



THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE STATE COURT CONSORTIUM:

Joanne Moore Urges Commitment to Language-Specific Training for Interpreters of Languages Other Than Spanish

Lois Feuerle

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The National Center for State Courts' Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification featured Joanne Moore as the keynote speaker at its annual meeting in Seattle last October. The choice was doubly, if not triply, appropriate, because Moore was one of the Consortium's original four founders and a guiding force behind Washington State's model court interpreting program.

Moore's interest in court interpreting developed naturally from her work as a legal services attorney in California and then in Washington's Yakima Valley, where she came in contact with hundreds of non-English-speaking and limited-English-proficient clients during more than a dozen years representing farm workers from different language backgrounds. In representing them, she became acutely aware of how fragile their access to justice was, dependent as it was on the skill – or lack thereof – of the interpreter acting as the conduit of communication to her client.

From 1987-1998 she served as Director of Washington's Court Interpreter Certification Program. As

a member of the first Washington Supreme Court Task Force in the mid-1980s, Moore helped draft the Washington certification law and then lobbied for its passage in the late 1980s. Her energy and commitment at the AOC were responsible for initiating and shaping the Washington Court Interpreter Program. She is familiar to many of us in the interpreting community as the script writer and director of the Washington videos "Working with Interpreters" and "Interpreters: Their Impact on Legal Proceedings." She has written and presented extensively on interpreter issues for almost two decades. Since 1998 Joanne Moore has been at the helm of the Washington State Office of Public Defense. In November 2005 she was appointed as the public member of the SSTI Board of Directors.

In reviewing recent history, Moore noted that in the early 1990s, only a handful of states had court interpreter certification programs. Although federal certification dated back to the Court Interpreters Act of 1978, at the time only a few states such as New York, New Jersey, California and Washington, and

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

At our Annual Meeting this May, the NAJIT Board of Directors will ask NAJIT members to vote in favor of some very significant bylaws amendments. I will use my column this spring to set out the details and ask your support. In addition, we have posted background information in the Member Portal of the NAJIT website. Please review these materials and please vote in favor of the proposed changes at the annual meeting.

As you know, in 1997 NAJIT established the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, a not-for-profit organization, in order to create the first certification examination established by professional judiciary interpreters for their profession. Under the leadership of the late Mirta Vidal Orrantia, we moved forward to create an examination which stands alone for its rigor and excellence. I am proud to have been a part of the team that invested so much time, energy and effort in this endeavor. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mirta, to her husband Dagoberto Orrantia, and to the other NAJIT members who undertook this challenging effort.

Under the regulations of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, SSTI is a 501(c)3 organization, a “public benefit” organization dedicated to educational purposes. This means that SSTI is exempt from federal income tax and in addition, donations to SSTI are deductible as charitable donations on the tax return of the individual who made them. Recently it has become clear, however, that the IRS considers most certification programs such as ours to be an activity suitable for a 501(c)6 organization. Organizations that qualify for the category of 501(c)6 are those that serve to advance a particular profession—they are called a “business league” or a “mutual benefit” organization. Because they are considered to be of benefit to our society as a whole, they are exempt from federal income tax. However, they do not have the privilege granted to 501(c)3 organizations of allowing individuals to deduct donations for charitable purposes on their income tax returns.

NAJIT is a 501(c)6 organization. (Note that membership fees or certification expenses may be deductible as a business expense, though not as a charitable donation.)

When our Executive Director discovered this IRS ruling, she requested that the boards seek legal advice about the matter. We consulted with a highly experienced attorney with expertise in certification matters. He confirmed that a certification program is usually considered to be a 501(c)6 type of activity. He also suggested that it might be desirable for the NAJIT and SSTI boards to review the various activities that the two organizations are involved in, with an eye toward assuring that the operations of each match its organizational structure.

As a result of this review, NAJIT and SSTI have agreed to ask the membership to approve moving our certification program from SSTI to NAJIT. The Bylaws and Governance Committee has prepared the necessary bylaws amendment for you to vote on at our annual meeting to be held on Saturday, May 20, during the conference in Houston. We’ve gone further than that, however. We would also like your approval to move two of our committees, and their activities, from NAJIT to SSTI. We would like to consolidate all training and educational activities, as well as research and publications, within SSTI. NAJIT will, of course, continue to organize the Annual Conference and to publish our newsletter *Proteus*.

We believe that this streamlining and consolidation will benefit all our members and also the profession and the public at large. SSTI will continue the fine work of the Mirta Vidal Orrantia Interpreting and Translating Institute, so ably founded by Executive Director Janis Palma and Academic Director Dagoberto Orrantia. Having a single organization responsible for all our training activities will simplify arrangements and enable us, we hope, to provide more training at different venues across the country. SSTI President Peter

> *continued*

CORRECTION: Judith Kenigson Kristy’s letter about the Mohammed Yousry case, published on p. 22 of the Winter 2006 *Proteus*, should have attributed the words “cowardly and evasive” to Ms. Shore and should not have stated that Ms. Shore was quoting Ms. Hess. NAJIT sincerely regrets the error.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

SIGHT TRANSLATION: LINKING TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

Arlene M. Kelly

Reviewed by Diane Howard

Arlene Kelly's seminar on sight translation, presented as part of the American Translators Association (ATA) Conference held in Seattle in November, was directed at three audiences: translators, interpreters, and all others interested in improving their language skills. I would add one other group to that reasonably inclusive list: instructors of translation and interpretation.

Kelly views sight translation—the nearly immediate oral target language production of a written source language text—as an activity intermediate between translation and interpretation. Thus, she views exposure to sight translation techniques as a way for translators to test the waters of interpretation. The same techniques allow interpreters to feel more at ease when asked to produce a sight translation.

Kelly noted that anyone doing sight translation, particularly in court, should follow the same rules for presenting a professional demeanor as interpreters: have a well-postured stance, avoid superfluous movements, and mask unnecessary facial expressions or reactions.

She suggested first asking for a minute to look the text over before beginning to speak. Whether this is possible in actual practice depends on the setting. An audience member who works for NATO noted that when testing interpreters for NATO positions,

candidates were handed texts and told to start sight translating immediately.

If it is possible to have a moment to quickly read the text before speaking, the translator should scan the entire document for general meaning, unknown words, and semantic traps such as pronoun references.

Kelly then presented a progressive series of exercises aimed at showing that texts do not require word-for-word reading to capture the meaning and that there are a variety of ways to say the same thing. These techniques could be used as exercises in non-language-specific translation courses to increase linguistic awareness and language flexibility.

In the first exercise, participants were given a news article to read in which a fair portion of the words were missing (“Commenting _____ 1973 _____ oil embargo, _____ president Valéry Giscard d’Estaing _____ observed _____ the West _____ paying _____ price _____ 19th century, ...”) and then asked to answer questions on the text. People found that they could supply all of the important information even though they had obviously not read the article word for word.

The task in the second exercise was to replace underlined words in a text with synonyms that fit into the same position in the sen-

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

Lindquist is committed to continuing the outstanding work of the NAJIT Publications Committee, producing position papers and working on our much-needed Transcription/Translation Project. NAJIT will continue its advocacy work—we ask you to vote in favor of making the Advocacy Committee a standing committee, one of the regular and continuing activities of our association.

We are also asking your approval to specify that members of NAJIT committees shall be appointed with the approval of the Board of Directors. This brings our bylaws into conformity with New York State law on this point.

At our last annual meeting, our parliamentarian Dr. John Stackpole advised us that our bylaws should specify the term of office for the officers of the board of directors. We are asking your approval to specify that the term of office is one year—this simply confirms the informal practice of the board. After the results of the election by the membership are known, the directors vote to choose their officers for the coming year. It is advisable to have this specified in our bylaws.

Finally, we request your approval for one last change: to authorize the Board of Directors to set the membership year. The calendar-year membership which we have at present is much less

efficient, from an administrative point of view, than a “rolling” membership year, in which membership becomes due on the anniversary of joining. If you give the board the authority to do so, it will authorize a “rolling” year. This will mean that all members will receive a full 12 months of benefits for their membership fee. Administration will become easier, because the workload is spread throughout the year. Budgeting also becomes more accurate when membership fees flow in throughout the year, rather than all at once in late December and early January. Many organizations use this method of membership enrollment and dues payment, and this change will allow NAJIT to gain these benefits.

There is no doubt that the most significant of these changes is the restructuring that moves responsibility for our certification program from SSTI to NAJIT. The NAJIT and the SSTI boards are unanimous in favoring this change. We believe that it is necessary in order to ensure that we carry out our activities in accord with the opinion of the Internal Revenue Service. Please visit the Member Portal to learn more about these proposed changes, please inform yourself about them, and please vote in favor in Houston. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Alexander Rainof, Chair
NAJIT Board of Directors

THE EQUIPMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Alexander Rainof, Ph.D.

Reviewed by Dorene Cornwell

In this early morning session at the 2005 ATA conference in Seattle, Dr. Alexander Rainof addressed the pervasive use and frequently gruesome topic of domestic violence as perpetrated with a variety of potentially lethal items found in typical households. This session is the second part of a study begun four years ago related to homicides committed by means other than traditional weapons such as knives or firearms. Dr. Rainof conducted a separate session on kitchen implements at last year's ATA conference.

