

ORGANIZATIONAL  
GROWTH

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FEATURE ARTICLES

An Iraqi Interpreter  
Stateside  
Front Page

NAJIT Supports Iraqi  
Interpreters  
Page 3

Statement to the  
Profession  
Page 5

## NAJIT NEWS

Message from the Chair  
Page 2

Advocacy  
Page 9

Treasurer's Report  
Page 11

NAJIT Scholars' Report  
Page 13

## EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR'S CORNER  
Page 14

A LEXICOGRAPHER'S  
LAIR

El Español Maltratado  
Page 15

Fallece Enrique Alcaraz Varó  
Page 16

Heard in Court  
Page 17

WEBSITES OF INTEREST  
Page 17

ITEMS OF INTEREST  
Page 8

The Interpreter's Attire  
Page 18

# AN IRAQI INTERPRETER STATESIDE

## Family is Safe, Work Elusive

Daniel Sherr

When Youstra Al-Ani addressed the NAJIT annual conference in Pittsburgh this past May, recounting her experience as an Iraqi interpreter for Coalition Forces, two sentiments were palpable: empowerment and frustration. Empowerment, because a woman who had run a preschool program under Saddam Hussein discovered she had interpreting and translating skills that could be parlayed into a decent job at the highest levels of the command structure in Iraq. Frustration, because after fleeing Iraq with her family because her life was in danger, she was unable to continue working in the United States in her new profession. Above all, it was clear that this intrepid interpreter, who talked about situations of extreme violence and suffering with the utmost aplomb, has incredible coping skills.

The overthrow of Saddam Hussein changed Youstra Al-Ani's life in many ways. She had spent some of her childhood years at an English boarding school while her British mother was receiving medical treatment. She had attended a British school in Lebanon. Nevertheless, under Hussein she was barred from applying for a civil service position because the regime mandated that both parents be Iraqi.

Fast-forward to 2003. Al-Ani's brother, Ali, was working for the U.S. military police. "How is it, working with the Americans?" she asked. "It's nice." "Can I get a job?" "No, it's too dangerous for you," he said. In 2004, a minibus with 600 kilos of TNT blew up, killing Ali. He left behind a wife and four children. Al-Ani went to file papers for her brother so that his family could receive some compensation. ("According to the Koran, a widow cannot leave her house for 40 days after the death of her husband. She is to have no contact with men. If it turns out she is pregnant, there might be some doubt about the paternity. In any case, my sister-in-law doesn't speak a word of English, so I had to go to make sure that proper benefits were paid to the family.")

As she navigated her way through Titan, the com-

pany that had contracted her brother, one official asked her, "Where did you learn your English?" Ten days later, she was working with the 82nd Airborne Division at Checkpoint 2, and soon after that was assigned to the Multi-National Security Transition Command under Lieutenant General David Petraeus. There she worked from 2004 through September 6, 2007. On September 7, she left the country.

"On the first day of work, when I was introduced to my boss, Colonel Hinton, I said, 'To be honest with you, I have never used a computer,'" Al-Ani recalled. "We had no computers, no technology, in 2003. So he said, 'That's okay. You will learn.'"

Al-Ani traveled every day from the Red Zone to the International Zone to act as a liaison between the top echelons of Iraqi and coalition forces. "I was working on the transitioning of responsibilities from the Coalition and the U.S. to the Iraqi government. I interpreted at high-level presentations on national security at joint meetings between the Ministry of Defense and three-star generals," she said.

American officers, who missed their families back home, would ask her to bring her son to work. "I ended up spending more time with the officers than with my family," she said. The close ties she developed with American officers later proved instrumental in getting herself and her family admitted to the U.S. The admission process included a letter of certification from a general regarding the services she had rendered.

Al-Ani was quite candid about the different types of interpreters working in Iraq, the Category Ones and the Category Twos. "The Category Ones lived in Iraq and were Iraqi citizens. They didn't have security clearance," she said. "The Category Twos were paid more, were on contract, and went home when their contract was up." According to Al-Ani, some of the latter were Egyptians and Sudanese who had lived in the United States for more than 20 years. They were not familiar with Iraqi culture or the intricacies of Iraqi Arabic. Some did not

> continues on page 4

## THE NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Isabel Frammer, Chair  
Copley, Ohio

Laura Garcia-Hein, Treasurer  
Omaha, Nebraska

Rosemary Dann, Secretary  
Londonderry, New Hampshire

Lois M. Feuerle  
Portland, Oregon

Alexander Rainof  
Santa Monica, California

Executive Director  
Robin Lanier  
robin@najit.org

Headquarters: Washington, DC  
202-293-0342; hq@najit.org

## Proteus

*Proteus*, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc., 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 570 Washington, DC 20036

Editor-in-Chief: Nancy Festinger  
Assistant Editor and Proofreader:  
Virginia Oakes de Acosta

Address submissions to:  
proteus\_editor@najit.org  
with attached file. Submissions preferred in Microsoft Word. All submissions subject to editorial review.

Deadlines for copy : summer issue April 1;  
fall issue July 1; winter issue October 1;  
spring issue December 15.

Annual subscription rate: \$20.00, included in membership dues. Online articles and archive available at: [www.najit.org/proteus](http://www.najit.org/proteus)

The opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the association or the editor. Postmaster: Send address changes to: 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 570 Washington, DC 20036

Copyright 2008 by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc.

Graphic design by Chuck Eng Design  
Printed by Imaging Zone  
6715 C Electronic Drive, Springfield, VA 22151

Address requests for reprint permission to hq@najit.org

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This year's annual conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania was a wonderful success. It was my great pleasure to meet new members and reconnect with old ones. The workshops received outstanding evaluations and feedback on the conference was mostly laudatory.

I would like to welcome Rob Cruz and Dr. Peter Lindquist to NAJIT's Board of Directors, and congratulate Dr. Lois Feuerle on her re-election to the board. Congratulations are in order for Rosemary Dann, Esq., who was once again appointed to the position of Secretary, as well as Peter Lindquist, who is filling the Treasurer position.

Sincere thanks to Laura Garcia-Hein, Esq., for her two years of exemplary service on the board. Thank you, too, to Dr. Alexander Rainof, who retired from the board this year. Alex was chair of NAJIT for four years, and contributed greatly to the progress our organization has made. The NAJIT board presented Alex and Laura with plaques in recognition of their service to NAJIT.

Many people helped to make NAJIT's conference such a success. The conference committee, chaired by Lois Feuerle, with Elena Bogdanovich-Werner, Carla Farrell-Frazier, and Vania Haam serving as members, deserve special thanks. Nominations committee chair, Susan Bilodeau; Sabina Michaels and Jeck Navarrete, Esq.; our elections committee co-chair, Albert Bork; Christina Courtright and Janet Bonet, who assisted during the absence of other elections committee members: all helped tremendously in the nominations and elections process and the passage of our by-laws.

The Honorable Judge Ida Chen gave an engrossing and inspiring speech. Conference participants were talking about Judge Chen's speech for days afterward, and many expressed an interest in having a panel of judges, with her and others, for next year's conference.

I'd also like to acknowledge our new executive director, Robin Lanier, and her administrative assistant, Christina Filipovic, for their outstanding contributions in making sure the conference ran smoothly and efficiently. Members raved about their knowledge, professionalism, and friendliness. Thank you, Robin and Christina!

The NAJIT board congratulates and welcomes Doina Francu and Dr. Laura Douglas to the SSTI board. The SSTI board elected Michael Piper, Esq., to serve as president. Congratulations, Michael!

I was delighted to meet NAJIT's 2008 scholars. They are truly a bright and inspiring group of young people. Thank you to the scholarship committee for selecting such outstanding candidates, and to Peter Lindquist for helping them make the most of the conference.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Nancy Festinger, who has provided years of invaluable service to NAJIT. The NAJIT board presented Nancy with a plaque in recognition of her devotion and countless years of volunteer service to NAJIT.

Finally, it is important to recognize all the NAJIT members who continue to generously share expertise and experience with their colleagues. I am honored to be working with such a fine group of people.

I'm looking forward to the coming year, as there is much work to be done. While there were some additional transition costs from the move this past year, NAJIT is on sound financial footing. We will be strengthening our advocacy efforts on a state and national basis. We need to continue to support legislation for court interpreter programs such as Senator Kohl's S.702, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to state courts to develop and implement state court interpreter programs. The advocacy committee will continue to closely monitor pending legislation, and ensure that NAJIT's voice is heard. The committee, chaired by John Estill, has already begun

> *continues on page 10*

NAJIT occasionally makes its member information available to organizations or persons offering information, products, or services of potential interest to members. Each decision is carefully reviewed and authorization is given with discretion. If you do not wish to have your contact information given out for this purpose, please let headquarters know and we will adjust our records accordingly.

# NAJIT SUPPORTS IRAQI INTERPRETERS

Lillian Clementi

On June 9, NAJIT brought hope and practical advice to Iraqi interpreters recently arrived in the United States after death threats had forced them to flee their home country. NAJIT member James Plunkett spoke on behalf of the association at a Washington, D.C., career seminar designed to introduce the Iraqis to the U.S. job market and to the translation and interpreting professions.

Organized by Upwardly Global, a non-governmental organization that helps professional immigrants, refugees and asylees build meaningful careers in the United States, the event was supported by NAJIT and a wide range of other entities (see sidebar for a list of the partners). With 44 Iraqi professionals attending and over 100 American volunteers participating, the two-day event was well planned, well organized and well executed, and NAJIT can be proud of supporting it.

## Practical skills

On the morning of June 8, attendees were introduced to the U.S. job market and learned how to give a 30-second marketing pitch or “elevator speech” and to respond effectively to typical job interview questions. In the afternoon, each Iraqi was paired with an American volunteer for two hours of résumé editing based on guidelines provided by Upwardly Global. By the end of the day, each jobseeker was armed with a working elevator speech and a U.S.-style resume to use in networking at an employer breakfast the following morning.

Attendees also participated in mock interviews with American volunteers and had small-group counseling with Upwardly Global staff. The afternoon featured industry-specific panels, including a plenary session on translating and interpreting that featured speakers from NAJIT, the State Department, the American Translators Association, and the Association of Language Companies.

