



# UNITY SUMMIT

Where the Court Reporting Industry Moves Forward



## Unity Summit Conference Agenda

### Thursday, 05/14/26

Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
9:00 AM	5:00 PM		User Group 1		
9:00 AM	5:00 PM		User Group 2		
9:00 AM	5:00 PM		User Group 3		
12:00 PM	5:00 PM		AAERT Board Meeting		
12:00 PM	5:00 PM		STAR Board Meeting		
1:45 PM	2:00 PM		User Groups Break		
2:00 PM	5:30 PM		Registration		
6:00 PM	11:45 PM		Exhibitor Setup		
6:00 PM	8:30 PM		Opening Reception		

### Friday, 05/14/26

Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
8:00 AM	5:15 PM		Registration		
8:00 AM	5:15 PM		Exhibitor Area		



Friday, 05/14/26 (Continued)					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	1	Vendor Session ADVANTAGE SOFTWARE  "I Identify as a Court Reporter": Protecting the Integrity of the Record	When a realtime-certified reporter is called to cover a capital murder trial remotely, the stakes are extraordinarily high. Amy Armstrong shares her experience reporting multiple death penalty trials for Florida's 10th Judicial Circuit and the realities of managing complex proceedings from a remote seat. Through this firsthand account, she highlights why the skill, judgment, and accountability of a certified human reporter remain essential to protecting the integrity of the official record.	Amy Armstrong
8:30 AM	9:30 AM	2	Vendor Session DEPOSELY  Inside the Litigator's Playbook: How the Deposition Record Shapes Case Strategy	Court reporters capture deposition testimony with precision and neutrality, but its impact extends far beyond the deposition itself. This session explores how attorneys use transcripts and realtime testimony to shape case strategy, from identifying contradictions to preparing witnesses and evaluating settlement positions. Attendees will gain insight into how lawyers analyze transcripts and why the accuracy, structure, and clarity of the record are critical to litigation outcomes.	Mitchell Kossoris Amy Vandamme
9:30 AM	10:00 AM		Exhibition (Coffee Break)		



**Friday, 05/14/26 (Continued)**

Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	3	Vendor Session DraftTheRecord  Case Study: Integrating AI- Assisted Tools Into a Human- Centered Reporting Workflow	This session explores how Superior Reporting Services integrated AI-assisted tools into its reporting and transcription workflow to expand capacity and improve turnaround times. Attendees will learn how the company shifted transcription staff into scoping-focused roles while maintaining human oversight of accuracy, speaker identification, and terminology. Through this practical case study, the session highlights workflow design, implementation, and lessons learned for agencies and reporting professionals evaluating similar technology-assisted approaches.	Billy Alfred Adnan Sherif
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	4	NCSC Whitepaper Overview: AI in the Courts	This session reviews the National Center for State Courts' whitepaper on artificial intelligence in the judicial system, featuring guidance from the NCSC's AI Rapid Response Team. Attendees will explore principles for the efficient, responsible, and ethical use of AI within the judicial and reporting environment.	Dr. Diane Robinson
11:00 AM	11:30 AM		Break		



Friday, 05/14/26 (Continued)

Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
11:30 AM	12:30 PM	5	Vendor Session REV  Evolving Deposition Workflows: Technology and the Human Professional	As technology evolves, court reporting professionals and legal service providers are adapting how deposition testimony is captured, produced, and delivered. This panel explores how new tools are being integrated into reporting workflows while maintaining the accuracy, reliability, and professional standards required for the official record. Attendees will hear practical perspectives on balancing innovation with proven practices and building sustainable service models in a changing legal landscape.	Moderator: Alyssa Hosseini Panel: Liz Dwyer David Greenblatt Kaci Hardin Ely Cohn
12:30 PM	2:00 PM		Exhibition/Lunch		
2:00 PM	3:30 PM	6	Capture This: Many Paths to Making The Record	The official record is built through the skill, judgment, and ethics of trained professionals who safeguard accuracy and trust in the legal process. This interactive session highlights the professionals behind the transcript, including stenographers, voice writers, digital reporters, transcriptionists, scopists, proofreaders, and legal videographers. Through candid conversation, panelists share real-world challenges, professional standards, and the service mindset that protects the integrity of the record and strengthens the justice system. By illuminating the professionals behind the transcript, this session celebrates mastery, highlights shared responsibility, and invites attendees to actively shape the future of court reporting with confidence, unity, and purpose.	Andrea Wecker



Friday, 05/14/26 (Continued)

Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
3:30 PM	4:00 PM		Exhibition (snacks)		
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	7	Court Reporting Through the Decades	Take a trip through time with this engaging look at the evolution of court reporting. This session explores the tools, workflows, and practices that reporters relied on in earlier decades, long before today's technology transformed the profession. Through stories and examples, attendees will see how those methods shaped the standards, skills, and traditions that continue to define the profession today.	Jen Krueger Kelly Moranz Kolleen Barnes Sara Giammanco
4:00 PM	5:00 PM	8	Navigating Today's Legal Video Landscape	Inconsistent practices among legal videographers can create challenges for reporters, agencies, and attorneys who rely on clear, reliable video records. This session explores how the legal videography field is evolving and what professionals should know when selecting, scheduling, or working alongside a videographer. Attendees will also learn about emerging efforts to strengthen education, standards, and professional development within the field, and how a better understanding of legal videography can benefit both practitioners and the clients they serve.	Tim Falk