At first blush, the title of this session took me aback. Equipment? Sounds like a literal translation from the Spanish, *equipo*. Later it dawned on me: "Implements for Domestic Violence" could have been a better title.

Dr. Rainof cited Justice Department statistics regarding domestic violence, which is equally distributed across the U.S. Men and women become violent in relationships in about equal numbers, but in Dr. Rainof's words, "men do more damage." Interestingly, for same-sex couples lesbians are represented in statistics at three times the rate of gay men. Fifteen out of a thousand children in the U.S. are the victims of abuse or child mistreatment; 50 % of child abuse cases involve domestic violence. Finally, 4 out of 5 murders take place in the home.

Dr. Rainof observed that the vocabulary also applies to other contexts as well, including medical, worker's compensation, product liability, industrial insurance and other other fields.

With that introduction and an exhortation that it's important for interpreters to be able to visualize, Dr. Rainof opened with a video clip from the "Kill Bill" series. In the video, two women have a rousing round of hand-to-hand combat. The fight involves broken glass, falling shelves full of dishes, cords and whatnot. The fight left a whole variety of potentially dangerous detritus in its wake, though the actual use of these unconventional weapons was left to the viewers' imagination.

Then the assembled personas settled down for a run at break-neck speed through several categories of items: hand tools including hammers, saws, wrenches and pliers — frequently used in torture scenarios, screwdrivers, and implements found in the gardening shed. Sports equipment was also mentioned in passing, but there was not time at this presentation to address individual sports.

An interpreter may need to know a great deal of detail about every implement mentioned. For example, the head of an ordinary household hammer includes the claw, the cheek (the flat sides of the head), the face (usually used for striking), the eye (where the handle can be seen through the head). Repeat this level of analysis for pliers, wire cutters or tin snips, jewelers' pliers, saws for metal cutting, woodworking tools, fireplace pokers, loppers, pruners, hoes, hand trowels, shovels, pool cues, golf clubs, archery equipment, running cleats, camping gear — you get the idea.

An interpreter needs not only to be familiar with these terms in both languages but to recognize regional variations. One session attendee noted the challenges that can arise if service providers with uneven language skills have previously assisted parties in cases: an interpreter may have to work carefully to help unravel the precise details of what actually happened.

Dr. Rainof recommended acquiring a good bilingual illustrated dictionary; he mentioned a Macmillan illustrated dictionary series in bilingual format, available in several European languages. He also mentioned other websites for vocabulary and detailed pictures of the various tools. Usage directions provided by some hardware store chains also provide a whole range of valuable vocabulary; many of these available in both Spanish and English. Websites include:

<http://www.1a3soluciones.com/>

<http://www.homedepot.com>

<http://www.mytoolstore.com/>

It is best to rely on several sources for vocabulary. In addition to wide regional variations in usage, interpreter pitfalls that come to mind are that some tools look very similar to casual observers or when presented on poor-quality slides; items that look very similar can have very different names and functions. At least one Spanish term was mentioned that referred to a saw that goes by several different names in English.

As an aside, Dr. Rainof also mentioned a plethora of websites devoted to personal defense. In general, these contain pointers (no pun intended) about how to make common household items such as fireplace pokers heavier or sharper.

In short, when studying weaponry, interpreters and translators must widen their repertoires from guns and knives to a wide variety of unconventional weapons and inhabitual uses for household items.

[Dorene Cornwell is a Russian translator/interpreter based in Seattle, WA. She specializes in social services, legal and technical topics, with occasional international exchange projects.]

Support Our Great Raffle!

The Washington D.C. raffle was a wonderful hit and we hope to surpass it this year. Start collecting special items from your culture or country, materials pertaining to court interpreting and translation, books of interest to colleagues and whatever else might be an item for the Houston raffle. The raffle will close the conference from 2:30 to 3:30PM on Sunday, May 21, 2006.

Janet Bonet is Raffle Coordinator and can be reached at: jbonet@cox.net. All proceeds will benefit SSTI's educational activities.

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[Holly Mikkelson, a former NAJIT director, is a trainer, author and consultant on court interpreting issues.]

SIGHT TRANSLATION *continued from page 3*

tence (i.e., no changes in word order allowed). This demonstrated that there are several ways to say the same thing, but could also be used in the translation classroom as a way of highlighting what sorts of words permit some latitude in translation and what categories require more precise equivalence.

In the third exercise, the strict syntactical substitution of words was followed by working out ways to paraphrase a text. In the final exercise, the participants were asked to do a sight rewording of an article. Generally, people found that they could reword factual information, but some participants had trouble following the line of argument when it involved stylistic deviations from the completely straightforward. Such difficulties demonstrated that if one is going to attempt sight translation, it would be wise to become familiar with a wide variety of text styles.

Occasionally running through these exercises would not only be good practice for those planning to do sight translation or interpretation, but would also contribute to the linguistic flexibility of text-to-text translators. Think of them as a way to expand your relationship with your morning newspaper!

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THE COURT INTERPRETERS ACT OF 1978: A 25-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE: PART II

By Nancy Schweda Nicholson

This article first appeared in the September 2005 ATA Chronicle

The first installment of this series (published in the August issue of the *ATA Chronicle* and reprinted in the Fall 2005 *Proteus*) presented a general overview of the developments at the federal and state levels within the legal interpreting field since passage of the Court Interpreters Act of 1978. It included background information on Constitutional provisions and the rules that were in effect before the 1978 law was enacted. To conclude the series, this article will briefly review some of the ongoing challenges, controversial issues, and new developments in the court interpreting domain, including telephone interpreting, team interpreting, and collective bargaining efforts. Many states have formed task forces to study interpreter use and to suggest ways to meet the burgeoning need for qualified interpreters. This article also briefly discusses the most recent legislative endeavor: the State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733), introduced in October of 2003. A new law in California, the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act, Senate Bill 371, which entered into force on September 28, 2002, will be examined (Rainof, 2004) along with the efforts of interpreters in various states to improve their working conditions and professional standing. The goal of this two-part series is to provide a better understanding of the progress that court interpreters have made as well as the work that still remains.

Telephone Interpreting

Telephone interpreting is a relatively recent development in the court interpreting realm, and has engendered much discussion since its inception (Divers, 2003; Hewitt, 2000, 1995; Lucas, 2000; Nikolayeva-Stone, 2001; Samborn, 1996; Shields, 1996; Stone, 2001; Swaney, 1997; Vidal, 1998). The AT&T Language Line, for example, has over 500 clients, and the list is growing (Heh and Qian, 1997; Hewitt, 1995; Huppke, 2000; Shields, 1996). The Telephone Interpreting Program (TIP) was created by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts (AOUSC), which launched a pilot project in 1989 (Schweda Nicholson, 2002; van der Heide, 2005, 2003). TIP is used only for short proceedings. Figures for fiscal year 2003 show that there were 2,585 TIP events during that year.

The total number of languages required was 39; however, 87% of all TIP events used Spanish. Also of interest is that a full 67% of TIP events were handled by staff interpreters. This number is significant because staff interpreters earn a salary, so no additional costs are incurred by the AOUSC. In fact, the estimated amount saved by the AOUSC during Fiscal Year 2003 was calculated at

\$765,379 (van der Heide, 2004).

Telephone interpreting is becoming more widespread, but it is controversial. Some interpreters object to the process because they miss all of the extralinguistic components of the interaction (Vidal, 1998). They feel that they are at a disadvantage because they cannot see the principals and are not physically present. They state that they don't have a "feel" for the courtroom dynamic. (See Schweda-Nicholson, 1987, for a detailed discussion of extralinguistic factors.) Others do not support this type of interpreting due to problems with signal transmission and sound quality.

Interpreters are not the only ones who have strong feelings about the use of telephone interpreting. Some defense attorneys have also lodged their objections. For example, in February 2003, a new interpreting policy went into effect in Virginia's Prince William County General District Court. Interpretalk now provides telephone interpreting via speakerphone for all cases. As back-

ground, the Virginia Supreme Court signed a contract with Language Services Associates (Interpretalk's parent organization) in 2002. Attorneys are not pleased to hear a "disembodied

voice floating into a Manassas courtroom" (Hegstad, 2003). Also upsetting to lawyers is the lack of access to interpreters outside the formal courtroom setting, removed from the judge's presence.

At the state level, New Jersey promulgated standards for telephone interpreting in 2001 (Operational Standards, 2001), and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has carried out research on telephone interpreting (Hewitt, 1995). Also outside the federal umbrella, Network Omni, "the second largest provider of telephone interpreting services worldwide" (www.networkomni.com), has entered into a training partnership with the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) to teach students the techniques of telephone interpreting (Network Omni and MIIS, 2003). In the fall of 2003, Network Omni offered a one-day seminar on telephone interpreting at no cost to students in the MIIS Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation (GSTI). Also in 2003, Network Omni provided \$7,000 in scholarship funds for GSTI students. As a future commitment, Network Omni has agreed to make a donation of audiovisual equipment to the GSTI in 2005 (Bao, 2005).

