaving the field. I am a court reporter today in part because of him. Thank you, Dom. You will be missed.

The video of the interview I have with Dom is hosted on my YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btPx5-jLm1o&feature=youtu.be>



**Dom Tursi Interview**

Christopher Day 262 subscribers

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# StenoMasters Pays Tribute to Dom Tursi - June 2023

**By Joshua Edwards**

StenoMasters founder

On April 17, StenoMasters held a special tribute meeting to Dom Tursi. We recorded several testimonials from reporters all over the country. We also had two honored guests in attendance, Dom's wife, Liese, and son, Matt. The meeting was a beautiful reminder of how special Dom was and will always be. The recordings are uploaded to StenoMasters' YouTube channel and can be accessed at the links below.

We will continue to accept tribute videos from anyone who knew Dom. You may use a cell phone or start a Zoom meeting to film yourself speaking for 1-2 minutes. Then send the video to info@stenomasters.com. We will upload it to our YouTube channel so that it can be shared with the steno community across the country.

## **Joshua Edwards**

<https://youtu.be/puGNXUEBrtc>

## **Richard Scire**

<https://youtu.be/Y5TooEARq7Y>

## **Melanie Sonntag 1**

<https://youtu.be/RFA4pfM7Ggg>

## **Melanie Sonntag 2**

<https://youtu.be/iN2aGBfFlpE>

## **Michael Scire**

<https://youtu.be/D04ygtQuCY0>

## **Woody Wega 1**

<https://youtu.be/5OTyQREzn74>

## **Woody Wega 2**

<https://youtu.be/lp8sESufYJE>

## **Ana Fatima Costa**

<https://youtu.be/0bjjtBpP0zw>

## **Harriet Brenner-Gettleman**

[https://youtu.be/EjujP5\\_AJm4](https://youtu.be/EjujP5_AJm4)

## **Richard Herreria**

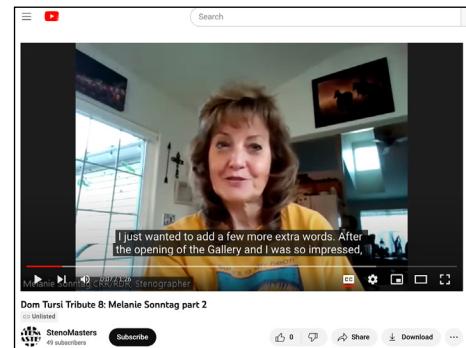
<https://youtu.be/lzb07mPlc9k>

## **Matt and Liese Tursi**

<https://youtu.be/ajUc9TjaBRw>

## **NYSCRA President Reid Goldsmith**

[https://youtu.be/\\_4mmOcQEblg](https://youtu.be/_4mmOcQEblg)



## Dom Tursi Memories

### Toby Feldman

I had the privilege of being in Dom's high-speed class in his Verbatim School of Court Reporting. He was the king of short forms then and using them quite impressively in his speed contest pursuits. His love, dedication and passion for our profession were evident from the beginning. His lifetime accomplishments are legendary. Dom will always have a special place in my heart.

### Sandra Aviles

It's difficult to write about Dom in the past tense. It is also - in my mind - unacceptable to think of him in this way.

I met Dom in 2018, when I reached out to him, via an email, requesting a tour of The Gallery of Shorthand. Of course, he said, yes. I was so excited and nervous. After all, I was about to meet this pretty popular/famous, highly respected, incredibly intelligent, steno giant. What a delight to meet such a warm, nice, funny, sweet man! He selflessly spent a couple of hours with me, in that lobby, explaining all of the gallery treasures. I was in awe of him.

Later that same year, Dom invited me to attend NYS CRA's convention in Melville, NY. I was fortunate enough - as others were - to attend the very first CICERO FORUM! I will never forget it...or Dom.

As time passed, Dom encouraged me often and made sure I attended the many sessions NYS CRA offered students. Clearly, (ha) he knew I needed all the help I could get.

Then 2020 happened. The world changed. Dom continued mentoring me. We would discuss steno and the NY governor, at length.



*Dom with students  
Rachel Perez and Katrina Newman*



At the end of the year, Dom became much more than a mentor. He became a real friend when I suffered a great loss. Dom listened. He continued motivating and supporting me. At one point, he asked if I wanted to take a break from steno, but I said, no, because his positive motivation helped me a great deal. Somehow, in every call, he was able to get me to laugh. Telephone therapy. He should've charged a fee.

As time passed, and he retired, I gently suggested he slow down and enjoy retirement with his family. He laughed that hearty laugh you have all heard so many times before, basically, letting me know he didn't 'do slow'.