## Translating and interpreting in the U.S.

The translating and interpreting panel was well received by the Iraqi attendees, who were encouraged by the focused, hands-on information the speakers provided. Panelists struck a delicate balance between making the attendees aware of the skill gap they needed to close in order to reach the higher levels of the industry in the U.S. and offering advice on finding entry-level work to build on their war zone interpreting experience and help them get on their feet in the short term.

Speaking on behalf of ATA, Esther Diaz opened the panel with an introduction to the translating and interpreting professions, including necessary skills and education, credentialing, and U.S. employment trends. She also provided a wealth of concrete information on getting started in community and telephone interpreting. Patricia Arizu, chief of the interpreting division of the State Department’s Office of Language Services, outlined the various types of interpreting at State and focused especially on areas where the Department’s needs match the Iraqis’ skills. Randy Morgan of the Association of Language Companies highlighted areas of demand in the industry, skills in demand among language companies, and suggestions on succeeding in the U.S. market.

## NAJIT’s speaker

James Plunkett, a certified judiciary interpreter and foreign language coordinator for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, gave attendees an overview of court and legal interpreting and the skills and credentials these fields require. Engaging, well informed, and funny, he was an extremely effective speaker and a credit to NAJIT. Together with the three other speakers, Plunkett generously stayed for nearly an hour after the session ended to answer attendees’ questions and talk with them individually.

## Positive Feedback

Upwardly Global staff members were uniformly enthusiastic about the session, and the Iraqi attendees were equally warm in praising the panel. “It was a privilege to meet such a professional group,” one participant wrote. “[You] motivated us to pursue a decent career, so thank you very much for every one who participated in the Career Summit for Iraqi Professionals. I hope we can show you soon that your hard effort will bring the good result.”

Meeting the Iraqi refugees and hearing their stories is a moving and powerful experience. In general their English is good, and many have impressive backgrounds in areas that include engineering, information technology, project management, and medicine. At least one was a career translator and interpreter before the invasion of Iraq. As a group they are intelligent, professional, highly motivated, and eager to work towards a successful new life in the U.S. Almost all were resolutely upbeat, and most brought a marvelous sense of humor to the considerable challenges they face.

> *continues on next page*

### PARTNERS:

UPWARDLY GLOBAL  
([WWW.UPWARDLYGLOBAL.ORG](http://WWW.UPWARDLYGLOBAL.ORG))

THE LIST PROJECT ([WWW.THELISTPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.THELISTPROJECT.ORG))  
MANPOWER INC ([WWW.MANPOWER.COM](http://WWW.MANPOWER.COM))

HOLLAND & KNIGHT  
THE PAUL H. NITZE SCHOOL OF ADVANCED  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT JOHNS  
HOPKINS UNIVERSITY ([WWW.SAIS.EDU](http://WWW.SAIS.EDU))

THE ASSOCIATION OF LANGUAGE COMPANIES  
([WWW.ALCUS.COM](http://WWW.ALCUS.COM))  
THE AMERICAN TRANSLATORS ASSOCIATION  
([WWW.ATANET.ORG](http://WWW.ATANET.ORG))

*With special thanks to NAJIT, volunteers and donors, and the Tides Foundation.*

**AN IRAQI INTERPRETER STATESIDE** *continued from page 1*

write Arabic. Al-Ani was being paid \$750 a month, while her U.S.-based counterparts made \$188,000 a year. A good knowledge of Iraqi Arabic was necessary, she said, to be able to distinguish between the Iraqi *egil*, a slap on the face, and the Egyptian *egil*, a baby cow. “Now,” she says, “it’s much different. Any interpreting candidate is given a strict oral proficiency interview, a very hard test.”

Two Iraqi veterans present at Al-Ani’s talk concurred with her assessment of interpreting quality in the past. “We had interpreters there who were U.S. citizens and not always suitable for the job,” one noted. “The defense and intelligence communities often value irrelevant issues of security over competence.”

Danger was an integral part of Al-Ani’s existence. “We interpreters were not good elements in the eyes of the insurgents and the Mehti Army,” she said. “Sometimes I would go to work by bus, other times by car; some days I would walk. Every day I would go through a different checkpoint.” Various interpreters present at al-Ani’s presentation were surprised that the U.S. soldiers she was working with didn’t provide protection, but a veteran in the audience remarked, “Believe me, if you want to be safe in Baghdad, you don’t want to be surrounded by Americans.”

“My neighbors were very nosy,” Al-Ani recalled. “‘Where is your Mom? Were did your Mom go?’ they would ask my children. Every day I had to tell my children a different story in case the neighbors would ask.” To this day, her youngest child, Ali, who is five, will not admit that his mother worked for Coalition Forces. (To hear a recent feature from an NPR affiliate on Al-Ani’s children and their experience in the U.S., click on <http://stream.publicbroadcasting.net/production/mp3/kplu/local-kplu-716397.mp3>)

Al-Ani was particularly concerned about her third child, Abdullah, 7, who has Down’s Syndrome. “They strap explosive belts on them and send them out as suicide bombers.” Al-Ani sometimes would take her son to his aunt’s house near a division headquarters in Al-Jadria. “There he would be surrounded by thick walls with huge cement blocks. They couldn’t get to him there. A whole division was surrounding the house. Also, my son has difficulty breathing, he needs an air cooler, and they had electricity there.”

“When my husband said, ‘Be careful,’ I said, ‘Don’t worry,’ but when it happened to my closest friends— one was shot in front of his house and one was kidnapped and killed— that’s when my fears started.”

In October of 2007, after paying \$380 per family member for exit interviews with U.S. authorities in Syria, she, her husband, and three of her children were admitted to the U.S. with special immigrant visas. Al-Ani has finally scraped together the money to bring over her eldest son, 18, who is still in Iraq. “I left him with my father,” Al-Ani explained, “but my father says to him, ‘Don’t go here. Don’t go there. It’s too dangerous.’ Now he’s dying to come to the U.S. The other day he said over the phone, ‘Mom, it’s like a prison here.’”

There is no question that the move to the States has been beneficial to Al-Ani’s children. “My children go to school with no car bombs. Their life has changed,” she said. As for Abdullah, she observes, “In Iraq we don’t have schools for children with special needs. Here he gets to play with other children.”

Auburn, the Seattle-area community where Al-Ani and her husband, Qasim Al-Zubaidi, took up residence, has shown great

solidarity in supporting the family. Nevertheless, the professional prospects for this interpreter skilled in Arabic and English terms for Humvee spare parts have proved bleak. Some defense contractors told her that they only hire American citizens. Unable to find work as an interpreter, Al-Ani has been working as a caretaker and a swimming instructor and lifeguard trainer (“At one point,” she said, “I won the Middle East Swimming Championships.”) She stated that she would go back to Iraq for better-paid interpreting work if more lucrative work in the States could not be found.

In the meantime, she urged the audience, “Let us pray for the people of Iraq. Lord help them to unite, support, and love one another.”

**Postscript**

In late June, I caught up with Yousra Al-Ani in Virginia. She had just finished a second round of tests with Global Linguistic Solutions. “Now I go back to Seattle,” she said, “and the next time they call, it will be to ship out.” The decision to go back to Iraq, she says, was her only option. “It’s been so long. The bills keep coming in. I can’t just wait. We need to stand on our own feet. Here in Virginia, I’ve run into many of the interpreters I was working with in Iraq. We’ve all been getting subsidies from the Department of Social and Health Services of Washington State. We’re all going back.”

She has given the matter much thought. “First of all, I’ll be serving this country. At the same time, I’ll be helping the people of Iraq.” In addition, she will be earning “twelve times what I used to get in Iraq.” Al-Ani will also be much closer to her father, who still lives in Baghdad. “I won’t be able to see him, though, because we have been told not to leave the base under any circumstances. But at least it will be cheaper to call him. I’ll call him every day.” When Al-Ani gets American citizenship, years from now, she plans to bring her father to the States. ▲

*[The author is a frequent contributor to Proteus.]*

*Note: NAJIT is considering organizing Arabic-language court interpreting seminars for Iraqi interpreters now residing in the U.S. NAJIT’s advocacy committee is preparing position statements on a newly enacted law and on a bill pending before Congress affecting Iraqi translators and interpreters.*

**NAJIT SUPPORTS IRAQI INTERPRETERS** *continued from page 3***What you can do**

Upwardly Global has already launched fund-raising efforts for the next career seminar, slated for late August or early September, with the location still to be determined: San Francisco and Chicago are possible sites. NAJIT will help identify speakers who can help replicate the successful panel at the Washington event. If you can recommend or can offer to be a NAJIT speaker, please contact [robin@najit.org](mailto:robin@najit.org). If you’re interested in volunteering for the fall career summit or mentoring an Iraqi refugee, Upwardly Global needs you. Contact them at the URL in the sidebar on page 3. ▲

*[Lillian Clementi is the owner of Lingua Legal, a translation practice specializing in law and commerce. She works from French and German into English. Contact: [Lillian@LinguaLegal.com](mailto:Lillian@LinguaLegal.com).]*

# STATEMENT TO THE PROFESSION

Erik Camayd-Freixas

Federally certified interpreter Erik Camayd-Freixas wrote an essay on his personal perspective after an interpreting assignment in May during an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid which took place over a two-week period at a meat processing plant in Iowa. Reference to this essay was made in a front-page story by Julia Preston in the *New York Times* on July 11, under the title “An Interpreter Speaking Up for Migrants.” On July 24, the House Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing on the immigration raids. Written statements from witnesses may be viewed at: [www.judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear\\_072408.html](http://www.judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_072408.html). (News articles and the original essay can be found in the members’ section of the NAJIT website. Go to the Members’ log in on the front page, then to documents, and scroll down to “Other Documents.”) The following article, written especially for judiciary interpreting and translating professionals, recounts the history of the essay and the reasoning behind it.

On June 13, 2008 I finished an essay, *Interpreting After the Largest ICE Raid in U.S. History*, and circulated it among my fellow interpreters who worked on the court cases in Waterloo, Iowa from May 12–22, 2008.

Immediately I began receiving heartfelt letters of support from colleagues and numerous requests for permission to forward the essay to friends and family, which I eventually granted. In the following days, I received copious e-mails from people in all walks of life, of all ethnic backgrounds, including citizens of Postville, as well as many interpreters, with expressions of gratitude, admiration, and support, many of whom shared moving testimonies of their own.