It appears that telephone interpreting, even with its limited scope, is definitely here to stay. Perhaps with additional technological advances, its use will become even more prevalent in the future. Discussion to date, however, suggests that this method will most likely remain controversial.

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Considerable improvements in many
areas, but much remains to be done.

Team Interpreting

Team interpreting has been the standard in the field of conference interpreting for many decades. Using this method, interpreters share the booth with a colleague. Due to the strenuous nature of the task, they relieve one another every 20-30 minutes to avoid fatigue. Having two interpreters present also allows the person who is not on the mike to assist his/her boothmate in terms of looking up words/expressions and/or writing down numbers.

The concept of team interpreting is relatively new to the world of court interpreting for spoken languages (Festinger, 1999; Salazar and Segal, 1999). Most courts have balked at the use of this framework. After all, cost has often been cited as a reason for appointing no interpreter at all, or for hiring uncertified interpreters when certified people are readily available. Various courts have taken the approach that it is more important to save money than to work toward ensuring a fair trial for a non-English-speaking client by providing the services of a competent interpreter.

Happily, team interpreting is generally the rule in the federal courts, but this approach is far from being universally accepted in state, county, and municipal courts. As a recent example taken from an enlightened state, New Jersey Standard 3.4 addresses the issue of team interpreting: “[a] team of two interpreters should be provided by the vicinage for proceedings if they are projected to last more than two hours” (Standards, 2004). Interpreters have a long way to go to convince judges to authorize funds for two interpreters, especially when the courts complain that they don’t even have the money to hire one!

The issue of team interpreting can also be examined from another perspective. In terms of the guarantees provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department of Justice has offered guidance regarding “Competent Language Providers (CLPs).” These guidelines state that CLPs must be “physically/mentally capable” (Aloot, 2003). Not providing teams of interpreters could be viewed as a violation of this law. Forcing individual interpreters to work alone could certainly diminish their physical and mental capability. (Schweda Nicholson, 1999, provides an overview of interpreting at the Executive Office for Immigration Review, another branch of the Department of Justice.)

Finally, Executive Order 13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency [LEP],” signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 11, 2000, mandates that federal agencies improve the availability of assistance for LEP persons. The order does not institute new rights; rather, it was created to improve the enforcement of current obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Executive Order 13166, 2000).

Collective Bargaining

Even with the numerous accomplishments and progress in the area of court interpretation during the past decades, some interpreters have decided that a good way to improve their overall treatment (for example, salaries, benefits, and promotion opportunities) is to become involved in union activities (Bajaña, 2004; Choate, 1999; Roder, 2000). The Translators and Interpreters Guild (TTIG), established in 1993, is the only nationwide union of translators and interpreters (www.ttig.org). It counts over 250 freelance interpret-

ers among its ranks. Subsequently, the TTIG joined the Newspaper Guild (NG) (a journalists’ union), as the organization had been looking for a larger group with which to affiliate (Kissell, 2003). In 1997, following a trend for small unions to merge with larger ones, the NG joined the Communications Workers of America (CWA). The CWA is one of the largest union components of the much bigger and very powerful American Federation of Labor - Congress of Industrial Organizations (www.aflcio.org). It offers a number of services to its members, including a newsletter, mentoring, advocacy, lobbying, and, of course, assistance with contract negotiations.

Cook County, Illinois

In 1998, some Cook County, Illinois, interpreters decided to take steps to improve their overall status as well as their work environment within the courts. They were successful in forming a union in order to proceed with collective bargaining through the Chicago Newspaper Guild Communications Workers of America (CNG/CWA). These interpreters were also the beneficiaries of two Illinois State Labor Relations Board decisions, which acknowledged their status as court employees. Beginning in October 2002, these dedicated professionals participated in 17 negotiating meetings until mid-2003 (Orozco, 2003). Collective bargaining has continued since that time. Finally, after more than two years of wrangling, the first Cook County, Illinois, interpreter contract went to the membership for a vote on January 20, 2005 (Minkinen, 2005).

Hawaii

Hawaii joined the NCSC Testing Consortium in 1997, but has never implemented a testing and certification program. There are no full-time staff interpreters in the Aloha State. Interpreters in Hawaii made contact with the Hawaii Newspaper Guild in the summer of 2002 and formed the Interpreter Action Network (IAN). The principal goal of the IAN was to secure a pay raise, which was long overdue (Boido and Harpstrite, 2002). Work continued through 2003, during which time the IAN lobbied the Hawaii state legislature. Its efforts were successful, and a pay increase was implemented on January 1, 2004. The judiciary made some other changes as well: 1) instead of the then-current “half-day/full-day” framework, an hourly structure was introduced; and 2) people who were certified in other regions were accepted for a higher pay rate. In terms of additional legislative attempts, House Bill 1655 was introduced in 2003 to the Hawaii state legislature by Representative Roy Takumi. The primary focus of this bill was securing collective bargaining rights for Hawaii interpreters, but the bill died in committee. In 2004, Representative Takumi sponsored House Bill 2856. The goal of this proposed legislation was to “...require the [Hawaii] judiciary to take the first step toward a court interpreter certification program by formally creating the category of ‘Hawaii Certified Court Interpreter’ for interpreters with recognized certifications from other jurisdictions” (Harpstrite, 2004). Finally, HCR 144 was introduced by Representative Marcus Oshiro in an attempt to recognize court interpreting as a “regulated profession” with Hawaii state certification. Both of the 2004 initiatives also died in committee (Harpstrite, 2004). One very positive recent development in the Aloha State is the creation of a fulltime interpreter coordinator, who manages interpreter scheduling for the

First Judicial Circuit on O'ahu, which includes both the district and circuit courts (Harpstrite, 2004).

While there has been some progress on limited fronts in Hawaii, there is still much to be done. It is a frustrating situation for the dedicated interpreters who have turned activists. For example, in December 2003, the Honorable Sabrina McKenna, the head of the Hawaii State Supreme Court Committee on Court Interpreter Certification, informed interpreters that important steps would be taken during 2004 in order to move forward with implementing the NCSC Consortium's testing and certification program. Hawaii interpreters, however, have not been contacted by the judiciary in this regard since that open meeting (Harpstrite, 2005).

In December 2004, the IAN formally joined the Hawaii Newspaper Guild and became the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network (HIAN). Inasmuch as interpreters are not legally considered judiciary "employees," they do not yet enjoy collective bargaining rights. The HIAN is now focusing its efforts on introducing court interpreter certification legislation in 2005 (Harpstrite, 2005).

California

In September 2002, former California Governor Gray Davis signed the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act, which went into effect in January 2003. This law created a new interpreter classification: "court interpreter *pro tempore*." These interpreters are hired as required and are compensated through a per diem framework at the rate of \$265/day. On January 6, 2005, a group of approximately 40 certified interpreters marched on both the Vista and San Diego County courthouses. They are disappointed in the slow progress of the contract negotiations currently taking place in San Diego, Los Angeles, the North Bay (San Francisco area), and the Central Valley (Fresno area) (Geist, 2005). Although interpreters are considered court employees, this group is upset because the benefits extended to court reporters (also court employees) do not extend to them. The CWA has been involved in negotiations with California County courts for a period of months. The goal is to secure pay increases as well as benefits for court interpreters. Although there is no firm deadline by which a negotiated contract agreement must be reached, Yvonne Pritchard, a negotiator for the courts, indicated that she had hopes that the talks would not continue for years, as they have in some other states. Pritchard stresses that the courts are cognizant of the vital contribution that interpreters make to the judicial system (Littlefield, 2005).

New Jersey

In May 2003, the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission's Representation Director decided that freelance court interpreters meet the criteria to be considered "employees" rather than "independent contractors" within the New Jersey Judiciary. The ruling was based on the finding that the New Jersey "...system exercised a significant degree of control over the interpreters' work" (Freelance, 2003; New Jersey State Judiciary, 2003). In issuing the ruling, the director cited a 2002 Illinois Labor Relations Board decision regarding freelance interpreters in the Cook County Circuit Court (Freelance, 2003; Illinois Labor Relations, 2002). The CWA had filed a petition that sought to represent approximately 300 con-

tract interpreters in a bargaining unit. The New Jersey Judiciary disagreed with this move, claiming that the court interpreters were not employees, but independent contractors (Freelance, 2003). In July 2004, 50 New Jersey freelancers approved their first contract, which incorporated the most substantial pay raise for this group in the history of the New Jersey Judiciary (and the first one for freelancers in approximately nine years) (Freelance Court, 2004). The agreement also included a grievance procedure. The wheels of justice move slowly, as evidenced by the fact that this collective bargaining accord was reached approximately five years after freelancers initially sat down with representatives of the CWA Local 1034.

State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733)

On October 15, 2003, Senate Democrats Herbert Kohl (Wisconsin) and Edward M. Kennedy (Massachusetts) introduced the State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act (Senate 1733). This bill was intended "[t]o authorize the Attorney General to award grants to States to develop and implement State court interpreter programs (2)." Other goals for use of the projected \$15,000,000 allocation for each Fiscal Year 2005 through 2008 include: 1) to encourage states without certification programs to implement them; 2) to assist states with newly-established programs to develop them; 3) to assist states with limited programs to improve and enhance them; and 4 "to recruit, train, and certify qualified court interpreters (3)." Senate 1733 was sent to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on the same day that it was introduced. There was no further action beyond this date, so the bill died there. Kohl, however, was able to obtain \$250,000 for Fiscal Year 2003 to fund court interpreter initiatives in Wisconsin. The money has been earmarked for court interpreter testing and certification in Spanish and Hmong (Hirsch, 2003).

The Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness

As of 1999, 40 states (including Delaware) had created task forces and other investigative bodies to study critical issues confronting the judiciary. As a case study, the Indiana Supreme Court created its Commission on Race and Gender Fairness in 1999. I am proud to say that I have served as a consultant to the Commission since 2000, advising this august body of judges, legislators, and attorneys on court interpreter matters. A Language and Cultural Barriers Subcommittee was appointed to examine how non-English-speaking and limited-English-speaking persons fare in the Indiana judicial system. It published its executive report and recommendations in 2002 (Honored to Serve, 2002). As a result of its efforts, the State of Indiana joined the NCSC Consortium and has moved ahead to implement the orientation, testing, and certification program in Spanish.

Continuing Legal Education Seminar for the Delaware State Bar Association

In April 2004, I was one of several instructors at "The Importance of Court Interpreters," a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program for Delaware State Bar Association members. Other trainers included María Pérez-Chambers (a federally and

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Delaware-certified [through the NCSC Consortium] Spanish/English interpreter), Mary Beth Tkach (a sign language interpreter instructor at Delaware Technical and Community College), Franny Haney (Delaware Administrative Office of the Courts), and Patricia Griffin (Chief Magistrate, Justice of the Peace Courts, Delaware). Approximately 100 attorneys, judges, and court administrators attended. The major topics included: the role of the court interpreter; standard practices and the Code of Conduct; how to voir dire an interpreter; the modes of interpretation used in the courts; and legal and linguistic challenges. This half-day seminar was the first such CLE for legal personnel in Delaware. (For a judge's perspective on court interpreting, see Grabau, 1996.)

Conclusion

This article series has examined court interpretation services from a variety of perspectives during the past 25 years since the passage of the Court Interpreters Act of 1978. While we have seen considerable improvements in many areas, shortcomings still exist, and much remains to be done. As with many things in life, funding (or the lack thereof) for federal and state programs has helped or hindered progress in this regard.

In terms of federal court language requirements at the beginning of 2005, Spanish still remains the number one language (behind English) at all court levels in the U.S. In fact, Federal District Court statistics for Fiscal Year 2004 show that 212,223 "court interpreting events" required the use of Spanish. It is no surprise that Spanish has consistently been the number one language requiring interpreter services at the federal level since the early 1980s (*Annual Reports: 1980-2004*).

The existence of the 1978 Court Interpreters Act in no way guarantees that the courts will stop using ad hoc and/or uncertified interpreters (Schweda Nicholson, 2004). For example, the Iowa Civil Liberties Union recently estimated that "...[c]ertified interpreters are used in only about 10% of federal cases tried in Iowa" (Associated Press, 2003). Clearly, this number represents an unacceptably low usage rate for certified interpreters, who are likely to be "reasonably available" more than 10% of the time. The judge is the king/queen of the courtroom, however, and much discretion is allowed. Although significant progress has been made at the federal level and in the NCSC Consortium states, one still finds instances (especially in the lower courts) of incompetent, uncertified "interpreter" use.

What does the future hold in terms of court interpreter issues? Increased needs for specific languages, for example, may well be tied to changes in U.S. immigration laws. Numerous unanswered questions persist. Will the use of ad hoc interpreters become a thing of the past? Will judicial interpretation of the phrase "reasonably available" result in stricter standards for use of certified interpreters, making their services more frequently mandated in the federal courts? Will a language other than Spanish ever lead the list of required languages? Will court interpreter training opportunities become more widespread? Will the pass rate on the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination ever progress beyond approximately 5%? Will new federal laws regulating interpreter use and/or providing additional funding be passed? Will team

interpreting become the norm in the state and lower courts as it has at the federal level? Will collective bargaining activity spread throughout the profession? Will more state and local bar associations sponsor programs to educate their membership on interpreter issues? Will the AOUSC move ahead to develop certification tests in languages other than Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Navajo? Will 100% membership in the NCSC Consortium be attained? All of these questions remain to be answered as the 21st century unfolds. As this article series demonstrates, an understanding of, and appreciation for, the work of interpreters continue to grow. Change in the legal world, however, takes time, so it remains to be seen whether these trends will continue in the future.

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possibly one or two others, had acknowledged interpreter issues and were working to address them.

One of the most effective actions undertaken by Washington state's Court Interpreter Program was to support the creation of the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification. Working together with Bill Hewitt of the National Center, the states of Washington, Oregon, New Jersey, and Minnesota laid the foundation for the Consortium, which has now grown to 35 states strong. Together the founders wrote an interpreter ethics code and a model certification statute, and developed the idea of creating a national testing bank. Moore described these meetings as thought-provoking and inspirational. Working with like-minded professionals, pooling collective wisdom and hammering out the essentials for a much-needed national effort proved to be a joyful and rewarding experience.

But, Moore argued passionately, the mission of the Consortium has been only partially fulfilled: "What has been done has been done well and has had an enduring stamp on equal justice in our legal system...but the job is not nearly finished. This is because we must test the Consortium's accomplishments against the purposes and goals that were set out ten years ago — that is, to address the lack of testing and training for court interpreters, in order to protect the constitutional rights of court participants with limited English proficiency, through interpreter certification."

Spanish interpreting has become a relatively sophisticated, well-resourced discipline. Persons aspiring to become Spanish interpreters are able to study their profession in a variety of academic settings across the country. They can obtain bachelor's and master's degrees, earn certificates at community colleges, schools of continuing education and private institutes, and even enroll in court-sponsored Spanish language-specific interpreter trainings and skills-building workshops. These opportunities offer carefully constructed curricula and most offer many hours of Spanish interpreting practice in simultaneous and consecutive interpreting as well as sight translation.

In contrast, language-specific training programs for interpreter candidates in the other-than-Spanish (OTS) languages — even in common languages such as Vietnamese or Mandarin or Cantonese — are few and far between. Moore observed that training sessions offered by Consortium states have been short orientations or introductions to interpreting offered in English, but actual supervised interpreting practice has been sorely lacking.

The low success rate for OTS candidates to state certification examinations has been a chronic problem that has plagued interpreter certification efforts from the very beginning. Seven years ago, Moore's last act as director of Washington State's court interpreter program was to propose to the Consortium that it develop a cost-effective training program for languages other than Spanish.

Moore conceded that the Consortium's rapid expansion and the growth in the number of test languages — eleven at present,

including Somali and Hmong, with a test in Ilocano in development — has forced it to focus on testing, not training issues. But the time is now ripe for a commitment to providing training in the OTS languages. Moore contended that the promise of equal justice for non-English speaking parties will never be fulfilled in the absence of high quality, efficient government-initiated training for interpreters of languages other than Spanish. In her view, member states and the Consortium can develop a modern, technologically sophisticated — and cost-effective — training program for each language tested.

A two-pronged approach was suggested. Phase 1 would be to offer a video or on-line module throughout the nation. Each participating state would recruit and register its own candidates. An expert instructor would be hired to broadcast training for the candidates on-line. If this were too expensive or too unwieldy to organize, videotapes could be shown to in-state groups or distributed to individual candidates, especially those in more remote areas.

In Phase 2, one or more instructors would travel to states or regional gatherings of candidates for 3- or 4-day sessions of intensive practice with copious instructor feedback.

Pooling resources and materials would greatly reduce the cost

of these sessions. If court facilities can be used for classrooms, the primary expense would be for instructors to perform multi-day, in-state practica. Grant funding

might cover the production of Phase 1 materials and any preparatory train-the-trainer sessions. Candidates would be asked to bear a portion of the expense, but because OTS interpreters may only work sporadically in the rarer languages, it would also be necessary to seek support from the state legislatures.

Obtaining state funding for this endeavor requires work with state court administrators and judges to highlight the importance of interpreting and of getting legislators to commit funding. As Moore remarked, "I work with state budgets now—each on-site practicum could cost a state less than a single criminal indigent appeal!"

"What will happen if we *don't* rise to the occasion and improve the skills levels of OTS interpreters?" Moore asked in closing. One outcome, in her view, would be the deterioration of testing standards, because so few candidates can pass the current tests. That outcome is unacceptable, because "Maintaining the standards, which represent minimum competency for doing the job, is what makes the Consortium program successful in meeting the articulated goal of *protecting the constitutional rights of court participants with limited English proficiency by implementing equal justice.*"

Failure in this area would simply maintain the status quo, where in practice almost no one is able to pass these tests. "This," Moore observed sadly, "would return us to the situation of a decade ago, when it was virtually impossible to draw any distinction between uncredentialed, self-proclaimed interpreters working in non-Spanish languages — thus forcing the judge to guess at how good their Somali, Arabic, or Vietnamese interpreting skills might

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**If government offers no training,
promise of equal justice remains unfulfilled**



ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

April 21, Puerto Rico

MIRTA VIDAL ORRANTIA

Interpreting and Translating Institute

The United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico, together with the Mirta Vidal Orrantia Interpreting and Translating Institute, is sponsoring a one-day advanced seminar for professional interpreters and translators entitled "The Language of Forensic Experts." The seminar will be held on Friday, April 21, 2006 at the Clemente Ruiz Nazario U.S. Courthouse, 150 Chardon Avenue, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico. This event marks the Mirta Vidal Orrantia Interpreting and Translating Institute's second anniversary.