Saturday, 05/15/26						
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator	
8:30 AM	4:30 PM		Registration			
8:30 AM	6:00 PM		Exhibits			
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	9	The Business of You: Treating Yourself Like a Brand	This session highlights how reporters have used creativity and marketing skills to grow their client base. Attendees will hear real-world examples of effective strategies, from business cards and promotional materials to social media and online presence. The session offers practical insights reporters can apply to build visibility, attract clients, and strengthen their professional brand.	Sara Giammanco	
9:00 AM	10:00 AM	10	Creating the Record Today: Professionals, Technology, and the Path Forward	The creation of the official record relies on the skill and judgment of trained professionals, even as new technologies and workflows reshape how testimony is captured and used. This panel brings together leaders from reporting, transcription, legal services, and technology to explore how the record is created today. Panelists will discuss how professionals and technology work together, how workflows are evolving, and what steps the profession can take to keep the record accurate, trusted, and defensible in a changing legal landscape.	Moderator: Matt Riley Mona Datt Avi Stadler, Esq. Vickie Wiechec Sue LaPooh	
10:00 AM	10:30 AM		Exhibition (snacks)			



Saturday, 05/15/26 (Continued)					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	11	Partnering for Success: What Agencies and Providers Value Most	Join this candid, interactive session exploring how agencies and service providers can build stronger, more rewarding partnerships. Attendees will learn what top talent looks for in assignments, what keeps them engaged, and how agencies decide who receives the most desirable work. Whether you're an agency aiming to attract exceptional professionals or a provider seeking to rise to the top of the call list, you'll gain practical insights to become a preferred choice.	
10:30 AM	11:30 AM	12	Work Smarter, Not Harder: A Showcase of Apps and Hacks for Court Reporters and Transcribers	Feeling overwhelmed by endless tasks? This session shows how to use smart technology to streamline your workflow, reduce mental fatigue, and take control of your tools. Attendees will learn practical strategies to work more efficiently and make technology support rather than complicate their day.	Michael Duffy Emily Rivera
11:30 AM	11:45 AM		Exhibition		
11:45 AM	12:45 PM		AAERT/STAR Leadership Townhall Meeting		
12:45 PM	2:30 PM		Exhibition/Lunch		
2:30 PM	3:30 PM		STAR Annual Membership Meeting		



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Saturday, 05/15/26 (Continued)					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
3:30 PM	4:30 PM		AAERT Annual Membership Meeting		
6:00 PM	8:00 PM		Music City Social (Ticketed event)		
Sunday, 05/16/26					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
7:30 AM	1:30 PM		Registration		
7:30 AM	12:30 PM		Exhibition		
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	13	Under the Hood: How Speech Recognition Engines Really Work	This session explores modern speech recognition technologies and their role in court reporting and legal transcription workflows. Attendees will learn the key differences between automatic speech recognition systems and speaker-dependent voice models, and how each impacts accuracy, training, and efficiency. The session also compares Dragon and Speechmatics, highlighting performance, customization, and ideal use cases. Participants will gain practical insights on when and how to integrate Speechmatics into existing reporting workflows.	Amy Armstrong
9:00 AM	9:30 AM		Exhibition (snacks)		



Sunday, 05/16/26 ( Continued)					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	14	Vendor Session STENOGRAPH  Operational Excellence in Transcript Production and Delivery	Reporters and agencies face growing pressure to deliver transcripts faster while maintaining accuracy and quality. This session explores practical strategies for improving transcript production from start to finish. Attendees will learn how workflow design, clear control points, and simple quality checks can reduce friction and create more predictable turnaround times. The discussion also highlights how technology-assisted tools and operational metrics can help teams work more efficiently without compromising consistency or reliability.	Ashley Springer
9:30 AM	10:30 AM	15	Industry Best Practices: Retention, Storage, and Security	Wondering how long to keep electronic transcripts, audio recordings, or supporting documents? This panel explores records storage rules and practices within the courts, with insights specifically for court reporting. Representatives from agencies, the courts, and independent practitioners will share industry standards, jurisdiction-specific practices, and practical storage methods. The session will also include real-world experiences and a Q&A to address audience questions.	Panel Moderator: Janet Harris, Panelists: Lisa Angel (TN AOC), Jennifer Lindeman (IC), Sandy Wilson, Sam Mattern
10:30 AM	10:45 AM		Exhibition (coffee)		



Sunday, 05/16/26 ( Continued)					
Start Time	End Time	Session #	Title	Description	Speaker/Moderator
10:45 AM	11:45 AM	16	From Opportunity to Longevity: Building a Career That Lasts	Success today requires more than strong skills. This session covers practical strategies for marketing yourself, interviewing confidently, and building a personal brand that attracts opportunities. Speakers will share tips on standing out to agencies, managing multiple workloads, setting boundaries, and staying organized. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas to strengthen their professional reputation and build a sustainable, successful career.	Deanna Oaks Susan LaPooh
11:45 AM	12:15 PM		Exhibition (heavy snacks)		
12:15 PM	1:15 PM	17	Owning the Room and Your Role	Everyone faces moments when a single conversation can shape how they and their profession are perceived. In this session, Andrea Wecker, President of STAR, and Matt Riley, Executive Director of AAERT, share strategies for navigating high-pressure interactions with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders. Attendees will learn practical approaches to communicate clearly, stay composed, and reinforce their professionalism. The session provides tips to protect credibility, maintain confidence, and handle unexpected challenges with calm and effectiveness.	Matt Riley Andrea Wecker
12:15 PM	3:00 PM		Exhibitor Teardown		