Within two weeks, through the online grapevine, the essay, which was no longer mine if it ever was, had reached Congress and the media.

Aside from my Waterloo colleagues, I initially sent the essay to the American Translators Association to be considered for publication by its trade journal, *The ATA Chronicle*. I did not foresee that the essay would spread like wildfire over the internet. Numerous friends and colleagues, as well perfect strangers, urged me to permit its distribution far and wide. That is when I decided to send the essay to *The New York Times*.

My intention, when I sent it to my colleagues and the *Chronicle*, was only to debrief emotionally with those who were there, after the trauma of Postville, and to publish in a trade journal. It was an educational case study in interpreter ethics for my fellow linguists, nothing more. Hence the title and focus of the essay, addressed to the professional readership of the ATA.

When I sent the essay to the *Times*, my intention was for them to conduct an investigative report on some of the problems mentioned therein. Instead, the *Times* journalist decided — which is her prerogative — to write an article about my speaking out, more than about the contents of my message. As such, the *Times* article raised a question that needed to be asked and answered before one could discuss the real issues documented in the essay. That ques-

tion regarded the propriety of my decision to speak out despite the confidentiality clause in the interpreters’ code of ethics.

By so doing, the *Times* article adopted a polemical strategy designed to spark a general readership’s interest, but not specifically addressed to the professional. As a result, it answered only partially the question it raised, and the article lacked the rigor that an interpreter readership would require.

No article, in any case, can release me from owing a direct explanation to my colleagues and students about a decision which reflects on the entire profession and its public image. Therefore, once the *Times* of July 11 elevated the matter from private e-mails to a very public focus on the interpreter’s role in the judiciary, I did not want to delay this explanation. My intention now, in writing this ethical analysis of my decision, is to call on NAJIT to review the case. My justifications follow.

I have been a court interpreter since 1981, was federally certified in 1985, and have practiced in eight states and hundreds of cases. Never before have I made any public comment about a case. The Postville case was an extreme situation, with exceptional attendant circumstances of force majeure.

I do not advocate any intervention by interpreters in a case, except as a last resort in extremely extenuating circumstances — and then, only if no one else can assume that burden. Moreover, before intervening, the interpreter must know exactly in what manner and how far to intervene, and must previously discharge the obligation of consulting with colleagues.

My decision met all of these requirements and more.

In this case, as I explain in my essay, only an interpreter was in the unique position both to be impartial and to participate in all aspects of the proceedings. There was no one else. I could not look for any other interpreters to assume this burden, which evidently would entail a significant professional risk. I, on the other hand, was in a better position than most to do so.

Being a professor of interpreter ethics, director of a major T&I university program, and an internationally recognized authority in the field, I knew exactly what I was doing, as well as how and why. I could not expect others to take the lead, nor was I about to let diffusion of responsibility result in no action being taken where action was due. It was clear to me that this was my unavoidable responsibility, and that my colleagues would unequivocally support me.

Still, the first thing I did was extensive research on the legal issues and problems at the core of what appeared to be an inescapable ethical conflict. The second thing I did after writing the essay was to share it privately with a U.S. District Court judge and with my Waterloo interpreter colleagues before releasing it to any non-court personnel.

Only when I saw that the judge did not admonish me, and that I had strong consensus and support from my colleagues, did

> continues on next page

STATEMENT TO THE PROFESSION *continued from page 5*

I approve distribution and eventual publication of my personal account to the general public.

However, the *Times* article's suggestion that I "broke" the confidentiality code in order to speak up for migrants is both technically and factually inaccurate. First, I did not speak for the migrants. I spoke for democracy, due process, constitutional rights, and the dignity of the federal court, as is my obligation to do. Everything else in my essay is qualitative and quantitative documentation, description, and analysis in support of my expert testimony.

The interpreter code of ethics, in particular the clause of confidentiality, has as its meaning and rationale that the interpreter must *not influence the outcome of the case*. The Postville case had been closed, and its 10-day deadline for appeal had expired before I even began the essay. I do not mention any names and aside from anecdotal information of a general nature, all the facts mentioned are either in the public record or freely available on the internet. So I was careful not to break the code of confidentiality.

Moreover, confidentiality is not absolute. There are other ethical requirements which override confidentiality. For example, a medical interpreter, in whom a patient confides that he has a contagious disease, has the obligation to report it because it is in the public interest to do so. Similarly, in the Postville case, there were higher imperatives arising not only out of public interest but also out of the legal role of the court interpreter.

The court interpreter is defined in the federal rules of procedure as both the court's expert witness as well as an officer of the court. Rule 604 of the *Federal Criminal Code and Rules* (1989) states: "An interpreter is subject to the provisions of these rules relating to qualifications as an expert." Rule 702 states that an expert witness "may testify thereto in the form of an opinion or otherwise." In regard to the role of officer of the court, the interpreter is bound by the same duties as other such officers: "One responsibility officers have is that they must reveal anything that could affect their fairness and impartiality. Above all, the court officer is sworn to uphold the truth and never to perpetrate a fraud upon the court. Officers must also be candid with the court at all times" (Dueñas, Vásquez, and Mikkelson, 1991, p. 160).

Dueñas et al. (1991) state that "Rule 604 is not clear as to whether the interpreter is an expert witness at the start of proceedings, or only if there is a challenge to an interpretation." However, this is not actually the case. In the absence of specifically limiting language, the interpreter is always both an officer of the court *and* an expert witness (e.g., the interpretation can be impeached at *any* time). I believe the Postville case sheds clear light on this issue. As an expert officer of the court, the interpreter has a constant obligation to bring to the attention of the court any source of miscommunication, error, or misunderstanding, which may compromise the integrity of the record or the administration of justice, regardless of whether an interpretation is challenged. That is, the interpreter never ceases to be the court's expert witness, and never ceases to be an officer of the court.

Further, the rule of impartiality dictates that the interpreter may never be an expert witness for either the defense or the prosecution, but only for the judge.

In the case at hand, magistrates, judges, and other officers of the court participated in only one aspect of the judicial process and were unaware of the unfolding consequences. For instance, the magistrates never knew that the denial of bail would contribute down the line to a coerced guilty plea. Only the interpreter was present throughout the entire process, from beginning to end, to be able to follow the chain of cause and effect.

Both as an officer of the court and as the court's expert, I had the obligation to be candid with and inform the court of my expert observations and opinions. That is exactly what I did, acting in the best interest of the court. I talked to a judge then and there, but at that point I was only able to give sketchy information, and I understood that the judge had no discretion to stop the judicial freight train that had been set in motion. There were many complicated issues. So I had to wait until the case was closed, conduct extensive research, and finally write a fuller account of my expert observations and opinions. Then I sent it to the judge and to the other interpreters who could corroborate the different aspects of my observations and personal account. At that point the case was closed and there was nothing that the court could do, so my account became a matter for public and, ultimately, congressional inquiry.

As the Clerk of Court would often say, "This is a learning experience for all of us." For ICE and the DOJ, of course, it was a resounding success. But this was not the court's crusade. For the court, all that mattered is that we get the job done in a fair manner and with due process of law. It was indeed a learning experience for all of us, but the judges were unable to judge the results of that experience, because they were not there at every step of the way. That is why, as a court expert with specific relevant knowledge of the case, I had an obligation to inform the court so that it could evaluate the outcome of this new and ambitious "fast-tracking" enterprise.

My expert opinion, however, was that, as it turned out, this was an experiment gone awry. What was most peculiar about the Postville case is that, on paper, everything seemed to be following the law, but in actual practice there were shortcomings in due process at every step of the way (see my *Statement to Congress* of July 24, 2008). Each shortcoming, taken by itself (which was how other officers of the court would see it) did not appear so monumental, but all together (as the interpreters saw it), led to the most unjust results. If following the law step by step leads to such absurd consequences, then the scope of the law needs to be changed, making this a matter for Congress.

But whatever my duties as an interpreter, I had an overriding responsibility as a citizen. Having served in federal and state courts as an expert witness in forensic linguistics, my essay presents authoritative evidence regarding grave matters of public policy in areas that are currently of vital national interest: namely, immigration enforcement and immigration reform. The public good outweighed any personal or professional consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Erik Camayd-Freixas  
July 16, 2008

**APPENDIX: Some Questions and Answers**

**Q:** Will this lead to interpreters telling on attorneys if they believe that attorneys are not doing their job?

**A:** I never spoke against any individual or group, only against a broken system and lack of due process. On the contrary, I have publicly defended attorneys, judges, ICE agents, and prosecutors, stating that all were doing their duty, in the absence of immigration reform.

**Q:** Why did you not withdraw, but rather continued on the case, when you realized that you might have a possible conflict?

**A:** As I explain in the essay, I did not have enough evidence to determine if a conflict of interest existed. I did, however, determine that my impartiality would not be affected, and it was not affected. All my determinations and findings were arrived at from an impartial perspective (judges and juries do not cease to be impartial once they make their findings and judgments). Finally, I expected that the entire systemic problem with fast-tracking could be corrected at sentencing. So it was not until I saw that judges had no sentencing discretion that the conflict situation appeared in full view. By then I was only a day or two from finishing the two-week assignment.

Furthermore, it was the court's conflict, not my own. In accepting to conduct its continuity of operations exercise at ICE's expense, the court unwittingly acquired a conflict of interest. The overt manifestation of this conflict came when the court worked double shift to meet habeas corpus and accommodate ICE prosecution, raising the question of whether it was quid pro quo and a patron-client relationship had been established. Also, the court was co-opted into an ICE-led operation, failing to maintain physical and operational independence from ICE prosecution. This resulted in a failure to maintain the appearance of impartiality. This created instead the appearance that the court was an extension of ICE, which led some clients to distrust even their own defense attorneys, thinking that they were part of the same system.

**Q:** Did I break attorney/client privilege in discussing individual cases or even by speaking of the case in general, since people might be able to identify who the judge and defendant were?

**A:** There were 306 defendants in this case. I mentioned no names. The cases were already closed and the appeal period expired. I did not compromise the defense's case in any way; quite the contrary. And I knew from the outset that my actions were not detrimental to *any* individual on either side. Whether people can identify the judge is immaterial: the judge's previous rulings referenced in the essay are a matter of public record.