The seminar will include speakers from ATF, DEA, FBI, ICE, U.S. Customs as well as the Puerto Rico Police and the Puerto Rico

Special Investigations Bureau (NIE), who will address topics such as chemical terms and street slang for drugs, handwriting and fingerprint analysis, financial crimes, firearms, explosives and ballistics terminology. Presenters will also provide an overview of how federal agencies work together with local law enforcement during their investigations.

The seminar will be in English and Spanish, open to the general public and free of charge. Please sign up to get updates on lodging and transportation and details for the seminar. To register, send an email to MVOITI@att.net with your name, mailing address, and daytime and evening telephone numbers.

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be. And that," concluded Moore the crusader, "would be totally unacceptable!"

[Lois M. Feuerle, coordinator of court interpreter certification, testing and training for Oregon, is Secretary to the NAJIT Board and Vice President of SSTI.]



NAJIT 27TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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NAJIT NEWS

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Nine people were nominated to run for the open positions on the Board.

Of these, two were ineligible because they had not continuously been members of NAJIT long enough to qualify, and one declined to run. The Committee received the responses of the following nominees: Janet Bonet, Lois Feuerle, Maria Cristina de la Vega, Laura García-Hein, Alexander Raïnof, and Claudia Samulowitz.

The Nominations Committee recommends all six of these nominees as candidates for the upcoming election for positions on the Board of Directors.

Rosemary W. Dann, Chair
Nominations Committee for the 2006 NAJIT Elections

ELECTION REMINDERS

The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2006, at the J.W. Marriott Houston on Westheimer by the Galleria, Houston, Texas, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. The business before the meeting will be the election of three members to the board of directors, each for a two-year term, and consideration of six bylaws amendments. The terms of directors Janet Bonet, Lois M. Feuerle, and Alexander Raïnof are expiring. Each of these directors is eligible to run for reelection. All members of the Association are welcome to attend this meeting. Lunch will be provided to those members who have registered for the conference or purchased a lunch ticket in advance.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN NAJIT ELECTIONS?

All active members and life members with the rights of active membership may vote in NAJIT elections. Associate, corporate, honorary and organizational members do not have the right to vote. Since NAJIT's membership year runs by the calendar year, members must renew each year and pay their dues if they are to vote in that year's election. If members do not renew by February 28, they are considered to be in arrears. NAJIT sends a written notice at that time. If the member does not pay dues by March 31, he or she is then suspended from membership. Suspended members may regain their right to vote by paying their dues for the current year.

The mail ballots will be sent out in early April to everyone who is a voting member in good standing. Members may vote for directors by mail or in person in Houston, Texas.

This information can be found in Article Three, section 3 and Article Six of the NAJIT bylaws on the website — or contact headquarters for a paper copy.

The Board of Directors welcomes the interest and participation of all members in the governance of the Association.

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Motions or resolutions will be considered by the members at the Annual Meeting in accord with the Standing Rules adopted last year, as follows:

Standing Rule 1

All motions and resolutions should be provided in writing to NAJIT Headquarters at least 60 days before the date of the Annual Meeting. The proposed motions and/or resolutions shall then be referred to the Bylaws and Governance Committee for review and recommendations to the NAJIT Board.

Standing Rule 2

If the 60-day requirement has not been met, motions and resolutions may be brought before the Annual Meeting in the following manner:

- a. The motion and/or resolution shall be provided to the Chair of the Annual Meeting in writing.
- b. The mover may then request permission of the assembly to suspend Standing Rule 1 and present the matter from the floor. This request must be approved by two-thirds of the voting members present at the meeting.

Standing Rule 3

All motions and resolutions that are presented to the assembly during an Annual Meeting shall be subject to the following:

- a. Debate is limited to 10 minutes in favor, 10 minutes opposed.
- b. No speaker shall speak for more than 2 continuous minutes.
- c. Whenever possible, speakers shall alternate: one for, one against.
- d. A request to suspend Standing Rule 3 must be approved by two-thirds of the voting members present at the meeting.

For the 2006 election, the 60-day date was Tuesday, March 21, 2006.

SIX BYLAWS AMENDMENTS PROPOSED TO THE NAJIT MEMBERSHIP

Annual Meeting May 20, 2006

[New text is shown in **bold**, deleted text is shown in ~~strikethrough~~.]

1. Specifies the term of office for NAJIT officers

ARTICLE FOUR: Board of Directors
Section IV - Officers

(A) Chair

A Chair shall be elected by the Board of Directors, from amongst its members, to preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board, and to perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the

office of the Chair of the Board, or as shall be designated to the Chair by the membership or the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Board shall prepare the agendas for Board meetings.

(B) Secretary

The Board shall elect a Secretary from amongst its members, who shall record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors, whether in person or by telephone conference, and make these available to the Board in writing, and to perform such other duties as shall be designated to the Secretary by the membership or the Board of Directors.

(C) Treasurer

The Board shall elect a Treasurer from amongst its members, who shall receive and collect all dues, fees, assessments and other moneys; record all moneys received and expended; deposit all the funds of the Association in a bank designated by the Board of Directors; and shall share with the Chair and the Secretary the right to sign all checks. Disbursements of Association funds shall be by check only. The Treasurer shall, at the Annual Meeting of the Association, or at other times requested by the Board of Directors, make a report of all receipts and disbursements and of the financial condition of the Association. The books and records maintained by the Treasurer shall be delivered for inspection at any time to the Board of Directors and/or the certified public accountant auditing them. The Treasurer, in turn, may delegate these tasks to a professional accounting service, for a reasonable fee.

(D) Term of Office and Vacancy

The term of office for each officer elected shall be one year. In case of a vacancy, the Board of Directors shall elect an officer to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

[BACKGROUND: Our parliamentarian has recommended that we specify the term of office.]

2. Committee members shall be appointed with the approval of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE FIVE: Committees
Section I-Types of Committees

There shall be ad hoc committees and standing committees. The Chairs of both ad hoc and standing committees shall be appointed by the Association's Chair with the agreement of the majority of the Board of Directors. Each committee shall consist of the chair and at least three members selected by the committee chair, **subject to the approval of the Board of Directors**. Ad hoc committees shall originate with the Board of Directors, to whom they shall report their findings and/or actions and from which they shall derive their purpose and authority. The Elections Committee shall be an ad hoc committee consisting of no less than three active members and selected annually by the Board of Directors to carry out the elections (including counting ballots) during the election cycle.

[Background: New York State law gives the Board of Directors the final authority to appoint the members of standing committees. This addition ensures that this requirement is met.]

3. Makes the Advocacy Committee a standing committee.

Section II-Standing Committees

The following shall be standing committees of the Association:
Advocacy,

[Background: The NAJIT Advocacy Committee should be recognized in the bylaws as an ongoing and regular committee.]

4. Removes Education and Publications Committees, which will become a part of SSTI if this amendment is approved.

Section II-Standing Committees

The following shall be standing committees of the Association:
Advocacy, Membership, Education, Conference, Publications, Bylaws and Governance, and Nominations.

[Background: The Education and Publications Committees and their activities will become part of SSTI, if this is approved, thereby consolidating our research, publications and training activities in one organization.]

5. Creates a Certification Commission to oversee and direct our certification program

NEW ARTICLE SIX: Certification Commission [Subsequent articles to be renumbered]

The Board of Directors shall appoint a Certification Commission to oversee and direct the Association's certification program. The Commission shall consist of between three and seven members, including a public member. All Commissioners but the public member shall be members of the Association. The Commission shall include at least one member of the NAJIT Board of Directors; however, the majority of Commissioners shall not be members of the NAJIT Board of Directors. The Commission shall have complete autonomy in all decisions pertaining to the standards, policies, procedures and programmatic details of the certification program. The Commission shall refer financial aspects of the certification program to the Board of Directors with its recommendations for action. The Board of Directors shall have final authority over the finances of the certification program.

[Background: This change gives NAJIT, a 501(c)6 organization, responsibility for our certification program, in accord with the rulings of the Internal Revenue Service. The provisions regarding the composition of the Commission and its responsibility have been prepared in accord with best practices for voluntary certification programs.]

> *continued on next page*

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS *continued***6. Authorizes Board of Directors to set the membership year****ARTICLE SIX: Dues [to be renumbered as ARTICLE SEVEN if above change passes]**

Every member shall pay annual membership dues as established by the Board of Directors, payable in advance, for each calendar year. Failure to pay dues in a given year shall require reapplication to the Association. The financial and dues year of the Association are coterminous with the calendar year.

Any member whose dues are not paid by February 28 of each year shall be deemed in arrears. Any member in arrears for dues as of March 31 shall be suspended from the privileges of membership after previous due notice has been given by mail at the member's last known post office address that such action will be taken.

