

No. S288176

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
CALIFORNIA**

**FAMILY VIOLENCE APPELLATE PROJECT and
BAY AREA LEGAL AID,**

Petitioners,

vs.

**SUPERIOR COURTS OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTIES OF
CONTRA COSTA, LOS ANGELES, SANTA CLARA, and
SAN DIEGO,**

Respondents.

PETITIONERS' MOTION FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

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REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to California Rules of Court Rules 8.252, subdivision (a), and Evidence Code sections 452 and 459, Petitioners Family Violence Appellate Project and Bay Area Legal Aid (“Petitioners”) respectfully ask this Court to take judicial notice of the statistics set forth in the Declaration of Bryanna Walker filed herewith.

Petitioners’ Motion is based on this motion, the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the accompanying Declaration of Bryanna Walker, and all other papers and proceedings in the above-entitled action.

DATED: May 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Sonya D. Winner

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

On January 20, 2026, Amici Service Employees International Union California State Council, et al. (“SEIU Amici”) filed a motion asking this Court to take judicial notice of certain figures that an employee of their counsel counted in reviewing a database of certified shorthand reporter licenses maintained by the California Court Reporters Board and accessible from the Board’s website. SEIU Amici’s declarant counted the number of new court reporter licenses issued in California each year from 2018 through 2025, as well as a breakdown of those totals for 2023 through 2025 by “voice writer,” “steno machine,” and “dual.” (SEIU Amici’s Motion at p. 4; Declaration of Hulices Murill, Ex. A.) On February 4, 2026, Petitioners opposed SEIU Amici’s motion and, in the alternative, asked the Court to grant judicial notice of additional statistics submitted by Petitioners’ counsel. On May 8, 2026, this Court granted SEIU Amici’s motion and denied Petitioners’ request in the alternative “without prejudice to a motion in proper form.”

Petitioners hereby renew their request that the Court take judicial notice of the following statistics:

- As of January 23, 2026, of the 5,637 active Certified Shorthand Reporter (“CSR”) licenses, 2,501 licenses (or 44.45 percent) were issued prior to January 1, 1996. (Declaration of Bryanna Walker (“Walker Decl.”), ¶ 8.)
- As of January 23, 2026, of the 5,637 active CSR licenses, 910 licenses (or 16.14 percent) were issued prior to January 1, 1986. (*Id.* ¶ 9.)

- Between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025, a total of 782 licenses became delinquent, canceled, revoked, or attached to a licensee reported as deceased. (*Id.* ¶ 14.) Specifically,
 - 757 licenses became delinquent, 537 licenses (or 70.94 percent) of which were issued prior to 1996. (*Id.* ¶ 12 & fn. 3.)
 - Ten licenses were canceled, four licenses were revoked, and eleven licensees were reported as deceased. (*Id.* ¶ 13.)

These statistics are subject to judicial notice under Evidence Code section 452, subdivision (h), which provides that courts may take judicial notice of “[f]acts and propositions that are not reasonably subject to dispute and are capable of immediate and accurate determination by resort to sources of reasonably indisputable accuracy.” As SEIU Amici argued, and this Court accepted, the above statistics can be readily verified using publicly available information from the California Court Reporters Board website. Courts routinely take judicial notice of similar information from public agencies. (See, e.g., *In re N.C.* (2016) 4 Cal.App.5th 1235, 1253, fn. 15; *Sanchez v. City of Modesto* (2007) 145 Cal.App.4th 660, 666 & fn. 1; *Bennett v. Livermore Unified School Dist.* (1987) 193 Cal.App.3d 1012, 1015, fn. 2.)

These statistics are relevant to this case because they provide additional context to the statistics that SEIU Amici submitted (and which this Court has judicially noticed). Without

this additional context, SEIU Amici's statistics present an incomplete and misleading picture of the data, when a more comprehensive review shows precisely the opposite of what SEIU Amici claim. Rather than showing a potentially meaningful improvement in the court reporter shortage, the data actually confirm that the shortage has grown more severe and will likely continue to do so.