He was so excited about his creation of The Cicero Forum, with Joshua, and helping students. He was excited about traveling with his family, and spending time with his grandchildren. He was excited about the new NYSCRA's PREPARE NOW & STUDENTS NOW sessions. He was excited about the MoMa project because he was able to teach other professionals about stenography, and also because he learned a lot about the theater. He was excited about the upcoming NY Court Reporters' State Exam and about all of the material he prepared for us. I/we are forever grateful.

### **Katrina Newman**

The first and only time I encountered Dom Tursi was at the NCRA dinner last November, and boy, was he a pip. Since classes are online, I have never actually met my classmates or any of the faculty in person, so this dinner was nerve-wracking, but also exciting. I walked into the establishment and immediately he introduced himself and said, "Keep going, the money's there!" This is not an easy career path and he knew it, but he also knew it was so worth it. He shared his knowledge and experiences with us that only encouraged us to keep going; he was very motivational, friendly, and humorous. We had a great dinner filled with laughs... it's hard to process that I only met him that one time because he really left his mark on myself and my classmates. Since that day, I've kept his business card pinned at the top of my dresser as a reminder to keep myself motivated. I feel very honored to have met him at all; he truly was a great man!

### **Christopher Day**

Dom Tursi, one of New York's most beloved and well-known court reporters and mastermind behind the Gallery of Shorthand, has passed away. I had the privilege of sitting down to talk to him in 2021 during a recorded interview, but it was never released. I'm now releasing it so that all reporters may get to hear Dom speak and remember this man that loved our field so much.

It's tough for me. When I was a young reporter and didn't know anybody, I got taken advantage of. I reached out to a few people for help and guidance, and he was one of the people that helped me forward, helped me maintain hope, and ultimately changed my mind about leaving the field. I am a court reporter today in part because of him. Thank you, Dom. You will be missed.

## **Felicia A. Biase**

NYSCRA Past President

Learning the sad news of Dom Tursi's passing, brought back many memories. However, those memories do not allow me to pinpoint exactly when or how I met Dom. All I remember is that he was always someone who could be relied upon to get a job done, and it would be accomplished in a competent, efficient manner. But I do remember that I met Dom while he was working as an official in New York City, and in connection with our involvement with the New York State Court Reporters Association. I especially remember that during the years I served as president of NYSCRA I could always rely upon Dom to be a moving force in any endeavor for the betterment of both court and freelance reporters. The last time I saw Dom was in 2013, when he handed me the prestigious NYSCRA Legend of Court Reporting award. Dom, I now posthumously hand that beautiful award back to you because if ever there was a Legend of Court Reporting it is you. God bless you and rest in peace my friend.

## **Keli Lopez**

As one of Dom's mentees, I am blessed to have had a wonderful connection with a person who exuberated kindness, wisdom, and an inner light that never dimmed. His eyes of compassion always shined while telling you a story, and his words uplifted your heart by the end of a conversation. If people ask me one day what I do as my career, I will always remember his words and repeat them by saying, "I get paid not to think. What do you do?" In that moment, I will remember his little chuckle and that contagious smile that we all miss so very much.



*Dom with Debra Levinson*



Dom with  
Harriet Brenner-Gettleman

## How Dom Tursi became President of NYSCRA the first time and again seven years later

**By Harriet Brenner-Gettleman**

NYSCRA Past President

My true friendship began at the opening of the Gallery of Shorthand in 2010; as the VP of NYSCRA, I was invited to the Opening. I had known Dom since 1972. After moving to Long Island in 1971, I was raising two small children. I saw the ad in the Pennysaver advertising Verbatim School of Court Reporting, an evening court reporting program. I called and told Dom I had teaching experience, and if he started a day school, I would love to teach. He called me a couple of months later, and I started teaching in '72.

He was working in court and would come into the school every chance he got to practice in the dictation room wearing headphones and writing like a maniac on the machine listening to 280 Q&A dictations practicing for the upcoming NCRA Speed contest. He won that contest with a perfect transcript. I was in awe of him then. I worked in the school until 1976. I left teaching to go back into

reporting with the NYC freelance agency for whom I had previously worked.

In opening my own agency in 1998, I decided to attend NCRA conventions and take the CMRS and CRI certification courses. When I attended the NCRA Boot Camp in 2005, I ran into Michelle Houston, who I met while teaching at LIBI in 1980. She said to me, "Did you see Dom Tursi?" I said, "No, I hadn't." She pointed across the room, and there he was. I walked over; he gave me this blank stare, and I said we knew each other when I worked for him. He then laughed. We were in the same group going around to all the legislators on the Hill. We caught up on the missing years, our marriages and many children between us.