**Q:** Why did I not report to the judicial council?

**A:** I reported to the presiding judicial officer. In so doing, I fully discharged my obligation. Reporting to the judicial council is the prerogative of judges and attorneys, not of the interpreter. The interpreter only reports to the judge. In this case, the judge had no discretion to amend the proceedings, much less after the cases were closed. This made it all the more evident that the criminalization of migrants was not a legal decision, but rather a public policy decision made without congressional approval, which lay outside

the purview of the judicial branch and within that of the legislature. The public interest aspect of the Postville case was reinforced by the fact that it had clear, direct, and serious implications for immigration reform, which is urgently in the national interest. In short, public interest in this case far outweighed individual and professional considerations, and this interest extended well beyond the judiciary.

**Q:** The essay indicated that individuals were not guilty, which is an opinion that an interpreter cannot give.

**A:** It is not an opinion; it is a conclusion of fact. The interpreter is the court's expert witness, and Rule 702 states that an expert witness "may testify thereto in the form of an opinion or otherwise." The elements of the crime described in the plea agreement included acting "knowingly" and "with intent to deceive." In my expert opinion, five out of nine defendants we interviewed in depth did not know the meaning of a Social Security number. This finding rendered their guilt a logical impossibility. Given that this result was obtained from a random sampling of defendants, it can be stated with a high degree of statistical confidence that some of the 300 defendants were not guilty. How many, we will never know, because they were forced to plead guilty anyway, without describing the individual circumstances of each case. Finally, my opinion is legally irrelevant because their innocence need not be proven: the burden of proof lies with the prosecution.

**Q:** Prosecutors always overcharge to obtain a plea. What was different about this case?

**A:** Any criminal defendant has a 6th Amendment right to reasonable bail. These common workers were denied bail hearings because of their underlying immigration detainer. The combination of no bail, no speedy trial, overcharging, and holding their children's survival ransom equals coercion and subornation of plea.

**Q:** Defendants are frequently shackled. What made this worthy of special attention?

**A:** Defendants are shackled in court only when they pose a danger, either because they are presumed to be violent criminals, or because they are brought to court in groups. In this case, they were brought to court in groups, but they were individual cases. Their right of severance was violated. Single, non-violent defendants are also allowed to come to court in business suits, even if they are in detention. In this case, the shackles were unwarranted for safety, and only served to label the defendants as criminal aliens. The words "presumption of innocence" were utterly meaningless when spoken to defendants in shackles, without bail, and fast-tracked without consideration of individual circumstances. They understood correctly that they were presumed guilty because of the fact that they were illegal workers. One of the prisoners interviewed was working with a consular ID from the Guatemalan consulate, not with false US resident papers. As the men were charged, they were bused to different county jails. The last three groups brought in were females. By then, all or most of the men had already left the compound. These women posed no threat, but they were shackled just the same, even though some of them were in severe emotional distress.

**Q:** LEP individuals and/or non-LEP do not always understand

*> continues on next page*

STATEMENT TO THE PROFESSION *continued from page 7*

what is going on in our judicial system. Interpreters encounter these issues all the time. Attorneys also encounter similar problems with their English-speaking clients. What was different about this case?

**A:** There were 306 defendants, 17 cases per attorney, being fast-tracked from arrest to sentencing in 4 to 10 days. There was little time or privacy for attorneys to meet with clients individually. Normally, defendants are few, they have an opportunity to present their circumstances at least via the probation report or presentence investigation, and they have plenty of time to consult with their attorneys about anything they do not understand. That was far from the case here. Many of these people were illiterate newcomers, who needed much more time and individualized legal counsel than was provided.

**Q:** What about Canon 6: Restriction of Public Comment—“Interpreters shall not publicly discuss, report, or offer an opinion concerning a matter in which they are or have been engaged, even when that information is not privileged or required by law to be confidential”?

**A:** Again, canon 6 refers to public comment that may conceivably affect the outcome of an ongoing case. For example, the interpreter has participated in a previous, related case and gives statements to the press, which may find their way back into court and affect the outcome of the ongoing case. That was not the case here: the cases were closed, and I was not involved in

any new, related case. Furthermore, canon 6 conflicts with other responsibilities of the interpreter as expert officer of the court, as outlined above, and also conflicts with canon 9: Duty to Report Ethical Violations. Finally, canon 6 does not survive the final disposition of a case. It is a limited restriction, not an absolute prohibition, and therefore cannot be construed as requiring perpetual or indefinite secrecy on the part of the interpreter about every case in which she or he has been engaged. After the case is closed and the interpreter contract ends, canon 6 becomes subordinate to every citizen’s first amendment right to free speech. [See *Standards for Performance and Professional Responsibility for Contract Court Interpreters in the Federal Court* ([http://www.uscourts.gov/interpretprog/interp\\_prog.html](http://www.uscourts.gov/interpretprog/interp_prog.html)).]

I would of course be happy to answer any other questions from NAJIT in writing.

In closing, I want to emphasize that my report offers strictly impartial expert and eye witness evidence of violations of due process, constitutional rights, democratic principles, and human rights, without espousing any social or political agenda, and regardless of the nature or status of the parties involved.

*[The author holds master’s and doctoral degrees in language and literature from Harvard University and a B.A. in psychology from Tufts University. He is a professor of legal interpreting and Director of Translation Studies at Florida International University.]*

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### The Dangers of Outsourcing Agency Sends Interpreters with Criminal Records

On May 1, 2008, a Pakistani national responded to a call by the National Police and went to Barajas airport. The Spanish police needed a Portuguese interpreter to explain to some Brazilians who were trying to enter Spain that their papers were not in order.

The first surprise for the officers was to see a Pakistani coming to translate Portuguese. The second was to discover that he had six prior felonies, including two counts of document forgery and another for drug trafficking. In addition, he had an outstanding arrest warrant. He was arrested.

A few days later the same thing happened with a Kurd who went to Barajas to work as a translator for the police. Another interpreter with a criminal record.

The translators belong to Seprotect, which won the interpreting and translation contract to providing interpreters for the National Police Force after a bidding process organized by the Home Office.

Seprotect began to provide services on May 1, including the transcription of oral statements, wiretaps, computer media, etc. The contract is for 14 months and the company will be paid 2.6 million euros [about 4 million dollars]. Sources of the Home Office have told 20 Minutos that after the detection of various irregularities, an investigation of the company has been opened.

#### SSTI elected officers for 2008-2009:

President: Michael Piper      Secretary: Laura Douglas  
Vice President: Lois Feuerle      Treasurer: Doina Francu

“It would be much better if this money could be invested in increasing the full-time staff of 300 translators already on the Home Office’s payroll,” says César Pérez of Comisiones Obreras [a union]. “These 300 staff interpreters are solid professionals. That would be much better than outsourcing the service to a company that is providing translators with criminal records who are going to have access to sensitive information.”

This newspaper has tried unsuccessfully to get Seprotect’s opinion, especially as regards the company’s criteria for selecting the interpreters it sends to the police...

The terms of the contract specify that the National Police will have a special need for interpreters in Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Farsi, Igbo, Lithuanian, Rumanian, Tagalog, and Urdu...

Seprotect pays each interpreter 10 euros (\$15.50) an hour, while the company charges the Home Office 45 euros (\$70) an hour for interpretation, and 48 euros (\$74.40) an hour for the translation of documents and wiretaps. The conditions also stipulate that the interpreter must report to the police precinct requesting the interpreter within 60 minutes of being called.

[Source: 20minutos.es, May 30, 2008. By David Fernández. Translated by Daniel Sherr for *Proteus* readers.]



## NAJIT NEWS

### ADVOCACY

June 16, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter in Support of the State Court Interpreters Grant Program Act, S. 702

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly support the State Court Interpreters Grant Program Act, S. 702, introduced by Senator Herb Kohl (DWI). This important legislation, which has been approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, would create a grant program for state court interpreter services throughout the country.

Providing court interpreter services is a necessary component of the adjudicatory process. Without the support of certified interpreters, courts encounter difficulty in finding the facts and dispensing justice in cases involving limited English proficient parties or witnesses. Proper language support also serves public safety goals by ensuring that LEP witnesses are heard accurately in criminal matters.

Improving court interpreter programs around the country will help to ensure access to justice and fair trials for individuals with limited English proficiency. Likewise, failure to utilize qualified interpreters undermines respect for the courts by creating an appearance of unfairness when one party or one witness cannot fully participate in a proceeding. There have been numerous examples of state court judgments being overturned due to the lack of qualified court interpreters provided to litigants. S. 702 would assist state courts in dealing with this reality.

According to the Constitution, Federal law, Department of Justice regulations and guidance, and state requirements, states courts have an obligation to provide court interpreters to individuals with limited English proficiency. In the vast majority of these cases, state courts provide interpreter services out of their own limited budgets. Many courts struggle to carry the costs of court interpreting or have declined to provide them in certain types of cases, with unfortunate results. This legislation would go a long way to help state courts meet these obligations.

The growing diversity of the United States' population is reflected in the changing needs of people appearing in the state courts. Thus, courts increasingly serve people who lack fluency in the English language. For example, in the past five years, data from

the federal courts show an average annual increase of 7.6% per year in the number of events requiring the use of interpreters. In addition, Census data also shows that individuals who speak a language other than English is projected to grow in the next 10–15 years.

We strongly support the State Court Interpreters Grant Program Act, which would create a grant program for state court interpreter services throughout the country. We urge you and the other members of Congress to pass S. 702.