SEIU Amici argue that the statistics they submitted show that the number of court reporter licenses issued annually in California were higher in 2023-2025 than they had been in 2018-2022, with the highest number of new licenses in recent years (359) issued in 2025. (SEIU's Motion at pp. 4-5.) However, the addition of new licensees cannot create even incremental improvement in the court reporter shortage unless and until the number of those entering the profession exceeds the number leaving it. And the data that SEIU Amici point to demonstrate that this has not happened. A simple count of that data (the same methodology used by SEIU Amici's declarant) reveals that the number of court reporters who *left* active status in 2023-2025 was higher than the number of new licensees who *entered* the profession – 782 departures versus 594 additions, for a net *loss* of 188 court reporters statewide. (Walker Decl. ¶¶ 10, 14.) This decline seems all but certain to continue in the coming years, as more than 44 percent of all active court reporters in California received their licenses more than 30 years ago, while 16 percent were licensed more than 40 years ago. (*Id.* ¶¶ 8-9.) This is consistent with information already in the record confirming that

a very large percentage of the Respondent Courts' court reporters are at – or already past – retirement age.¹

For the foregoing reasons, Petitioners respectfully request that the Court grant judicial notice of the statistics set forth in the Walker Declaration filed herewith.

DATED: May 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Sonya D. Winner

Sonya D. Winner

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¹ See Petition ¶¶ 34-40; Petition Appx. 235 (LASC General Order) (showing that as of January 2024, 72 percent of LASC's court reporters were retirement eligible); CCSC General Order at pp. 3-4 (showing that as of December 2024, almost 60 percent of CCSC's court reporters (10 out of 17) were eligible for retirement).

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FAMILY VIOLENCE APPELLATE
PROJECT and BAY AREA LEGAL
AID,

Petitioners,

v.

SUPERIOR COURTS OF
CALIFORNIA, COUNTIES OF
CONTRA COSTA, LOS ANGELES,
SANTA CLARA, and SAN DIEGO,

Respondents.

**DECLARATION OF
BRYANNA WALKER
IN SUPPORT OF
PETITIONERS'
MOTION FOR
JUDICIAL NOTICE**

I, Bryanna Walker, declare as follows:

1. I make this declaration in support of
Petitioners' Motion for Judicial Notice in the above titled action.

I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth below, and if
called as a witness, I could testify competently to these facts.

2. I am an attorney licensed and admitted to
practice in the State of California.

3. I am an associate attorney at the law firm of
Covington & Burling LLP, co-counsel for Petitioner Family
Violence Appellate Project in this matter.

4. On January 23, 2026, I reviewed and analyzed
publicly available information regarding the current state of
court reporter licenses in California issued by the Court
Reporters Board of California.

5. I completed this analysis and compiled relevant information by taking the following steps:

6. I navigated to the “Public License Search” section of the Court Reporters Board of California website, located at

<https://connect.courtreportersboard.ca.gov/public/licensesearch/cr>

b. Under “License Type,” I selected “Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR).”¹

7. I reviewed active licenses by searching “Active” under “License Status,” removing all delinquent, revoked, cancelled, and suspended licenses. The search generated a list of all active CSRs in California (including each licensee’s name, license status, address, license issuance date, license expiration date, license number, and certification method). The search returned 5,637 active CSR licenses in California as of January 23, 2026.

8. I sorted the 5,637 active licenses by “Issuance Date” and counted the number of licenses issued prior to 1996. Of the active licenses, 2,501 licenses were issued prior to January 1, 1996. Thus, 44.45 percent of the 5,637 active CSR licenses were issued prior to 1996.

9. Using the same methodology as above, I counted the number of licenses issued prior to 1986. Of the active licenses, 910 licenses were issued prior to January 1, 1986.

