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NEWS RELEASE

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NO MORE MESSING WITH MARGINS: OUT-OF-STATE FIRMS MUST NOW FOLLOW CALIFORNIA RULES FOR COURT REPORTING

Court Reporters Board of California empowered to take legal action

SACRAMENTO – Out-of-state firms selling court and deposition transcripts in California will now be required to follow California’s formatting, notification, and fee statutes under a new law signed by Governor Jerry Brown.

In a pay-per-page business model, some firms crossed state lines and skirted the rules by messing with margins and spacing to increase the number of pages, and the price, of legal transcripts, according to Yvonne Fenner, Executive Officer of the Court Reporters Board of California.

“The Court Reporters Board has been working for more than a decade to solve this problem and, thanks to the help of Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Californians now have recourse if an out-of-state firm flouts the rules,” Fenner said.

AB 2084 (Kalra) applies to any firm that sells transcripts of shorthand reporting, of testimony during a court proceeding or a deposition, that occurs at least partly in California. The change also requires out-of-state firms selling transcripts of those proceedings to notify all parties to a legal action when there is a request to prepare a transcript, and prohibits providing transcripts to one party in advance of another.

California firms are already required to follow all the rules in AB 2084. The bill makes it possible to enforce those rules fairly among out-of-state firms doing business here as well.

It creates a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per violation for anyone who sells a transcript service that doesn’t meet California standards. The law empowers the Court Reporters Board of California and the state’s Attorney General, in addition to any district attorney or city attorney in California, to bring a civil action against any person or entity who violates the regulations.

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