



**COURT REPORTERS  
CERTIFICATION BOARD**

A Division of the Office of Court  
Administration  
August 2, 2005

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The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Attorney General of Texas  
Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, TX 78711-2548

FILE # ML-44308-05  
I.D. # 44308

**RQ-0372-GA**

RECEIVED  
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OPINION COMMITTEE

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SHERYL JONES  
Administrative Assistant  
TYEE S HOLCOMBE

RECEIVED  
AUG 05 2005  
OPEN RECORDS DIVISION

Re: Request for an Attorney General Opinion concerning *out-of-state* court reporting firms that are not registered in Texas and who conduct court reporting business for Texas litigation matters: §52.013(a)(7), §52.021(h)(i), §52.0255(a)(b), §52.0295 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f), §52.030, §52.034

Dear General Abbott:

The Court Reporters Certification Board requests your interpretation of the above referenced sections of the Government Code as they pertain to national court reporting firms that arrange for or act as a court reporting service in Texas litigation matters. There are two (2) scenarios; 1) an out-of-state firm's headquarters are located in another state and has satellite offices in Texas, 2) an out-of-state firm is headquartered in another state with no satellite offices in Texas. The Board is currently seeking an injunction through your office against Ambassador Legal Services, a national firm headquartered in New Jersey, after hearing a complaint that involved the firm. Attached are website advertisements for Ambassador Legal Services and Braxton Depositions, examples of national firms that provide court reporting services.

One of the Board's concerns with national firms that are not registered in Texas is that these firms may not follow Texas rules and regulations regarding the profession.

Some of the out-of-state firms that do not have offices in Texas contract with a registered Texas court reporting firm to provide court reporting services. These national firms claim that they are a "provisioner" of court reporting services so they are not required to be registered in Texas. However, their firm name has appeared on the footer of transcripts and they conceivably receive some sort of compensation for their services.

Additionally, Texas registered court reporting firms are asking if they can legally contract with national out-of-state firms who call on them to provide court reporting services if the out-of-state firm is not registered in Texas.

For your information, enclosed is a copy of Chapter 52, CRCB statutory authority.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact me at (512)463-1747 or by email at  
for any additional information we may provide concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Henricks  
Director, CRCB

Enclosure(s)

CC: Board Members  
Frank Knapp, Assistant Attorney General & Liaison to the CRCB