



Words of Wisdom from current and past staff interpreters ...

“Dear future colleague, Know that you do not know enough. Ride the wave of language and do what is needed to stay on the surf board. I wish you calm and serenity on your exam, and remember anxiety is the killer. Whatever language you grew up speaking gives you the basis to learn in your target language. Whatever language you studied in school gives you the foundation to learn the target culture you want to interpret.”



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](#)

Observing Court During a Pandemic

Court observation is one of the best ways to prepare yourself for court interpreter certification, but how does one observe court during a global pandemic? Currently all courts are live streaming their proceedings and they are open to the public. Here are the links to information about live streamed hearings in three of the biggest counties in Oregon.

Multnomah: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/multnomah/go/Pages/calendars.aspx>

Washington: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/washington/go/Pages/Calendars.aspx>

Clackamas: <https://www.courts.oregon.gov/courts/clackamas/Pages/default.aspx>

Interpreter’s Corner Podcast

The July installment of the Interpreter’s Podcast is now up. This month, we feature Oscar Nunez. Oscar is a freelance interpreter who works primarily in Washington County. Check it out!

<https://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/interpreters/want-to-be/Pages/>

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 Rich Hall, who is an American Sign Language (ASL) staff interpreter.

CLAS: What is your favorite thing about working for Court Language Access Services?

Rich: I worked as an independent contractor for 10 years before I really became serious about working in the Courts. I worked in a variety of settings including education, medical, platform, business, video relay and theater.

CLAS: How did you prepare to be a court interpreter? (Study methods, observation, creating legal glossaries? Etc.)

Rich: I started by attending workshops and seminars that focused on interpreting in the legal profession. When I decided to get serious, I took all of the trainings offered by OJD and began working with a mentor in appropriate court settings.

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

Rich: Court can be a very intense situation, sometimes when emotions run high it can be difficult to interpret if someone is speaking too quickly or people begin to talk over each other. In court Self-care is important.

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

Rich: Working with a highly skilled team of professionals in a dynamic and challenging environment.

CLAS: Any words of advice for prospective interpreters?

Rich: At first interpreting in the courts can seem very daunting, I would encourage people to try, really try. Do what is needed to prepare yourself properly. Learning court protocol and procedure. Observe court proceedings. Study and practice. Work with a mentor when possible, one who can help you select assignments that appropriate to your skill level.