

# TRANSLATORS and INTERPRETERS: Cut From the Same Cloth?

## Judith Kenigson Kristy

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This chart, prepared for a recent presentation, summarizes some of the differences in skill sets and habitual activities undertaken by translators and interpreters. NAJIT members may find it useful for client education.

TRANSLATORS	INTERPRETERS
<b>Translators must have excellent knowledge of at least two languages but they often work in only one direction</b> , that is, they often translate only from their acquired language into their native language, but not the other way around. Some translators are sufficiently skilled in both languages to translate in both directions, but most don't.	<b>Interpreters must have excellent knowledge of at least two languages and usually must be able to work in both directions.</b> Court, medical and community interpreters work in both directions; some conference and all UN interpreters work only in one direction. The UN rule is that interpreters work only into their mother tongue. Conference and UN interpreters often must have 3 working languages.
<b>Translators must be able to understand complex texts in the source language (usually the foreign language).</b> Written texts can vary greatly in style, content and intended audience. Text-based material usually has all the fluff taken out, leaving only finely honed language. The structure and content of written texts can be clear or convoluted.	<b>Interpreters must grasp a speaker's message and intent immediately, whatever the level of discourse, but usually a spoken message is less complex than a written text.</b> Exception: when speakers <i>read</i> a text (especially a previously prepared technical speech or legal document), it's an added challenge for the interpreter. Speakers read more quickly than they speak, and written language is structurally and semantically more complex than spoken.
<b>Translators must be excellent writers in their chosen target language.</b> They must have a good command of grammar and style and be able to express themselves in any register required by the text or target audience.  Translators keep abreast of material in two languages related to the fields they translate, in order to see what experts in that field discuss and how they express themselves.	<b>Court and conference interpreters must interpret simultaneously, consecutively and also perform sight translation.</b> They must know correct grammar and have an extensive vocabulary, including a command of all registers used by speakers of the source language.  Medical and community interpreters usually need only to master consecutive interpreting skills.

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# New Offer: Special Rate to NAJIT Members For Debt Collection

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# PORTLAND 2007:

## Program Details Inside

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*Proteus*, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, Inc., 603 Stewart Street, Suite 610 Seattle, Washington, 98101-1275  
Editor: Nancy Festinger  
Address submissions to [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org) with attached file. Submissions preferred in Microsoft Word. All submissions subject to editorial review.

Deadlines for copy: summer issue April 1; fall issue July 1; winter issue October 1; spring issue December 15.  
Annual subscription rate: \$20.00, included in membership dues. Online articles and archive available at: [www.najit.org/proteus](http://www.najit.org/proteus)

The opinions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the association or the editor. Postmaster: Send address changes to 603 Stewart Street, Suite 610 Seattle, Washington, 98101-1275

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Graphic design by Chuck Eng Design  
Printed by Consolidated Press  
600 South Spokane Street  
Seattle, WA 98134  
Address requests for reprint permission to [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org)

## Message from the Chair

Let me wish each and every one of you a happy and productive 2007. We achieved a great deal in 2006, ranging from advocacy to position papers; we took on a variety of cooperative projects with other associations and organizations; and we also participated, in an advisory capacity, in projects and meetings at both state and federal levels. I hope that, with the help of our membership, in 2007 we will surpass our accomplishments of 2006. With this goal in view, NAJIT will be officially represented by your Chair at the Translation Summit on March 12th in Salt Lake City, and I'll report back on any developments.

As many of you know through our announcement and our request for proposal, Ann Macfarlane is no longer continuing as NAJIT's executive director. As sad as we were to see Ann leave, we do understand her desire to embark upon new endeavors. She was presented at the end of November with an opportunity to become part owner of a Seattle company which would provide her with the chance to develop other aspects of her many talents and take her in new directions. A relatively small membership association such as NAJIT simply could not match such an offer. We have enjoyed working with Ann, and with her able stewardship, NAJIT made much progress. Although it is the end of Ann's time with NAJIT, it is also a new beginning for both Ann and NAJIT. We wish her well in her future activities.

After announcing the position on various list serves and reviewing more than 50 dossiers, the Board is pleased to report that our number one choice, Mr. T. Andris Ozols, has agreed to be our new executive director. His starting date is February 1, 2007. Elsewhere in this issue (see page 8) you can learn more about him. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration.

