

**Joe Strickland**  
**Chief Reporter, Office of Official Reporters**

## **Objects: La Salle Stenotype Machine**

### **Two Reporting Offices**

Joe Strickland recalls the administrative structure of the House reporting offices in 1993.  
*Interview recorded November 14, 2018*

I came to the House in 1993. In 1993, there were two offices of reporters. There was the Official Reporters to House Committees. And there was the Official Reporters of Debate, which handled the, the debate in the chamber. Two different chiefs, two different deputies, two different crews of people. And they didn't have anything to do with each other. The floor was still using paper machines and dictating to transcribers in '93. In 1993, the House committee office, because of the volume of work that they handled, had already gone to the computer. And frankly, I think that's why I got hired because I was trained to write to the computer and they had gone on to the computer. And so they were looking for people who were, didn't have to be cross-trained, right? And we didn't have the internet. We didn't have a way to communicate with one another. We didn't have a way to look up—we didn't have email. We didn't have a way to look up things. And so we all had volumes and volumes of notebooks of terms, and phrases, and names, and things pasted on the wall because we had to be able to turn these transcripts quickly. And we had, you know, little research time to do so, you know. So, so, yes, we were on computer, but it was just in the committee side, so.