

CCRA President's Message August 2012:

Good afternoon, CCRA, from your President!

I asked this question of students and reporters on Facebook: What are the Seven Habits of a Highly Successful Court Reporter? Here is what Mikey Moran replied - with special thanks to him and his permission to reprint and with special emphasis on **ONE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HABIT NO. 7:**

1. **Flexibility:** Jobs at depositions and court will be cancelled, sometimes in high frequency. Sometimes you will have to drive in traffic for hours to and from a job. As a newer reporter, you will likely get requested to go out on the jobs that no one else wants to. Be sure to take those in order to build your reputation and credibility with firm owners.
2. **Represent your firm** with the utmost professionalism and remember that you are representing them to the client. **Represent your judge and the court** with the utmost professionalism and remember that you are representing the court, the judge, the public as the neutral and impartial officer of the court. Dress professionally; be courteous and polite towards all, even if it's not always returned; and always be at least 30 minutes early, particularly if you are a new reporter, have a realtime job or are unfamiliar with counsel or how long it will take you to get there.
3. **Network**, network, network. Definitely not exclusive to reporters but to students as well. Attend workshops, seminars and conventions. You never know what job opportunities will come from these events.
4. **Become active** in your state and national associations. By doing so, you will be up to date on trends and news within our profession and you will be supporting those who fight for our rights as reporters.
5. **Never become complacent.** Always look to get the next certification. Not only do more certifications equate to more job opportunities, but they continue to support the fact that the human reporter will always be superior to electronic reporting - not to mention it will add increased respect among your peers and colleagues.
6. **Realtime.** If you aren't doing it, there's no time like the present to start. Mikey says, "I once said that realtime was the future of this profession until one reporter corrected me and said that it is not the future of the profession any longer but rather the present of the profession. How true those words are."
7. **GIVE BACK TO THE PROFESSION.** Whether it's making a donation to your state or national association; becoming a mentor to help a student find their way through court reporting school; volunteering at a convention; or even just answering a question from another reporter or student on one of the many court reporting forums, it is the continued generosity of those within this profession that will help carry on the great tradition of reporters helping reporters from one generation of reporters to the next.

Perhaps the one I like the best is No. 7, the last. Why? It's not one we see very often. CCRA needs you to help us carry on the great tradition of reporters helping and leading reporters from one generation to the next. These are traits that will ultimately make the difference in our future. [JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES.](#) [NOMINATE YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW TO BE ON OUR BOARD!](#)

CCRA's logo is linking hands. They are the hands of students, CART, captioning reporters, officials and freelancers: Reporters helping reporters. Together we can stand united. Together we can accomplish a lot.

Early Langley,
CCRA President