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○ ISSUE 2 | ○ MAY | ○ 2009

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CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE OREGON COURTS BY FULFILLING
THE MISSION OF COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES.

The mission of Court Interpreter Services is to provide the highest quality, mandated, linguistic access to state courts through ethically-bound, trained interpreters, education of the court community, and responsible resource management.

2009 Freelance Interpreter Meetings

Court Interpreter Services invites Oregon Certified Interpreters to join CIS managers at our semi-annual "brown bag" lunch meetings. The agenda is open to discuss policies and issues that affect your work with the Oregon Judicial Department and to share any updates from the OJD. Following are a list of times and locations that the meetings will be held. You are welcome to join us at any meeting. Please RSVP to Yvette Tamamoto at (503) 986-4521 or by e-mail at

yvette.p.tamamoto@ojd.state.or.us

CENTRAL OREGON:

Wednesday May 27th 12:00pm
Deschutes Co. Courthouse, Jury Room B

SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE VALLEY

Wednesday June 3rd 12:00pm
Lane Co. Courthouse
Check in at Court Administration Office

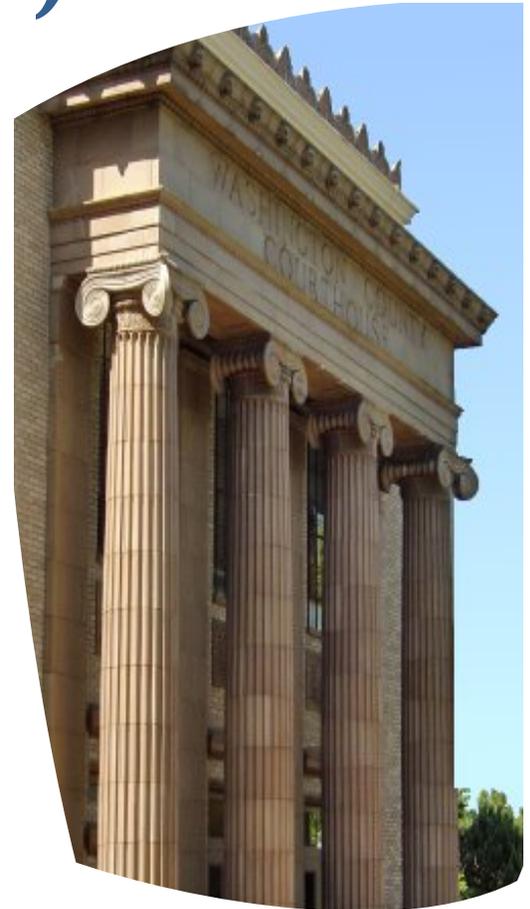
MULTNOMAH

Monday June 8th 12:00
Multnomah Co. Courthouse, Jury Rm 430

MID VALLEY

Wednesday June 10th 12:00pm
CPSD Office - Salem

If you would like to join the June 10th Salem meeting by video conference from a local court with video capability, please contact Yvette Tamamoto.



In the last quarter of 2008, Court Interpreter Services added Baker and Grant Counties to our centralized scheduling system. We continue to work towards providing excellent service to every county in Oregon.

Simultaneous Interpreting Equipment

CIS is working to ensure simultaneous interpreting equipment is available throughout the state. With the help of staff interpreters, CIS has researched and tested replacement equipment as needed, to find the best product at a reasonable price. Deschutes County now has equipment available! This equipment will be available for freelance interpreter use. Essential tools make the interpreter's job easier and allow for all of us to provide the courts with the highest quality service possible.

Bridge the Distance

What exactly you might ask is a “Webinar?” Per PCMAG.COM, webinars are defined as “(WEB-based seminar) a workshop or lecture delivered over the Web. Webinars may be a one-way Webcast, or there may be interaction between the audience and the presenters.” In keeping up with the latest technology and to serve all areas of the state, Court Interpreter Services (CIS) has presented three webinars since July 2008, focusing on court interpreter ethics. Our first webinar on July 23, 2008 covered Canon 1, the second, on November 25, 2008 covered Canons 2,3 and 4 and the third, on March 13, 2009, covered complex ethics issues. Beginning May 2009, CIS will offer study webinars to eligible candidates for the 2009 oral exam. Attendees must have a computer that has internet connection (cable modem, DSL or better) and a separate phone line for the conference call. There will be a total of five 2-hour webinars. Following the webinar series, candidates will participate in a mock exam and court observation and debriefing. CIS’ goal is to provide candidates with an opportunity to assess their skills, familiarize themselves with the exam format and develop successful study and practice habits for the oral exam. The webinars will be May 21st to July 9th. For more information please go to our website at www.ojd.state.or.us/osca/cpsd/interpreterservices.

IF YOU HAVE ONLY

5 minutes: Subscribe to **A Phrase a Week**, a free e-mail service that explains the origins of common yet perplexing expressions like “chip on your shoulder,” “dressed to the nines,” or “make no bones about it” (www.phrases.org.uk).



