

# the Transcript

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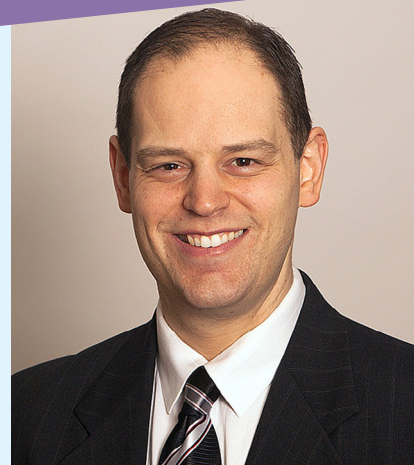
Fall 2021

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## President's Message



It is hard to believe that this is my final welcome letter. Our new president, Dom Tursi, takes over this fall. You may have caught wind of the fact that Dom announced that he is retiring. Dom has enjoyed a six-decade career in reporting. He used to love to joke about retirement even though he stayed busy reporting in federal court, mentoring students via his Tuesday Talks with Tursi program, creating The Cicero Forum, speaking at state association conventions, running The Gallery of Shorthand, writing a book, and collecting steno machines from around the world, not to mention taking over for a second term as NYSCA's president this fall. If there is a fancy word to describe Dom, it is indefatigable.

For this newsletter I invited reporters and students to submit their reflections about Dom. We are calling this

## The Dom Edition

in his honor. Of course, this tribute edition of *The Transcript* is just the beginning. We will be celebrating and toasting Dom, laughing and sharing stories, for quite some time to come. So, Dom, you may be retiring, but we're not letting you out of our sights that easily!



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## *President's Message* continued

Several NYSCRA members attended the NCRA conference in Las Vegas last month. Board member Jessie Waack and former Board member Christopher Day have written convention wrap-up articles which appear in this newsletter. The highlight for me was meeting many students from different states.

In particular, California had a strong showing since it is right next door to Nevada. According to one count, I heard that there were 150 students at the convention and that that was a record student turnout. It is heartening to see so many students striving to enter our field. Of course, they need supporting and mentoring. We as an association and as passionate, concerned professionals need to step up and help out in whatever way makes sense for us.

One reporter deserves special mention, Allie Hall. She runs a Facebook group called PAEUG T- FOERD (Pay It Forward in steno, of course) which raises money to help students get through school. In Vegas she orchestrated a student/mentor lunch. Dozens of people were involved, including Chris and me. I would love to see NYSCRA members get more involved in reaching out to high schools to promote the lucrative careers that are possible in stenography.

Our Board is passionate about helping our members get certified and advance their careers. Several of the NYSCRA Board are putting together review sessions for reporters who are going to take the RPR Written Knowledge Test in October. We will hold three online Sunday sessions on September 12th, 19th, and the 26th, in the evening. Details and registration will be announced soon.

Finally, I am excited to announce the creation of StenoMasters, under the brand Toastmasters International, a new public speaking club for stenographers. This is a group for stenographic reporters, captioners, and students everywhere who want to improve their public speaking skills. Please join our group on Facebook and check out the website [stenomasters.com](http://stenomasters.com) where you can join the mailing list.

As always, I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and safe summer. Hope we will be able to meet at in-person events soon.

*Joshua Edwards*

# Dom

## Testimonials from Professionals

### **Marc Greenberg**

Looking at the final version of the documentary, *For the Record*, it's almost impossible to believe that I had never met Dom or heard of the Gallery of Shorthand before filming. But only a couple minutes into our first interview, I realized that Dom was going to be the thread that tied the movie together. This was a performer trapped in the body of one of the greatest court reporters ever. How enamored was I with Dom? After the film was complete and had made the festival rounds, I knew I needed to make one final edit.

We went back to the museum for one day of filming and captured what is now the final moment of the movie, Dom holding his speed trophy. That was my love letter to Dom, thanking him for all he's done for me and this profession.



## Amelia Moller

What is one to say about my extraordinary friend, Dom Tursi, when the right words truly do not even exist? How does one measure the impact as a professional mentor, but even more, a true friend?

Over the course of many more years than I can even count, Dom Tursi has proven himself the legend he is. An industry GIANT, he is beyond compare. His undeniable passion for our craft plays itself out daily in his teaching and his leadership, not to mention the day-to-day job.

Personally, I'm not sure what I'd be without his wonderful anecdotes, a story for every situation, and most importantly, sage wisdom on and off the court, so to speak. Dom, you've touched my life in a way I can't describe. You've pushed me to become a better

reporter each and every day. You counseled me through planning a COVID wedding. You coached me through the most challenging pieces of life, professional and personal, and always without judgment, but simply an experienced ear and a "this will work" answer. Every single one of those answers always works.

I met Dom Tursi over a decade ago debating a legislative issue confronting the CART/Official Reporter question. At that time, we found ourselves on opposite sides of the fence. Since then, we have found ourselves in different iterations of collaboration in all aspects of our dearly held court reporting community.

You've always made me better. You make all of us better. Your enthusiasm, expertise, experience, and your heart to pass that along to everyone you meet makes court reporting better. How wonderful it has been to be able to lean on you in so many ways.

Dom Tursi, you are truly a gem. My own parents will always remember you introducing yourself to them on the Natchez in New Orleans; they ask about you often. And that makes me feel like my world is a full circle. You are not simply a colleague; you are my true friend, and I cannot imagine where I would be without you.



## Adam Alweis

Just recently, I was asked to write up something regarding the upcoming retirement of Dom Tursi. The first thought that came to mind was Dom retired? Not possible.

Although I may be one of the many who have known Dom over the years and have worked in tandem with him in one manner or another, the idea or notion that Dom Tursi would be retiring made absolutely no sense to me. It's just impossible. Or is it?

Sure, he's been working for well over 50 years in the court reporting arena in various environments in this country or another. Sure, he's accomplished more in his long career than most of us could even possibly imagine. But retirement? No, Dom! Say it ain't so!

The ironic part of all of this is - ready, Dom? I don't think you read the "rule book." You need permission from us all before you can retire. Didn't you know that? Well, that's not happening, so I guess you're stuck with us forever.

All kidding aside, Dom is one of this profession's unique individuals. This is a man who has had so many experiences and

so much history in the field that there should be a course entitled "Dom Tursi, The Wonder Years!" If nothing else, there should be a section in his Gallery of Shorthand that shows the workings and career of Dom Tursi. It could be a whole wing all by itself.

Thankfully, even though Dom will be retiring from working in the Federal Courthouse in East Islip, he will remain actively involved, not only in our own state association, NYSCRA, but will be, I'm sure, always around for anyone who wants to pick his brain. I, for one, will be more than happy to continue to bug him as much as possible. Ha. We need to work on your shyness!

All the best, sir!



## Debbie Dibble

NCRA President, 2021-2022

I can't even pinpoint the first time I met Dominick Tursi, but I can say that I have never been in his presence when his dynamic, engaging personality didn't lighten and brighten my world. He is a constant and continuous source of energy and support for the stenographic reporter, and his never-ending efforts to serve our profession are a resource to many and an inspiration to all.

His contributions span from beginning to end with his creation of the Gallery of Shorthand and his programs for students and new professionals. Dom is a character unparalleled in our industry. He is one-of-a-kind, and I am so grateful that he has become such a major part of my life. A true leader inspires others to lead, and he continues to encourage and be an inspiration to me and countless individuals to get involved and make a difference.

Mr. Tursi may have written "The Legends of Shorthand," but Dom IS THE LEGEND! Congratulations to him on his retirement from, perhaps, some portions of his life, but we all know that his service will never end and will continue into eternity. Thank you, Dom, for all that you are and all that you mean to so many!