Sincerely,

The Conference of Chief Justices  
The Conference of State Court Administrators  
Asian American Justice Center  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law  
Catholic Charities of Central Texas  
Center for Civil Justice of Michigan  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Civil Rights for Immigrants Task Force (Pittsburgh Interfaith Network)  
Coalition of Bar Associations of Color  
Community Justice Project  
Florida Equal Justice Center  
Florida Legal Services  
HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia  
International Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants  
International Community Corrections Association  
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center of Chicago  
Korean Resource Center of Los Angeles  
Latino Catholic Community of the Diocese of Pittsburgh  
Legal Aid Society of Lubbock  
NAACP of Houston  
Na Loio Immigrant Rights & Public Interest Legal Center (Hawaii)  
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association  
National Association of IOLTA Programs  
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators  
National Council of La Raza  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Juvenile Defender Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
Orange County Asian American Bar Association  
Organization of Chinese Americans of Orange County  
Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project  
Pennsylvania Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project  
Philadelphia Bar Association  
Political Asylum Project of Austin  
Pro Bono Net

> *continues on page 11*

# MONTEREY INSTITUTE

MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

An affiliate of Middlebury College



## GRADUATE SCHOOL OF TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION

### Continuing Education FOR WORKING PROFESSIONALS

#### ONLINE COURSES

- Editing for Translators
- Website Localization
- Internationalization

#### COMPACT ON-SITE COURSES

- Training of Trainers (Washington, D.C.)
- Interpreting Workshops (Spanish, Portuguese)
- Computer-Assisted Translation
- Conference Terminology and Procedures
- Deposition Interpreting

[WWW.MIIS.EDU](http://www.miis.edu)

For full course descriptions, dates, and how to apply, please visit our website at <http://translate.miis.edu/ndp/> or contact [rachel.christopherson@miis.edu](mailto:rachel.christopherson@miis.edu), 831.647.6422

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *continued from page 3*

working on several issues and pieces of legislation. I encourage you to check out the advocacy section of NAJIT's website, and consider getting involved.

Our new board member Rob Cruz has been appointed chair of the Community Liaison Committee. Our advocacy and community liaison committees will be working closely together to develop new relationships. Strengthening and developing new links with organizations who share our interest in advocating for sound language policies and the use of certified and qualified interpreters will continue to be a priority this year.

The NAJIT board welcomes Catherine Jones and Rosabelle Rice as the new co-chairs for the membership committee. We look forward to ensuring constant growth for our organization. Please continue to promote NAJIT by encouraging friends and colleagues to join and become actively involved through committee membership.

Thank you for your support and commitment to NAJIT, and for your trust in our leadership. We are planning for a productive coming year. The conference committee is already working on a dynamic and informative program for our 30th year anniversary celebration. Please continue to submit your proposals. I look forward to seeing you in Scottsdale, Arizona next year.

During our annual meeting, member Daniel Sherr requested that NAJIT members consider assisting Iraqi and Afghan interpreters and translators who have come to the U.S. on special visas. The government has taken steps to expand and expedite programs to grant immigrant visas for Iraqi and Afghan interpreters and translators who have provided substantial and direct assistance in support of our military in those countries. However, now that some of them are here, they are facing difficulties in obtaining employment. A request also came to NAJIT from an entity called UpGlo who is organizing job summits to orient these new interpreters and translators to employment opportunities. NAJIT was fortunate to have James Plunkett represent NAJIT and the legal interpreting and translation field at UpGlo's first Summit in Washington, D.C. (*see article on page 3*). Thank you, James! Job summits will be taking place in various parts of the country, and NAJIT will seek additional volunteers to represent us at the various locations.

Lastly, please don't forget to visit our website often to view updated information. We have posted the Terms of the Profession, published in the last issue of *Proteus*, and a thoroughly revised FAQ section. Also, make sure to visit the members' section for new information and to sign up for the NAJIT member discussion listserve, where members discuss the many issues affecting them in the course of their work, including terminology conundrums and ethical dilemmas. The NAJIT listserve is the place to go to take the pulse of the profession, and you will surely see it is alive and well.

Isabel Framer, Chair  
NAJIT Board of Directors

Southern Disability Law Center  
 Texas Access to Justice Foundation  
 United Methodist Church, Gen. Board of Church & Society  
 Victim/Witness Services of South Philadelphia  
 Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California  
 YKASEC – Empowering the Korean American Community of  
 Flushing



### Response from Israel

[NAJIT forwarded a copy of Shira Heifer's article, *Interpretation in the Israeli Legal System*, which appeared in the winter 2008 issue of *Proteus*, to ACRI, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.<sup>1</sup> We received this response]

Thank you very much for your letter concerning the grim reality of the role of interpreters in the Israeli Court system.

We were unaware of the magnitude of the situation as described in your letter and in the article. It is yet another example of the negative results of the trend towards the privatization of government services in Israel.

We plan to address the issue in two ways: our criminal justice lawyer will look into the matter and involve other interested parties such as the Public Defender's office and the lawyer who is studying the effects of privatization of government services on the protection of human rights in Israel will explore the consequences of the privatization of this government service on the due process in Israel's court system.

We will keep you posted about our progress in this matter and would like to thank you again for taking the initiative and bringing this issue to our attention.

It is good to know that people are thinking of our work and are getting involved in strengthening the protection of human rights in Israel.

Rachel Benziman,  
 Executive Director,  
 The Association for Civil Rights in Israel

<sup>1</sup> ACRI's website, [www.acri.org.il](http://www.acri.org.il), in Hebrew, Arabic, and English, defines the group mission as follows: "The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) is Israel's oldest and largest human rights organization and the only one that deals with the entire spectrum of human rights and civil liberties issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories. ACRI's work encompasses litigation and legal advocacy, education, and public outreach as the most effective way in which to build toward our long-term vision of a just and democratic society that respects the equal rights of all its members."

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### NAJIT Annual Conference 2008

At the conclusion of fiscal year 2007, we find NAJIT in good financial health. We had considerable profits from the annual conference in Oregon, and our membership has continued to grow.

The outstanding attendance to the conference in Portland translated into net revenues of over \$32,000. We are grateful to the conference committee and to all of you who in one way or another contributed to making the 2007 conference such a success.

Revenue from membership in 2007 also increased slightly over 2006, to \$4,446. Thanks to these increases, NAJIT has been able to support advocacy initiatives, committee work, and to sponsor activities from other interpreter organizations. For NAJIT's upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009, we would like to break the record in conference attendance and membership numbers. I encourage you to start promoting the conference and attracting new members. Contact the committee chairs to find out how you can assist. The more members we have, the better work we can do in furtherance of our profession.

Our net income in 2007 exceeded budgeted expectations. Some of these excess funds were invested in the acquisition of essential equipment needed for conferences, which will diminish rental costs from conference venues. Expenses in 2007 stayed within budget. The funds that NAJIT invested in 2006 are still yielding interest in the form of two certificates of deposit, which can be immediately accessible if necessary.

The end of 2007 and fiscal year 2008 brought significant changes in NAJIT's administration. We moved headquarters to Washington, D.C., which temporarily interfered with electronic communications, membership renewals, and conference registrations. NAJIT's membership information is now kept in a more efficient and less costly integrated database system.

This move strategically places NAJIT in one of the best locations in the country to continue promoting important advocacy efforts and support for the profession. From a financial perspective, we disbursed one-time transitional expenses. The short-term impact of this, together with a lower number of registrants for the 2008 conference, is that for fiscal year 2008, the budget will be managed in an even more conservative manner than in previous years. The mid- to long-term results of these changes will be savings in website management and membership data management, as we will no longer pay two independent contractors to do this work. AMG, our association management company, provides all these services under a general retainer contract. AMG has moved us to a lower-cost ISP provider in an integrated system that efficiently maintains our website and all membership data where, among other things, members will be able to track their conference attendance beginning with this year's conference.

In conclusion, in 2008 NAJIT is a financially sound, steadily growing organization. Thank you to all our members for contributions and continued support.

It has been an honor to have been entrusted with the responsibility of serving as your Treasurer during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Laura Garcia-Hein

> *continues on next page*

## TREASURER'S REPORT *(continued)*

Profit and Loss for 2007 (Compared with Actual 2006 Figures and 2007 Budget)

	JAN - DEC 07	JAN - DEC 06	\$ CHANGE	BUDGET 07	\$ OVER BUDGET
<b>ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
1000 Membership	112,901.00	108,455.00	4,446.00	110,910.00	1,991.00
1200 Advertising	1,170.00	1,130.00	40.00	1,420.00	-250.00
1300 Publications	0.00	370.00	-370.00	200.00	-200.00
1400 Conference	85,587.00	83,450.00	2,137.00	68,000.00	17,587.00
1760 Other rev-Mem list rental	120.00	710.00	-590.00	600.00	480.00
1770 Other rev-Interest Income	443.25	32.49	410.76	24.00	419.25
1781 Other rev-Misc	2,407.92	0.00	2,407.92		
1800 Contribs recd for SSTI	0.00	1,265.00	-1,265.00	2,400.00	-2,400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>202,629.17</b>	<b>195,412.49</b>	<b>7,216.68</b>	<b>183,554.00</b>	<b>19,075.17</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
1810 SSTI Pass thru Contribs	0.00	3,643.00	-3,643.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
1900 Professional Fees	69,459.75	78,451.00	-8,991.25	68,880.00	579.75
1930 Administration	12,777.39	11,658.82	1,118.57	13,190.00	-412.61
1950 Service Charges	5,811.74	4,468.67	1,343.07	4,680.00	1,131.74
1960 Gov't Fees	10.00	125.00	-115.00		
1975 Taxes-NY State Corp	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
1980 Website	12,250.50	8,334.40	3,916.10	9,180.00	3,070.50
2000 Proteus	15,205.93	14,105.54	1,100.39	14,100.00	1,105.93
2020 Publications	1,792.60	4,593.40	-2,800.80	4,140.00	2,347.40
3000 Conference	52,730.49	54,093.93	-1,363.44	42,210.00	10,520.49
3400 Conference Sponsorship	915.20	2,164.39	-1,249.19		
4000 Awards	70.78	0.00	70.78	100.00	29.22
4100 Volunteers	0.00	42.96	-42.96	200.00	200.00
4200 Board	8,144.07	8,380.13	-236.06	13,175.00	5,030.93
5000 Committees	2,775.19	3,242.06	-466.87	1,680.00	1,095.19
6000 Dues & Subscriptions	100.00	956.92	-856.92	900.00	800.00
7000 Public Relations/Advocacy	5,397.05	4,723.87	673.18	8,400.00	3,002.95
9000 SSTI	30.00	4,008.99	-3,978.99		
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>187,720.69</b>	<b>203,243.08</b>	<b>-15,522.39</b>	<b>183,485.00</b>	<b>4,235.69</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>14,908.48</b>	<b>-7,830.59</b>	<b>22,739.07</b>	<b>69.00</b>	<b>14,839.48</b>

## THE NAJIT SCHOLARS' REPORT

### ■ **Thayse Rosa**, *Portuguese interpreter*

I would like to thank NAJIT and SSTI very much for the marvelous experience of being one of the scholars chosen to attend the 2008 NAJIT conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

This conference was the first of any professional conferences I have ever attended. As I try to describe my experience to colleagues back home, I cannot think of any word other than "priceless."

