Bridge™ Communication Protocol

Text is sent in ASCII format. It can be transmitted through a serial port, through a shared file on a network, or directly to a TCP-IP port (or domain name).

Commands are sent as follows: 0x02 (command) 0x03 (It can also be represented as ^B (command) ^C)

Here is a list of the commands:

P -- Page number. Followed by two bytes of data, which is a word containing the current page number (little-endian).
Example: 0x02 P 0x1D 0x02 0x03 (represents page number 0x021D, or page 541)

N -- Line number. Followed by one byte of data containing the line number.
Example: 0x02 N 0x12 0x03 (line number 0x12, or 18)

F -- Format. Followed by one byte indicating the paragraph format. The formats are as follows:
0x00: Fixed line
0x01: Question
0x02: Answer
0x03: Speaker
0x04: Question continuation
0x05: Answer continuation
0x06: Speaker continuation
0x07: Parenthetical
0x08: Centered
0x09: Right-flush
0x0A: By line
0x0B: By line continuation
0x0C+: User-defined
Example: 0x02 F 0x07 0x03 (indicates that the following text is part of a parenthetical paragraph).

T -- Timecode. This is critical information and should be recorded. It's followed by four bytes of information for Hours, Minutes, Seconds and Frames (30ths of a second).
Example: 0x02 T 0x11 0x05 0x0C 0x04 0x03 (17 hours, 5 minutes, 12 seconds, 4 frames, [5:05 p.m.])

D -- Delete (backspace). This removes the previous character from the data.
Example: 0x02 D 0x03

K -- Prevent saving. This tells the client program that the attorney does not have permission to save the file.

Example: 0x02 K 0x03

G -- Global replace. This replaces one piece of text with another globally throughout the document. It's followed immediately by a length byte, which is then followed by the data. The data itself consists of lengthbyte searchstring lengthbyte replacestring.
Example: 0x02 G 0x0A 0x05 TKAUG 0x03 dog 0x03 (Replace "TKAUG" with "dog" globally throughout the document.)

The global replace command is also used to transmit the job's filename. If the search string is {FILENAME} then the replace string is the filename provided for the job. That gives the client program a default filename to save the data into.

E -- End refresh (see below)

R -- Refresh. Followed by 8 bytes: A starting timecode and an ending timecode. The timecode format is identical to the T command.

The refresh command is followed by a stream of text and commands which is in exactly the same format in which the text would originally have been transmitted. It will contain page/line commands, format commands, timecodes, etc. This text should then replace everything between the starting (R) and ending (E) timecodes.