## Margaret Carney

Director, Fourth Department; New York State Court Reporters Association

If I may ask the readers' indulgence, I will share this anecdote about my interactions with Dom Tursi. I signed up for a training class he was offering, four weeks of Saturday mornings, to be chock-full of dictation material and strategies for speed building and test taking. Let's do it!

I did not really know Dom at the time and out of curiosity searched his name on Google. Well, down the rabbit hole I went, learning of his vast accomplishments: Holder of multiple certifications; winner of speed contests; reporter on a global field; proponent of cutting-edge technology; business principal; educator; author; fervent historian.

Surely, you can imagine my trepidation when I joined The Great Mr. Tursi's Class for the first time. I was about to be "schooled" by a world-class reporter. I didn't know what to expect. My mind's eye brought images of a spirit who cast an ethereal glow about him while pearlescent beams shot from his fingers, commanding the keys of his writer to dance at his beckoning.

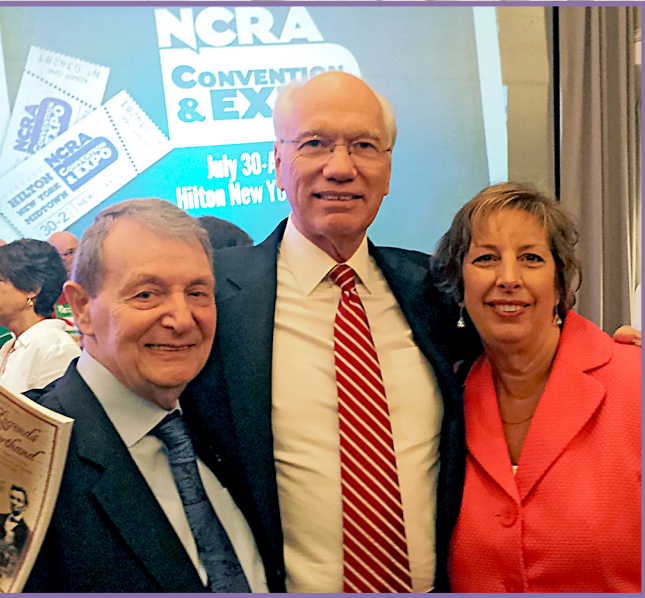
I introduced myself and said, "Hi, Mr. Tursi." He responded by saying, "Please, call me Dom." My relief was genuine. Simply Dom, who had a quick smile and patient disposition. We got down to work, and over those weekend sessions, my aspiring colleagues and I voraciously absorbed all the stenographic tools that Dom shared. I thoroughly enjoyed the training and bolstering of my skillset.

More importantly, it was a pleasure getting to know the fellow on the other side of the camera, who guided us to excel and advance in our skills and careers. While there was no light show, Dom's sessions were exceptional. Indeed, the "schooling" was priceless.

Since that time, I have had the pleasure of working with Dom through the New York State Court Reporters Association. As always, he brings finesse and elegance to our collaborations, with that same quick smile and patient disposition.

On behalf of my fellow NYSCRA board members, congratulations, Dom, on your retirement. You complete a chapter of your distinguished career, and a new chapter begins when you resume the presidency of our association. We are honored to have your leadership and look forward to working with you as you continue to impart your wisdom and experience to stenographers across our great state and beyond.





## Nancy Varallo

Congratulations, Dom, on your retirement. Well-earned, my friend!

When I think of you, Dom, The Gallery of Shorthand springs to mind. That's your legacy to our profession! A labor of love. The first time I walked into the gallery, I was overcome, my eyes brimming with tears. Why? Because I could feel your heart in every panel, in every display, in every carefully crafted sentence. You made me feel proud to be a part of the time-honored history of court reporting. I was inspired to work harder to introduce young people to "the best career you never heard of."

This is a great opportunity for me to say thank you, Dom. You've given so much of yourself to colleagues and students, and worked tirelessly on committees, task forces and boards for the betterment of our profession. You've inspired so very many students. I know that because they tell me so!

Your friendship means a lot to me. Think of all the meetings, dinners, lunches, phone calls and Zoom sessions we've shared. Your energy and enthusiasm for court reporting are contagious! You've inspired students in countless ways along their path to 225 wpm – a legacy of faith and motivation to stand alongside The Gallery.

Eddie sends his love and congratulations too; he says you'll love retirement. Another milestone to add to your résumé. Dom Tursi: peerless reporter, historian, mentor, volunteer, leader -- my good friend. I love you!

## Margie Wakeman Wells

Retired? Dom, you were going to wait for me!! Besides that, I believe news of your retirement is probably little more than a rumor. Court reporting without Dominick Tursi? No. But, in reality, Dom, the court reporting world will never be without you. You have left a light for all of us that will never be extinguished.

We didn't meet early in our careers. I am not sure why. One year we passed in the hall at an NCRA convention, and you stopped me and said something like "I need to talk to you. We have to talk." And talk, we did. I was instantly a fan of the renowned Dom Tursi. Who would not be?

Your accomplishments are legendary: the Gallery – a gargantuan undertaking, which you took on and pulled off with elegant style; your books; your years of reporting. And behind that sweet charm is your enthusiasm, your perseverance and commitment, your loyalty and dedication to the court reporting field and its members. How lucky we all are to have had you on our team.

Enjoy, Dom. Relax and relish your time, all the while knowing that you have enriched the lives you have touched and that we are all so grateful.



## Jean Beskin

### A Tribute to a Legend of Court Reporting

Dom Tursi has recently announced he will be retiring from his full-time position as a court reporter in the federal court system at the end of this month of August. Over the span of 50-plus years, Dom's contribution to the court reporting profession has been unprecedented. I would like to share with you the many ways he has left an indelible mark.

Dom served in every aspect of the court reporting profession: freelance, state court, federal court, owner of an international freelance firm where he reported proceedings from Southeast Asia to Egypt. He was the owner and director of a court reporting school known as Verbatim School of Court Reporting, where he also served as an instructor. He lectured across the United States, in Beijing, and Belgium. Dom testified as a reporting expert and served as consultant to developers of computer-aided transcription. The most phenomenal feats achieved was winning the New York State Shorthand Speed Contest three times, writing a perfect paper in 1974 at the speed of 280 words per minute, and holding the World Shorthand Speed record of 300 words per minute for five continuous minutes, a record which remains in existence since 1981.

Dom remains an active member and continues to serve in various officer positions of professional organizations: United States Court Reporters Association; National Court Reporters Association; New York State Court Reporters Association, the oldest existing association in the United States since 1876. He was elected fellow of The Incorporated Phonographic Society of London, the world's first shorthand association.

I first came to know of Dom 45 years ago when I attended the Verbatim School of Court Reporting. He was the owner of the school, but we never met. I was in the high-speed class when the school closed, so I transferred to Long Island Business Institute and graduated from there.

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Twenty-five years passed when I met Dom at an NCRA boot camp. Dave Wenhold, Director of Government Relations of NCRA at the time, said he was sending me a reporter to join our group on The Hill and asked me to

show him what to do. Imagine my surprise when I saw it was Dom. I introduced myself and said, "You don't know me, but I attended your school." That opened a dialogue as we visited 34 New York State legislative aides.

We happened to take the same flight home to Long Island from Washington, D.C., and so our dialogue continued. I was president of our New York State Court Reporters Association at the time, and Dom was president of the United States Federal Court Reporters Association at that time. He shared that he had a collection of court reporting machines available to display at one of our conventions. I thought that was a fantastic idea, and so we left that I would get in contact with him when the time came.

