The Board of Certified Shorthand Reporters (BCSR) licenses and disciplines shorthand reporters, recognizes court reporting schools and administers the Transcript Reimbursement Fund, which provides shorthand reporting services to low-income litigants otherwise unable to afford such services.

The Board consists of five members, three public and two from the industry, who serve four-year terms. The two industry members must have been actively engaged as shorthand reporters in California for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

Examinations. The results from the last exam indicate a 47% pass rate, which is an increase over the previous exam pass rate of 35%. The Board has been reviewing examination contents and administration procedures to determine whether changes are needed to facilitate higher passage rates. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 67; Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) p. 98; and Vol. 7, No. 1 (Winter 1987) pp. 59-60.) Only two items have been removed from the exam, one item from each section. To pass the recent exam, a candidate must have correctly answered 70% of 99 items on the English portion and 75% of 59 items on the professional portion.

Citation and Fine Programs. The Board is studying a list of recommendations presented by a committee which is composing guidelines for the citation and fine program under SB 2335 (Montoya). (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 67; Vol. 7, No. 3 (Summer 1987) pp. 58-60; and Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring 1987) p. 68 for background information.) The Board believes delinquent transcripts should be one of the first priorities of the program. The Board expressed interest in making program guidelines available to CSRs before the program takes effect. The committee was scheduled to meet in January to assess priorities and discuss any necessary regulations. Legal counsel Barbara King informed the Board that even if the maximum fine of $2,500 were imposed on a CSR for an infraction, the payment of such a fine does not constitute an admission of guilt.

LEGISLATION:

AB 182 (Harris), signed by the Governor September 9, states that in any case where the death penalty may be imposed, all proceedings shall be conducted with a court reporter present using computer-aided transcription equipment (CAT). The court may waive the CAT requirement if it finds the equipment is not available. Failure to comply with this section is not grounds for reversal.

AB 1532 (Leslie) would add section 271 to the Code of Civil Procedure requiring the Judicial Council to assess the costs, benefits, and acceptability of utilizing video recording as a means of producing a verbatim record of proceedings. This bill would require the Judicial Council to report the results of its study to the legislature before January 1, 1989, and would appropriate $224,000 to fund it. AB 1532 is currently a two-year bill.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

To be announced.

STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD

Registrar: Mary Lynn Ferreira (916) 924-2291

The Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) licenses structural pest control operators and field representatives. The latter can function only under a licensed operator and secure pest control work for the operator. Each structural pest control firm is required to have one licensed operator, regardless of the number of branches the firm operates. A licensed field representative can also hold an operator's license.

Licensees are classified as: (1) Branch 1, Fumigation, the control of household and wood-destroying pests by fumigants (tenting); (2) Branch 2, General Pest, the control of general pests without fumigants; or (3) Branch 3, Termite, the control of wood-destroying organisms with insecticides, but not with the use of fumigants, and including authority to perform structural repairs and corrections. An operator can be licensed in all three branches, but more often will limit the variety of his or her expertise for purposes of efficiency and subcontract out to other firms.

SPCB also issues applicator certificates. These other unbilicensed individuals, employed by licensees, are required to take a written exam on pesticide equipment, formulation, application and label directions if they apply pesticides. Such certificates are not transferable from one company to another.

SPCB is comprised of four public and three industry representatives. At its October 3 meeting, the Board elected new officers, including James Steffenson as Board President and Paul Laemmle as Vice President.

MAJOR PROJECTS:

New Microfilm Equipment. At the December Board meeting, SPCB Registrar Mary Lynn Ferreira reported that due to a budget problem, the Board's term "making" broken down into recording and transcribing, with more emphasis placed on transcribing. This would result in a more accurate petition and work sheet filed by the exam candidate. The Board was scheduled to formally vote on whether to pursue this regulatory change at its February meeting.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Richard Black

(916) 445-5101