

NEWS RELEASE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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RELEASE DATE: January 29, 2024

**THE COURT HIRES ITS FIRST LICENSED VOICE
WRITER AS A COURT REPORTER**

**Legislation Signed Into Law by Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2022 Designates
Licensed Voice Writers as Certified Shorthand Reporters**

The Court is pleased to announce that a licensed voice writer will receive a \$30,000 hiring bonus and will serve as a Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR), reducing the current 15 vacancies for court reporters to 14 – the first full-time CSR hired in more than a year, Court Executive Officer Brandon E. Riley announced today.

“The Court is able to leverage this change in state law in 2022 to address a critical shortage of CSRs in San Francisco,” CEO Riley said. “We are optimistic that this law, coupled with generous recruitment and retention incentives the Court is able to offer with funding provided by the legislature and the Governor, will encourage other voice writers to join the Court and help us to address a crisis that is impeding access to justice for family law litigants.”

According to the Court Reporters Board of California [website](#), [AB 156](#) repealed “a

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VOICE WRITER 2-2-2-2

previous law that banned the Board from issuing certificates to voice writers. The hope is the new legislation will help alleviate pressure on courts struggling to find certified court reporters, as demand continues to outgrow supply."

In San Francisco, the shortage has reached a crisis level, currently leaving 24 full-time CSRs to cover 28 departments, including courtrooms handling felony criminal matters. Unfortunately, in 2023, there were 24 days when CSRs were unavailable to staff family law courtrooms.

According to the National Verbatim Reporters Association's [website](#), "Voice writers are professionals who have been highly trained to capture the spoken word with the capability to convert it into text by means of computer-aided transcription software."

The new CSR begins employment on February 5.

"I would like to thank the San Francisco Official Court Reporters Association and Local 21, for collaborating with the Court to recruit CSRs," CEO Riley said.

"Together we will continue to do everything possible to recruit new CSRs to our highly valued team of CSR professionals. Thanks to \$703,092 in state funding that allows the Court to offer a \$30,000 signing bonus and a 5 percent raise, San Francisco's generous package of pay and benefits remains one of the most lucrative in California."

The 5 percent base rate increase this year raised the top salary step for CSRs to \$149,613.

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