Sometime after this, one of the judges who worked with Dom at the Alfonse M. D'Amato Courthouse and Federal Building in Central Islip offered the use of a vacant room to display his machines, and thus began the creation of The Gallery of Shorthand. As director, Dom created and developed a tribute to the Evolution of a Timeless Profession, including The Ten Epochs of Shorthand – Ancient Scribes, Chinese Shorthand, Roman Scribes, Abolition and Renewed Interest, Shorthand's Revival, Revolutionary Shorthand,

Proliferation of Shorthand in Europe, Proliferation of Shorthand in America, Machine Shorthand, and Shorthand in the 21st Century. There are also special exhibits: Reporting the War Crimes Trials – Nuremberg, Tokyo, Yugoslavia, Rwanda; Congressional Reporting – House & Senate Reporters – The Congressional Record; Legends of Shorthand – Sketches of Shorthand's Finest; Famous People Who Wrote

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Shorthand; Historic Reporter Delegation to China; World Shorthand Speed Record – Long Island Reporter 300 words per minute Champion; How They Do That – Some of the Magic Revealed; Alphabetum Tironianum – Rare 1747 Work featuring Tironian Shorthand.

The Gallery of Shorthand is open for viewing Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The room is located immediately to the right upon entering the courthouse.

As if The Gallery of Shorthand wasn't enough to leave a legacy, Dom wrote a book entitled The Legends of Shorthand. In my copy he wrote, "Jean, From student to colleague to president. You are a legend in my book. Dom."

Dom is truly a legend of our great court reporting profession. As past presidents of our New York State Court Reporters Association, I am grateful to now again be serving with him as officers and fellow recipients of The Louis Goldstein Memorial Award. I pray he enjoys a retirement filled with deep and abiding peace, joy, and happiness!

Warm regards,  
Jean Beskin  
NYSRA Secretary/Treasurer



## Harriet Brenner-Gettleman

Dom Tursi has become an amazing friend, who I enjoy being with every time we can get together, sharing our aligned goals for our profession. The inspiration of what can be done comes from our individual experiences in this business, but how to accomplish it involves some very hard tasks.

As NYSCRA vice president, I was invited to the opening of the Gallery of Shorthand at the federal courthouse in Central Islip in September of 2010. Dom had created this amazing story of the 5000 years of historical

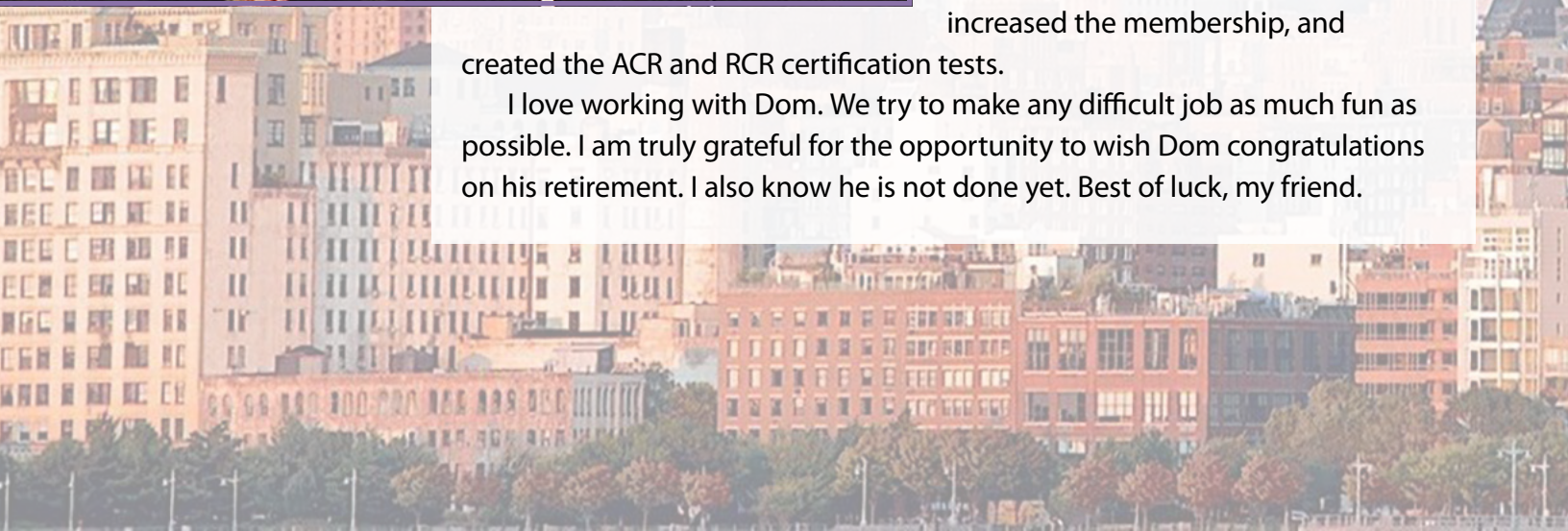
information, beginning with scribes recording events through millennia which eventually resulted in the current style of stenographic realtime writing. I was beyond impressed. I decided right then and there that I wanted to work with him in any way possible to enlighten reporters about the roots of their careers.

At that time, I was also working on the 2012 NYSCRA convention where I would be installed as the next president. I asked Dom to host the opening ceremonies at the Gallery; he thought it would be a great idea. I then asked him to be my vice president for the 2012 term.

That was the beginning of a wonderful partnership. We had a vision of what needed to be done and brought in so many good people who wanted to help. We increased the members on the board of directors, increased the membership, and

created the ACR and RCR certification tests.

I love working with Dom. We try to make any difficult job as much fun as possible. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to wish Dom congratulations on his retirement. I also know he is not done yet. Best of luck, my friend.



## Diane Salters

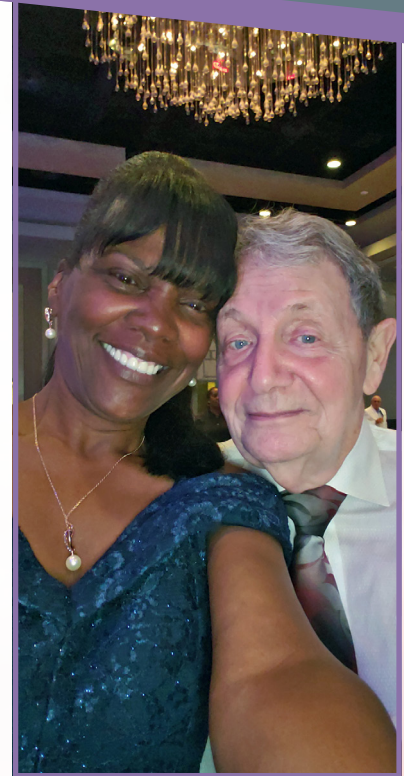
*My Dearest Stenostorian:* In October 2012, I had the great privilege of meeting you at a NYSCRA convention hosted at the very courthouse from which you are now retiring (EDNY-Central Islip) and where you masterfully created the Gallery of Shorthand - [galleryofshorthand.org](http://galleryofshorthand.org).

In a conversation about realtime, you suggested I take the FCRR, advised that I'd need to be sponsored by an FOCR, and that of course you would do that. And you did, as fate would have it (Harriet Brenner-Gettleman being that fate.) I later served on the NYSCRA Board alongside you. (I smile as I write this, reminiscing about the oh-so-fun times at meetings, conventions, and committee gatherings. I can hear you and Harriet joyfully bickering.)

You simply make everything fun and joyous. I recall the first Saturday practice class offered by NYSCRA for those reporters desiring to take the NYS Civil Service Court Reporter examination, where I dragged myself out of bed at 6:00 a.m. and across two trains to assist, then arrived and wondered, "How is it that this guy is so spunky, cheerful, and hilarious this early in the morning?" (I've now gone from smiling to laughing). It caused me to look forward to the Saturdays that followed. Fast-forward a few years, I asked your permission to list your name as a professional reference for employment. Your response: "I'd be honored." It's

just what you do - help others.