OJD SWEARS IN THREE NEW CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETERS

Three newly certified Russian court interpreters were sworn in on Thursday, February 5, 2009 by the Honorable Jean K. Maurer, Presiding Judge of the 4th Judicial district. Please join us in congratulating Oksana Dobbins, Anya Hicks, and Eugenia Preston in achieving their certified Russian court interpreter credential. Eugenia Preston also received master level status by passing all three portions of the Oral Proficiency Exam with a score of 80% or higher.

Oral Exam Practice Examination Kits

The National Center for State Courts now offers an All English Practice Oral Examination Kit in addition to the Spanish version that was previously available.

The Kit includes an instruction manual, a CD with audio files of the practice exam, and hard copies of test scripts. The kit is designed to increase understanding in four areas. The first area is to give the user an idea of what a real Consortium performance examination looks like, including the “scoring units.” The second area is learning about the scoring methodology used by the Consortium to score in a fair and consistent way. The third area is to provide the user with examples of a passing performance. Finally, the user should be able to self-assess their own level of skill and readiness to take a Consortium Exam. All participants taking the NLS Webinars this year will receive the Spanish or English practice kit in their curriculum materials.

2009 Oral Proficiency Exam Dates

Registration for the 2009 Oral Proficiency Examination will open July 1, 2009. The exams will be held in Portland and Salem. The dates for the 2009 exams are as follows:

SEPTEMBER 2009

Saturday 12 – Portland, OR
Sunday 13 – Portland, OR
Saturday 19 – Salem, OR
Sunday 20 – Portland OR

If you are eligible to sit for the exam in 2009, please check out our website for registration information.

CERTIFIED COURT INTERPRETERS

Reminders

- ❖ With the renewal process coming up, it is important that we have your current contact information. Please review your listing on the Certified Interpreter roster on our website and update CIS with corrections as well as current mailing addresses.
- ❖ We are coming to the end of our biennium & request that all outstanding fee statements through 6/30/09 be submitted before 7/1/09.
- ❖ CIS has revised the freelance billing statement. Please begin using this statement immediately. Both versions will be accepted and are valid. You can download the billing statement from our website.
- ❖ As of May 1st, the Transportation Security Administration is requiring a date of birth for booking flights. Schedulers will be asking for this information when booking a flight for assignments.

Canon 2: Representations of Qualifications

By Max Christian, Interpreter Supervisor

The Oregon Judicial Department's *Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in the Oregon Courts* contains 11 Canons. Our focus in this issue is Canon 2: *Representations of Qualifications* that reads as follows:

“The interpreter shall accurately and completely represent his or her certifications, training, and pertinent experience. The court should reassess the interpreter's qualifications each time the interpreter is engaged to interpret in court for a non-English speaking party or witness.”

Although there are numerous public and private agencies that extend a certification status to interpreters, with reference to court interpreting in Oregon, the term “certified” signifies that an interpreter has been recognized as having met the special qualifications for court interpreting required by the Office of the State Court Administrator (OSCA) of the Oregon Judicial Department, and has been issued a certificate attesting to that fact. Having another type of certification does not signify that an interpreter is certified as intended by statute. In fact, ORS 45.292 prohibits implying that one is certified when that is not the case and, if untrue, swearing on the record that one is certified could lead to misdemeanor charges for false swearing.

An interpreter certified by OSCA need only state that he or she is a certified interpreter in order to establish qualifications for the court, unless the court desires to inquire further. An accurate representation of qualifications for an interpreter who has not been certified by OSCA may include the interpreter's experience, training, and other pertinent information bearing on the interpreter's competence and fitness. If certifications or registrations not issued by OSCA are stated for the purpose of establishing an interpreter's qualifications, no implication should be made that said certifications or registrations refer to those issued by OSCA, and the issuing entity, organization, or agency should be identified.

Now I almost can hear you asking, “You said that Oregon only has a ‘certified’ classification of interpreters. Isn't there a classification called ‘qualified?’” No, there isn't at this time,

As statute reads, the court or hearings officer must make the determination whether or not an interpreter is qualified each time an interpreter appears before the court or hearings officer. “Since I'm not certified,” you wonder, “I've been identifying myself to the court as a qualified interpreter. Am I mistaken in so doing?”

Technically, yes, because a “qualified” status does not exist. You are not qualified until the court has qualified you for that particular hearing or trial. If judges have previously found you qualified, a suggestion may be that part of your answer as to qualifications include something to the effect of, “I have been found qualified by Oregon circuit court judges to interpret for (language) on previous occasions.”

