

**COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Office of Court Administration  
Tom C. Clark Building  
205 W. 14th Street, Rm. 605  
Austin, Texas 78701  
**Friday, December 16, 2016**  
(1:00 p.m. Until Adjournment)

The meeting of the Court Reporters Certification Advisory Board (Board) was called to order by the Hon. William Sowder, Presiding Officer, at 1:06 p.m. The members present by teleconference were Judge Sowder, Kim Tindall, Robin Cooksey, and Janice Eidd-Meadows. Whitney Lehmberg Riley appeared in person. Molly Pela and Deborah Hamon did not attend. The staff members present were Jeff Rinard, Michele Henricks, Lesley Ondrechen, Scott Gibson, Chris Nelson, and Socorro Herrera.

Judge Sowder provided opening remarks and welcomed the Board members, thanking committee members and staff for their hard work.

The Board members reviewed and approved the prior Board meeting minutes from the August 12, 2016 meeting.

Jeff Rinard summarized court reporter exam certification requirements for California. During the January 8, 2016 meeting, the Board had voted that the skills portion of the Texas and California examinations were substantially equivalent.

Lesley Ondrechen provided the Board with an overview of the applications for endorsement for California applicants Amy Russell and Latasha Bates who appeared in person.

The Board members reviewed and discussed the applications and materials in making their determinations.

The Board voted to deny the application for endorsement for Amy Russell based on lack of experience. Whitney Lehmberg Riley recused herself.

The Board voted to accept the application for endorsement for Latasha Bates based on experience and other credentials.

The Board considered the proposals from the Texas Court Reporters Association (TCRA) and the Texas Deposition Reporters Association (TEXDRA) regarding proposed continuing education credits for pro bono court reporting services, referencing JBCC continuing education rules.

Following presentations by Cindy Sympson, TCRA Pro Bono Chair, and Susan Perry Miller, TEXDRA President, the matter was referred to a committee for further study. The committee is comprised of Board members, Judge Sowder, Chair, and Molly Pela, and JBCC staff members Jeff Rinard, Scott Gibson, Lesley Ondrechen, and Michele Henricks.

A future Board meeting date was not determined. Judge Sowder requested the Board members

COURT REPORTERS CERTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD  
Minutes of the Meeting

December 16, 2016

meet in person when a meeting date is confirmed. Agenda items mentioned were proposed revisions to the Code of Professional Conduct when completed by the COPC Committee, updates on disciplinary matters, and any other matters before the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



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Judge William C. Sowder  
Presiding Officer



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Date