Retiring from full-time employment is only being converted to more time to assist your fellow stenographers in another venue. EDNY is losing a gem, but your wife is gaining a Honey Do and NYSCRA is gaining another awesome president! All the best, Dom.



## Reid Goldsmith

Dom, I have known you now since I attended and graduated from your school in 1977. You have always been a mover and a shaker, never settling for just a "career," but rather taking a profession to new heights. Not being content as an Official Court Reporter for Nassau Supreme, you opened Verbatim School of Court Reporting. You also had your own international freelance agency.

I remember in my last classes, you were one of the first innovators to advocate for CAT (using the 5 ¼-inch floppies.) You returned to officialdom as a federal court reporter and managed to squeeze in being president of the NYSCRA - an honor you are about to repeat shortly.

There is the Gallery of Shorthand Reporting, which you created and maintain. Many don't know that the area you created it in was earmarked for Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, who was not going to use it. You undertook the mission of obtaining it for the creation of the Gallery, its purpose being to educate the public about our profession, as well as being a resource for reporters.

There are so many achievements you have garnered and accolades you have earned along the way while remaining humble. You do not broadcast your successes, prefer to remain in the shadows so as not to distract others from their goals, while being incredibly helpful to all. You shy away from the spotlight so others may shine, such as your own speed record of 300 WPM for 5 minutes. Mark Kislingbury may have the one-minute world's record for speed, but your record of 300 wpm for 5 minutes just blows me away.

There is so much I could say, but space is limited. I could not possibly put everything I feel into words in such a short piece. Suffice it to say, I am incredibly lucky to call you teacher, mentor, friend, colleague. I wish you success in everything that you do. Best of luck in your retirement, and I know we will be seeing more of you! With eternal gratefulness for giving me this career.



## Charisse Kitt

I first met Dom around 2014 at an NCRA conference. I had known of him before I actually met him in person. He was so delightful. Encouraging reporters to participate in their state association, as well as joining some NCRA committees.

In about 2017, I believe was the year I became a NYSCRA board member and worked more closely with Dom and other board members. His love for the profession is indescribable, as well as his dedication to the field. He is truly a scholar reporter.

Although, I know he won't be far away and will still be participating in the field in some way, shape, or form, Dom will be missed. I am truly happy that he is retiring and taking the time to enjoy life.

Cheers to you, Dom. I wish you many more retirement years than working years and the means to have a very long life.

## Debra A. Levinson

We met only two years prior to your first reign as NYSCRA president. At that time, with Harriet Brenner-Gettleman, we began working together developing the material for the voluntary certification tests. I remember it wasn't until the 2015 NCRA convention in New York that we had a chance to really catch up at an outdoor café near the Hilton. I felt a true friendship cement right there on the corner of 7th Avenue.

Wishing you the best of health and happiness. Congratulations on your retirement!



## Joshua Edwards

Dom has a captivating effect on people when he talks about this field. I once saw him speak to a group of elementary school children who were visiting his courthouse. They gazed at him like a magician at a birthday party as he explained how that weird little machine on a tripod works. I also had the pleasure to co-present a full-day workshop with Dom about The Cicero Forum. That was the culmination of hours spent together over many weekends. Finally, the big day came, and we spoke to a packed room of students and colleagues at the NYSCRA 2018 convention. When I look back at the photos from that day taken by his son Matt, I see smiles across the

rows of students' faces. No doubt Dom had just delivered a witty comment along with a useful tidbit of knowledge.

A personal highlight of my career was bringing my parents to visit The Gallery of Shorthand. Dom was gracious enough to pick us up from the train station and give us a private tour and explain the fascinating history of our profession to mom and dad. They already knew how much I enjoyed working in the field since I started in 2011. But Dom brought it to life for them. That's the message that I know Dom wants to impart to every student who enters court reporting. We are part of such a long and

revered history. And our work is so important. At the core, what we do is preserve the truth. Dom's Gallery of Shorthand is a testament to that fact.

On the heels of his retirement, he will succeed me as the president of NYSCRA. I have a feeling that Dom will be busier than ever because that's his speed. Dom, it's an honor and a privilege to call you a court reporting mentor and a dear friend.





## Gayl Hardeman

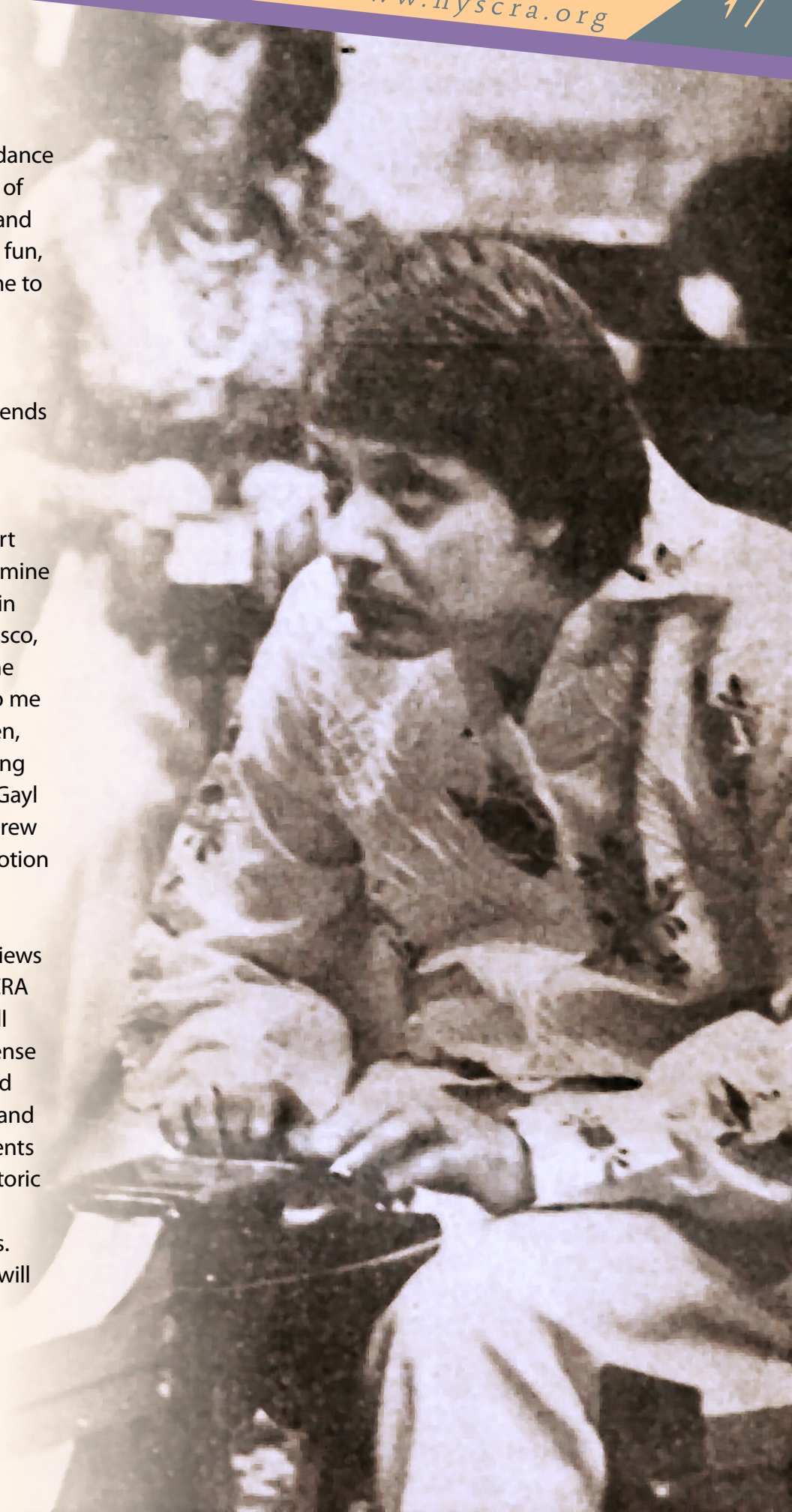
August 1972. Seattle. Fancy hotel. A dance band plays at the opening reception of (my first) NCRA Convention. I am 25 and a new firm owner. A tall, dark-haired, fun, and handsome court reporter asks me to dance. His name is Dominick Tursi.

