

Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners

SOC: 27-3092 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$67,310

Median Salary

17,700

Employment

+0.0%

Growth Rate

■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Postsecondary

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 15.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.

This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■■ Work-Life Balance

6.3/10 - Good work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	5.0/10	Investigative	5.6/10
Artistic	9.6/10	Social	7.4/10
Enterprising	6.2/10	Conventional	4.4/10

■ Top Skills Required

Concentration, Detail oriented, Listening skills, Writing skills

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners create accurate records of **legal proceedings, meetings, and other spoken communications**. They transcribe spoken words using specialized equipment, ensuring a precise written or digital record. Their work is critical in courts, legal settings, broadcasting, and accessibility services.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy attention to detail, listening skills, and working with language and technology.

What Do Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners Do?

These professionals transcribe spoken communications in real time and produce official records or captions for legal, media, or accessibility purposes.

Common responsibilities include:

- Capturing verbatim records of court proceedings, depositions, or meetings
- Using stenotype machines, voice writing equipment, or real-time captioning software
- Proofreading and editing transcripts for accuracy and clarity
- Providing certified transcripts or captions for clients, courts, or broadcast
- Ensuring compliance with legal standards and confidentiality requirements
- Operating and maintaining transcription and captioning equipment
- Coordinating with judges, attorneys, or broadcast personnel

Key Areas of Court Reporting and Captioning

Professionals may specialize in particular types of transcription or media:

- Court and Legal Reporting: Recording legal proceedings and producing official transcripts
- Real-Time Captioning: Providing live captions for television or events
- Closed Captioning for Media: Transcribing programs for accessibility
- Deposition and Hearing Transcription: Documenting sworn statements and hearings
- Administrative and Record Management: Organizing, storing, and delivering transcripts

Skills and Abilities Needed

Court reporters and captioners combine technical proficiency, linguistic ability, and attention to detail.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal training and certification:

- Postsecondary Certificate or Associate Degree: Court reporting, captioning, or transcription programs
- Training in Stenography or Voice Writing: Specialized courses to develop speed and accuracy
- Certification or Licensing: State or professional credentials for official reporting
- Internships or Practical Experience: Gaining real-world transcription experience
- Continuous Learning: Staying updated on technology, legal terminology, and captioning standards

Where Do Court Reporters and Simultaneous Captioners Work?

They are employed in settings that require accurate recordkeeping or live captioning:

- Courts and Legal Offices
- Broadcasting and Media Companies

- Government Agencies
- Conference and Event Services
- Independent or Freelance Reporting Services

Work environments include courtrooms, offices, media studios, and live event venues.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires high accuracy, fast transcription speed, and concentration. Reporters must manage complex terminology and maintain confidentiality while producing precise records.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Have excellent listening, typing, or stenography skills
- Are detail-oriented and precise
- Can work under pressure and meet tight deadlines
- Are comfortable with legal terminology or live media settings
- Want a career ensuring accurate documentation and accessibility

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in stenography, voice writing, or transcription
- Develop strong typing, spelling, and grammar skills
- Gain experience with legal or technical terminology
- Explore internships or volunteer work in courts or media
- Pursue certification or training programs in court reporting or captioning

Court reporters and simultaneous captioners provide accurate, real-time records of spoken communication, supporting legal, media, and accessibility needs.

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Source: <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/court-reporters.htm>