

What is the Difference between the State Board (ABCR) and the Association (ACRA)?

(Note: the following information is based on an article printed in Volume I, Issue I, of the ABCR Newslite – June, 2009)

What is the purpose of ABCR and what is the difference between the State Board and the Association? We get this question a lot in our office, and it is a good one. Let's start with the purpose of ABCR. Our **purpose** is very clearly defined by state law: **to solely protect the public welfare** (and not to promote the profession of court reporting within Alabama). A board carries out this purpose by ensuring that the public is served by competent and honest court reporters by establishing **minimum standards of proficiency** in the regulated profession of Court Reporting. This is done by licensing and disciplining court reporter practitioners. Other goals or objectives may not supersede this purpose. When one serves on a regulatory board, the focus shifts from professional advocacy to the protection of the public.

In contrast, the Alabama Court Reporters Association (ACRA) is the professional advocate for the court reporting profession in Alabama.

Although our purposes are different, one the consumer advocate and one the profession's advocate, it benefits the state as a whole as our two organizations work together creating confidence in court reporting services in Alabama. This in turn accomplishes both professional advocacy and consumer protection. As a licensed court reporter, you can be proud of your License as a representation that you have met or exceeded competency standards established by state law.

Bottom Line:

The Alabama Board of Court Reporting – Represents the Alabama Consumer

The Alabama Court Reporting Association – Represents Alabama Court Reporters