In attending the Gallery Opening in 2010, I was overwhelmed by the displays, the historic Epochs outlining the beginnings of shorthand in graphic detail and then the collection of stenotype machines displayed dating back to 1879; my conclusion was,

Dom is a genius, and I was so unbelievably impressed with this man who never bragged about the things he did. At the end of the ceremonies, I walked over to him and said, "I have two things I want to ask you." He said, "Sure." I asked if we could hold the opening night's ceremonies for the 2012 NYSCRA Convention at the Gallery. He said, "Of course." He thought it was a great idea. And then I asked him to be my Vice President when I took over as President in 2012, and then he would be President in 2014. He paused, and said, "Well, maybe for one year." I said, "I will take it."

I truly felt that NYSCRA would benefit from his joining the Executive team in helping to build up the association. Membership was declining and participation was very low. We became an invincible team, working to restore NYSCRA to what it is today. I was able to hire a new executive director, who gave us access to a fantastic graphic designer. We changed the look of *The Transcript* and the Website. We brainstormed ideas; we listened to the New York reporters who said going to NCRA to take the real-time exam was prohibitive financially for some,

and some could not take the time off from work, so we decided NYSCRA would create its own real-time exam. We modeled it after the US Federal Court exam, and the Realtime Court Reporter, RCR, was launched at the 2013 October Mini-Convention with Toni Ann Figuero as Chair of the Skills Committee and Mini-Convention.

I loved working with Dom when he became president in October 2014 and thereafter. When the NYS CSR exams were infrequently being given, the Association Certified Reporter, ACR, was launched in 2015 with Debra Levinson as Chair of the Voluntary Certification Committee.

Working with Dom has been the most enjoyable part of my professional career. And Oh, yes, we could make each other laugh. He had a wit unlike most people I have ever known. It was unbridled fun. As Chair of the Nominating Committee in 2021, I again was able to harness the *Power of Dom* to be President for one more year. I will miss him like no other person in my life. He continues to inspire everything good and honorable in our profession.

2019 NYSCRA Board



# In Gratitude for the Gift of Dom Tursi

By Jean Beskin

NYSCRA Secretary/Treasurer

On August 9, 2021 I wrote *A Tribute to a Legend of Court Reporting* for our newsletter, *The Transcript*, upon the retirement of Dom Tursi after serving 60 years in our profession of Court Reporting. Now, a year and eight months later, I write to you upon the recent and sudden passing of Dom.

As true Dom fashion, he has been very busy since his retirement working with the student members of our association, the future of our profession; preparing those who are taking the upcoming court tests, and reporting sessions held at the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan, just to name a few. Dom's passion for our profession continued to be phenomenal!

I first came to know of Dom in the late 1970s when I attended the Verbatim School of Court Reporting of which he was the owner. We never met at that time and when the school closed I transferred to Long Island Business Institute and graduated from there. It wasn't until 25 years later that we met at an NCRA Boot Camp. I was leading the NYS group as we visited our 34 representatives on "The Hill" and was asked to show Dom what to do. I introduced myself and explained how I knew of him. As president of NYSCRA at the time and Dom soon to be president of USCRA, we spoke of court-reporting issues. Dom also shared he had a collection of court reporting machines and offered to display them at one of our conventions. I liked the idea and said I would contact him.

In the meantime, Dom was offered to display these machines in the lobby of the Alfonse M. D'Amato Courthouse and Federal Building in Central Islip where he was working at the time, and thus was born *The Gallery of Shorthand*. It is a true testament to the legacy Dom has left our profession. Visitation is Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The room is located immediately to your right upon entering the front doors of the courthouse. Prepare to be amazed!

Dom has also written a book entitled *The Legends of Shorthand*. I will always treasure what he inscribed in my

copy, "Jean, From student to colleague to president. You are a legend in my book. Dom."

I would like to share with you something Dom did that you may not be aware of. One of the judges Dom worked with in the above federal courthouse, Judge Joseph F. Bianco, who was appointed four years ago as a judge to the states Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, attends Daily Mass in my parish once a week. One of our parishioners asked me if I knew the judge and since I didn't, I introduced myself. During our conversation we discovered we had a mutual friend in Dom. Judge Bianco told me that every Friday he invites fifth graders from local schools here on Long Island and holds a mock trial about Cinderella's Slipper and that Dom was the reporter. I then informed him my granddaughter was in a mock trial club, and he invited them to come to the courthouse on a Friday. Their moderator, Mrs. Whittier, and I accompanied them as chaperones. It was an experience all of us remember fondly and they especially enjoyed how Dom most graciously wrote their names on his stenotype machine!

