

**2023 USCRA MIDYEAR VIRTUAL SEMINAR**  
**APRIL 22, 2023**  
**0.7 CEUs**

**Seminar No. 1 – Robert J. Darling, September 11, 2001 - The White House, A Crisis Leadership Presentation, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. CT (0.2 CEU)**

On September 11, 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Darling was working in the White House Military Office and was initially tasked to coordinate airlift assets for the President's evacuation to an undisclosed site. However, he was quickly recruited to provide his military expertise and became a key liaison between the Vice President, National Security Advisor, and the Pentagon and worked directly with the National Command Authority to respond to the terrorist attacks. Lieutenant Colonel Darling witnessed firsthand the enormity of the crisis leadership decisions that were made that day on behalf of all Americans. He will explain what the 9/11 Commission was initially blocked from knowing, who knew what when, and what specific actions were taken by our nation's highest leaders to defend America. He will focus on the importance of leadership during a crisis and share tools necessary to help make critical decisions during times of adversity. This presentation is insightful, inspirational, and will stress the importance of working with colleagues and superiors in emergency situations.

**Seminar No. 2 – W. Scooter Slade and JoAnn Corson – Requirements for Reporting Classified Hearings – 11:15 – 12:15 p.m. CT (0.1 CEU)**

Mr. Slade is a Supervisory Security Specialist for the Department of Justice, Litigation Security Group in Washington, D.C. Mr. Slade will discuss requirements and policy for court reporters who report proceedings in classified federal court hearings. His presentation will be followed by a Q&A session with FOCR JoAnn Jett Corson, who worked with Mr. Slade in Montana.

JoAnn began her court reporting career in the fall of 1977 as the first freelance reporter in Billings, Montana. Office-sharing at that time with a federal official reporter, she soon realized her career goal was to work in federal court. When that reporter retired 22 years later, JoAnn stopped freelancing and went to work for the Billings Division of U.S. District Court.

In that 22 years, she earned numerous titles (Certified Shorthand Reporter from the State of Kansas; Registered Professional Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter, Registered Diplomate Reporter, and Certified Realtime Reporter from the National Court Reporters Association), served a one-year term as the Montana Court Reporters Association's president, and was awarded its Distinguished Service Award. JoAnn was on the Board of Directors of the United States Court Reporters Association from 2000 to 2007, served as USCRA's president in 2005-2006, and received its Samuel M. Blumberg, Jr. Award of Excellence in 2008.

In March 2011, she participated in the National Court Reporters Association Job Analysis Task Force. JoAnn is presently a member of the Court Reporter Advisory Group (CRAG) for the

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, having previously also served from 2005 to 2007 and from 2011 to 2013. JoAnn is currently primarily assigned to U.S. District Judge Dana L. Christensen in Missoula, Montana. She received the District of Montana's Special Achievement Award in 2004, 2014, and 2018.

**Seminar No. 3 – John and Stacey Ripley, Smart Retirement Solutions, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. CT (0.2 CEU)**

John and Stacey will provide an overview of critical federal benefit decisions that affect new employees, mid-career professionals, pre-retirees, immediate pending retirees; common mistakes to avoid; misunderstanding the proper use of the Roth TSP; allowing FEGLI to get expensive before considering other options, waiting too long to understand Long Term Care options and expenses; naming trusts as TSP beneficiaries; misunderstanding the Lifecycle Funds and creating incongruous allocations.

They will also detail an overview of Smart Retirement Solutions' services and offerings, to include customized federal benefits report; local, regional, and national workshops; personalized retirement income planning; fiduciary guidance for long-term care and legacy planning; pre-retirement counseling and application review; and an invitation to connect for one-on-one assistance.

**John Ripley**, CLTC®, FRC<sup>SM</sup>, ChFEBC<sup>SM</sup> (Certification in Long-Term Care, Federal Retirement Consultant, Chartered Federal Employee Benefits Consultant) has been serving clients in the financial services arena since 2003, when he launched a mortgage company in Orlando, Florida. He hosted a financial radio program, *Your Home, Your Money*, heard across Florida for many years. Now, as a nationally recognized and sought-after seminar speaker, John shares a message of hope in a fun and compelling way. He also serves as the principal communicator at our Retirement Income Workshops held across the U.S., where we teach business owners and attendees from all sectors how to create streams of predictable and reliable lifetime income.

John served as a United States Marine Corps Officer and is honored to be an Investment Advisor Representative at Smarter Retirement Solutions, leading a team of advisors across the country. As the company grows to meet the increased demand for quality and thoughtful retirement advice, John provides oversight of expansion both domestically and internationally. A proud sponsor of federal retirement workshops around the U.S., John empowers federal employees to maximize their benefits and live their retirement dreams. John appears in this year's "Retirement Planning" edition of Kiplinger's Magazine and can be seen on ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX on the *Retire Happy Hour* TV program."

**Stacey Ripley**, Director of Client Success, Smarter Retirement Solutions  
Stacey leads the client experience process and supports a multi-state team for Smarter Retirement Solutions. She has a background in business and has worked with business owners in Florida and Alabama, helping to overhaul their sales, marketing, HR, and accounting practices.

**Seminar No. 4 – Bo Erickson, CBS News, *Missing Justice* podcast, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. CT (0.1 CEU)**

Bo Erickson is a journalist and White House reporter currently working for CBS News. He is co-host to the podcast *Missing Justice*. His 19-month investigation examines the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis that Native American and indigenous people face and details the search for justice within the federal judicial system. He will focus his discussion on the case of Christy Woodenthigh's murder on her North Cheyenne Reservation and how her case connects to the larger issue of the crisis surrounding accountability and justice for victims of crimes that occur in Indian Territory.

Bo holds a bachelor's degree in journalism/mass communications and Arabic from The George Washington University. He served as a research assistant at Spark Media working on production of documentaries. He has studied immersive and intensive learning at the Qasid Arabic Institute. As an intern on NBC News' Meet the Press he assisted in production of weekly panels and story research. During his time at CBS News he has covered breaking news and provided coverage to stories involving politics and political events and speeches. He contributes to major national stories and produces investigative stories involving the death of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, shootings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, the Istanbul airport attack, the attempted coup in Turkey, and the deadly attack in Nice, France. He received the 2017 Polk Award for Medical Reporting. He served on Capitol Hill and provided coverage as a campaign reporter in the 2020 election.

**Seminar No. 5 -Rebekah Lockwood, Federal Official Court Reporter, Steno Swap, 4:15 – 5:15 p.m. CT (0.1 CEU)**

The steno swap will be an interactive seminar for attendees. As the host, Ms. Lockwood will introduce brief topics and/or brief families and open the floor for attendees to share their favorites. She will also take requests for those who request briefs for problem phrases. This seminar provides an opportunity for reporters to share briefs that work for them and ease the cumbersome, multisyllabic phrases we often write at 240+ wpm.

Rebekah Lockwood, RDR, CRR began her court reporting career as soon as she graduated from Pensacola State College in 2002 with an A.S. degree in Court Reporting Technology. She was a freelance court reporter from 2002 until she joined the Federal Judiciary in 2016 with the Eastern District of Tennessee, Knoxville Division. In 2020, she transferred to the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division where she is currently assigned to The Honorable Thomas P. Barber. She has been a member of USCRA since 2017, and she served on the USCRA Nominating Committee from 2021-2022.