TCRA PERSUADES THE TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO VOTE TO ENDORSE COURT REPORTER LICENSURE; THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS DEFERS THE ISSUE.

SO WHATS NEXT, YOU ASK?

It's time for action! It's time to contact lawyers (and judges, if comfortable in doing so appropriately) to garner even greater support of TCRAs efforts with regard to court reporter licensure. The TBA House of Delegates voted to endorse the concept of court reporter licensure by 22-12 on January 16. This vote took place after all questions were addressed and after approx. 45 minutes of discussion. However, the TBA Board of Governors deferred the issue until its April meeting. What does this mean? Between now and the April meeting, we believe TBA will state that the official position is to continue to oppose. As requested by the TBA, the TCRA Lobbyist and Legislative Committee will work with the TBA lobbyists and Executive Committee, as we have tirelessly done in the past. The language is being finalized and will be presented to the TBA as soon as possible, but in the meantime we need to ask the members of the Board of Governors to support and approve the previous vote of the House of Delegates. This is where your contact with your attorney clients is crucial, asking them to contact the Board of Governors and informing the Board that they support court reporter licensure. Remember, it was 22-12 in favor to endorse, and TCRAs goal continues to be that we work together on this!

The vote by the House of Delegates in favor by almost a two-to-one margin is huge! We have accomplished a lot. Many lawyers are on our side, but we need more support. That's where you come in and where your help is vital.

Here are some key points for your consideration and use in your contact:

The concern by some members of the legal community that licensure of court reporters will drive up reporters fees and transcript costs is unwarranted; the anticipated $100 or so cost of the license is very minimal. We are surrounded by states
that already have licensure and there has been no increase in fees as a result of their programs.

Licensure will not put any reporter in the state out of business, no matter what method or means they use to make the record.

Licensure will not dictate to attorneys who they can or cannot hire. You will continue to choose your reporters in the same way you always have.

Without licensure, you have no procedure to seek help should you encounter a problem with a reporters conduct or work product.

If the person who cuts your hair, manicures your nails, or massages your sore muscles is required to have a license in Tennessee, don't you agree the person who serves the critical function of accurately reporting your deposition or trial should be held to the same type of standard?

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