Dom also lectured about court reporting and it was in this capacity he was serving when he passed away, as he was on his way to speak at the Washington Court Reporters Association convention. Always sharing his many gifts and talents even in retirement!

As I mourn the loss of my colleague and friend, I am grateful for the privilege of knowing Dom and working with him these past years as members, officers, and recipients of the Louis Goldstein Memorial Award of our NYS Court Reporters Association. On a personal note, Dom and I both taught Religious Education and he served, as do I, in the Ministry of Lector in our respective parishes; he for 20 years, me 49 and continuing. Also, his son, Matthew, graduated from St. Anthony's High School as did my daughter previously. It was through that we discovered we shared a mutual friend, Brother Vincent. I will miss working with him and especially our chats! I pray your soul rests in peace, Dom.

## Decades of Friendship

By Reid Goldsmith

NYSCRA President



Dom with  
Reid Goldsmith

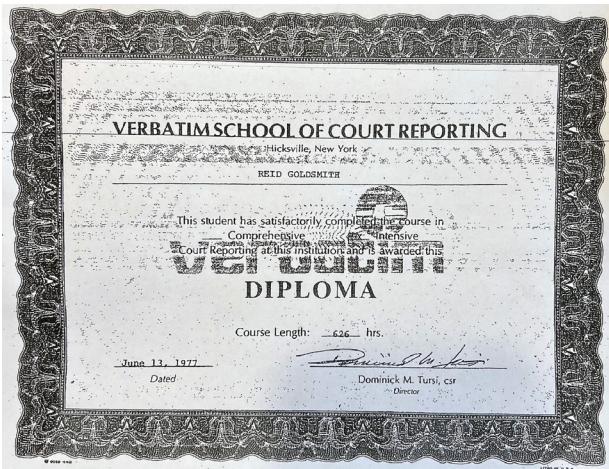
Finally, though, he had reached his saturation point and came to me one night in the classroom, pulling me out into the hall and wanting to know what the heck was going on. I remember him lecturing me, "Your brother finished in under one year at night. You are here now over two and a half years!!! What is wrong with you? Get moving!!!" After that rather helpful "discussion," I got my act together, started practicing, and finally graduated simultaneously from Queens College and court reporting school. Two of his teachers had an agency and hired me right from school and my career was born.

Dom and I established a relationship from that "discussion" forward. He was my teacher, then my mentor, becoming a peer, a colleague, and a friend. He instilled in me the passion for court reporting that he had, and we never hesitated to converse and compare notes. I watched as he went through positions that one could only dream of: School owner/teacher; Nassau Supreme Court Reporter; Freelance Agency owner with offices over the world; Federal Court Reporter; while along the way, garnering awards for a multitude of achievements as well as securing space in the Central Islip Federal Courthouse for his vision of a proposed museum. Dom opened the only museum dedicated to the shorthand profession in that space, appropriately naming it "The Gallery of Shorthand."

I was in Queens College in Fall of 1973, going for my bachelor's degree in psychology, when my father told me that the psychology field was saturated and recommended that I try court reporting. He had suggested that very same thing to my older brother who was a natural and flew through Dominick Tursi's Verbatim School of Court Reporting in Hicksville, New York, at night in under a year.

I decided I would continue with my college studies in the mornings while working in the afternoons and try court reporting at night. It was at this point that I met Dominick Tursi. We spoke about the field, and I saw the passion in him. After talking with him, I joined the night program.

I was not the best student, nor a prodigy like my older brother was; however, Dom was very patient and supportive despite my laziness in practicing.



Our friendship grew, and we met frequently at events and dinners. It culminated in Dominick Tursi asking me to be his President-elect, where we worked together on Association matters for the benefit of students and reporters throughout New York State, expanding free student membership to include students from all over the country.

Dom was always a hard worker, so dedicated to working that he would often quip in a jest to an audience at functions and seminars we both attended, "See this guy here, Reid? He was one of the students who graduated from my school; he's retired and I'm still working! What's wrong with this picture?"

