

2026 Pacific Northwest Court Interpreter Conference

Ethics and Skills Beyond Human: Does Anyone Care?

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Saturday, April 11th 9:00 AM—11:00 AM

2 OJD Ethics Credits*

A code of ethics defines the core values and principles guiding professionals in making decisions in complex scenarios. For interpreters, these codes promote critical thinking, responsible judgment, and ethical navigation of professional dilemmas—moving beyond rigid adherence to rules. The AAITE National Codes of Ethics introduced a framework rooted in Communicative Autonomy and Cultural Awareness, highlighting the importance of ethical decision-making and critical thinking. But how do these principles hold up against the growing perception that AI tools can perform interpreting tasks better and cheaper? Does the ethical behavior expected of interpreters extend to the use and implementation of AI tools? And in a world where AI appears to handle interpreting so seamlessly, what specific human skills must we hone to remain indispensable? Join this thought-provoking, interactive session to explore these questions and examine the intersection of human judgment, professional ethics, and emerging technologies. Discover where interpreting ethics stand in a rapidly shifting legal and technological landscape.

By the end of this workshop participants will be able to:

- Understand the key ethical principles that guide interpreters in their role as providers of language access, highlighting their critical contribution to ensuring effective communication within the broader legal framework.
- Learn to navigate ethical dilemmas ensuring that professional standards and human judgement remain central to the interpreter's work.
- Develop an informed response to explain why artificial databases, despite their efficiency and vast data capabilities, cannot replicate the nuanced judgement, cultural sensitivity, and ethical decision-making inherent to the human mind in interpreting.



* see registration form for additional CEU information