

**THE AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION**

*WHEREAS*, court reporters are officers of the court whose impartiality, as with judges, must remain utterly beyond question in order to ensure the enduring confidence and faith from which our judicial system derives its legitimacy; and

*WHEREAS*, some court reporting firms are contracting directly with the parties in interest in litigation, thereby circumventing counsel and their related ethical obligations to the courts; and

*WHEREAS*, those arrangements allow the parties in interest to directly control the terms and conditions of the court reporting services in a manner sometimes indistinguishable from an employer-employee relationship; and

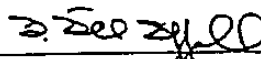
*WHEREAS*, certain of these contracting arrangements require court reporters to provide special services to the paying party in interest that are not available to the opposing parties in the litigation; and

*WHEREAS*, the National Court Reporters Association has adopted a resolution to lobby at the state and federal level, and work with its affiliated organizations and coalitions at the state level, to seek the enactment of laws and court rules that will limit or prohibit contracting arrangements in order to maintain the impartiality and independence of court reporters in their capacity as officers of the court; and

*WHEREAS*, numerous states (including, Hawaii, Georgia, Utah, Louisiana, New Mexico, Nevada, West Virginia, Texas, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Alabama, Massachusetts, Montana, Rhode Island, and Ohio) have recently enacted or are considering laws or court rules that prohibit or strictly regulate contracting arrangements between parties in interest in litigation and court reporters to ensure the impartiality of the court reporting profession specifically and the integrity of the courts generally;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the American Judges Association endorses legislative and judicial efforts to prevent parties in interest from establishing any direct financial or other relationships with court reporters which could create an appearance of partiality that is inimical to the public's faith in the fairness and impartiality of the judicial system.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Judge Shirley Strickland-Saffold, President

*RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE*

Judge Ira J. Raab, Chair  
Judge Seymore Brown, Co-Chair  
Judge Pearle Appelman  
Judge Paul Beighle  
Judge George Greig  
Judge Ann Pugh

Unanimously adopted April 24, 1998  
Portland, Oregon