I was overwhelmed by the warm and friendly atmosphere among the interpreters and translators, not to mention their experience and knowledge. I felt like I was in the Disneyland for interpreters and translators. I was able to have many of my questions answered, relate to the issues being exposed, and listen to and accept advice from very experienced professionals.

The workshops brought such enrichment to my professional soul. Sometimes I felt that the stories being told were the stories of my life, which made me realize and truly feel that I am not alone when I am working out there in the field. It was such a comforting feeling. The events were wonderful and fun. I would also like to especially thank all of those who attended the reception for the scholars and for the attention given to all of us. It was an honor sharing those moments with such brilliant minds.

I cannot thank you all enough for such an amazing experience. I feel lucky and very flattered to have been a 2008 scholar. I hope to see you again in the 2009 NAJIT conference and re-live all those moments again!

### ■ **Luis Hernandez**

Midyear in 2007 I graduated from the interpretation program at Cal State University in Long Beach and since then, I've been working as a medical interpreter in Austin, Texas. I am planning to take the judicial interpreting tests as soon as I am able to. At the Pittsburgh conference, I think I came in with a different mindset than the other scholars. I understand the need to attend these conferences not just because of the networking opportunities,

but also because others' misconception of the interpreting profession can sometimes bring one's spirits down. I had been starting to feel that way without even realizing it.

At the scholar's reception, while listening to people like Rob Cruz, John Estill, Nancy Festinger and others, I realized that I'm not the only one who sometimes has to fight the "interpreter battle." We are sometimes underappreciated and misunderstood in our profession, whether we are medical, conference, or judicial interpreters. Yet we keep doing it because we provide a voice for people who might not otherwise have one. I went through the conference with my passion for this profession restored. And it only got better with each session.

What I liked the most about NAJIT and the Pittsburgh conference was finding out how many people experience different forms of the same things from coast to coast. I like knowing that if anyone ever goes through hardships, a group of colleagues is there to show amazing support, as they have with one of the most influential people in my life, Dr. Raïnof. And it gives great hope to interpreters just starting out, like me, that things get better. Departments grow, the profession grows, and people are starting little by little to acknowledge that we are essential in this rapidly shrinking world. This is all thanks to professionals in the front lines carrying the "interpreter flag." I proudly carry that flag as well.

### ■ **Laura B. Cerón**

In April 2006 I was accepted as a NAJIT Scholar for the Oregon 2006 Conference; unfortunately, I became ill and wasn't able to attend. I was devastated. Nonetheless, the NAJIT board agreed to give me a second chance, and I was invited to attend as a scholar this year. As soon as I met the scholars and the NAJIT board, I knew I was on the right career path. Currently, I am a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. There, I am a Spanish translation and interpretation major, French major and Japanese minor. Although in class we were taught the translator's and interpreter's duties as well as ethics, I was completely

oblivious to the great community that translators and interpreters have created.

Our duties as scholars included handing out and retrieving evaluations from each workshop and helping the presenters with whatever they needed, so I did not expect to be able to enjoy the workshops. However, I was proven wrong and did also enjoy the presentations. I will admit that retrieving evaluations was challenging, since the attendees did not want to be bothered by what they viewed as "unnecessary" papers. Most attendees were polite about it, while others not so much. Nonetheless, I enjoyed myself tremendously.

Overall, I learned a lot about how the "real" world interacts with us as interpreters. I was pleasantly surprised to see a community of professionals trying to excel and help each other. I congratulate the NAJIT board and all of those who made the conference possible, since I discovered a valuable community I can trust. Moreover, I am deeply thankful to have been given the opportunity of a lifetime to attend; this conference was an eye opener and brought forth the passion for languages that I share with all of you.

### ■ **Liliana J. Popp**, *Hunter College*

I want to thank the NAJIT and SSIT boards and committee members for giving me the opportunity of being a NAJIT scholar. I personally met Peter Lindquist, Isabel Framer, Laura García-Hein, Lois Feuerle, Robin Lanier, Christina Filipovic and Nancy Festinger. I would especially like to thank them all for giving us so many tips of the trade and for their encouragement. They made us feel welcome and a part of the association. As we continue with our difficult learning process as professional interpreters, their support will always be heartfelt.

Interpreting is a vital profession, which requires a lot of training in order to attain the high standards and proficiency required in judicial settings. NAJIT and SSIT have really given us a boost towards the attainment of that goal. I had a great experience overall. I met so many people

> continues on page 14

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In the recent member survey, NAJIT members told us that their listing in the on-line Membership Directory is an important benefit of membership. We at headquarters know this is absolutely true.

We frequently receive phone and e-mail inquiries from lawyers and courts looking for interpreters and translators. These inquiries provide valuable insight into how the general public makes use of our directory. Generally lawyers and courts seek interpreters by *location, language and certifications*, in that order.

All of this means that if you have not taken the time to update your on-line profile, your name may not appear in the directory when searched by these criteria. Think of the possible opportunities you might be missing, just because your languages are not accurately listed in your on-line profile!

For this reason we urge every NAJIT member to take a moment to review their on-line profile. You can do this by logging in to the Members Only area of the NAJIT webpage, and clicking the "Profile" button at the top of the page. You'll need your user name and password to get into your profile — if you have forgotten it, you can always contact HQ, and we'll be happy to provide that information to the email address on record for you.

One additional consideration when you are updating your on-line profile: accents or diacritical marks you may use in your name may cause problems for some searchers using the directory.

Because much of modern computer technology was developed in English-speaking countries, keyboards, unfortunately, tend to have an English bias. When an English-speaker is searching our directory by last name, they typically do not use diacritical marks. Keep in mind that if your surname is García, but someone searches for Garcia, your name will not appear in the results. The computer sees these two forms of the same name as being different because of the different spelling.

For this reason, many NAJIT members find it preferable to use names without diacritical marks. We at HQ realize this is a sensitive decision for many members, and you may store your name with or without diacritical marks, it's entirely up to you. However, we do want to make sure that members understand how English speakers, the main users of the directory, may not be using symbols like the *í* in García in their search criteria.

Finally, we know that some members do not wish to have their addresses listed publicly in the directory. If you want to keep your address (or other information) from appearing, please edit your profile and note which pieces of information you want to be kept private. Please note, however, that if you delete your mailing address from your profile, you will delete your mailing address from the entire NAJIT database, which means you won't get *Proteus* every quarter. So please use the privacy options.

As always, we are looking for ways to improve the on-line directory. We've received a few suggestions that we will be trying to implement over the summer. If you have any thoughts, please feel free to send them to us. We are always interested in improving services for the membership.

If you have any questions or concerns about your directory listing, please contact NAJIT headquarters at [hq@najit.org](mailto:hq@najit.org). ▲

Robin Lanier  
Executive Director

**SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT**

LANDMARK AUDIO  
TECHNOLOGIES

**FM Transmitters**

[www.landmarkfm.com](http://www.landmarkfm.com)



**INTERPRETER KITS FOR SALE OR RENT**

**2 Tuneable FM Transmitters**

- Mobile and stationary use
- Battery or AC power
- Broadcast via microphone or existing PA system

**6 Orpheus Receivers**

- Fully tuneable
- Compact
- Cost effective

**E-mail: [info@landmarkfm.com](mailto:info@landmarkfm.com)**  
**Call: 888-677-4387**  
**[www.landmarkfm.com](http://www.landmarkfm.com)**

### NAJIT SCHOLARS' REPORT *continued from page 13*

from all over the country: some were professionals with so much experience, and others students like myself. There were all very accommodating, accepting, and willing to help us. I am glad I was able to help with the process of running the conference by assisting the speakers and helping Peter, Christina, and Robin in anything I could. This gave me a feeling of involvement and importance within the association. It takes a lot of work to be able to plan a conference of this magnitude, and the committees did a great job. I was impressed. I came home with a sense of contentment, gladness and happiness.

I got an invitation from one of the speakers, Lionel Bajaña, to observe him in a manslaughter case, which I will definitely do.

It is very important for SSTI and NAJIT to have this scholarship program, and I hope the mentoring program gets developed further. ▲

## A LEXICOGRAPHER'S LAIR

## EL ESPAÑOL MALTRATADO

Dennis McKenna

Como casi todo el mundo en estos días, llevo una vida ajetreada. Una tarde reciente, queriendo pasar un rato agradable sin pensar en nada relacionado con el idioma, encendí la tele y escuché a medias un reportaje de Delaware en el que informaban que se había detectado la presencia de unos “químicos” en una bahía, cosa que me extrañó, dado que era invierno y el agua estaría muy fría. Después se informó acerca de un cambio en la ley que regula el castigo corporal de los menores, donde se comentó que a veces los padres “cruzan la línea” entre la disciplina y el abuso de los niños. Una vez más me resultó curioso el informe, no tanto por la noticia en sí, sino por el lenguaje utilizado para presentarlo. Pero me di cuenta que el reportaje me había sonado raro porque, como buen profesional del idioma, había intentado entenderlo en un solo idioma mientras expresaban las ideas en una mezcla de inglés y español sin advertir al telespectador.

Según el diccionario de la RAE el sustantivo “químico” en español tiene una sola acepción: persona que profesa la química o tiene en ella especiales conocimientos. Sin embargo, en el noticiero (aunque la palabra correcta según la RAE es noticiario) lo usaban en lugar de *sustancia química* o *producto químico*. Y cuando el otro reportero hablaba de cómo a veces los padres “cruzan la línea entre la disciplina y el abuso de los niños”, estaba utilizando una expresión inglesa, *to cross the line between discipline and child abuse*, traducida literalmente. En español diríamos que a veces los padres *se pasan, o se pasan de la raya* en sus intentos de disciplinar a sus hijos, no que “cruzan la línea”. Y en este contexto *malos tratos a menores* seguramente sería más apropiado que “abuso de los niños.” Luego, en otras noticias emplearon la palabra “fatalidades” en lugar de *víctimas mortales*, “catástrofes” y “desastres” para referirse a varios *sinistros y percances* y “corte” y “evidencia” para decir *tribunal y prueba*. Todo esto me dio tal empacho idiomático que me apresuré a apagar la televisión antes de que me diera un patatús.

