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# California's Reporter of Decisions

PUBLISHES MORE THAN 1000 OPINIONS EACH YEAR IN THE *OFFICIAL REPORTS*

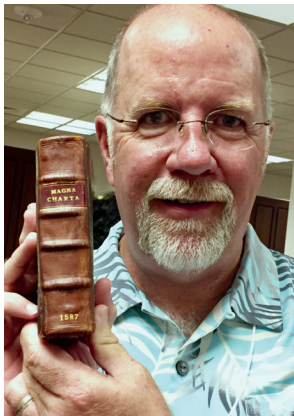
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LAWRENCE STRILEY LOOKED remarkably serene on a late Monday afternoon, particularly for someone whose already-large responsibilities only continue to expand.

As California's 25th reporter of decisions of the Supreme Court and the Courts of Appeal, Striley is responsible for the preparation and publication of California's appellate opinions in the *Official Reports*. These days, that involves publication of more than 1,000 published Supreme Court and Court of Appeal opinions each year, and another approximately 9,000 unpublished appellate court opinions.

That workload continues to grow and yet for Striley, "this is the best job I've ever had." "I feel very lucky," he said recently in his Supreme Court office in San Francisco's Earl Warren Building.

Most states, but not all, name a reporter of decisions. However, faced with tight budgets and the migration of legal research online, some states have done away with paper publication of appellate opinions. California continues to publish *Official Reports* "advance pamphlets" of approximately 500 pages every 10 days or so, bound volumes comprising about 1,500 pages of Court of Appeal opinions monthly, and 2.5 bound volumes of about 1,500 pages of Supreme Court opinions yearly — all in partnership with a private publisher. In addition, each of these decisions is posted on the judicial branch website.



Lawrence Striley holding a bound copy of the Magna Carta during a visit to the Nevada Supreme Court Library, 2017.

PHOTO: CYNTHIA STRILEY

information included in both the advance sheets and bound volumes of published opinions. He is also responsible for updating the *California Style Manual*,



Lawrence W. Striley,  
Reporter of Decisions

first compiled in 1942 and now in its fourth edition. A fifth edition is in the works, Striley said.

In May, Striley took on a new task. Over time, many Internet links, including those cited in court decisions, are revised or disappear. In response to this problem of "link rot," the California Supreme Court has joined the U.S. Supreme Court and other courts in efforts to preserve cited web pages. Striley's office has created a web page archive at <http://www.courts.ca.gov/38324.htm> of links cited in California appellate decisions, showing cited web pages as they existed at the time the opinion was filed.

Appointed in 2014, following the retirement of Edward W. Jessen who served since 1989, Striley was delighted to return to California. Raised in Orange County, he is a graduate of Cal State Long Beach and earned his law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law in Virginia.

Following law school, Striley signed on with a general practice firm in a small West Virginia town.

"I wanted experience in court right away," he recalled, and got it.

Before becoming the reporter of decisions, Striley worked at LexisNexis, responsible for the printing and publication of the official versions of opinions from California and several other states. He draws on that broad experience as vice president of the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions, which brings together official reporters from the U.S. and Canada. Striley will become the group's president in 2019.

Prior to his law career, Striley spent five years with the Prime Ticket Network, working his way up from a college intern to the associate director coordinating with staff in the production truck to air sporting events. These were the years when Wayne Gretzky and Magic Johnson dominated the L.A. Kings and Lakers.

Striley recalled fondly attending a Lakers NBA championship parade and standing on the steps of Los Angeles City Hall with the team even though, as he noted, "I had nothing to do with them winning the championship." He still follows the Lakers, Rams and the Kings. ☆

— M.S.