Dom was one of the many stenographers whom I met at that convention. They became lifelong friends and have gracefully grown gray with me. Dom was as he is now – upbeat, professional, and knowledgeable.

We went on to start our own court reporting schools -- his in New York; mine in Florida. Our paths didn't cross again directly until August 2014, San Francisco, another fancy hotel, exhibit hall at the NCRA Convention. Dom's greeting to me rang with that musical laugh and then, with total Dom charm, his genuflecting as he sang out my name: "Is it really Gayl Hardeman?" (My fiancé Mike's eyes grew wide. How does one explain the devotion of steno stalwarts?)

No one can make you feel more welcome than Dom. His video interviews with prominent colleagues at the NCRA 2015 convention in New York City will forever preserve his optimism and sense of humor. Dom's Gallery of Shorthand installation and support of students and beginning reporters are also testaments to his love and knowledge of our historic profession.

Dom: Thank you for your legacies. Enjoy the "troisième âge." Your light will never be extinguished.



## Testimonials from Students

### Elizabeth Durnan

I came upon Dom during a NYSCRA event last summer for students. I was new to the field, learning by myself online, hemmed in by the pandemic, and wondering if I had made a mistake taking on court reporting. Dom offered any of us to have mentoring sessions with him - out of nowhere - and for free! I couldn't believe such generosity from someone I didn't even know, and I could tell from his voice that his offer and his interest in helping along the next generation of reporters was genuine.

For the next several months, I set up my computer at 7 p.m. on the first or second Tuesday of the month and prepared to learn the kinds of things I couldn't get in school. You know what I mean - the what-it's-really-like things, the helpful things that keep you going and help you get things done. Besides that, I was buoyed at every meeting by Dom's optimism and his genuine concern for us newbies.

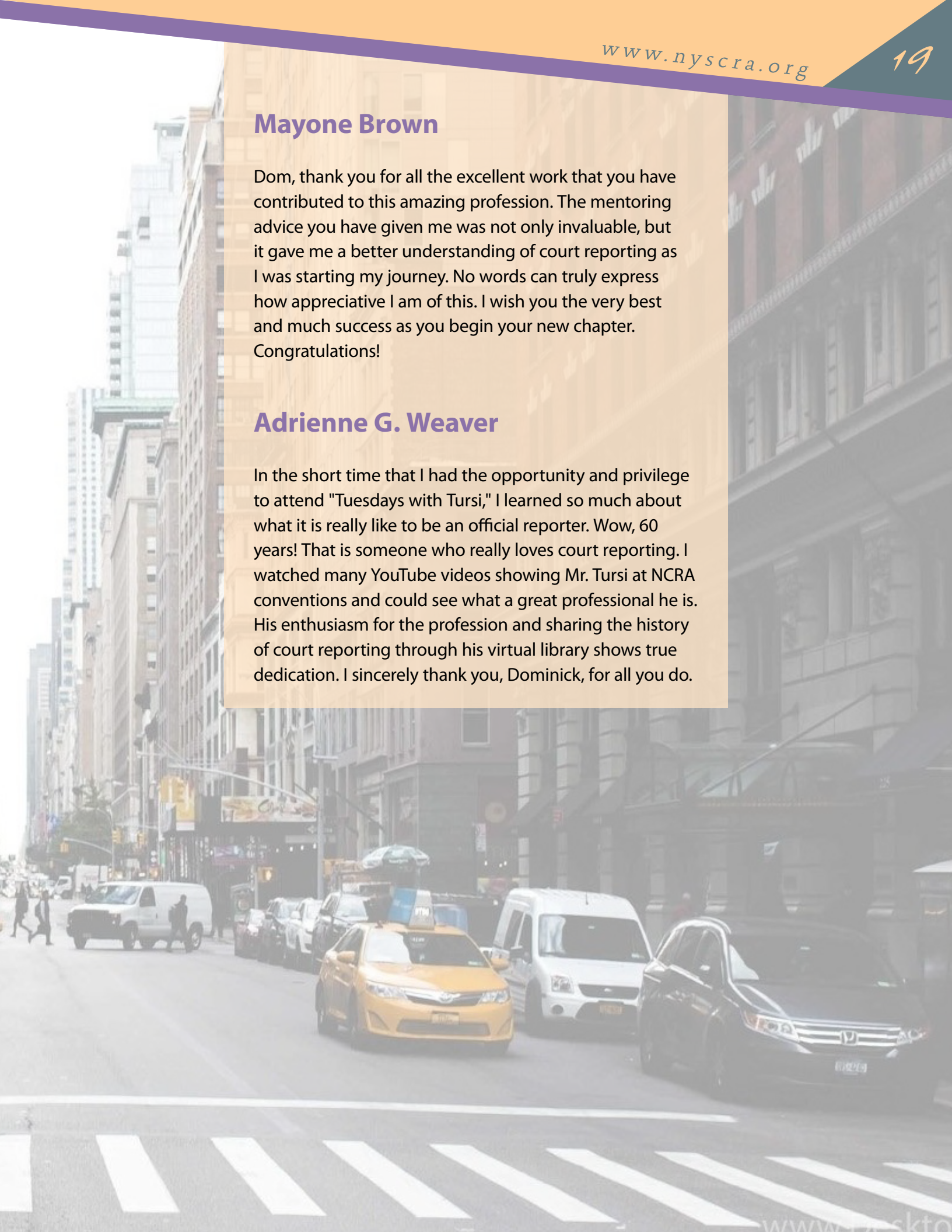
I know he has decided to retire, and he certainly deserves some peace and quiet, but selfishly, I will miss him! What a power of example! I told him that I will do for court reporting students what he did for me. You can't give a greater gift to someone, and I am so lucky to have received it from him.

## Mayone Brown

Dom, thank you for all the excellent work that you have contributed to this amazing profession. The mentoring advice you have given me was not only invaluable, but it gave me a better understanding of court reporting as I was starting my journey. No words can truly express how appreciative I am of this. I wish you the very best and much success as you begin your new chapter. Congratulations!

## Adrienne G. Weaver

In the short time that I had the opportunity and privilege to attend "Tuesdays with Tursi," I learned so much about what it is really like to be an official reporter. Wow, 60 years! That is someone who really loves court reporting. I watched many YouTube videos showing Mr. Tursi at NCRA conventions and could see what a great professional he is. His enthusiasm for the profession and sharing the history of court reporting through his virtual library shows true dedication. I sincerely thank you, Dominick, for all you do.



