



**MAY – JUN – JUL 1999**

***Catherine Rodriguez 1999 DSA Winner!***



*Catherine Rodriguez  
1999 DSA Recipient*

This year's Distinguished Service Award Recipient graduated from Mile Hi College in 1984. This person has served this association as a board member, secretary, and president, and has chaired the Officials Committee and has helped on the Fundraising Committee. She also is an official reporter and has one of our 21 CICs.

Catherine's judge has this to say about her:

She signed up as a court reporter straight out of reporting school in April 1985 (though her administrator thinks it's 1986). Over the years, while serving on the board of directors of the Court Reporter Association, she risked life and limb while traveling between Alamosa and Denver on I-25.

For fourteen years this quiet, soft-spoken lady has become the quintessential professional court reporter, admired by peers, court personnel, crusty old judges, and a cacophony of noisome lawyers. Always unruffled, she brings peace and tranquility to the tumultuous courtroom scene.

Most recently in the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, she has single-handedly introduced real-time reporting to suspicious judges and bewildered attorneys and has patiently, but doggedly, educated the legal community into the mysteries and wonders of real-time reporting.

On a professional level, she has worked her way up through the ranks to serve as president of the Colorado Court Reporters Association in 1996-1997. At a distance of some 250 miles from the center of the universe (i.e. Denver), she has run up more miles (500 mile round trip) while serving on the board, I dare say, than any other court reporter in Colorado history. (That's probably an exaggeration. Call it judicial hyperbole.)

During her term as president, against all odds, she initiated a page rate increase proposal to the legislature (with judicial icons and bureaucratic officials frowning their disapproval) and WON! As immediate past-president, she continued to work for judicial approval of the legislative fiat accompli. Feathers were ruffled and had to be soothed. Working behind the scene, she skillfully coordinated via telephone with Betsy Murray, lobbyist, and other officers of the board, the association position being threatened by the Chief Justice Committee on Court Reporters.

Not only did she read every document submitted to Chief Judges serving on the committee but she proofread and, unbeknownst to them, corrected their grammar and spelling on one draft proposal after another. Miffed bureaucrats were stunned when the Chief Judges not only recommended the page rate increase, but voted to recommend their support of additional compensation.

Catherine was born and raised in the tiny, but oldest, town in Colorado – San Luis. She was her high school class valedictorian in 1982 and graduated from Mile Hi College with honors in December 1984. Catherine married Rick Rodriguez in June 1985 and is the proud mother of Camille, age 12, and Dominic, age 7.

For these reasons, I unabashedly recommend Catherine for the Court Reporter Trophy of the Year – or whatever you call it.

Signed, Robert W. Ogburn, Chief Judge.

Congratulations to the 1999 Distinguished Service Award Recipient, Catherine Rodriguez.

**COLORADO COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION**

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