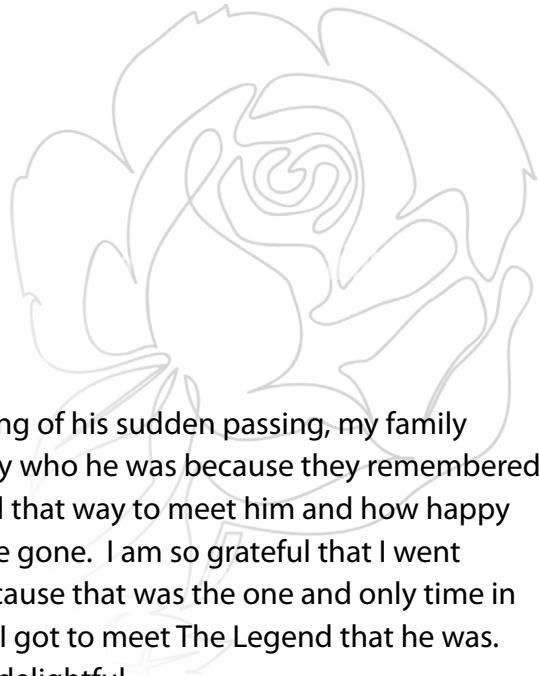
All joking aside, I could not have asked for a better mentor, teacher, peer, colleague, and friend than what I had with Dom. Our relationship spanned 48 years, and I am so proud that he had the chance to see me ascend to the presidency of this great Association. If it was not for Dom, I would never have had this wonderful career of which I am so proud to be giving back to. Thank you, Dom. Requiescat in pace, my friend.

## My Memory of Dom Tursi - "The Legend"

**By Jacqueline Padilla**  
CSR-CA, RPR, CCR-NJ

I want to start off by saying that I was not as fortunate as many of you who were longtime friends and colleague of Dom. I was lucky enough to be on many Zoom meetings with him, but it took a two-hour drive to Long Island for a court reporters' meet-and-greet to finally be face-to-face with Dom.

I felt compelled to make the drive to meet him because he was larger than life and a legend in the court reporting community. And, needless to say, he did not disappoint in person. Never having met me before, he welcomed me with open arms and was so ecstatic that I traveled so far to come to the social gathering. I felt like it truly mattered to him that I was there.



Upon learning of his sudden passing, my family knew exactly who he was because they remembered me going all that way to meet him and how happy I was to have gone. I am so grateful that I went that day because that was the one and only time in person that I got to meet The Legend that he was. He was just delightful.

I want to extend my sympathies to his family and friends on their loss of such a wonderful, gentle man. He was the truest sense of what the word gentleman stands for. May his memory live on through his many contributions to the court reporting world. And the moral of the story is : Take the drive. You never know when you will get the chance again.



## **Why is Dominick Tursi, a court reporting legend, part of this presentation at MoMA?**

**By Harriet Brenner-Gettleman**

CMRS, CRI

We entered a dark gray square room with an extremely high ceiling. At once it gave us a feeling of being in a place that was simultaneously awe-inspiring and mysterious, yet uniquely familiar. There were only benches along the walls on three sides. A lone man sat in the farthest corner, waiting. He bent over an antique stenograph machine with an old-fashioned paper tray waiting for the 75 people entering to find seats along the outer perimeter. There were no assigned seats, so I rushed in with my associates and raced over to get the three seats closest to where Mr. Tursi was sitting.

While waiting for something to occur – not having any idea what that might be -- I looked around. Then I looked up. There was a large sculpture hanging from the ceiling. From my seat, some 25 feet below where it was, it looked like dark brown branches from a tree that had been woven into an open-air blanket covering the whole ceiling. This serpentine grid was suspended by illuminated wire cables connected to the ceiling ten feet above that.

Then there appeared a man in black, bent on one knee over a large-handled winch from which one wire led to the ceiling. This was the artist whose vision we were about to experience and whose voice would interview seven presenters over the course of two hours.

We were in the Studio/Theater at the Museum of Modern Art, in Midtown Manhattan, and were about to witness a unique event inspired by a fire that took place at Jacob's Pillow, a national historic dance site landmark. At once, the voice rang out, prompting a presenter to enter and walk to the middle of the room. The voice asked the person to introduce himself. As the speaker did that, he began explaining what had happened at Jacob's Pillow and how he was involved. I realized the man in black had a headset and was the one asking the questions about the space and the history and the artifacts tied into the fire that happened November 17, 2020, in the Berkshires. The questions continued and the answers given were being taken down on the machine by Mr. Tursi, sitting quietly in the corner, bent over the keys with the paper tray filling with the folds of the typed outlines.

When this segment was completed, the man exited to applause and another presenter entered. This man walked towards the furthest wall and turned around facing the other walls. The voice asked him to introduce himself and began asking questions in the same framework as he did with the first person. Simultaneously, the questions and answers were being recorded on the machine by Mr. Tursi, who stayed focused and attentive to the record. The man in



*Yve Laris Cohen, Artist*

black had changed from bending on his right knee to bending on his left knee. He was now facing us, so we could see that the crank for the winch was attached to a spool of cable with the one cable rising high into the ceiling. It took until the middle of the third speaker to realize the ceiling sculpture was slowly being lowered from its original position by the slow movement of the crank the man in black continually kept turning. It was now 10 feet above the floor, and you could clearly see that it was not branches but bent, twisted and deformed 4-inch piping connected by shiny fittings bolted together to hold this approximate 40-by-40-foot web together.

