

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Heidi Konsten – Chair
Court Reporter Member

William LaBorde – Vice Chair
Court Reporter Member

Kevin Diamond – Board Member
Attorney Member

Linda Shaw – Board Member
Court Reporter Member

Vacant
Public Member

**STATE OF NEVADA
CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS BOARD**

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OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2024
Start Time: 5:34pm
End Time: 6:56pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present Via Zoom:	Heidi Konsten	William LaBorde	Kevin Diamond	Linda Shaw
	Debbie Uehara	Carolyn Harkins	Carre Lewis	Carrie Arnold
	Christine Jacobs	Cindy Vega	Celeste Perla	Cynthia Hudak
	Debra Morris	Gina Lamm	Jeeyeon Kim	Jualita Stewart
	Kathy DiLorenzo	Kele Smith	Kimberly Farkas	LaTia Ely
	Laurie Cooper	Laurie Miller	Lisa Makowski	Matthew Spievak
	Melissa Gonsalves	Pauline May	Rhonda Aquilina	Robert Stanley
	Shanyelle King	Susan Naylor	Christie Main Cabrajac	

ITEM #1: Meeting Called to Order:

Without motion, Heidi Konsten called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

Board Members:

Heidi Konsten	Present
William LaBorde	Present
Kevin Diamond	Present
Linda Shaw	Present

ITEM #2: Public Comments: Kimberly Farkas applauded the Board regarding agenda item #9 relating to unlicensed practices. Ms. Farkas reported NVCRA obtained the services of lobbyist, Joe Guild to represent NVCRA's bill to increase the rates of the official reporter. She mentioned a Facebook discussion among court reporters that a digital company is contracting jobs, touting their AI technology to report arbitrations. Ms. Farkas reported a Nevada court reporting student was contacted by this company to provide steno for their client. The student was influenced by

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the company that she was qualified to perform steno duties even though she was still a student and not certified. She was directed to pretend to hit the keys to look as if she was providing steno. The company needed a person that looked like they were providing steno because they were recording via AI. The student felt uncomfortable and eventually left. The student is willing to testify in any complaint against this company. Ms. Farkas stated the Association would like to work together with the Board to disseminate any information regarding unlicensed practices and educate the legal community. No further comments.

ITEM #3: Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by William LaBorde: That the Board approves the agenda in its entirety. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #4: Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by William LaBorde: That the Board approves the meeting minutes for:

- August 6, 2024 Open Meeting
- September 24, 2024 Legislative Regulations Committee Meeting
- October 18, 2024 Closed Meeting
- October 22, 2024 Legislative Regulations Committee Meeting

Motion seconded by Kevin Diamond, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #5: Ratify the October 18, 2024 Test Results: Debbie Uehara reported 2 applicants registered for the certification exam and 1 applicant cancelled their application. 2 applicants registered and appeared for the firm exam. After grading each exam at the October 18, 2024 closed meeting, it was confirmed that 1 applicant passed the certification exam with 52 errors or less. 2 applicants passed the firm exam with 37 errors or less. No further comments.

MOTION by William LaBorde: That the Board ratifies the October 18, 2024 certification and firm test results. Motion seconded by Kevin Diamond, all in favor, motion moves forward.

Agenda item taken out of order.

ITEM #7: Nevada Law Programs with NVCRA: Kimberly Farkas, President of NVCRA offered their services to work together with the Board to create continuing education programs and to assist in the distribution of important information. This matter was closed without a motion. No further comments.

ITEM #8: Exemption Relating to Debt Collection: Per Haydee Meeker, Chief Accountant of the State Controller's Office, the Board would need to submit a waiver in writing to seek an outside agency or services for debt collection. The Board has attempted to collect an outstanding debt from the former Executive Secretary, Dawn Jackson since 2010. The Board will not seek a waiver to collect the outstanding debt from former court reporter Kim Tuchman. Debbie Uehara provided the requirements to prepare the Board's waiver. No further comments.

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Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board will submit a waiver to the State Controller's Office to be able to obtain outside services to collect the outstanding debt from the former employee, Dawn. M. Jackson. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #6: Request to Change Status of a Certified Court Reporter: The certificate of Melissa Gonsalves, CCR #911 was placed on suspension on July 1, 2024 for non-renewal. Ms. Gonsalves appeared before the Board to change her status to a voluntary surrender and submitted the required paperwork. No further comments.

