

Court Reporters in Demand in Texas

In an era of nearly nine percent unemployment, stable careers are hard to come by. But for Texas residents looking for stable work, it doesn't get much better than court reporting.

Stenotypists, more commonly known as court reporters, type in shorthand, keeping records of speeches, [depositions](#) and court cases. And while the court system's need for [litigation services](#) has stayed steady through the years, recent spikes in appeals, corporate litigations and criminal trials are expected to expand the [court reporting services](#) industry nearly 20 percent by 2018.

In 2010 alone, Texas county courts heard nearly 600,000 cases. That number is dwarfed by 2009's 804,000 cases. All across the country, courts are overrun with so many cases, courts can barely handle them all. That's why, in 2009, the Bureau of Labor Statistics included court reporting on their list of professions very likely to expand in the coming decade. The report estimated that the [litigation services](#) industry would grow by 18 percent between 2008 and 2018.

"Demand for court reporter services will be spurred by the continuing need for accurate transcription of proceedings in courts and in pretrial depositions, by the growing need to create captions for live television, and by the need to provide other real-time broadcast captioning and translating services for the deaf and the hard of hearing," the report said.

Like all growing careers, the court reporting profession is learning to adapt to technology. Many trials now use audio recording administered by a court reporter, which reporters will use to create more detailed reports. Court reporters of the future will work with online applications, adding audio, even video to create a full-view multimedia presentation as a record of legal proceedings.

The best part about court reporting is that, while most stenotype programs take just two years to complete, certified court reporters earn on average \$62,000 per year. In an increasingly paperless world, with unstable industries furloughing employees, court reporting is expected to remain strong well into the next decade.

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