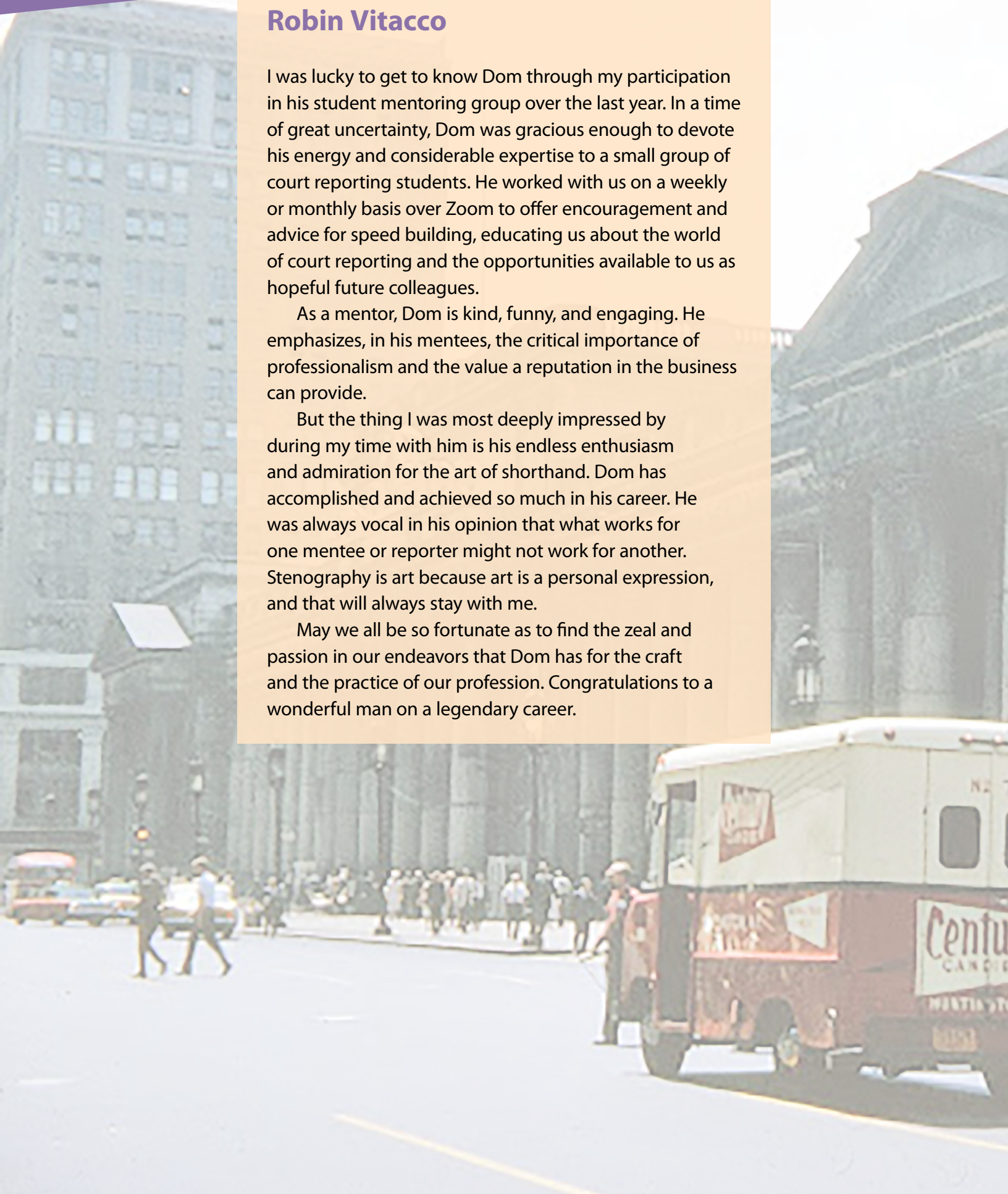
## Robin Vitacco

I was lucky to get to know Dom through my participation in his student mentoring group over the last year. In a time of great uncertainty, Dom was gracious enough to devote his energy and considerable expertise to a small group of court reporting students. He worked with us on a weekly or monthly basis over Zoom to offer encouragement and advice for speed building, educating us about the world of court reporting and the opportunities available to us as hopeful future colleagues.

As a mentor, Dom is kind, funny, and engaging. He emphasizes, in his mentees, the critical importance of professionalism and the value a reputation in the business can provide.

But the thing I was most deeply impressed by during my time with him is his endless enthusiasm and admiration for the art of shorthand. Dom has accomplished and achieved so much in his career. He was always vocal in his opinion that what works for one mentee or reporter might not work for another. Stenography is art because art is a personal expression, and that will always stay with me.

May we all be so fortunate as to find the zeal and passion in our endeavors that Dom has for the craft and the practice of our profession. Congratulations to a wonderful man on a legendary career.



## Noelle King

I have had the great fortune of meeting Dom Tursi at the perfect time. I am a very recent graduate of court reporting school. I was introduced to Dom while attending a webinar, hosted by NYS CRA, for court reporting students. This was in the spring of 2020, the height of the pandemic.

Dom was a panelist for the webinar, and at the end of the session he graciously offered to mentor whoever was interested. So Tursi Tuesdays began within the next week or two. We would meet virtually on Tuesdays almost every week. The group would have anywhere between 8 to 20 in attendance. He would arrange these meetings, every week. If someone was unable to make Tuesday, he would even arrange a makeup session for them. He would hold these sessions that sometimes lasted for two hours, in the evening, after he had put in a full day of work.

His energy was really something to behold. Dom always came with an agenda, so we knew what we would be covering for that evening. But our sessions really became a forum to discuss anything we had questions about regarding the industry and the profession. He was so transparent with his advice and experiences. In addition to Tursi Tuesday, he made himself available to us on a one-on-one basis as well. He always encouraged us to email him directly if we had any questions.

On a personal level, this was exactly what I needed for where I was in my stage of transitioning into a working court reporter. I was in a position of having to take the leap into taking my first job. What I learned

from Dom was all the practical things that I needed to know to move forward. I liken what he provided to me as spackle. The things I needed to have to fill in the gaps of what I had missed, what I had forgotten, what I might not have known or learned in school. Tips on grammar, advice on how to function in a deposition, how to focus, advice on gathering yourself to read back, how to best position my hands -- he shared block files and sample transcripts. The list goes on. He even introduced me to his colleague in need of a new reporter. To listen to him telling stories about his different jobs and experiences as a reporter was fun and inspiring.

I will admit that I am 50 years old. Yes, a 50-year-old recent graduate embarking on a new profession, when most of my peers are looking to retire soon. I often have doubts and can feel insecure alongside my 20-something reporter peers. By meeting Dom when I did, I got the encouragement that I needed.

What I learned while listening to Dom lament about a career and an industry that he loves so dearly is that this is a career that is extremely rewarding and fulfilling. It is difficult, but worth it. It is an industry of people who tend to uplift each other, rather than compete and cut each other down.

I believe his energy comes from a love of his profession. He is a true gem to us students and novice court reporters, and I imagine he is to most. I am truly grateful for all he has so generously given to me. I will never forget him or the impact that he has had on me. I wish him all the best in his retirement. Thank you, Dom.

## Keli Lopez

The moment of truth has finally come. Dom's punchline of retiring is no longer a joke but a reality! It was truly a blessing to be a part of Tursi Tuesdays where we'd meet as mentees and be taught by our mentor, Dom. Not only is he passionate about the court reporting field, but he always has the best interests at heart for those who keep on striving. He is a humble man, whom I noticed doesn't look for the praise of other people but rather reaches out with a helping hand. As a prior mentee, he goes above and beyond in dissolving any barriers that are in the way of things I didn't understand.

I also learned from the array of Dom's interesting experiences that he underwent as a court reporter, and I am grateful for the amount of that knowledge. It was during those times that I wish I could have hit the record button to play it over and over again just so I could go back for a chuckle or a lesson.

All I wish for Dom is to enjoy this new chapter in life because he deserves all the great things the world can offer as well as the blessings from above. I hope to make a toast one day with him and Harriet Brenner - once I graduate and understand what it means to get paid not to think - one of my favorite lines I've heard from the one and only, Dom Tursi. Have a joyful retirement!

## Sandra Aviles

I visited The Gallery of Shorthand where I met Dom and was enthralled by his knowledge and commitment to The Gallery and the court reporting profession. It is a place every stenographer and student should visit at least once in their career. Situated in the rotunda of the ginormous district court on Long Island, it displays the hard work and devotion of its creator, Dom.