Sentado allí en la penumbra de la sala empecé a enumerar algunos de los anglicismos que ya han sido incorporados al español: chequeo y chequear (*check*), boicoteo y boicotear (*boycott*), doping y dopaje (*doping*), choc (*shock*), suéter (*sweater*), bloquear (*block*) y linchamiento (*lynching*). Es obvio que el español sería más pobre hoy día sin estos vocablos, pero no todo lo nuevo e innovador es bueno, especialmente cuando se trata de nuestro querido idioma milenario que hasta ahora se defendía perfectamente bien sin muchas aportaciones del inglés.

En cuanto al gran flujo de palabras y términos nuevos, hay algunos que me horrorizan, otros que no me importan demasiado y unos cuantos que utilizo con mucha frecuencia. Reconozco que una lengua, para mantenerse viva, tiene que cambiar con los tiempos. No podemos hacer caso omiso del mundo en que vivimos.

De hecho el neologismo puede enriquecer el idioma en vez de ser un lastre, sobre todo si aporta algo que antes era difícil o imposi-

sible de expresar de una forma sencilla y comprensible. *Membresía* nos es útil, por ejemplo, para referirse a la condición de ser miembro de un club u organización. Estos vocablos también son válidos si aportan un matiz que nos ayuda a distinguir entre dos cosas diferentes. Un *leasing* se distingue de un simple contrato de alquiler por tratarse de un tipo de arrendamiento de algo, especialmente de bienes de equipo, con la oportunidad de adquirirlo. Aquí tenemos dos ejemplos de anglicismos que se han incorporado ya al idioma porque son útiles de verdad, no por modas pasajeras ni por amor a todo lo que suene foráneo.

En cambio hay veces en que un nuevo término en realidad no aporta nada, como es el caso de la palabra “software”. Está claro que *programa* o *conjunto de programas* cumplen la función de comunicar esta misma idea a la perfección, además de ser mucho más elegante en español. Sin embargo, cada vez nos topamos con más términos de esta índole hoy en día. Cuando me pregunto por qué tantas personas incurrir en este tipo de barbarismos, llego a la conclusión de que generalmente será por una de estas cuatro razones:

- 1) falta de conocimientos
- 2) pereza mental
- 3) por una baja autoestima cultural (lo que en México se llama *malinchismo*)
- 4) para conseguir un supuesto tono de sofisticación

Todo esto es comprensible cuando se trata de un cantante de música urbana, un hijo de papá o un vendedor de droga al menudeo. ¿Quién de nosotros no ha sudado la gota gorda interpretando a un testigo que se aferra a vocablos y sintaxis ingleses? Pero cuando los propios medios de información incurrir en este mismo tipo de ligereza con la lengua, es realmente preocupante. A veces hasta parece que los medios de información lo hacen adrede, con la intención de captar mayor audiencia, práctica que, imagino, provocará más risa que interés en un público deseoso de información en su idioma.

Pero a esta lista de razones por el deterioro del idioma en EEUU tendré que añadir una quinta razón de suma importancia que son las malas traducciones. En este artículo emitido por ESPN Sports en línea se comenta:

“... Se espera que Bell pase un arduo contra interrogatorio de la defensa si llega a tomar el banquillo de los testigos.”

(Publicado el 22 de noviembre de 2007)

Salta a la vista que “tomar el banquillo de los testigos” es una traducción literal de *to take the witness stand* y probablemente dejaría perplejo a una persona monolingüe porque hasta ahora no se ha usado como equivalente de declarar o atestiguar. Todos los días se ven muchos ejemplos de este tipo de periodismo descuidado y si se continúa así, dañará aún más la estructuración sintáctica

> *continues on next page*

# FALLECE ENRIQUE ALCARAZ VARÓ

## In Memoriam: Spanish Lexicographer

Escribió una decena de diccionarios, pero en nuestro gremio se le conoce sobre todo por su *Diccionario de términos jurídicos inglés-español/español-inglés*, libro que forma parte de todas nuestras bibliotecas. En una época en que no era fácil encontrar un diccionario jurídico castellano-inglés/inglés-castellano de un solo tomo, el Diccionario de Enrique Alcaraz Varó y Brian Hughes vino como agua de mayo. En 15 años, esta obra de consulta ha pasado por diez ediciones, no diez impresiones, sino diez ediciones, revisadas y aumentadas. Algo tendrá el agua cuando la bendicen.

Brian Hughes murió hace unos años. Enrique Alcaraz Varó, catedrático de filología inglesa en la Universidad de Alicante (UA), falleció en abril de este año tras una larga enfermedad. Nos limitamos a reproducir aquí unos testimonios sobre un hombre que dedicó los mejores años de su vida a la lexicografía y la traducción, sacados todos ellos del blog Translation Notes: [transnotes.blogspot.com/2008/04/enrique-alcaraz-var-rip.html](http://transnotes.blogspot.com/2008/04/enrique-alcaraz-var-rip.html)

[párrafos introductorios del blog]

Considerado como uno de los pioneros en el estudio universitario de la Filología Inglesa en España, Alcaraz Varó centró su vida docente en impartir clases en numerosas universidades y en publicar libros de traducción lingüística español-inglés en materias tan dispares como turismo, farmacia, justicia y comercio.

Natural de Alicante, Alcaraz Varó impartió clases magistrales en innumerables universidades tanto nacionales como europeas y norteamericanas, así como a miembros del Consejo General del Poder Judicial de España. Además de impulsar y crear también los estudios de traducción e interpretación de la UA, el catedrático alicantino fue fundador del Instituto Interuniversitario de Lenguas Modernas Aplicadas.

❖ *Sentiremos todos esta pérdida, los que lo conocíamos personalmente y los que lo conocerán a través de su obra. Había preparado toda mi docencia en el Master de Traducción que ofrece la Universidad de Sevilla en las obras del Profesor Alcaraz. Utilizarlas será nuestro mejor homenaje. Un abrazo, profesor.*  
[M<sup>a</sup> Teresa López Soto, Profesora Titular, Dpto. Lengua Inglesa, Univ. de Sevilla]

❖ *La muerte de este gran profesor nos dejará un vacío tremendo en la Universidad de Alicante y en el mundo de la traducción en general. Además de una grandísima persona, era un gran profesor, como pocos quedan hoy en día. Me parece increíble cómo ha querido transmitirnos sus conocimientos hasta sus últimos días. Nunca te olvidaremos. Hasta siempre Enrique [Comentario anónimo]*

❖ *Un hombre fantástico y una eminencia del lenguaje. Tuve la suerte de participar en varios seminarios que nos impartió a los miembros de la Asociación de Intérpretes Judiciales de California (CCIA). La verdad que lo echaremos de menos, nuestra conferencia anual ya no será lo mismo sin el Gran Profesor. [JG]*

*Como alumno de Enrique Alcaraz Varó durante mi época de estudios de doctorado en la Universidad de Alicante tuve el privilegio de beneficiarme de su gran sabiduría y sus conocimientos en los campos de la traducción e interpretación y la lingüística. Enrique era una persona singular por su bondad, su gentileza y su curiosidad infatigable. Le echaré mucho de menos. [Peter Lindquist] ▲*

.....  
**EL ESPAÑOL MALTRATADO** *continued from page 15*  
y la precisión léxica del español.

En mi opinión los periódicos y noticieros en los Estados Unidos tienen una responsabilidad especial de mantener un nivel de idioma, si no elevado, por lo menos comprensible para sus lectores y telespectadores que no sepan inglés. Vivimos en un país donde se lee poco, prácticamente todos los temas más serios se abordan en inglés y la educación bilingüe casi ha desaparecido de nuestras escuelas. Así que para mantener la calidad expresiva del español es preciso que los medios de información se esmeren más en la redacción y presentación de las noticias, porque un idioma es asimismo un modo de pensar y si el agua de esta lengua se enturbia con tanto movimiento, nuestros propios pensamientos y capacidad de razonar también se verán afectados. ▲



**Fall/Winter 2008  
TRAINING  
SCHEDULE**

**Attention Spanish Court Interpreters:  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Jury trials in Mexico.** A unique opportunity to observe jury proceedings. Join us for this exciting three-day seminar. Highly qualified legal experts will be your instructors. This experience also includes a visit to a crime lab and a correctional facility. Limited to 35 participants. Starts October 27th.
- **Advanced skill-building seminar in Atlanta, Georgia.** This two-day seminar will focus on the three modes of interpretation. The seminar will include hands-on training. Limited to 20 participants. Starts September 27th.
- **A six-week online course in a friendly environment.** Chat one-on-one with the instructor from your home or office while he personally reviews your work and advises you on how to better your skills. Limited to 10 participants. Starts September 23rd.

**For more information, call us now at: 1 866 821 3529  
or on the web at: [www.delamorasolutions.com](http://www.delamorasolutions.com)**



## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### Compendium of Court Systems State by State

[www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/Ct\\_Struct/Index.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/Ct_Struct/Index.html)

A clickable map of the U.S. with information on each state court system.

### Comparative Law:

Video lecture on Courtroom Discourse in China and the U.S.

<http://totalwebcasting.com/live/bls/flash/video/v4/part1.htm>

From Brooklyn Law School's Center for Law, Language and Cognition.

### Indigenous Languages of Mexico

[www.inali.gob.mx](http://www.inali.gob.mx)

The go-to site for information on Mexico's indigenous languages. In Spanish only. **Catálogo de las lenguas indígenas nacionales de México.** El Instituto Nacional de Lenguas Indígenas es un organismo académico que participa en la mejora de las condiciones lingüísticas de la Nación Mexicana y tiene por objeto preservar, fortalecer, desarrollar y promover las lenguas indígenas; así como proponer políticas públicas que protejan y procuren su uso cotidiano en todos los ámbitos de la vida, dentro de sus respectivos territorios originarios y áreas de influencia.

### Interpreter Training Resources

<http://interpreters.free.fr/index.htm>

For students of conference interpreting and their trainers. Good advice and excerpts from published texts on interpreting.

### The Law in Puerto Rico

[www.bibliotecajuridica.net](http://www.bibliotecajuridica.net)

Bibliografía de libros relacionados con el campo jurídico en Puerto Rico

### REFERENCE SHELF

Free access to Cambridge Dictionary of American English, Idioms Dictionary, Phrasal Verbs Dictionary, French/English Compact. Subscription available for greater access.

