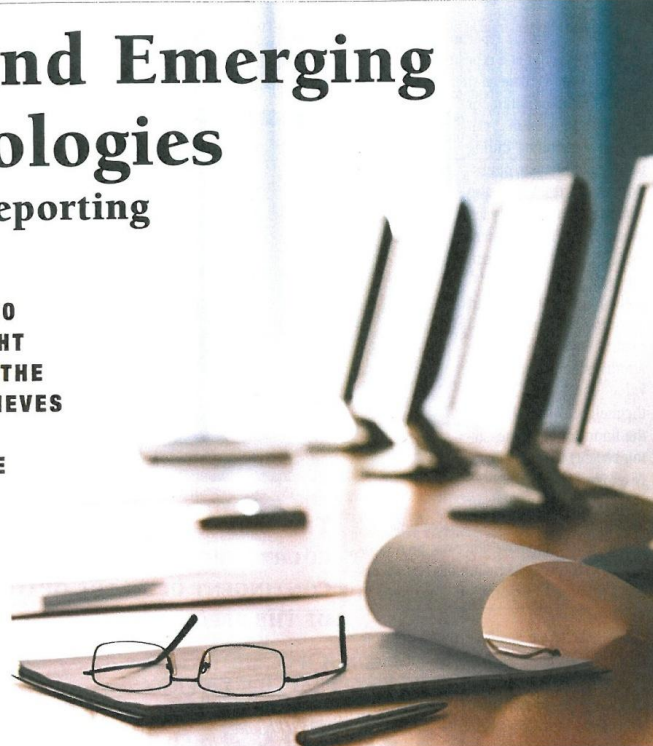


Technology in Court Reporting

# New and Emerging Technologies in Court Reporting

**KNOWING HOW TO  
DEPLOY THE RIGHT  
TECHNOLOGY AT THE  
RIGHT TIME ACHIEVES  
RESULTS AND  
ENHANCES VALUE**



BY LISA CENSULLO

The right court reporting technology at the right time is critical — especially in litigation. Technology can provide a competitive edge, simplifying a complicated case for juries by integrating documents, videos, transcripts and other information. Or, it can be a thorn if it is not understood and utilized to its full potential.

As a paralegal and a key member of a legal team, it's crucial to know how to take advantage of current court reporting technologies, as well as emerging technologies that have innate value and vast potential for the savvy user.

The different aspects of reporting technology designed for the legal community are now coming together in such a way that the collective benefits of this technology cannot be denied. There's no time like the present to embrace these new tools and use them to your advantage.

The legal industry, like every other industry in today's economy, is seeking greater value and clients are demanding it. Newer, more efficient court reporting technologies provide long-term value through cost savings and process efficiencies. For example, now a legal team

can view a deposition from remote locations, as well as actively participate, without having to bear the personal demands of travel and accrue the added cost. More effective, integrated technologies not only simplify a case for a jury; they can be helpful in analyzing trial strategy and preparing a more compelling case. In short, technology provides both cost and competitive value.

Let's take a look at a few of the reporting technologies that can provide a competitive edge.

## **REALTIME COURT REPORTING**

Realtime court reporting provides instant translation for display to the legal team — whether they are onsite, or in another city or country. With Realtime court reporting, attorneys have access to transcripts instantaneously and can search and even annotate text during proceedings.

Picture a deposition in New York — three attorneys in the

## Technology in Court Reporting

room. With Realtime reporting, attorneys in San Francisco can view the transcript of a deposition, arbitration, trial or hearing at the same time as those on site, and have the same functionality to make notes, annotate or highlight an issue so it can be easily identified during review and strategy discussions. Legal teams can also communicate with each other from the different locations utilizing instant messaging.

Although Realtime court reporting is simple and readily available, many attorneys don't realize the value until they use it themselves. When they do, the financial and time-saving benefits are immediately recognizable.

For your firm and your clients, this service saves valuable time and money that would have otherwise been associated with travel, including the cost of airfare, ground transportation, lodging and other incidentals.

The benefits of Realtime court reporting don't end there. Thanks to this technology and Realtime court reporters' abilities, hearing impaired judges, jurors, litigants and others can now fully participate in legal proceedings. In fact, numerous legal professionals who are hearing impaired indicate a preference toward Realtime reporting rather than working with a sign language interpreter.