Dom's optimism and enthusiasm is contagious. He motivates and encourages students and reporters in a unique way, is very patient, and has a great sense of humor. He teaches/mentors in a simple and easy way to understand. He shares his experiences, blunders, funny stories, describes reporting scenarios in great detail, and keeps you engaged. Truly, a great mentor, tutor, coach, teacher.

Dom, as you enter a new chapter in your life, I wish you the very best, send many blessings your way, and am forever grateful. I truly appreciate you! Grazie.

## Oliver Hughes

I began my studies in June 2020, at a time when the world had been plunged into uncertainty. My classes had all been moved online, and I was so new to the profession that there were few people I could talk to.

During a NYSCRA webinar I saw Mr. Tursi give a presentation on common issues in the profession, and I was so struck by the authority of his experience and the easy engaging welcome of his manner. I recall thinking to myself how much I would enjoy hearing more from him.

I was in very good luck. Mr. Tursi, at the end of the webinar, offered a wonderfully generous gift to the students in attendance - an invitation to weekly mentoring sessions, "Tuesdays with Tursi." We were privileged to have access to an enormous store of advice, encouragement, and inside knowledge of the profession by Mr. Dominick Tursi. He really cared about our success. NYSCRA is as fortunate as we were to have him at its head and in the position to help even more people than he already has.

## Maria Lemmo

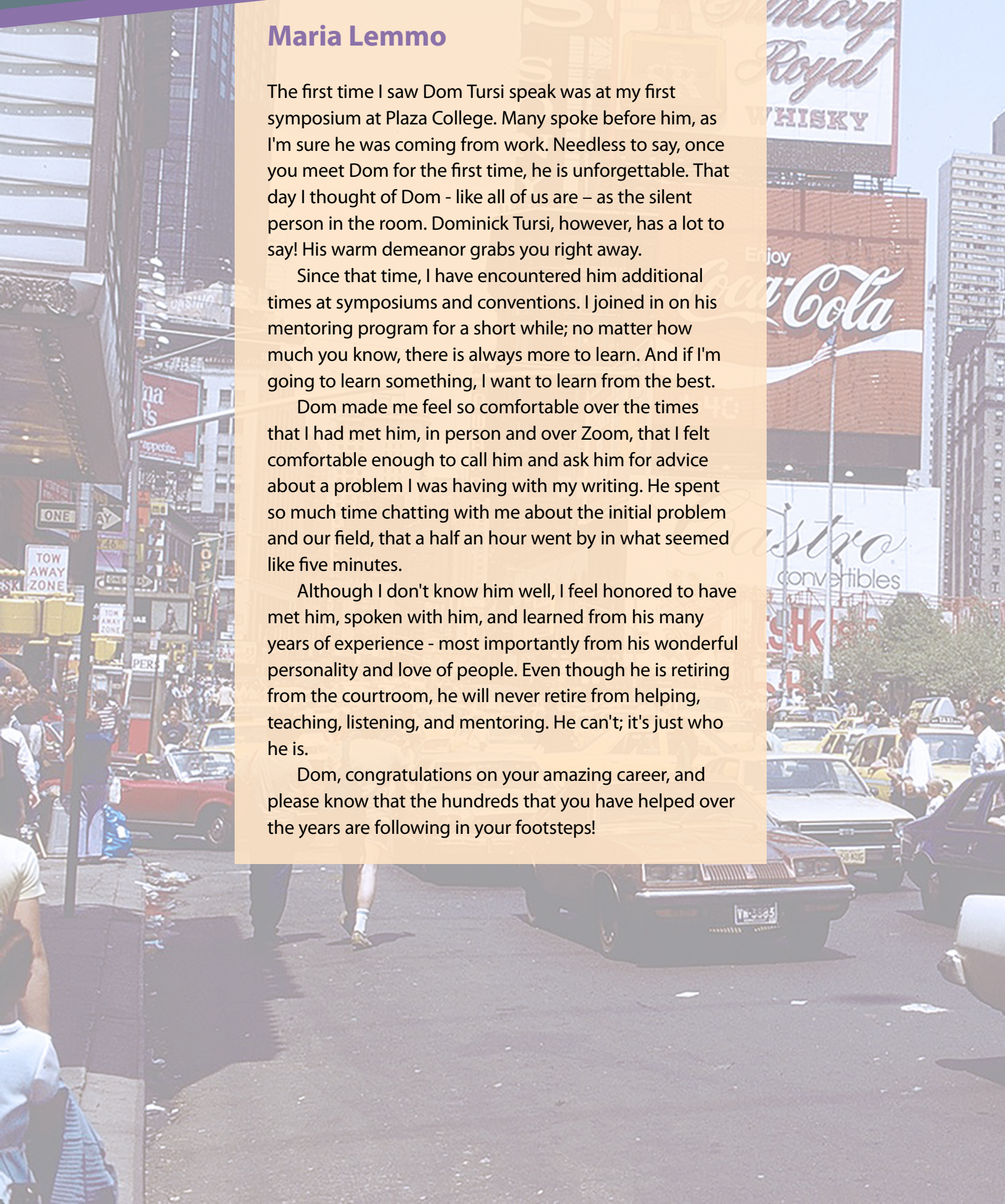
The first time I saw Dom Tursi speak was at my first symposium at Plaza College. Many spoke before him, as I'm sure he was coming from work. Needless to say, once you meet Dom for the first time, he is unforgettable. That day I thought of Dom - like all of us are - as the silent person in the room. Dominick Tursi, however, has a lot to say! His warm demeanor grabs you right away.

Since that time, I have encountered him additional times at symposiums and conventions. I joined in on his mentoring program for a short while; no matter how much you know, there is always more to learn. And if I'm going to learn something, I want to learn from the best.

Dom made me feel so comfortable over the times that I had met him, in person and over Zoom, that I felt comfortable enough to call him and ask him for advice about a problem I was having with my writing. He spent so much time chatting with me about the initial problem and our field, that a half an hour went by in what seemed like five minutes.

Although I don't know him well, I feel honored to have met him, spoken with him, and learned from his many years of experience - most importantly from his wonderful personality and love of people. Even though he is retiring from the courtroom, he will never retire from helping, teaching, listening, and mentoring. He can't; it's just who he is.

Dom, congratulations on your amazing career, and please know that the hundreds that you have helped over the years are following in your footsteps!