Every member shall pay annual membership dues as established by the Board of Directors, payable in advance. The dues year of the Association, the renewal date for members, and the fiscal year of the Association shall be established by the Board of Directors. Any member whose dues are not paid by the member's renewal date shall be deemed in arrears. Any member in arrears as of 60 days from the member's renewal date shall be suspended from the privileges of membership after previous due notice has been given by mail at the member's last known post office address that such action will be taken.

[Background: This change allows the Board of Directors to set a "rolling" membership, in which membership dues are paid on the anniversary of the member's joining the association. This will mean that all members will receive a full 12 months of benefits for their membership fee. Administration will become more efficient, because the workload is spread throughout the year. Budgeting also becomes more accurate when membership fees flow in throughout the year, rather than all at once in late December and early January.]

D. Hal Sillers, Chair, Bylaws and Governance Committee

Advocacy Committee Report

NAJIT has signed its first amicus curiae brief. In response to a request from NAJIT member Amy Free, NAJIT joined the Frank J. Remington Center of the University of Wisconsin Law School, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf in petitioning the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin to review a case in which a deaf defendant was shackled in court and could not communicate. The petition was written by attorney Michele LaVigne of the Law School. We will keep members informed of its progress.

NAJIT has received the following letter in response to our letter of June 14, 2005, reprinted in the Fall 2005 *Proteus*:

Dear Dr. Rainof:

Thank you for your letter detailing your concerns about the possible misuses of a telephone-based translation and interpretation service. We agree that our volunteer "guides" should not be contacted to translate in emergency situations, or in complicated legal or medical contexts. We fully appreciate the amount of training, new vocabulary, and experience one needs to be helpful in those situations, and we will not be offering trainings that address such issues.

Our hope is that Speakeasy is used for situations more pedestrian than those, such as:

- Ordering pizza or calling a cab;
- Asking a pharmacist how many prescription pills to take and when;
- Finding out what roads are closed to construction;
- Keeping up with their children's progress in school by talking to their teachers;
- Learning about services from Medicare, Medicaid, the Social Security Administration, the office of Women, Infants and Children or other housing and healthcare programs;
- And so on...

Many limited-English proficient individuals can maneuver their way through these types of situations on their own, but a telephone-based translation and interpretation system, such as Speakeasy, will help make it less stressful on all parties involved. We also hope the Speakeasy users will gain valuable experience with each use, so the next time they are put in a similar situation, they might have an easier time with it.

Your concerns about Speakeasy fulfilling community service or college credit are valid. We certainly do not want to mislead anyone into believing our volunteer guides meet acceptable standards in any type of assistance other than casual help in non-emergency situations.

I hope to speak with you or someone else with your organization about any other concerns you have about our program. I will be calling the NAJIT office over the next few weeks; if there are any additional concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Giles Li

Director of Cultural Economic Development
Asian Community Development Corporation
Boston, Massachusetts

The following letters were prepared and sent by NAJIT:

July 27, 2005

Merrily A. Friedlander, Chief
Attn: Law Enforcement Language Access
U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Coordination and Review Section-NYA

NAJIT'S Response to COR Request for Input on Law Enforcement Plans and Strategies

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (hereinafter referred to as NAJIT) thanks the Coordination and Review Section of the Civil Rights Division for its continued commitment to Title VI, Executive Order 13166

and the LEP Guidance Policy. The following comments are offered in response to the June 2005 call for input on law enforcement plans and strategies with regard to non-English speakers or limited English proficient persons. Our aim is to provide practical input so that DOJ and law enforcement work can be carried out effectively where languages other than English are involved.

NAJIT believes that competent language service is a crucial component of 21st century law enforcement. We are most interested in ensuring competence and effective service to local and national law enforcement agencies. It is our firm belief that to protect officer and public safety, language services should be fortified and brought to a professional level whenever possible. Indeed, incompetent language service can put more people in harm's way. Every effort should be made to identify appropriate language providers and to compensate them fairly. After qualified personnel have been identified, law enforcement should make every effort to use them.

Our research shows that in the absence of guidance, knowledge or resources, law enforcement agencies may administer language services in a haphazard or nonprofessional way. Where agencies see no need to develop qualification procedures for language service providers, they rely on a slipshod, scattershot approach, or outsource the administration of such procedure to others, with unsatisfactory results. As a result, language intermediaries may lack linguistic competence, be unaware of their role, or have no training or preparation for the tasks they are asked to perform. When this happens, everyone loses.

In an effort to produce a much-needed model policy for law enforcement, a committee was created by a Sheriff's Office in Ohio, assisted by an advisory board. The Committee's aim was to suggest workable policies and standards for law enforcement. Police officers, sheriffs, officers of public safety, attorneys, language administrators and linguists worked together from 2002-2004. The result was a ground-breaking model LEP policy for law enforcement, hereinafter referred to as the **Summit/Lorain Project**. Final results can be found at: www.co.summit.oh.us/sheriff/LEP.pdf

NAJIT strongly recommends that the **Summit/Lorain Project** now be formally endorsed by the DOJ as a model policy for law enforcement. We recommend that the link to the document be distributed and made easily accessible to all law enforcement agencies at the federal, state or municipal levels. This document can assist law enforcement agencies as a benchmark for creating their own policy and procedures. Each jurisdiction, depending on its LEP population and resources available, will differ on the nature of steps to be taken, but of utmost importance is that language proficiency be reliably tested for police standards.

NAJIT believes that each agency should be strongly advised to develop a testing and training program in language services to suit its own needs. (Alternatively, the DOJ and law enforcement may rely on existing professional credentials in the fields of translation & interpretation such as NAJIT interpreter certification, ATA translation accreditation, federal court interpreter certification or state court interpreter certification.) NAJIT and other professional associations stand ready to assist with test development and/or to provide training for law enforcement in how to work with interpreters.

In NAJIT's view, state and federal entities should be required to state their qualification procedures for language service providers. This information should be available on websites as well as in policy and procedure manuals

In order that law enforcement agencies be in compliance with Title VI, NAJIT recommends that each agency designate a person of policy rank to handle all language-related concerns, including strategic planning. That person can be advised by the Civil Rights Division on relevant concerns and problem-solving strategies.

The Committee's original plan comprised three phases. Phase 1, to produce model policy & procedures manual, is complete. Phase 2, to create

a *Language Identification Guide* and other tools, is complete. Phase 3 was conceived as the implementation phase during which the model would be adapted for local needs. Law enforcement supervisors and facilitators would be trained, and interpreters of many languages would be recruited to work with law enforcement.

We know of no other resource document for law enforcement's language needs developed with all stakeholders in mind. The groundwork has been laid, thanks to the untiring efforts of many. DOJ's endorsement of the **Summit/Lorain Project** would go a long way toward accomplishing the goals of the committee. Law enforcement agencies throughout the country can benefit from this foundation, tailor-design their own programs, and enter without delay into Phase Three.

Sincerely,
Alexander Rainof, Ph.D.
Chair, Board of Directors

.....
November 3, 2005

The News-Herald
7085 Mentor Avenue
Willoughby, OH 44094

Dear Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), a professional court language interpreter association. Our Association exists to foster a professional attitude, ethical behavior, and high levels of competence among our members and by all practitioners of our profession.

We were gratified, as we always are, to notice the interest your paper showed in our profession when you published "Accused no longer lost in translation" in your web edition of October 30 of this year.

However, some of the statements and actions portrayed in the article dismayed us. We hope you will permit us to clear up a few apparent misunderstandings of our profession.

- First, there are no "court-certified interpreters" in Ohio. Interpreters can be certified by the Federal courts, or by the States. Ohio has no certification program at this writing, although one is being formed under the auspices of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Ohio is a member of the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, sponsored by the National Center for State Courts. Ohio recognizes the certification of interpreters certified by any of the 34 Consortium states. *To the best of our knowledge, there only 5 consortium-certified interpreters practicing in Ohio as of this date.*
- It takes much more than fluency in two languages to make a competent court interpreter, and more than twelve weeks of training. Court interpreters are required to understand and speak legal jargon, street argot, slang, formal English and target language, and several dialects of the target language. In simultaneous interpreting, often required for court proceedings, the interpreter must listen to the source language, understand it, render the concept in the target language, and utter the target language, all within a lag of a few seconds.
- Court interpreters, those belonging to professional associations such as NAJIT as well as those certified by Consortium states, subscribe to and adhere to a code of ethics that requires, among other things, strict avoidance of conflict of interest, strict confidentiality, and strict impartiality. Quite aside from questions of competence, ethical considerations should prevent probation officers, court clerks, and family members from interpreting in

> *continued on next page*

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT *continued*

court. And no interpreter should be commenting outside court on his interpreting subjects.

- We don't believe that court interpreters "charge an average of \$75 an hour" in any jurisdiction with which we are familiar. One of our members suggests that perhaps what is being reported is the fee charged by a language service company for an individual's services.
- In any case, we are troubled by the suggestion that some jurisdictions are charging defendants for interpreting services. This seems to us to run dangerously close to a violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, or possibly of Executive Order 13166. Both of these require agencies that receive federal funds to provide their services without discriminating with respect to national origin (and thus with respect to language). We hope that these jurisdictions have consulted legal counsel.

