

On behalf of the North Dakota Court Reporters Association, the executive committee respectfully requests that the Court give consideration to our comments regarding the proposed change to *Rule 10: The Record on Appeal* and subsequent request for a transcript page rate increase as follows:

The elimination of a copy of the transcript will have a direct impact on the income to court reporters.

It has always been the practice in the court reporting community that when a transcript is ordered, that order constitutes an “original and one,” reflecting the work that goes into the production of the original transcript and the copy thereof. We request that the practice for calculating the compensation remain in effect, regardless of whether a “hard copy” of the transcript is actually generated.

The page rate court reporters charge for preparation of transcripts is governed by Policy 206. The page rate was addressed and set at its current level in 2002. We submit it is in need of updating to keep pace with inflation, adjust for changes in the industry brought about by technology and filing methods adopted by the courts, and to compensate court reporters for the time spent preparing transcripts on nights and weekends, and the training and expertise necessary to produce an accurate, comprehensive transcript.

Once an electronic copy of a transcript is delivered to the Supreme Court, to the ordering party, or efiled in Odyssey, access to that transcript is provided via the Internet to whoever can access the file online or whoever is granted access by the ordering party. This diminishes the income the court reporter will receive from the sale of copies of the transcript.

For the above reasons, we request that the page rate apply to the transcript in whatever form it is requested, hard copy or electronic copy, as follows:

The compensation rate for the new “Original” (currently the combined original and one) be raised from the current \$3.00 to \$4.50 per page, and the rate for copies remain at \$.50 per page.

For comparison purposes, Minnesota’s current page rate is listed as:

Civil: Original - \$4.75 per page. Copy - \$.25 per page.

Criminal: Original - \$3.25 per page. Copy - \$.25 per page.

Thank you for your consideration. If you would like any further input, we will be happy to comply.

Dated this 26th day of March, 2014.

NDCRA Executive Committee:

Marsha Allmaras, President

Britta Boyer, Vice-President

Catherine Jorgensen, Secretary/Treasurer

Lisa Plante, Past President