



Interpreter's Corner

Court Language Access Services is happy to announce that we are working on a series of podcasts that we are calling "Interpreter's Corner." We have posted the first one on our webpage and are looking forward to putting up more in the future.

[Check it out!](#)



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](#)

Don't Give Up

COVID-19 has changed all of our lives drastically, but there are several continuing education providers that are offering free webinars to assist freelance interpreters during this time. If you cannot attend one of the live sessions, there may be recordings available of the trainings. Some of the companies and organizations we have been contacted by are:

- [Interpret America](#)
- [Interpreter Education Online](#)
- [Blue Urpi](#)

This also could be a time to ramp up your study efforts for the Written or Oral Exam. Remember that we have a large list of study and vocabulary building resources on our [webpage](#). **Don't forget that Enrique is still available for mentoring as well: Enrique.Andrade@ojd.state.or.us.** Stay healthy and safe!

Spotlight On

Each month we are going to feature 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 Chantal Portillo, who is one of our Spanish interpreters on staff.

CLAS: Did you do any other kind of interpreting before becoming a court interpreter? If so, what kind and for how long?

Chantal: I was a conference interpreter for 10 years in Spain, and a medical interpreter for 1 year in the USA before I got certified as a court interpreter.

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

Chantal: I used the Consortium kit, the Interpreter's Edge kit, I signed up to some webinars and looked at many documents that are available online on the OJD website. Recording yourself and going over the recording is essential. And repeating that exercise until you get everything right, even if it seems you are working from memory.

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

Chantal: Managing those speaking, and the acoustics of a room can make interpreting more difficult. People that are very emotional are also difficult to interpret.

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

Chantal: The immediate gratification of a job well done. How thankful people are for receiving help in such a difficult time. I love court staff, from every department. People are so kind and considerate. It also pays well! And I get to come to work dressed up.

CLAS: Any words of advice for prospective interpreters?

Chantal: Study hard and don't give up. If you don't pass the first time you will the second or the third. It is such a gratifying job in which people respect you as a professional. And it is so important for the community! I wouldn't change being an interpreter for any other job in the world!!