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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **NCRF presents New Professional Reporter Grant to local student** *Valerie Melkus, RPR, named recipient*

**RESTON, Va., Aug. 12, 2017** — The National Court Reporters Foundation (NCRF), the philanthropic arm of the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA), presented the 2017 Robert H. Clark Scholarship to Valerie Melkus, RPR, from Charleston, S.C. NCRA is the country's leading organization representing stenographic court reporters, broadcast and CART captioners, and legal videographers. The announcement was made at a special awards luncheon held during The NCRA Convention & Expo in Las Vegas, Nev., taking place Aug. 10-13.

NCRF awards the annual New Professional Reporter Grant to a reporter who is in his or her first year of work, has graduated within a year from an NCRA-approved court reporting program, and meets specific criteria, including a grade point average of 3.5 or above, a letter of recommendation, and active work in any of the career paths of judicial (official/freelance), CART, or captioning, among other criteria. The grant is in the amount of \$2,000.

Melkus, a graduate of the College of Court Reporting in Valparaiso, Ind., is the 13th recipient of NCRF's New Professional Reporter Grant. She was recommended by J. Lynn Clark, RMR, president of Clark & Associates.

"I have been reporting and training new reporters since 1979. Valerie has been the most impressive new reporter I have ever had the pleasure to work with," Clark wrote in her recommendation. "I feel like I have hit a court reporting home run with Valerie. She loves learning new things and implementing them in her writing. Her enthusiasm for court reporting is contagious."

To learn more about NCRF's scholarships and grants, visit [NCRA.org/NCRF/Scholarships](http://NCRA.org/NCRF/Scholarships).

For more information, visit [NCRA.org](http://NCRA.org). Career information about the court reporting profession—one of the leading career options that does not require a traditional four-year degree—can be found at [DiscoverSteno.com](http://DiscoverSteno.com).

#### About NCRA

*The National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) is internationally recognized for promoting excellence among those who capture and convert the spoken word to text for more than 100 years. NCRA is committed to supporting its more than 16,000 members in achieving the highest level of professional expertise with educational opportunities and industry-recognized court reporting, educator and videographer certification programs. NCRA impacts legislative issues and the global marketplace through its actively involved membership. Forbes has named court reporting as one of the best career options that do not require a traditional four-year degree and the U.S. Bureau of*



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*Labor Statistics reports that the court reporting field is expected to grow by 14 percent through the year 2020. For more information, visit [NCRA.org](http://NCRA.org).*