



WOMEN'S WORLD CUP 2011 – THE USA TEAM REMINDS ME OF GREAT COURT REPORTERS

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Watching the Women's World Cup this summer was in many ways emotional for me because I knew the women who were great enough to play in the Cup have had to be talented, strong, and disciplined. Only a couple of decades ago, women were not allowed to play soccer; and the ones that did were considered "odd," particularly in many European, Asian, and Middle Eastern Countries – and even the USA and Canada. I remember all too well.

Before each game, when the USA team walked onto the field following the referees, alongside their competition, I watched the demeanor of the players, the way they walked, and the look in their eyes. They were determined to win. As my colleague, firm owner Toni Pulone wrote me, "*They are all fabulous players, no doubt, but you have to almost believe that they (USA) keep winning because they will it to happen. They will never give up. That level of spirit and confidence is remarkable and contagious. I should watch a replay of their games every day to keep me going.*"

Toni's description of the players and their spirit and confidence is in many ways the same traits that make up great court reporters. Going to school and building your speed is like learning the basic skills of soccer. Passing a qualifier that allows one to take the state test is like winning your first soccer tournament. Becoming a licensed court reporter is like being a professional soccer player. Then becoming a CRR, CCRR, realtime specialist, merit writer, CVLS is analogous to becoming a professional goal scorer or goalkeeper or defensive midfielder...

Then comes the "World Cup" where great court reporters shine and work in complex business litigation, patent law; they produce dailies, write flawless realtime, and love the feeling of accomplishment and being the best.

In the past women were not allowed to play soccer, and strong women like Mia Hamm had to be super great so the world would take notice. In the future court reporters need to be super great because there are going to be people with machines and budget cuts that would "not allow" court reporters to work. I believe it would be wonderful if all court reporters could feel like every deposition, hearing, court day, arbitration is like being in the World Cup and go in with a steely determination of WINNING by being super great.



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