“Some judges or hearings officers do not ask about my certification or my qualifications. What am I to do?” Plan ahead. One idea is to write out and memorize what you will say when you are given the opportunity to state your name for the record. What you say will vary according to your circumstances. It is best to be professional and brief. Here is an example of how Jane Doe does it: “Your Honor, for the record, my name is Jane Doe, D-O-E. Although Oregon does not offer certification for Albanian, I have registered accreditation from the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts, and I have been found qualified by Oregon Circuit Judges to interpret in Oregon on prior occasions.” In just 20 seconds, Jane does a good job of fulfilling her obligation to represent her qualifications in compliance with Canon #2 of the Code of Professional Responsibility for Interpreters in Oregon Courts. She uses the official terms “certification” and “registered accreditation” as they are used by the entities to which she refers. She is brief. She has memorized this introduction and representation of qualifications, so she really sounds like the professional she is when she says it. If you heard it stated in court sometime it would make you proud to be an interpreter!



representation

Court Interpreter Training Videos

By Sally Shepard, NCL Interpreter Liaison

Not only does the Interpreting Office (Room 414) in the Multnomah County Courthouse have a great collection of foreign language reference dictionaries, we also have videos, too. We have a couple dramatic portrayals with exciting, nail-biting interpreter faux pas.

Room 414 is complete with headphones and ergonomic chair. Stop by on your downtime or anytime!

A Quick Overview of our favorites:

The Supreme court of Ohio: The Role of Interpreters in the Legal System

Yes, you can swear in court . . . if that's what you're interpreting, that is!

The Federal Judicial Center: Taking the Interpreter's Oath to Heart

Yes, Feds have hearts, too.

Understanding the Courts-Anatomy of Criminal & Civil Cases

No blood involved and repeat after me: “Innocent until proven guilty. Innocent until proven guilty. Innocent . . .”

ACEBO: The Interpreter's Code of Ethics

No, you can't interpret in court for your mother. Or even your mother's mother.

Transitions

By Kelly Mills, Program Manager

Jose Behar has resigned from the Oregon Judicial Department to resume his career in film and television. He is working on the TNT Network's award winning television series, *Leverage*, which is filming Season II in the Portland area. Jose did an amazing job over the past year to support the court interpreter certification program and training around the state to courts.

I am pleased to announce that Carla Farrell will be serving as the interim Certification and Training Manager. Carla joined the OJD as a staff interpreter in 2005, but worked as a freelance court interpreter beginning in 2002. She assisted Alee Robbins last summer during the 60-hour Spanish intensives in Salem (Training of Trainers for Carla), worked at the 2009 Orientation and the all day Orientation webinar, and attended a training session in February on working with the adult learner through the OJD Office of Education, Training and Outreach. Carla has been active in other educational roles over the years at various OJD CE events. She will be stationed out of the Portland CPSD office, working closely with Katie Randall. You may reach Carla at the Portland Court Programs and Services Office at (503) 731-3283 or via email at carla.farrell.frazier@ojd.state.or.us.

Let's stay in touch...

Contact if you have questions



Kelly Mills

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regarding the overall program or management.

Carla Farrell

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regarding certification and training, renewal and Continuing Education.

Max Christian

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regarding individual interpreters, staffing of interpreters, interpreter protocol, ethics, and provision of interpreters.

Heidi Muellerleile

Business Operations Manager
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about scheduling interpreters, court scheduling, and payments to interpreters.

Sally Shepard

Interpreter Liaison
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about other than Spanish Languages and the Registered Interpreter Program.

Katie Randall

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regarding general certification records and continuing education event dates and registrations.

Pre-approved CE Credits

Renewal deadlines are coming up quickly. The following sponsors are pre-approved for CE credits. Please see the sponsor's registration materials for eligibility and more information.

Saturday, May 30, 2009

WITS 21st Annual Meeting and Consecutive Note Taking Workshop

4 non-language specific credits

Cheney, WA

http://www.witsnet.org/programs/Annual_meeting_09.pdf

Saturday, June 20, 2009

WITS and Bilingualpower

Ethics Workshop and roundtable (2 non-language specific credits)

Cicero and PLATO at the Clinic (4 non-language specific credits)

Ellensburg WA

http://www.witsnet.org/programs/CICERO_AND_PLATO_AT_THE_CLINIC.pdf

May 29th (SeaTac), or July 31st (SeaTac), or August 28 (Olympia)

De Chile a Chihuahua: Reformas Procesales Penales en America Latina (For Spanish interpreters only)

3 language specific credits

Note: This is a repeat of the Oregon sessions in June and October 2008.

<http://www.witsnet.org/programs/MicrosoftWord-Registrationform-SpanishLegalReformstina.pdf>

Continuing Education

Renewals for certified interpreters require 25 Continuing Education credits every three years. A minimum of 10 credits must be language specific and no more than 15 during a 12 month period may be counted toward the 25 CE credits. Non-OJD CEs must be pre-approved, as well as self study courses. Please refer to the OJD Policies for Oregon Certified Court Interpreters on our website.