We encourage anyone interested in the profession of legal interpreting to inquire further at the following websites:

NAJIT: <http://najit.org/>

Community and Court Interpreters of the Ohio Valley: <http://ccio.org/>

Supreme Court of Ohio Interpreter Services Program: http://www.sconet.state.oh.us/Judicial_and_Court_Services/interpreter_svcs/default.asp

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Rainof, Ph.D.

Chair, Board of Directors

Education Committee News

The Education Committee is delighted to announce that NAJIT will launch a pilot mentoring program at the annual conference this May. Courtney Searls-Ridge, who founded the ATA mentoring program, will present a three-hour workshop for mentors and mentees on Friday, May 19, as well as a 75-minute session entitled "help shape NAJIT's new mentoring program" on Saturday, May 20. NAJIT members are warmly encouraged to attend and participate in this exciting new venture.

Regional organizations that belong to NAJIT may take advantage of a new membership benefit. NAJIT will consider applications for sponsorship and financial support to enable a NAJIT representative to offer a keynote address or educational sessions at your conference. Visit the Member Portal to access the form and learn more about this program.

The Committee looks forward to meeting with members in Houston and planning for future events.

Karen Borgenheimer and Michael Kagan, Co-Chairs

Publications Committee News

We are at work preparing for the Houston Conference, a great opportunity to present the progress made by the Transcription and Translation Subcommittee. A preliminary draft of guidelines is in progress. We are integrating the existing outline and the materials drafted by members of the Subcommittee. Upon completion of the Subcommittee's work on this preliminary draft, the NAJIT BOD and the Publications Committee will provide input, and so will the entire NAJIT membership.

The Houston Conference will also provide an opportunity for three presentations on transcription, translation and forensic testimony. Please join us. We look forward to formal and informal discussions on TT.

Gladys Segal and Teresa Salazar, Co-Chairs

SSTI NEWS

As Our Profession Matures, So Do Our Organizations

As we approach our annual conference, I would like to fill you in on recent developments in NAJIT and SSTI. First, I am pleased to announce the most recent addition to the SSTI Board of Directors, Joanne Irene Moore, Esq., an experienced defense attorney and advocate for the linguistic rights of immigrants in the courts. Ms. Moore has been the Director of the Washington State Office of Public Defense since 1998, and prior to that was Director of the Court Interpreter Certification Program of the Washington State Office of the Administrator for the Courts. Joanne Moore's publications include the widely acclaimed book, *Immigrants in Courts*, published in 1999. Moore's work as an attorney to improve understanding of the cultural as well as linguistic complexities of language-mediated court proceedings has made an enormous contribution to all stakeholders in judicial proceedings. Ms. Moore's efforts to educate the judiciary on interpreting issues include numerous articles in the journals, such as the *National Association of State Judicial Educator News* and the *Municipal Judges Association Newsletter*. Her educational efforts include writing and directing a series of court-interpreting videotapes used throughout the United States and distributed by the National Center for State Courts. Her experience and success in reaching the ears of participants in the legal process at all levels, from law-enforcement to judges, promoting improved effectiveness of interpreters in the legal system through a better informed judiciary, will be of tremendous value to NAJIT and SSTI.

They say that if you want something done well, ask a busy person. We asked a very busy Joanne Moore to join SSTI and we are extremely grateful to her for graciously agreeing to contribute her expertise and judgment.

The second issue I would like to discuss is that we will be asked to vote on a set of proposed amendments to NAJIT bylaws at this year's annual meeting. I feel strongly that change is a good and necessary part of life and growth, including — or especially, that of organizations like ours. While the proposed changes will undoubtedly create new work for the NAJIT and SSTI boards, I feel that they present us with tremendous opportunities for growth and will strengthen NAJIT while bringing us in line with the legal and professional environments in which we function, and will allow us to continue to meet the purposes for which NAJIT was founded.

There is little room for argument that the profession of judicial interpreting and translation has come a long way since 1978, when NAJIT was formed under the name "Court Interpreters and Translators Association, Inc. (CITA). The adoption of its current name is one illustration of how NAJIT has grown, become more clearly defined, and adapted to bet-

ter reflect the interests of its membership and the goals of the organization. At the 27th Annual Conference (May 19-21 in Houston), members will be asked to vote on amendments to NAJIT bylaws.

The current bylaws have served us well, but require updating from time to time as we adapt to changes in the environment in which we operate so that we can continue to meet our stated organizational goals and purposes:

- To promote professional standards of performance and integrity.
- To achieve wider recognition for the profession of judiciary interpretation and translation.
- To advocate training and certification of interpreters through competent and reliable methodologies.
- To advance the highest quality services.
- To encourage greater interchange among active judiciary interpreters and translators.
- To make the public and the judicial community aware of the unique role and function of interpreters and translators in the legal system. (NAJIT Website: www.najit.org)

All of these goals have been and continue to be addressed through the hard work and creativity of NAJIT members, directors, and committee members. For example, the development of our code of ethics and the decision to develop training and certification programs clearly promote standards of performance and integrity. Additionally, Canon One of our ethical code pledges accuracy and establishes parameters by which it is to be measured; Canon Six calls for improvement and maintenance of skills. So that members can meet the requirements of accuracy and skills development, NAJIT established the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpreting (SSTI) and later, the Mirta Vidal Orrantia Institute for Translation and Interpreting (MVOITI). The primary purpose of SSTI was to set those standards and establish our certification program, and MVOITI was founded to help interpreters meet those standards.

The National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination (NJITCE: Spanish) is the product of not only tremendous effort by my predecessors at SSTI, but also members' vision and willingness to undertake considerable risk. Those risks and efforts have paid off, resulting in a psychometrically valid exam which is the only nationwide measure of translator and interpreter competence developed by and for professional interpreters and without government support or influence. Through her vision and extraordinary efforts, Janis Palma, one of the founding directors and former president of SSTI, launched the MVOITI as a means to provide interpreters with the skills needed to meet the rigorous competence-standards set by our organization. The proposed amendments call for a change of the bodies within NAJIT that oversee these functions, but the projects themselves will continue unchanged, and in fact will be strengthened through more efficient administration and consolidation of efforts.

The directors of NAJIT and SSTI have a responsibility to our members to see that our organizational goals are met in a way that is consistent with laws, ethical standards and best practices for organizations of our type. Toward that end, NAJIT Executive Director Ann Macfarlane works diligently to keep abreast of



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developments in these areas. In the course of her research, Ms. Macfarlane became aware of recent IRS rulings on limitations to the activities of some classes of non-profit organizations (501c3). Wisely, Ms. Macfarlane sought the opinion of an attorney who specializes in such matters to determine how those new rulings might affect our organization. It was the opinion of that attorney that in order to ensure compliance with recent interpretations of tax law, SSTI, due to its 501c3 designation, should not be directly involved in professional certification

The proposed amendments call for NAJIT to take over our certification program. SSTI will continue the training endeavors of the MVOITI, and assume responsibility for education and publications. This will permit SSTI to move forward with its academic mission, continuing to develop interpreter education programs and also working to strengthen the theoretical and empirical foundations for such training.

The changes presented here are an indication that NAJIT is indeed alive and continues to grow, become more efficient, and adapt to changes around us. The amendments that we are being asked to consider will allow us to better serve the purposes for which our organization was founded. I feel that these changes are necessary, but more importantly, they present tremendous opportunities as we work to advance professionalism in judicial translation and interpreting. I ask you to vote in favor of these bylaws amendments at the annual meeting on May 19 in Houston. Thank you for your support of SSTI, NAJIT, and our profession.

Peter P. Lindquist, SSTI President

Students Interpret at SB Telethon

Steve Macfarlane

What could possibly propel dozens of university students from Los Angeles to drive all the way up to Santa Barbara on a December weekend?

Shopping. But that wasn't the case on December 4th, when TV station KEYT-3 held its 18th annual Unity Telethon.

The 12+ hour telethon – which goes to support the Unity Shoppe in downtown Santa Barbara – was, for the third year, translated on-the-spot and rebroadcast on KEYT's backup Spanish-language channel.

The Unity Telethon's goal is to raise money for the Unity Shoppe's inventory, so that people of lower incomes can select items of their choice – food, clothing, gifts, etc – not just for Christmas, but throughout the rest of the year.

"The idea here is to give without taking away any dignity," said Carlos Cerecedo, a NAJIT member, former president of the California Court Interpreter's Association, and TV personality in Santa Barbara. "We live in Santa Barbara, where there aren't supposed to be any poor people ... but there are!"

The interpreters for the affair were students from UCLA and Cal State Long Beach, "provided" by none other than their professor, NAJIT's Dr. Alexander Rainof. "It's a worthwhile cause, and great practice for interpretation plus I promised some extra credit," Dr. Rainof said.

"It's harder than I thought," said UCLA grad student Jessica Avila, emerging from a cramped soundbooth. "Once you get it going, everything makes sense. You've got to get the essence of the words, more than anything else." Most students interpreted in 10-15 minute sections, two at a time.