¹ This is the same database used to count the new licensee numbers cited in Amici Service Employees International Union California State Council, et al.’s (“SEIU Amici”) Motion for Judicial Notice.

Thus, 16.14 percent of the 5,637 active CSR licenses were issued prior to 1986.

10. I also attempted to replicate the calculation of new active licenses issued between 2023 and 2025 described in SEIU Amici’s Motion for Judicial Notice. Filtering by “Active” licenses and sorting by “Issuance Date,” I counted the number of licenses issued between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025, that remained active as of January 23, 2026. My calculations were similar to but differed from SEIU Amici’s, finding one additional new license issued in 2023 (for a total of 84), and two additional new licenses issued in 2025 (for a total of 361).² Like SEIU Amici, I found 149 new licenses issued in 2024. Thus, there were 594 new licenses issued between 2023 and 2025 that remained active as of January 23, 2026.

11. Lastly, I analyzed the number of licenses that were delinquent, cancelled, revoked, or attached to a licensee reported as deceased between 2023 and 2025. For each of these categories, I returned to the top of the Public License Search website and filtered to the relevant category under “License Status.”

12. For delinquent licenses, I sorted the results by “Expiration Date” and counted the number of licensees whose licenses expired between January 1, 2023, and December 31,

² I do not know the reason for the discrepancy between my analysis and that of SEIU Amici. It is possible the content of the database changed slightly between SEIU Amici’s January 13 review and my review on January 23.

2025. There were 757 delinquent licenses that expired between 2023 and 2025.³

13. For cancelled, revoked, and licenses attached to CSRs reported as deceased, I sorted the results for each category by “Expiration Date” and counted the number of licenses with expiration dates between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2025.⁴ Between 2023 and 2025, ten licenses were cancelled, four licenses were revoked, and eleven licensees were reported as deceased.

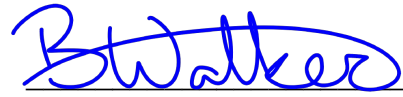
14. Thus, according to the database, during the period 2023 through 2025, a total of 782 licenses became delinquent, cancelled, revoked, or attached to a licensee reported as deceased. This figure substantially exceeds the number of new licensees (594) recorded in the database for that same period.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

³ I also reviewed the number of delinquent licenses that expired between 2023 and 2025 and were originally issued prior to 1996 by filtering delinquent licenses by “Issuance Date” and counting the number of licenses issued on or before December 31, 2025. 537 licenses met these criteria. Thus, 70.94 percent of the 757 delinquent CSR licenses that expired between 2023 and 2025 were issued prior to 1996.

⁴ The data does not provide an exact date of cancellation, revocation, or death of the reporter. However, because CSR licenses must be renewed yearly, the expiration date suggests the license was cancelled or revoked, or the licensee was reported as deceased within a year of the license expiration date.

Executed on May 12, 2026 in San Francisco, California.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "B" and a stylized "Walker".

BRYANNA WALKER

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. My business address is 1999 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

On May 13, 2026 I served true copies of the following document described as:

PETITIONERS' MOTION FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY TRUEFILING: I electronically filed the document with the Clerk of the Court by using the TrueFiling system.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on May 13, 2026 at Los Angeles, California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denis Listengourt', is written over a horizontal line.

Denis Listengourt

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Supreme Court of California

PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Supreme Court of California

Case Name: **FAMILY VIOLENCE APPELLATE PROJECT v. S.C.**

Case Number: **S288176**

Lower Court Case Number:

1. At the time of service I was at least 18 years of age and not a party to this legal action.

2. My email address used to e-serve: **swinner@cov.com**

3. I served by email a copy of the following document(s) indicated below:

Title(s) of papers e-served:

Filing Type	Document Title
REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE	Petitioners' Request for Judicial Notice

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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

5/13/2026

Date

/s/Sonya Winner

Signature

Winner, Sonya (200348)

Last Name, First Name (PNum)

Covington & Burling LLP

Law Firm