



The Court Report

An Update for Court Industry Workers Throughout SEIU Local 521

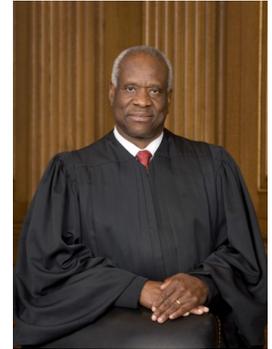
Court workers take action



Court workers take action at multiple events in February. Top left: Court workers engage in a lobby day in Sacramento. Top right and bottom: Workers stand united at the San Mateo County Courthouse in support of the SEIU 521 bargaining team.

Thomas unplugged

In January, Justice Clarence Thomas spoke out in oral arguments for the first time in nearly seven years. However, due to a problem with the electronic recording devices used by the Supreme Court, the first released copy of the court transcript recorded his comment as, "Well—he did not—." While the company that does the transcriptions from the electronic recordings later updated the record, it shows that even in cases where there are no budget constraints, creating an accurate record from electronic recordings will always be hit or miss.



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

Another View: Court reporting laws protect litigants

By Kristi Garcia and Doreen Perkins



Doreen Perkins Kristi Garcia

The Bee editorial on court reporting ("State courts must enter the electronic age"; Editorials, Feb. 1) tells a tidy story that fits satisfyingly into preconceptions about government waste and powerful

interests. There's one problem with such simple fables, however: Reality is rarely so uncomplicated.

Let's start in the courtroom. It is a complex environment, with multiple voices, often in conflict, with some conversations being privileged. What could possibly go wrong with a simple electronic recording of all this?

A lot, it turns out. A cough in the gallery, a passing truck, variations in volume, cross-talk, heavily accented speech, names and legal terminology prove surprisingly difficult for transcribers working from a

distance. Equipment failures and operator error are widespread. The result? Inaccurate and incomplete records of judicial events that people's lives depend on.

In the rush to modernize and save money, courts across the country have sacrificed the core purpose of keeping court records. For matters related to a person's innocence or guilt, few dispute the importance of a court reporter's presence. Wisely, California's Legislature has recognized family matters and juvenile matters heard before a judge are, likewise, momentous and, therefore, require the best available technology: a technology-equipped, trained and certified human professional. Too many courts in California are flouting these laws, thus depriving families and children of the records they need to appeal any miscarriage of justice...

Read the rest of this article online at: <http://www.seiu521.org/courts>



Fulfill Your College Goals with a SEIU International or Local 521 Scholarship*

College goals can be expensive. To help Local 521 members fulfill these educational goals SEIU International awards scholarships through four scholarship programs, and Local 521 awards scholarships through two other scholarship programs. These scholarships enable members and their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

SEIU International Lottery Scholarships

15—\$1,000 scholarships renewable for up to four years
33—\$1,500 scholarships for one year of study

SEIU International Moe Foner Scholarship

1—\$5,000 scholarship awarded to a full time student pursuing a degree or training in the visual or performing arts, who believes these arts can advance social change.

SEIU International Jesse Jackson Scholarship

1—\$5,000 scholarship renewable for up to four years awarded to a student whose work and aspirations for economic and social justice reflect the values and accomplishments of the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

SEIU International Bonnie Ladin Scholarship

2—\$2,500 one time scholarships awarded each year to a student who will be attending the National Labor College Bachelor of Arts program.

SEIU International National Labor College Scholarship

SEIU International Nora Piore scholarship

1-\$4,000 and is renewable for up to two years.

***The deadline for SEIU International scholarships listed above is March 1, 2013.**

SEIU Local 521 Clarence Dodge Scholarship

This scholarship is named after Legacy Local 715's first president, Clarence Dodge, and provides 10 winners with \$1,500 each for their first year of study.

***The deadline for Clarence Dodge Local 521 scholarship is March 29, 2013.**

For more information about these scholarships, visit our website:

<http://www.seiu521.org/scholarships>.

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