As we heard from each of the remaining speakers, the man in black slowly and imperceptibly lowered the sculpture to within four feet of the floor, creating an obstacle for each of the speakers entering and leaving the space. Dramatically, during the interview of one speaker, suddenly the light went down and a firefighter appeared on the upper balcony looking like he was about to save us from a fire that was happening at MoMA. Instead, he explained what it was like to fight the fire at Jacob's Pillow. Once his story was completed, he exited the balcony and the extemporary discourse with the prior speaker resumed.

After 90 minutes, the penultimate speaker leaves to applause. Then there is quiet. We wait.



I look to my left. Mr. Tursi rises from his chair, puts on his jacket, and a MoMA staffer comes over and attaches a mic. He is now the last speaker. In a booming voice, he answers questions from the voice of the kneeling man in black. Dom is asked about his background and his court reporting experience. The answers fill the room. The audience perks up and pays riveted attention to the extraordinary history of stenography being related to them.

The question: You have created a museum. What can you tell us about that? The answer begins with the fascinating introduction of the Ten Epochs of the history of shorthand housed at the Gallery of Shorthand in the lobby of the Federal Courthouse on Long Island. More questions included topics such as the legends of court reporting and about his court reporting school.



*Dom with Joshua Edwards, NYS CRA Past President*

The final question was: What would you like to say that you hadn't been asked about? It was then, in a very passionate oration expressed by Mr. Tursi, that he explained the need for more stenographic court reporters and what a wonderful and viable career it is.

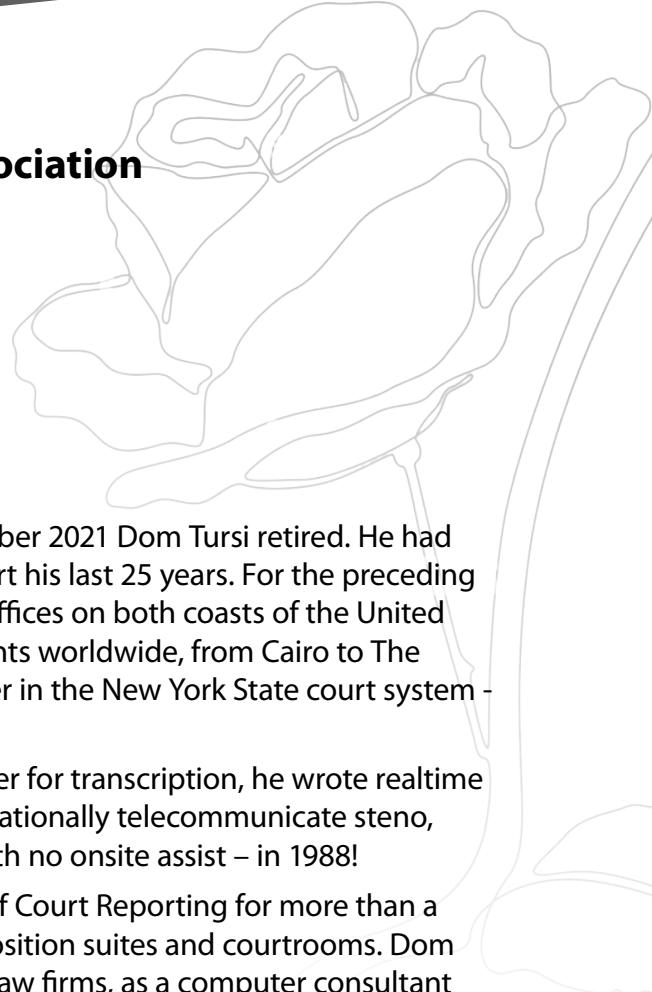
We left energized and fascinated by this experience. Thank you, Dom Tursi. You introduced our profession to an audience that might never have understood or appreciated what we do or how we are different from other speech-capture methods. Yve Laris Cohen, the man in black, had it correct when he referred to you as The Legend.



*Dom with  
Christine DeRosa,  
Harriet Brenner-Gittleman  
and Antonia Moy*



## Washington Court Reporters Association 2023 Spring Conference



### Dominick "Dom" Tursi

Following 60 years of full-time court reporting, in September 2021 Dom Tursi retired. He had nearly three reporting careers. He reported in federal court his last 25 years. For the preceding 15 years, he was a freelance reporter and principal, with offices on both coasts of the United States, Hong Kong and in London. He reported assignments worldwide, from Cairo to The Philippines. Dom's first 20 years were as an official reporter in the New York State court system - Long Island.

