

# 2026 Pacific Northwest Court Interpreter Conference

## Cracking the Code: A Strategic Guide to the Court Interpreter Oral Certification Exam

Carola Lehmacher

Saturday, April 11th 9:00 AM—11:00 AM

Preparing for the Court Interpreter Oral Certification Exam can feel overwhelming—but it doesn't have to be. This session is designed to demystify the exam and help participants clearly understand what is expected of them on test day. Attendees will gain a clearer picture of what each section entails, the most common challenges exam takers face, and strategies and tips they can use to succeed. Scoring units and evaluation criteria will also be addressed.

Moreover, the session will include guidance on how to strengthen core interpreting skills between now and exam day. Participants will take a shortened mock exam to experience the pace, level of difficulty, and performance demands of the actual test. This session is ideal for both first-time test takers and those preparing to retake the exam who want a clearer path forward.

Participants will gain:

- A better understanding of the structure, sections, and scoring criteria of the Court Interpreting Oral Certification Exam.
- Practical strategies and section-specific techniques to improve performance in sight translation, consecutive and simultaneous interpreting.
- Insights into their own readiness through participation in a mock exam.