Realtime court reporters generally command a higher fee, but provide greater value and a more superior product — which is essential in order for the transcript to be viewed instantaneously without the benefit of the editing process. There are many providers of this technology, but you should coordinate with your attorney(s) in terms of what they would like to use as they have or will have the actual application on their laptop or desktop. If the attorney is not sure about the technology, consult with the court reporter or court reporting firm.

The true success of Realtime court reporting is always contingent upon the quality of the reporter.

### **ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES**

Electronic or e-signatures enable court reporters to digitally verify and sign a transcript. This protects the integrity of the document. When a reporter electronically signs a transcript, the entire document is mathematically analyzed to produce a digital "fingerprint,"

which is then encrypted along with a unique digital I.D. Upon receipt, the "fingerprint" and I.D. are checked. If even a single character has been changed, the transcript will fail to verify.



**THE TRUE SUCCESS OF REALTIME COURT REPORTING IS ALWAYS CONTINGENT UPON THE QUALITY OF THE REPORTER.**

The integrity of the transcript record is of the utmost importance. As an officer of the court, it is the reporter's responsibility to ensure that the transcripts are complete, accurate and unbiased. The court reporter, along with you, your attorneys and your clients must be certain that the transcript is a verbatim record. Electronic signatures help provide this certainty.

As electronic filing becomes more and more prevalent, the importance of secure e-signatures will only become more critical because it provides an extra layer of security that did not exist in the past.

This year even more secure, proprietary forms of electronic signature technologies will be coming online — so be on the lookout for opportunities to maximize this verification tool.

As far as new technologies on the market, Transcript Management is one of the most exciting and relevant products for the legal community.

### **VIDEO SYNCHRONIZATION**

Video synchronization is basically the ability to take a video deposition and synchronize it to the text of a transcript and pertinent exhibits.

Newer solutions integrate video synchronization with more robust transcript management functionalities. When you open the viewer, you can watch the video, search the transcript and locate a specific portion of the video.

You are also able to click on an exhibit that is linked to the transcript and open that exhibit. In addition, you can capture still images; export full transcripts to trial presentation software packages; find critical words quickly with a word index; include personal notes and redact confidential information.

You can then create text and media clips and export to PowerPoint®, creating a compelling trial-ready CD or DVD — mak-

ing obsolete the need to rewind and fast-forward in order to find what is needed during a trial, which often disrupts flow and loses the attention of the judge and jury.

The edge it provides in both preparing a case and presenting it to a jury is intrinsic as our society continues to utilize multi-media technology in their day-to-day lives.

**CLIENT PORTALS**

Online scheduling of depositions isn't new, but innovations and greater functionalities through online client portals can save time and money while simplifying certain administrative processes including: booking a deposition; cancelling, changing or modifying a deposition; reviewing an upcoming calendar; sharing a calendar with co-counsel; reviewing transcripts, invoices and statements online and providing payment using a credit card.

This technology will also enable you to store and download transcripts and exhibits through one portal — making it easier to locate information as it is needed.

Different court reporters and court reporting firms utilize various forms of this technology — but the creation of a one-stop shop will make these day-to-day activities much easier for legal teams to manage.

There are many new technologies coming online for the legal profession — and many that are in development. As we adopt these advances, it's important to

remember that it's the people behind the technology who actually make it work to its full potential. Technology, like people, can make or break a case. Staying ahead of the technology curve, communicating its long-term value to your team and smart utilization are the keys to success.

Lisa Censullo combines a 20+ year background in technology with a 10+ year business background. Censullo has served as SVP at a leading litigation support company, where she oversaw global court reporting,

litigation support and transcription. She is now the COO of Alexander Gallo Holdings LLC, parent company of Esquire Solutions; she also served as CIO at Alexander Gallo Holdings. In these roles, she has been responsible for managing the organization's strategies for technology, internal operations and client-facing initiatives, as well as for developing and executing the company's integration strategy for mergers and acquisitions. For more details visit [alexandergalloholdings.com](http://alexandergalloholdings.com) or [esquiresolutions.com](http://esquiresolutions.com).

**ONLINE SCHEDULING OF DEPOSITIONS ISN'T NEW, BUT INNOVATIONS AND GREATER FUNCTIONALITIES THROUGH ONLINE CLIENT PORTALS SAVE TIME AND MONEY...**



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