One of the first East Coast reporters ever to use a computer for transcription, he wrote realtime as early as 1985. Dom is one of the first reporters to internationally telecommunicate steno, delivering 36 running days of daily copy in Hong Kong with no onsite assist – in 1988!

Founder, director, and instructor at the Verbatim School of Court Reporting for more than a decade, many of his graduates continue to populate deposition suites and courtrooms. Dom has served as an expert witness to reporting groups and law firms, as a computer consultant to several companies, and was part of Stenograph's CaseCatalyst and CaseView development teams. He has authored numerous monographs for NCRA and for federal and state associations.

He has lectured on shorthand history to associations and civic groups throughout America, in China and in Belgium, and speaks to numerous elementary and high school classes yearly as part of USDC Judge Bianco's civics program.

He is past president of both the United States Court Reporters Association and the New York State Court Reporters Association and is recipient of New York's Distinguished Service Award. He is a Fellow of The Incorporated Phonographic Society of London, the world's oldest organization of shorthand writers, and in 2015 received the prestigious Santo J. Aurelio Award for Altruism from NCRA.

His reporting credentials include being three-time NY State Shorthand Speed Contest Champion (Perfect Paper, 280 wpm Q&A), and World Shorthand Speed Champion (300 wpm Q&A, 5 minutes, 24 errors) in 1981 – a record still unbroken.

He created two reporting think tanks to examine issues in the world of reporting and designed The Cicero Forum – a program that teaches the practical aspects of the profession to new and novice reporters, giving them practical working skills before starting their careers.

In September 2010 Dom opened The Gallery of Shorthand in the lobby of the federal courthouse in Central Islip, NY. It has received international recognition. And in 2015 he authored The Legends of Shorthand – a look at the pivotal people responsible for the evolution of the timeless profession of shorthand. A shorthand historian, Dom currently is a teacher, presenter, author, mentor, and the 2021-22 President of the NYS Court Reporters Association.

## My Tribute to Dom Tursi

**By Karen Santucci**

Vice President

I had the honor of calling Dom Tursi my friend and colleague. We both shared a passion for helping students become part of this great profession. I worked with Dom on numerous NYSCRA conventions focusing on the student track. When Dom retired from Eastern District, he joined our Plaza College family working with the high speed students and the internship class. He bestowed his wealth of knowledge upon our students. So many of them have reached out to me. They were so thankful that they had the opportunity to work with Dom.

I am extremely lucky to have spent so much time with Dom in the last six months. He had so many projects that he wanted to accomplish. We had so much fun planning our first networking event in the Fall. It was a great success. Dom knew how important it was to get together with students and members since COVID's lockdown. We started the test prep classes in November for the upcoming court tests. Working with Dom on Saturday mornings at Plaza was so much fun. In December, I went to the MoMA presentation in NYC to see Dom's performance. Not only was the presentation fascinating, but Dom's participation really blew me away.

In February, Dom spoke at the Eastern District courthouse in Brooklyn for Court Reporting & Captioning Week. I accompanied 35 students from Plaza College to hear about the history of court reporting. I heard Dom speak so many times and never realized it would be the last presentation I would listen to. He touched so many students that day, and I know they will never forget it.

Just two weeks before Dom left us, we had our last test prep at Plaza College. The school was going on intersession and would not be available for us to conduct another class. I persuaded Dom to do one more class at my home on Saturday, April 22nd. I was planning to have lunch for all the volunteers and of course wine for Dom. I was devastated when I received the news of Dom's passing. I will miss all of our phone calls, planning students' events, dinners that we would share with Harriet and most of all working side by side with him.

