From: Cheryl Goetsch
To: RulesCommittee

Subject: Proposed Amended Rule 207 (Signing and Filing Depositions) - Proposal 21-06 (P.R. 0299)

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 2022 9:10:24 AM

Good Morning,

I am contacting you as an Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter for over 30 years and have to say I am appalled at the proposed change that will be brought before the Rules Committee regarding Supreme Court Rule 207. Specifically, it proposes language stating "to examine or review the deposition without charge" and removes the language stating "at the office of the officer or reporter, or elsewhere, by reasonable arrangement at the deponent's expense."

225 ILCS 415/28 Section 28 of the Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters Act, provides, with respect to payment for services, that, "A person certified under this Act may hold an attorney, firm, or any other entity personally responsible for payment of shorthand reporting services rendered at the request of that attorney, firm, or entity." The cost of deposition transcripts is a standard cost of litigation, as is photocopying, records production, expert fees, etc.

Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters must be paid reasonable fees for their services as attorneys are paid reasonable fees for their services. If necessary, CSRs already afford witnesses the opportunity to read and sign their transcripts without having to incur the cost of paying for a copy in many different ways (providing an office or meeting at a public location to read and sign the transcript). Transcripts are Certified Shorthand Reporters' work product, and transcripts should never be provided free of charge to anyone. Amending the rule to include that language will have detrimental effects to the livelihood of CSRs.

Please uphold the livelihood and the integrity of the profession of Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporters and oppose the proposed rule change.

Thank you,

Cheryl A. Goetsch, CSR, RPR