

Hello, again, fellow officials. I had the privilege of sharing Colorado's Realtime Task Force session with a neighboring state last weekend. There were about 20 people that attended the session. When I asked how many of them were signed up to take the CRR, not one hand went up. Not one. I thought about all of you trying so hard, and I just wanted you to know that I am so proud of each and every one of you. You have made the choice to walk through your fear, sign up, pay up and show up.

You're probably saying, "What choice, we HAVE to pass to keep our jobs." I'm here to tell you, it is a choice. There are people who have chosen to not even try, to just retire, to go elsewhere. That would be so much easier and cheaper for you. You keep trying because you are proud to be a court reporter, you have the desire, and in your heart you know you can do this.

Every time we have a jury trial at least one juror will ask me about what I do. When I tell them we have to write 225 words a minute to graduate from reporting school their jaws drop. "Do people really talk that fast?" I'll write a few short sentences for them, something like, "She wore a red hat," something they can read themselves. Then I might show them a brief form, or write their name for them. I especially love it when someone's name is Jane. They can't understand why it's easier to write SKWRAEUPB than to just type out J-a-n-e. Always, their reaction is, "Wow, I don't know how you do that. You are amazing."

It's easy to forget that we are amazing. We go to work every day, do our job, and go home. But we are definitely an elite group. We have a special skill. Many people start reporting school and never make it to graduation. Some make it through school but only work a short time. We need to remind ourselves that we obviously have what it takes, we've come farther than a lot of people who started with us on this journey; and yes, you are amazing! Think about that when you hear the words, "Ready, Begin."