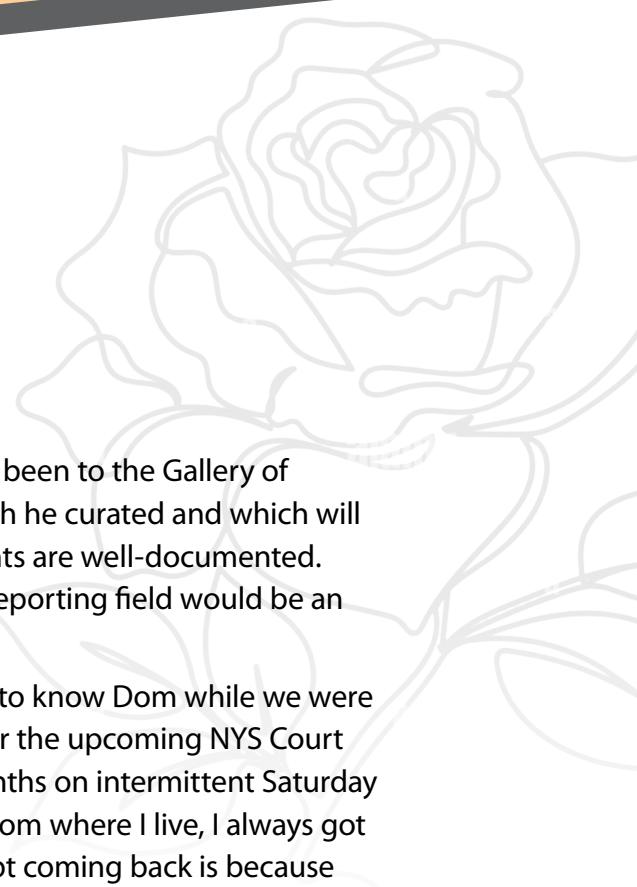
My job now is to continue Dom's work which was helping students succeed in this wonderful field. Students were his love.



*Dom with Howie Gresh, Joshua Edwards, Harriet Brenner-Gettleman, Karen Santucci and Jean Beskin*

## Memories

**By Darlene Devlin**



Dominick Tursi had an amazing and extensive career. I've been to the Gallery of Shorthand at the Federal Courthouse in Central Islip, which he curated and which will certainly be a great part of his legacy. His accomplishments are well-documented. To say that Dom is a legend, an icon, a giant in the court reporting field would be an understatement.

It was not until the last six months or so that I had gotten to know Dom while we were volunteering at Plaza College to help prepare reporters for the upcoming NYS Court tests next month. We met over the course of several months on intermittent Saturday mornings. Although Plaza College is over an hour away from where I live, I always got there early and lingered a bit afterwards. The reason I kept coming back is because Dom had a way of inspiring commitment from others; he had an abundance of it and it was contagious.

Dom was the backbone of the operation for the NYSCRA test prep sessions in collaboration with Karen Santucci. Karen arranged the venue through Plaza College's President Callahan, and Dom prepared all the dictations. He had his dictations organized in binders, and he marked out the transcripts for easy reading and timekeeping. He even lent me his stopwatch because I don't own one. We had a team of hard-working professionals which comprised the "Plaza volunteers". Dom's son Matt was our IT/videographer, and he came to each session with his dad.

Dom always greeted me and everyone else with a warm hug. He was quick with praise for those around him. His treasure trove of guidance and tips for those preparing to take the court tests were invaluable, and he always expressed them with a dash of humility. He had a way of making everyone he encountered feel welcomed and accepted. He had a love of this profession and his colleagues in it which was inspiring.

I dictated next to Dom at our last test prep session. It was my honor and privilege to sit beside this incredible man.

Dom had planned on doing another session. There was an email chain about it. I said I would attend and that I was proud to be part of his team. He wrote some very nice words of praise back to me that I will always hold dear. Unfortunately, he passed before we could get together one last time. I will forever be grateful that I got the opportunity to work with him.

Encouraging freelance court reporters to take the court exam and work in an official capacity is something I do feel passionately about, but Dom had a way of bringing out

the altruistic side of people. He inspired me in a way that I didn't expect after 23 years as a working reporter. He made me believe that I brought something worth sharing to the table. Me. Uncertified me. Me who has never gone to a conference. Me who is busy with life; a demanding career, grandchildren, and a mother in Hospice. I was motivated by him to find the time to give back and potentially help someone make what I've always felt was the best career move I ever made as a court reporter, going from freelancer to official.

No one person can fill the shoes of Dom Tursi when it comes to being a leader and mentor inspiring and encouraging the next generation of court reporters towards their goals; it will take a village.

For all those who share Dom's passion for what he would jokingly call, "the second oldest profession," I submit the best way to honor him is to take an accounting of what it is you love about court reporting and share it with those around you. Each one of us can keep Dom's passion for giving back to the profession he loved alive, whether it be by visiting a high school or volunteering your time to go speak to students at a court reporting program or getting involved with NYSCRA.

Dom Tursi was an accomplished and inspirational figure; a giant and legend in our field. He was a mentor and friend to so many of us. Although he taught me many things, perhaps the greatest lesson I learned from him is this; if you have spent any amount of time as a working stenographer, your contribution back to the field is of value and is essential for its continued success.



*Dom at the Gallery of Shorthand  
with NYSCRA Past Presidents  
Harriet Brenner-Gettleman  
and Steve Zinone*



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