Motion by William LaBorde: That the Board change Melissa Gonsalves, CCR #911 certificate status to a voluntary surrender. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #9: Proposed Language for Unlicensed Practices: Kevin Diamond presented proposed language relating to unlicensed practices. Upon review of the proposed language, it was suggested to delete the word deposition and replace with the word proceedings throughout. No further comments.

Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board approve the proposed language with the amendment to replace the word "deposition" with "proceeding". The Board will present the language to Senator Daly. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #10: Amend NRS 3.370 Transcript Formatting: William LaBorde presented amendments to NRS 3.370(2) to keep the margin requirements consistent with NAC 656.360. No further comments.

Motion by William LaBorde: That the Board approves the proposed changes to NRS 3.370(2) and will provide the language to Kim Farkas, President of NVCRA for the 2025 legislative session. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #11: Proposed Language for R193-22 Relating to Third Party Transcripts: Kevin Diamond presented proposed language relating to third party transcript requests in R193-22, section 4. Upon review and discussion, no further amendments were made. No further comments.

Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board approve the proposed language for R193-22, section 4. The Board will present the language to Senator Daly. Motion seconded by William LaBorde, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #12: Proposed Language for a Certificate by Endorsement: Due to the 2025 legislative session, LCB is unable to address new language at this time. It was suggested to wait until the session was over. LCB feels our proposed language does not fulfill the guidelines for a certificate by endorsement. The proposed language has the same requirements to become certified and does not provide an express certification. No further comments.

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Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board will revisit language relating to a certificate by endorsement and will submit any new language to LCB after the 2025 legislative session. Motion seconded by William LaBorde, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #13: Proposed Language for Remote Proceedings: Kevin Diamond presented proposed language relating to remote proceedings. Upon review, there were no amendments made to the language. No further comments.

Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board approves the proposed language relating to remote proceedings. The Board will submit the language to LCB for drafting. Motion seconded by William LaBorde.

ITEM #14: Language Access Plan: As requested by the Governor's Office of New Americans, Debbie Uehara presented the Board's Language Access Plan and sought public comments. Upon review, no comments were received. No further comments.

Motion by Kevin Diamond: That the Board approves the Language Access Plan and will instruct the Executive Secretary to submit the plan to the Governor's Office of New Americans. Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #15: Certification Exam and Court Reporter Fee Increase: Debbie Uehara reported that the last increase in fees were 18 years ago. Court reporter renewals have declined due to aging out and retiring, out-of-state reporters have terminated their NV certificates to trim their personal budgets and the absence of court reporting schools in Nevada have limited the introduction of new court reporters. Large national firms have purchased multiple Nevada firms, reducing our firm registry. The decline in licensure has created a financial deficit. Ms. Uehara presented 3 proposals for rate increases for the 25/26FY. No further comments.

Motion by William LaBorde: That the Board will increase the court reporter's renewal fee as follows, beginning on July 1, 2025:

Active Status: \$250.00

Inactive Status: \$125.00

Motion seconded by Linda Shaw, all in favor, motion moves forward.

ITEM #16: Nevada Attorney Advertisement Relating to Unlicensed Practices: Kevin Diamond suggested the Board advertise and/or distribute information to Nevada attorneys relating to unlicensed practices. Debbie Uehara suggested contacting former Board member, Lisa McGrane, Executive Director of the State Bar. Ms. McGrane previously offered any services to help educate Nevada attorneys of the laws governing court reporting. The matter was closed without motion. No further comments.

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- ITEM #17: Public Comments:** In regards to agenda item #15, Carre Lewis shared the Association has a donation program which could garner extra funding for the Board. Relating to agenda item #16, Ms. Lewis shared there's a nationwide Facebook page called Protect Your Record Project that promotes protecting your record and provides educational materials and a lot of good reading on this subject. Kim Farkas reminded the Board that NVCRA has the resources and can provide services and funding to advertise, produce flyers, brochures and stickers to help educate the public relating to court reporting laws. NVCRA's next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025 and they will be discussing these matters. Pauline May voiced her support of the fee increase for court reporters. Ms. May stated the Executive Secretary is a great guardian of the revenue and the Board has done a great job ensuring the funds are spent properly. No further comments.
- ITEM #18: Next Open Meeting Date and Agenda Items:** The next meeting date and agenda items will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment: Motion by William LaBorde to adjourn the open meeting at 6:56pm.
Motion seconded by Linda Shaw.