

LINDA W. ROHMAN -- BIOGRAPHY

Although I was born in St. Louis, I grew up on my grandparents' farm near Columbia, Missouri. For a few of my formative years, the five members of my immediate family lived with my grandparents, my aunt and uncle, and their daughter in a five-room farmhouse that had no running water and no central heating or air conditioning. My grandmother - the best person I've ever known - encouraged me to dream and to work to make that dream a reality. In recognition of her influence, a sign hangs on my office wall at General Reporting Service that reads: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

I obtained a Bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 1976, where I majored in psychology. I could not decide whether to pursue a doctorate in psychology or go to law school, so I opted to move to Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska where I could do both. I received my law degree from that institution in 1982 and my Ph.D. in social psychology in 1987, pursuing a certificate in public policy and program evaluation along the way. For my dissertation, I designed and implemented a study to evaluate the effectiveness of a pre-hearing conference program operated by the Nebraska Supreme Court at the time. It was partially due to the results of that study that the Nebraska Court of Appeals was created.

After graduating from law school, I was fortunate to be hired by the Honorable Donald Ross, Judge for the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, as a staff attorney for that Court. Subsequently, I accepted a position at the Lincoln, Nebraska, office of Erickson & Sederstrom and became a shareholder of that firm. During my tenure at Erickson & Sederstrom, I was primarily a civil trial attorney.

When my second son was born with medical issues, I elected to withdraw from the practice of law and become a full-time parent and homeschool teacher. After my younger son's health was restored and both of the boys grew older and more independent, I sought work as a legal transcriptionist and was hired by General Reporting Service in 2007. In 2010, I became certified as a court reporter and transcriber by the State of Nebraska. I bought General Reporting Service from my former employers when they opted to retire in 2013.

General Reporting Service has been a corporate member of AAERT for more than 15 years, and I have been active in the Association since I acquired the company. Most recently, I chaired the Task Force charged with revising AAERT's Bylaws, and we are beginning similar work on the Association's policies and procedures.

If elected to serve on the Board of Directors, I would support initiatives to expand the availability of educational activities and supporting materials for both those in the profession and those entering the profession. I also would like the Association to expand its focus beyond the legal market to a greater degree.