

## WHY I CHOSE COURT REPORTING FOR A CAREER

By ANUAR MEZA

I was raised in California, just outside of San Francisco. I first became interested in court reporting in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. A court reporter came to my school on career day. I don't remember much about her description of the work, but I do remember that she kept repeating how much she loved her job. She told us she got paid by the page, and I thought that was really interesting.

I graduated from high school. After working in construction with my dad for a few years, I decided I wanted to go back to school. I was tired of working outside under the hot sun for long hours. I had two ideas. One was to go to an automotive school to become an auto mechanic. My backup plan was to visit a court reporting school. I did not know a whole lot about what a court reporter was or did, but I remembered how much that court reporter, who visited my school back in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, loved her job. I wanted a job that I could enjoy. That is what kept me interested in court reporting.

I enrolled in an automotive class. After three days, the instructor informed me that the class was full and I could not continue to attend. I was very upset. So, thinking back on that 5<sup>th</sup> grade experience, I made an appointment to visit a court reporting school in Dublin, CA, Golden State College of Court Reporting. After the visit I was fascinated by court reporting and signed up and never looked back.

I graduated from Golden State, but before I could work as a court reporter in California, I needed to pass all three parts of the CA CSR exam. I passed two of the three. So even though I was ready to work as a court reporter, I couldn't work. I explored the possibility of working out of state. I found a website called [SIMPLEYSTENO.COM](http://SIMPLEYSTENO.COM). There they had all the requirements to be a court reporter for all 50 states. I applied in North Dakota and South Dakota, and South Dakota called me and offered me an interview.

It was exciting to visit South Dakota. I was surprised by the small population. The whole state has a smaller population than some of our cities back in California. I could not wrap my head around that. I did not know that towns of less than 500 people existed.

When I arrived at the Pierre Regional Airport, Sixth Circuit Administrator Heather Covey and Court Reporter Mona Weiger greeted me. They showed me around town, which did not take long. It was one of the few times I had seen snow. It was really cold for me. I made it through the interview and spent some more time checking out the Capitol City. I spent two extra days in Pierre because of the weather. I was happy I had gotten the job, but I just wanted to get home. It was too cold for me!

Despite the cold weather, I started with the Sixth Circuit in February of 2016. My first week on the job, I reported a three-day jury trial in Martin, S.D. I stay busy at work, but have taken the time to see as much of the state as I can. I especially enjoy going out to see the Black Hills. Last winter I snow skied for the first time, and I cannot wait for winter to get here so I can go skiing again.