Cerecedo told the students to interpret more than mere verbiage: "Just suppose you're telling a story to grandma, at home. What do you want to do? You want to get grandma excited." Cerecedo supervised the student interpreters in the studio for a few hours before going on-air himself. Alternating between receiving pledges by phone and addressing the camera personally, Cerecedo would be active onstage for over ten hours.

Jeff Bridges and Kenny Loggins went onstage to personally show support, as did performers as diverse as middle school choirs and Dale Gonzalez, "the singing cop of Santa Barbara."

Dr. Rainof himself was interviewed live by an anchor regarding his contributions to the telethon. Upon request, he translated "Merry Christmas" into Spanish, French, and Russian, before asking "Would you like me to continue?" The anchor declined.

By closing time at midnight, the telethon had generated \$655,000 in income, a \$130,000 increase over the 2004 earnings.

[Steve Macfarlane is a film and journalism student at Orange Coast College who maintains a blog, "Rants on Celluloid," at <http://steef.ndrw.net/cellurants/>.]

Win a free registration to the ATA or NAJIT conference! Join the ATA school outreach movement today.

- **It's easy**
- **It's fun**
- **It's free**

...and it could win you free registration to the ATA conference in New Orleans or to the NAJIT conference in Portland.

■ Here's how:

1. Visit the ATA website at www.atanet.org.
2. Click on School Outreach.
3. Pick the age level you like the best and click on it.
4. Download a presentation and deliver it at your local school or university.
5. Get someone to take a picture of you in the classroom.
6. Send it to the ATA Public Relations Committee with your name, whether you are a NAJIT or ATA member, the date, the school's name and location, a brief description of the class, and a "memorable moment" as a caption for the photo.

- **The deadline for submissions is July 17, 2006.** The best photograph from an ATA member wins free registration to the ATA conference in New Orleans, and the best photograph from a NAJIT member wins free registration to the NAJIT conference in Portland. The winner will be contacted by August 17, 2006.

■ **Any questions? Contact:**

Amanda Ennis
germantoenglish@earthlink.net
Lillian Clementi
lillian@lingualegal.com



CALENDAR

- April 21, 2006. Hato Rey, PR. SP/EN Seminar on Language of Forensic Experts, U.S. District Court & MVOITI
- April 20-23, 2006. Jersey City, NJ. Translation Company Division Conference, American Translators Association.
- April 27, 2006. Cleveland, OH. Federal Executive Board Forum on Limited English Proficiency: Emerging Issues.
- April 28-30, 2006. Las Vegas, NV. Spanish and Portuguese Language Division Conferences, American Translators Association
- April 29-30, 2006. Overland Park, KS. "The Business of Translation and Interpretation." Annual Symposium of the Mid-America Chapter of the American Translators Association.
- May 8-12, 2006. Atlanta, GA. "Iron Sharpens Iron" Triennial Conference of Sign Language Legal Interpreters
- May 19-21, 2006. Houston, TX. National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators 27th Annual Conference.
- May 22-25, 2006. Vancouver, Canada. Fourth International Conference on the Hispanic Poetry of Europe and the Americas. University of British Columbia
- May 24-25, 2006. La Antigua, Guatemala. 2nd Translation & Interpretation Conference. Asociación Guatemalteca de Intérpretes y Traductores
- June 2-3, 2006. Los Angeles, California. California Health Interpreters Association 4th Annual Conference
- June 23-25, 2006. Iowa City, IA. Iowa Interpreters and Translators Association Conference
- August 10-12, 2006. Lincoln, Nebraska. "Accessing the Future - Education & Technology in Language Access." Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreters Annual Conference
- October 17-20, 2006. Seattle, WA. 5th Biennial Conference on Quality Health Care for Culturally Diverse Populations
- October 18-21, 2006. Bellevue, WA. American Literary Translators Association 29th Annual Conference
- November 1-4, 2006. New Orleans, LA. American Translators Association 47th Annual Conference
- November 17-29, 2006. Nashville, TN. American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages Annual Conference
- April 11-15, 2007. Sydney, Australia. Critical Link V: Quality in Interpreting: a Shared Responsibility.
- May 18-20, 2007. Portland, OR. National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators 28th Annual Conference
- August 3-8, 2007. San Francisco, CA. Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Biennial Conference
- October 31-November 3, 2007. San Francisco, CA. American Translators Association 48th Annual Conference
- August 2008. Shanghai, China. XVIII FIT World Congress, hosted by the Translators Association of China

NAJIT offers this calendar as a service to its members. No endorsement of courses or events offered by other organizations is implied.

Do You Translate Spanish or Portuguese Literature?

The Guadalajara International Book Fair will support the attendance of translators by offering them three nights' hotel and free registration. This is a great opportunity to meet Latin American writers as well as agents and publishers interested in publishing translations into English and other languages. The dates of the fair are Nov. 25-Dec. 3, with the first five days being the "professional days."

From David Unger, U.S. Representative
Guadalajara International Book Fair
Division of Humanities NAC 5225
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ITEMS OF INTEREST

On December 6, 2005, the 9th Circuit ruled in the case of U.S. v. Bailon-Santana. The defense attorney in the case represented that he translated a jury waiver form for his Spanish-speaking, non-English speaking client. The 9th Circuit opined that an in-court waiver colloquy was necessary. Since such had not occurred, the defendant's conviction on a drug conspiracy charge was vacated and remanded. The circuit discussed the requirement that a court interpreter be certified, and what that means for fluency.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation has repealed certain rules pertaining to the required use of certified interpreters effective December 8, 2005. The justification and new rules may be viewed by visiting TDLR's website at www.license.state.tx.us/court/lciprop.htm.

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts announced new rates for certified and professionally qualified interpreters as of January 1, 2006:

Certified and Professionally Qualified Interpreters:

- Full-day: \$355
- Half-Day: \$192
- Overtime: \$50 per hour or part thereof

Language Skilled (Non-Certified) Interpreters:

- Full-Day \$171
- Half-Day: \$92
- Overtime: \$28 per hour or part thereof.

On January 5, 2006, President Bush launched the National Security Language Initiative, a plan to strengthen national security and prosperity in the 21st century through developing foreign language skills. The NSLI is expected to increase dramatically the number of Americans learning critical need foreign languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi, Farsi and others through new and expanded programs from kindergarten through university and into the workforce. The President is requesting \$114 million in FY 2007 to fund this effort.

Video Profiling Court Interpreter Available Now!

NAJIT members are invited to preview the short video profiling NAJIT member Claudia A'Zar at www.speakyourlanguages.com, the website for the innovative programs for high school students created by the Highline School District in Burien, Washington. NAJIT members may purchase the video or DVD at a substantial discount, in recognition of NAJIT's support and sponsorship for this video. Visit the website and enter Discount Code Y3X6YRG5 to obtain the video for \$20, nearly 60% off the regular price. The Fall 2005 *Proteus* gives more detail on this video and project.

NAJIT Life Member and *Proteus* editor Nancy Festinger and her colleagues received a visiting delegation of 16 interpreters from the Translators Association of China on March 15, 2006 in New York City. The guests observed federal trial proceedings in the Southern District of New York, had an hour's dialogue with the Honorable Kimba M. Wood, and enjoyed a reception hosted by NAJIT before adjourning to a nearby Chinese restaurant for dinner.

On March 20, 2006, NAJIT Chair Alexander Rainof appeared as a keynote speaker representing academia at the first ever Translation Summit, held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Summit was co-sponsored by the National Virtual Translation Center and the American Translators Association, and sponsored by NAJIT, the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages, and the American Translation and Interpretation Studies Association.

The Federal Citizen Information Center has established a website, www.firstgov.gov, as the U.S. government's official web portal. Visitors may subscribe to email alerts on governmental topics of interest. ▲

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CERTIFICATION EXAM ANNOUNCEMENT

An examination leading to the credential of

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The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, together with the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, are pleased to offer members and non-members the opportunity to register for the written component of the National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination.

The examination is being administered in Houston, Texas before the 27th Annual NAJIT Conference.

DATES

Written Examination:
May 18, 2006

Oral Examination:
May 18-19, 2006

PLACE

J.W. Marriott
5150 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77056

For complete details and to register contact:

Stephanie Richie
Measurement Incorporated

1-800-279-7647

or visit the NAJIT web site:

www.najit.org

NATIONAL JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS CERTIFICATION EXAM

MAY 18-19, 2006

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423 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701

2) FAX: (credit card only) USING THIS FORM BELOW Fax to: 919-425-7717

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**Cancellation Policy: A \$35.00 service charge will be deducted from any refund. In order to receive a refund, the cancellation request must be submitted in writing and received by Measurement Incorporated no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 1, 2006. Postmarks will not be accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who do not appear on the day and time of their scheduled examination.*

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City _____ State/Province _____ Zip code _____ Country _____
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Pager: _____ Cell: _____
Email: _____ Website: _____

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 _____

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 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 emails from NAJIT
 Check here if you do NOT wish to be listed in the NAJIT online directory (Student and associate members are not listed in the NAJIT online 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.

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Dues	\$105	\$85	\$40	\$300	\$160	\$115
Suggested voluntary contribution to SSTI	\$35	\$25	\$10	\$100	\$100	\$65
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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.