

It is an honor and privilege for me to present the Colorado Court Reporters Association's 2013-2014 Distinguished Service Award. The decision of the DSA Committee was unanimous.

Before revealing this year's DSA recipient, I would like to start off by reading a few of the guidelines for the Distinguished Service Award.

The Colorado Court Reporters Association award for distinguished service to the profession is to recognize exemplary service given for the benefit of the reporting profession. The recipient of the award shall be a CCRA member in good standing; involved in the reporting profession on an extensive level, during which involvement the candidate shall have rendered distinguished service to the profession which contributed to its good reputation, general welfare, or worthy accomplishments, including service rendered to state and other reporting associations, public affairs and public relations, service as an officer, director, committee chair and/or committee member. The recipient shall adhere to CCRA's Code of Ethics and serve as a role model in the reporting profession.

This year's DSA recipient far exceeds all of these guidelines for distinguished service, and is the consummate professional in our reporting profession. In addition, she is a Certified Manager of Reporting Services, a Certified Realtime Reporter, a Registered Merit Reporter, and a Registered Diplomate Reporter.

This year's DSA recipient has a nickname, a moniker, a sobriquet of 99. 99, also known as Kathy Davis. Kathy started her reporting career in 1981 in the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.

Her longtime business partner, Margaret Melander, told me she started her career as an official when she was 18 years old. Her judge, The Honorable Michael Enwall, gave her the nickname of 99 because she's right 99 percent of the time. Judge Enwall used to test her writing skills by reading the Rule 11 Advisements as fast as he could. Apparently, everyone in the courtroom enjoyed watching her write the advisements as her head would bob up and down as she was furiously writing every spoken word. She worked in Boulder until 1987. From 1987 to the present, Kathy has worked in the freelance arena and owned her own freelance firm from 2003 to 2009. She is currently Vice-President of Court Reporting for Agren Blando Court Reporting & Video in Denver, Colorado.

99, aka Kathy Davis, also enjoys a life outside of court reporting. She is an avid poker player. She is an accomplished golfer. She completed a triathlon. Kathy started playing poker 30 years ago with a group of court reporters and law clerks in Boulder District Court. She still, to this day, continues to play poker with six of those coworkers from 30 years ago and they continue to lose the same \$10 to one another. She also learned to play craps. She and her coworkers read the same book on how to play craps and they would all practice playing craps on a felt table they had in a jury room during their lunch hours. This same group of coworkers travelled to Las Vegas to try out their newfound skill and played against each other, much to the amusement of the dealer.

Kathy served as a board member of CCRA in 1988, 1989, and 1990. More recently, she served as a board member, secretary-treasurer, vice-president, and then assumed the role of president in 2010. She has served on numerous CCRA committees, including Officials,

Freelance, seminar committees, Ethics & Grievance, Legislative, Nominating, Student, Membership, and the Realtime Task Force. She regularly volunteers to assist with the NCRA testing throughout the year. Kathy also serves as an Advisory Board Member for Prince Institute - Rocky Mountains.

During her tenure as president of CCRA, Kathy had a vision. She is passionate about the court officials in the state of Colorado and wanted to find a way to assist the officials to become realtime certified, which is mandated by a Chief Justice Directive. Her vision and one of her biggest contributions to CCRA and the reporting profession was her creation of the Realtime Task Force committee. The Realtime Task Force Committee was hugely successful and remains a very active and productive committee of CCRA. In addition to the many duties she had as president, she also served as a member of the Task Force, attended meetings with the Task Force Committee members, and travelled to the various districts across the state to assist with the seminars. When the Task Force was formed in 2011, 26 percent of Colorado's officials were realtime certified. That percent rose to 51 percent in 2013!!

Lastly, I would like to share with you a comment from a nomination form I received for Kathy. "She is seen as a mentor by students and her peers. She demonstrates grace and dignity in the reporting profession and I personally believe we should all try to emulate her. The really great thing about Kathy is that she is NEVER done! There is always more that she wants to do."

Would you please join me in congratulating Kathy Davis as she comes forward to receive the 2013 Distinguished Service Award.