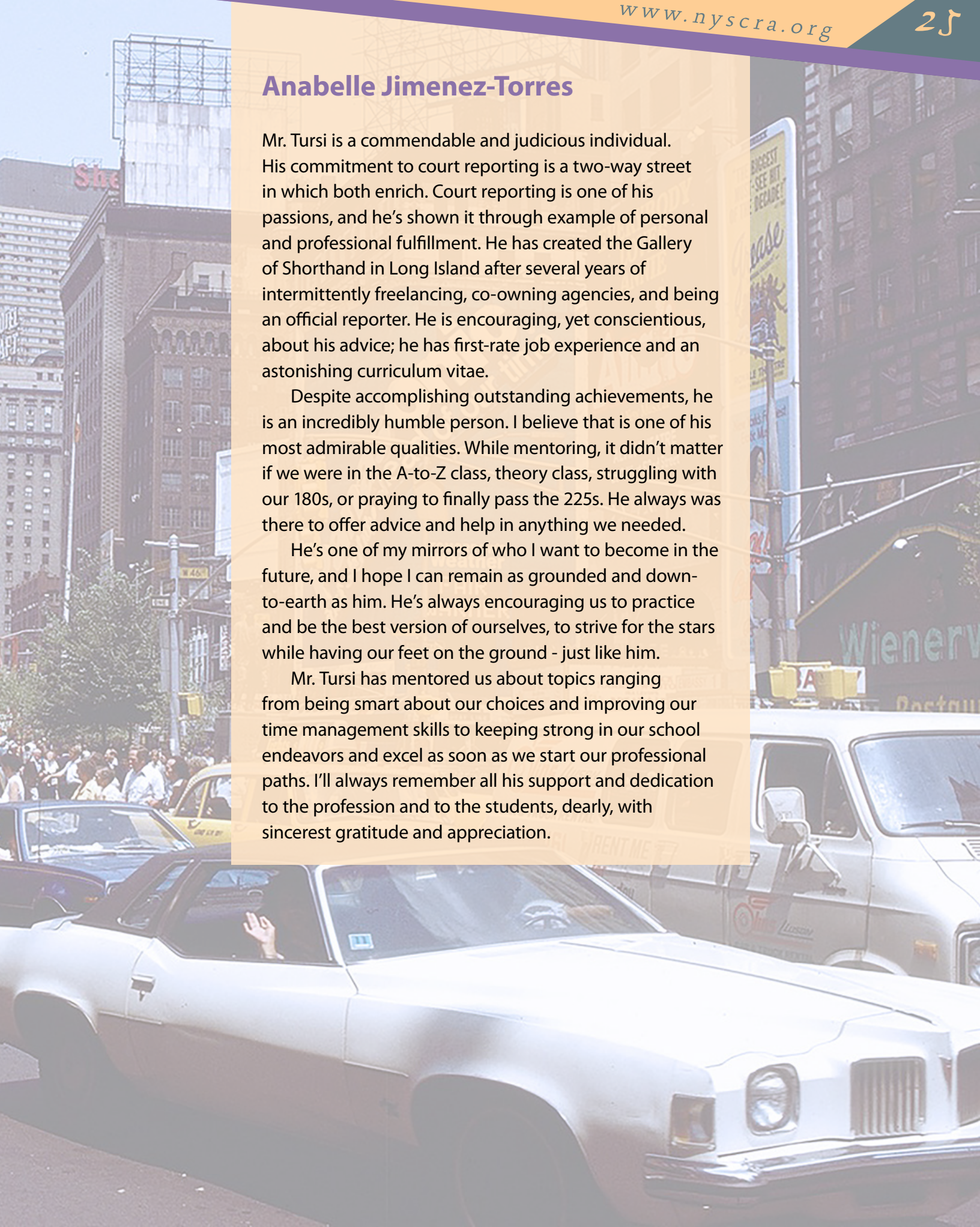
## Anabelle Jimenez-Torres

Mr. Tursi is a commendable and judicious individual. His commitment to court reporting is a two-way street in which both enrich. Court reporting is one of his passions, and he's shown it through example of personal and professional fulfillment. He has created the Gallery of Shorthand in Long Island after several years of intermittently freelancing, co-owning agencies, and being an official reporter. He is encouraging, yet conscientious, about his advice; he has first-rate job experience and an astonishing curriculum vitae.

Despite accomplishing outstanding achievements, he is an incredibly humble person. I believe that is one of his most admirable qualities. While mentoring, it didn't matter if we were in the A-to-Z class, theory class, struggling with our 180s, or praying to finally pass the 225s. He always was there to offer advice and help in anything we needed.

He's one of my mirrors of who I want to become in the future, and I hope I can remain as grounded and down-to-earth as him. He's always encouraging us to practice and be the best version of ourselves, to strive for the stars while having our feet on the ground - just like him.

Mr. Tursi has mentored us about topics ranging from being smart about our choices and improving our time management skills to keeping strong in our school endeavors and excel as soon as we start our professional paths. I'll always remember all his support and dedication to the profession and to the students, dearly, with sincerest gratitude and appreciation.



## #NCRA2021 - The Social Calendar Convention Sum-Up

### By Jessie Waack Gorry

“Just like that, another year and another convention is in the books. It all seemed to go so fast! If it wasn’t for the fact that I still don’t have my voice back, I would have to pinch myself to see if it was all real. It was wonderful to see so many colleagues again. You could tell how last year was canceled by the overflow of joy everyone had in seeing each other. There were tears, hugs and conversations galore. Oh, were there conversations! There was so much to catch up on with people moving, babies being born, and weddings happening or not happening. It was amazing to hear how many people took advantage of slow times to get more certifications.

I hate to admit this – but I once again did not make it to any seminars. So many firms are still struggling to cover law firms’ backlog of depositions, I spent most of every day in my room covering depositions. Yes, I went all the way to Las Vegas just to take depositions in my hotel room. So, although I cannot share about the seminars, I can share on the social!

I landed in Vegas on Wednesday evening, and diligently waited for my suitcase to come tumbling down the chute to the conveyor belt. Alas, no such luck. Someone had mistaken my suitcase for theirs, and I was sans suitcase. So, with my overnight pouch of personal care items and my steno case I headed to Planet Hollywood for a well-deserved adult beverage. I quickly checked in at the one kiosk which seemed to hate my NY ID as it spit my ID out, flying across the hotel lobby. After a few choice words with the kiosk, we came to an agreement that I would be allowed to check in and get a key.

I head straight to my room, open the door, chuck my sparse belongings into the room and head straight downstairs for a nightcap. When in Vegas,

you are never far from another colleague. Haggard and in hat and mask, I step off the escalator and wander to the nearest watering hole only to run smack dab into a dear friend and colleague from years past. I couldn’t believe it! Well, that was it for the night. The “nightcap” became breakfast and stories were told for hours. I knew this was just the beginning of a weekend of meeting old friends and making new.

Conventions are always about those you have known for years and those you will meet and know for the rest of your life. You wear your badge while in the hotel, and you are always going to find a new friendship in a colleague. I spent long conversations with people I never would have met if I wouldn’t have gone to the convention, and I have made bonds that will last for years. These relationships will follow you for the rest of your career and are incredibly invaluable.

I understand not everyone can just walk up to someone, shove out their hand and with a booming voice introduce themselves. There is no need to worry about being an introvert. Many reporters are like me – crazy extroverts – and we will find you, drag you onto the dance floor and make you dance until they take the broom and sweep you off the floor and shut off the lights. And then you too will become my friend forever.”

### By Christopher Day, RPR Reprinted from *The Transcript Weekly*

New Yorkers, we give away a lot of power when we do not participate in our associations. I sat at the NCRA 2021 annual business meeting where, as I understand it, there were fewer than 100 reporters

in attendance. There was a vote to fill a vacant NCRA board seat. In an association with over 10,000 voting members, 43 people voted for the winner. In the NCRA's bylaws amendment votes, there were about 700 people voting. There are over 200 reporters receiving this publication, *The Transcript Weekly*. A few hundred New York reporters would be a significant percentage of the total. If you have ever been convinced that your vote does not matter or that you cannot impact the future, remember that the future goes to the people that choose to show up, open e-mails, and be involved. If that's something that interests you but you're lost and don't know where to start, please reach out. Our profession needs you now more than ever.

1) Two NYSCRA members, Joshua Edwards and Christopher Day, participated in Allie Hall's PAI/T/FAORD mentoring event. We took two stenographic

reporting students, one from Missouri and one from California, out to lunch to talk about the profession. We dined at P.F. Chang's at Planet Hollywood. They were able to ask questions and get advice. Student mentoring knows no state boundaries.

2) NYSCRA President Joshua Edwards attended the annual National Congress of State Associations meeting. We learned a lot about the dangers of A.I. and watched a video produced by NCRA STRONG. They interviewed a judge who extolled the virtues of having stenographic reporters producing the record. Joshua presented about various challenges and recent successes in our state. He also announced the creation of StenoMasters, a Toastmasters public speaking group specifically geared towards stenographic reporters and captioners everywhere. Visit [stenomasters.com](http://stenomasters.com) to learn more.



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