



New Multnomah County Courthouse!



The historic Multnomah County courthouse is closing at the end of this month, and the new central courthouse located at 1200 SW First Avenue in Portland will open on Monday, October 5th. You can find more information about the new courthouse by reading the [“Public Partners Newsletter.”](#)



Upcoming Dates

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our calendar of events is changing frequently. You will receive updates about changes to the calendar via email as we are able, but the best place to find a current schedule of events is on our online calendar.

[CLAS Online Calendar](#)

Written Examination

We are happy to announce that we will be offering two administrations of the Written Exam this fall. The first will be on October 24th in Salem, Oregon. Online registration is open, and will close on October 19th. Click [here](#) for more information about the exam and to register online. The second administration will be on November 14th in Salem, Oregon. Registration for the November 14th exam will open on October 19th. We are offering a morning and an afternoon session on each day. Please note that due to social distancing requirements, only 20 people will be allowed to sit for the exam at a time. If you want to get started in the process to become an Oregon Certified Court Interpreter taking the Written Exam is a great place to start. Don't forget we have several resources to help you prepare for the exam that you can find on our [website](#).

Job Market for Interpreters

Prospective interpreters often have questions about what the job market is like for the profession. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook" has a whole entry dedicated to the interpreting and translating industry. While the information is not specific to court interpreting it does give a good overview, and includes some other information in regards to pay, industry growth and employment change. You can read the full report [here](#).

Spotlight On

Each month we are 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 Court Language Access Services' Certification and Training Coordinator, Michaëlle Gearheart.

CLAS: What is your favorite thing about working for CLAS?

Michaëlle: The people! I am in contact with interpreters at every level, from those who are just starting the process to become certified, to those who have been certified for 20 years and everything in between, and they are all so interesting. I enjoy helping and watching people become credentialed, and I enjoy planning events and training for already credentialed interpreters.

CLAS: Interpreters are a vital piece of ensuring language access in the courts—what is the most interesting thing about working with interpreters?

Michaëlle: The most interesting thing to me is watching them interpret. I don't think anyone really appreciates how difficult interpreting is in general, but to me, court interpreters perform on a whole different level. Not only do you have legal terms to contend with, but in court you run into a multitude of other highly technical terminology as well. Then I think about having to do all of that while being in an adversarial situation like the courtroom and my mind is blown.

CLAS: What is one piece of advice you have for interpreters who are pursuing Oregon Court Certification?

Michaëlle: If being a certified court interpreter is really what you want to do, and you have the bilingual skills to do it then—STUDY! The exams are hard, but there are resources out there to help you to prepare. Seek out those materials and use them. Make a study plan, stick to it and don't give up .