



Resources

Over the years CLAS has put together a wide range of online resources for individuals who are preparing to become an Oregon Certified Court Interpreter. There are resources for studying for both the Written and Oral exams, podcasts, previous check in emails, and glossaries. We also recently created a page where you can access all of the materials that use and reference during the Orientation to Interpreting in the Oregon Courts. You can find all of the resources on our [website](#), and the Orientation Materials can be found [here](#).



Upcoming Dates

[March 17—Pop Up Shop](#)

[April 17—Written Examination](#)

June—Skill building workshop series (TBD)

July—17th Mock Exam

[CLAS Online Calendar](#)

Certification and Training 2021

The 2021 certification and training program kicked off with our first ever Virtual Orientation to Interpreting in the Oregon Courts program. The Orientation consisted of three pre-orientation assignments, and three live two-and-a-half hour webinars. Orientation is normally presented in a six-hour in-person workshop, so this was quite a change for CLAS! Moving forward in 2021 we will be offering two opportunities to take the Written Exam (April and November), one Mock Oral Exam (July), one Oral Exam (October), and a second opportunity to attend Orientation (September). We are looking forward to another year of certification activities provided in a safe, and socially distanced environment.

Spotlight On

We are continuing our series featuring a member of CLAS staff to give you some encouragement and an idea of what it is like to work as an interpreter in court, or as a member of CLAS staff. This month, we are featuring CLAS' newest Spanish Staff Interpreter, Christopher Fallas-Urena

CLAS: Did you do any other interpreting before becoming a court interpreter?

Christopher: I did medical and conference interpreting for over ten years before trying legal. I also did a lot of legal translation before transitioning into legal interpreting.

CLAS: How did you prepare to be a court interpreter?

Christopher: I did a lot of in-court observations and read articles explaining the difference between the Latin American and the US court systems.

CLAS: What are some of the biggest challenges you face while interpreting in the courtroom?

Christopher: Poor sound quality when facing an unfamiliar topic.

CLAS: What do you like most about being a court interpreter?

Christopher: The fact that I get to do at work what I enjoy the most in life: use language as a means of expression. Everything in court is about language. Everyone in the court system needs to have special regard for meaning and precision of the spoken word, which is an environment I feel very lucky to call my workplace. Also, a lot of money can be made in this trade with the right motivation and a good work ethic.

CLAS: Any words of advice for prospective interpreters?

Christopher: If you want to become a court interpreter start preparing at least 6 months before the oral test. People don't pass the test NOT because the test is difficult but because many underestimate the test while overestimating their skills. Perfection doesn't exist in this business and on any given day, no one is as good at interpreting as they think they are, a good way to keep that in mind is to record yourself interpreting novel situations. Record yourself every day. Listen to your recordings every day, be your harshest critic. Don't do an exercise more than 3 times, it might give you a false sense of security. Study with a group or a colleague. Never turn down a chance to study in company. Individualism might be fueling some of the low passing rate this test is infamous for. Read a newspaper every week, for both languages, and translate as much as you can.