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

[www.visualthesaurus.com](http://www.visualthesaurus.com)

Your editor's favorite on-line language reference. Available by subscription, but a reasonable annual fee that is well worth it. Recently redesigned. Its editor is a lexicographer who used to work with Oxford. "We see the Visual Thesaurus web site as a home for people who are passionate about words and language, a place where those who love words can explore the English language and participate in educated discussions with writers, linguists, and other creative people." As a teaser, here's one link from the above site:

Animal Sounds in Foreign Languages

[www.eleceng.adelaide.edu.au/Personal/dabbott/animal.html](http://www.eleceng.adelaide.edu.au/Personal/dabbott/animal.html)

In beautiful chart form, this list claims to be the world's largest multilingual compendium of animal sounds, from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of the University of Adelaide. (What sounds those engineers must be making!)

[www.americanrhetoric.com/](http://www.americanrhetoric.com/)

Compiled by two professors in the art of communication. An on-line speech bank, where you can hear great historical speeches, plus a collection of audio and video clips to illustrate different rhetorical devices. Includes links to quotations from Aristotle and others on the art of persuasion.

### SPECIALIZED TERMINOLOGY

#### Need More Spice in your Life?

See the Spice Pages at [www.uni-graz.at/~katzer/engl/](http://www.uni-graz.at/~katzer/engl/). Click on one of 117 spices and from there you can access the list of how to say it in 47 languages.

## HEARD IN COURT

Andrew Erikson

■ From a bilingual police interrogation, with an English-speaking detective, a Spanish-speaking suspect; and an ad hoc interpreter.

**Detective:** I need to know how long you've been here in the U.S.

**Interpreter:** ¿Cuánto anos tiene tú cuando llegaste pa' acá?

**Translation:** How much anuses do you have when you arrived over here?

Later on in same interview...

**Detective:** Did they have you tie him up before they dragged him out of the car, killed him, put his body in the trunk, and took off down the highway?

**Interpreter:** ¿Te dijeron que lo amaras antes que lo arrastraron del carro, lo morieron, pusieron su cuerpo en la cazuela y salieron por la cartera — perdón ... el carrillo?

**Translation:** Did they tell you to love him before they dragged him from the car, died him, put his body in the casserole, and left down the wallet — sorry ... the cheek?

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

■ Heard in Yolo County Superior Court, California (in English):

**Judge** (to defendant): It looks like you're chewing gum. You're going to have to spit it out.

**Defendant:** It's not gum, Your Honor. It's my finger nails.

**Judge:** Well, you're gonna have to spit them out into the trash can. [Bailiff approaches defendant with trash can.]

**Defendant:** It's okay, Judge. I just swallowed them.

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

■ Heard in Mendocino County Superior Court, California during a probation modification hearing (in English):

**Attorney:** Your Honor, my client would like to request an early termination of supervised probation.

**Judge:** And the reason for this request would be..?

**Attorney:** Judge, my client is a candidate for President of the United States, and he's currently on the ballot for the Libertarian Party in California and Missouri. He would be requesting to have his supervised probation terminated so that he can campaign out of state.

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕

■ Heard in Placer County Superior Court, California (in English):

**Judge** (to female plaintiff in child support case): Were you pregnant when your child was conceived? ▲

### Go Fishing

Fish species and their equivalents in other languages in

<http://www.pesca2.com/ingles/diccionario/listado.cfm?indice=1&letra=112>

[Thanks to Diana Arbiser on the NAJIT listserv for this one] ▲

# THE INTERPRETER'S ATTIRE

Eva Bethune

For over a decade, I have been observing the outfits worn by interpreters in the courts of several states. Notwithstanding a marvelous diversity, there are very few cases in which good taste in attire prevails. So with all due respect and affection for my colleagues, I am taking the liberty of making a few suggestions for the good of the profession.

As the saying goes, a person is known by the clothes he wears. Since all the world's a stage, it's human nature to form an impression from the players' costumes: not just human nature; it's subconscious, involuntary.

Interpreters carry out their functions in a ceremonious environment, where behavioral norms are governed by unwritten rules. And it is precisely for this reason that one should cultivate one's appearance with moderation, discretion, and elegance, if possible.

Generally, in the courtroom, interpreters sit near attorneys... so "when in Rome, do as the Romans do." The judicial system follows very strict standards when it comes to attire. Judges and personnel responsible for the efficient functioning of courtrooms will subconsciously treat interpreters in a way that reflects their manner of dress. And keep in mind that even the public will feel better represented if the interpreters who speak for it are dressed in a manner consistent with the vocation that they undertake with due profes-

sionalism. We are not only a voice, but an image as well.

This being the case, may I be so bold to suggest a wardrobe of five suits or outfits, for example in shades of black, gray, navy blue, brown and perhaps the classic Prince of Wales plaid. With this basic wardrobe, one will always have a uniform to fall back on, with only a need to change blouse or shirt, scarf or tie. This does not mean that one needs to spend a fortune on attire, much less to lord it over others with ostentatious clothing bordering on bad taste. Everything can be accomplished with moderation.

So let us all embrace this change of image that will benefit everyone. And to those who disagree with what I have said for the sake of such trite notions as personal expression, my advice is to exercise it outside the formal context of the courts, where justice resides and where it is our obligation as professional wordsmiths to let our appearance give liberty the respect it deserves. ▲

*[Eva Marich-Bethune is a UN conference translator, certified judiciary interpreter and an AITC, ATIO, NAJIT, NETA member. This article was written in Spanish and translated by Rosemary W. Dann, Esq., a freelance interpreter and translator who is on NAJIT's board of directors.]*

## Wireless Audio Communications Equipment for Interpreters

Basic set of wireless transmitter and receiver including microphone and earphone, still available for under \$100.

Transmitters and receivers have a 1-year warranty.



Tie-clip microphone and earphones are included with each set. Optional headset microphones and headphones are available.



Multiple-channel equipment is also available.

Please visit [www.tncommunications.com](http://www.tncommunications.com) for product specifications.

For more information, contact us at [info@tncommunications.com](mailto:info@tncommunications.com) or call 1-888-371-9005

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



**N**AJIT's activities are supported by membership dues and member donations. While there are no formal requirements for joining other than an interest in legal interpretation and/or translation, most of our members hold professional credentials such as federal and/or state court interpreter certification, national judiciary interpreter and translator certification by NAJIT, interpreter certification by RID (Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf), translator certification by ATA (American Translators Association), approval by the U.S. Department of State (for escort, seminar, or conference interpreting), and/or other credentialing by government agencies or international organizations.

Anyone who shares NAJIT's interests and objectives is welcome to join. Our membership categories are: Active, Associate, Corporate, Corporate Sponsor, Organizational, and Student. Please refer to our website for a full description of the membership categories and fees, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org).

The benefits of membership are many. When you join, you will enjoy, among other things:

- Full listing in NAJIT's *On-line Membership Directory*
- Subscription to *Proteus*, NAJIT's quarterly newsletter dedicated to court interpretation and legal translation
- Subscription to *CyberNews*, NAJIT's automatic e-mail updates on training opportunities, meetings, and other matters of professional interest
- NAJIT position papers on topics of critical interest to the profession
- Electronic access to NAJIT publications, including archived materials available at the Members' Portal
- Right to use the NAJIT logo on your business card
- Reduced-rates for language-specific interpreting and translation skills-building workshops, including preparation courses for certification tests
- Access to required continuing education sessions at reduced rates
- Membership registration rates for NAJIT conferences and for regional and local workshops
- Right to vote and hold office (active members only)



- Opportunities for committee membership and participation in NAJIT special projects
- Opportunity to chair committees and to be actively involved in NAJIT decision-making and long-term planning
- Participation in NAJIT's lively and informative members' listserve, where members share expertise, information, and resources. Through this e-mail discussion list, members exchange terminology, discuss transcription and translation standards, and confer on ethical and professional dilemmas and association matters.
- Active involvement in state and national legislative matters and issues affecting the community of interpreters and translators
- Opportunity to present at NAJIT conferences, workshops and training events
- Networking and collegial relationships
- Participation in a national and international network of professionals
- Access to employment opportunities posted on the website and in special bulletins

*Dues may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense to the extent permitted under the IRS Code.*



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Company name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Office tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pager: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:**

**NAJIT**  
 1707 L Street, NW  
 Suite 570  
 Washington, DC 20036  
 Tel: 202-293-0342  
 Fax: 202-293-0495  
 hq@najit.org  
 www.najit.org

Languages (if passive, prefix with P-) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Credentials:**  NJITCE: Spanish  Federal Court certification:  Haitian Creole  Navajo  Spanish  
 State court certification: From which state(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATA: What language combinations? \_\_\_\_\_  
 U.S. Department of State:  Consecutive  Seminar  Conference

**Academic Credentials:** Instructor at \_\_\_\_\_

I am an  interpreter  translator  freelance instructor  
 I am applying for the following class of membership:  Active  Associate  Student (NAJIT may validate applications for student membership)  
 Corporate Sponsor  Corporate  Organizational (nonprofit)

*(Corporate sponsors receive a longer descriptive listing on the website about their organization, one free quarter-page print ad in Proteus per year, and the grateful thanks of fellow members for their support of NAJIT and our profession.)*

Check here if you have ever been a NAJIT member.  Check here if you do NOT wish to receive e-mails from NAJIT.  
 Check here if you do NOT wish to be listed in the NAJIT on-line directory. (Student and associate members are not listed in the NAJIT on-line directory.)  
 Check here if you do NOT wish to have your contact information made available to those offering information, products or services of potential interest to members.

I certify that the above information is correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to abide by the NAJIT Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibilities.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT SCHEDULE

	Active	Associate	Student	Corporate Sponsor	Corporate	Organizational (nonprofit)
Dues	\$105	\$85	\$40	\$300	\$160	\$115
Suggested voluntary contribution to SSTI	\$35	\$25	\$10	\$100	\$100	\$65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$260</b>	<b>\$180</b>

### PAYMENT METHOD

Check or Money Order (payable to NAJIT)  MC  VISA  Amex

Card number

Credit card verification value \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT) Amount

Contributions or gifts to NAJIT are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. However, dues payments may be deductible by members as ordinary and necessary business expenses to the extent permitted under IRS Code. Contributions to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI), a 501(c)3 educational organization, are fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.