ERGA still provides our management services and consequently nothing is changed regarding NAJIT headquarters.

Advocacy's latest action in support of the profession was a letter to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger endorsing a plan to provide funds for interpreters in civil cases. California has close to seven million limited English proficient persons whose rights are not protected in child custody or domestic violence cases in the state's civil courts. Thanks are due in particular to advocacy committee member Nancy Zarenda, and to the committee Chair, Isabel Framer. The letter to Governor Schwarzenegger is in this issue and is also posted on NAJIT's web site. Nancy Zarenda also spearheaded a California Department of Education project which resulted in an excellent publication titled "Quality Indicators for Translation and Interpretation in Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve Educational Settings." The publication includes a well-researched twenty one pages English-Spanish Education Language Glossary. Congratulations, Nancy. See: [www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/qualityindicators.pdf](http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/pn/fd/documents/qualityindicators.pdf)

Director Lois Feuerle, together with Cristina Helmerichs, former chair of the NAJIT Board of Directors, are busy preparing the 2007 NAJIT annual conference in Portland, Oregon, which is shaping up to be one of our best. Portland is a wonderful city and I look forward to seeing all of you there. ▲

Alexander Rainof,  
Chair, NAJIT Board of Directors

## ERRATA

In the Winter 2007 issue, a title misidentified the number of the California Assembly bill proposing state-funded provision of interpreters in civil matters. It was AB 2302, as correctly stated in the article, not 2303, as incorrectly stated in the headline.

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

# THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

## (Collection Advice for Freelancers)

Patricia González

Over the years, freelance interpreters and translators have voiced concerns about non-payment from clients for services rendered. As language professionals, we need to protect ourselves first and pursue the money second. Experienced practitioners know that it is unwise to begin an assignment without written agreements, orders from the court, or estimate approvals. Clients, too, may need to be educated about doing their homework and completing paperwork in a timely fashion.

Below is a list of actions which may help you collect money that is rightfully yours. These tips have been compiled from suggestions offered by other freelance interpreters and translators, notably on NAJIT's list-serv. For professional advice on legal or financial matters, be sure to consult an attorney or an accountant.

### Before the Assignment

#### 1. Charge what you are worth.

Research what your competitors charge for the same services and compare their level of service and credentials with yours. Based on that knowledge, charge what your services are worth. Never compromise your value in order to get business. Make sure to communicate the value of your services to your potential customers and avoid being apologetic or tentative when talking about fees.

#### 2. Choose your clients carefully.

To make an informed choice about which companies to do business with, request a free Company Reliability Report from the Better Business Bureau by telephone at (703) 276-0100 or on line at [www.search.bbb.org](http://www.search.bbb.org).

#### 3. Join a payment practices mailing list.

This will allow you to access client archives and discuss payment experiences with other freelance translators and interpreters. An example of such a mailing list would be Translation Client Review (TCR), which you can join at [www.tcrlist.com](http://www.tcrlist.com). For legal reasons and to keep the list orderly and the archives well organized for search purposes, members who join this list must adhere to strict rules.

#### 4. Make sure your entire estimate is authorized.

Check to verify that the budget for the *entire* project you will be working on has been authorized. Before you begin the assignment, ask for a copy of the necessary authorization number or code, purchase/assignment/work order, or court order authorizing counsel's motion for translation/interpretation/transcript fees, with specific mention of your name and total amount.

#### 5. Put it in writing.

Have your client sign a contract that clearly states your fee structure and payment terms or, at the very least, make sure you inform and receive confirmation from the client as to the acceptance of such terms either by phone or e-mail *before* you accept an assignment. By doing this, the client will be less likely to refuse payment on the basis that he was unaware of the charges involved.

For interpretation assignments, you may include rates for different interpretation modes (consecutive vs. simultaneous), minimum number of hours, applicable overtime rates, surcharges for weekend or rush assignments, charges for delays beyond your control, late payment charges, fees for partial or total cancellation of assignment, travel expenses, etc.

For translation assignments, you may include fees for special formatting, level of difficulty, rush jobs, changes to original once translation has started or changes to translation after delivery, fees for partial or total cancellation of assignment, etc.

To see some excellent translation and interpretation contract models, go to [www.atanet.org/careers/model\\_contract.php](http://www.atanet.org/careers/model_contract.php) or [www.notisnet.org/links/tilinks.html#BizModel%20Contracts](http://www.notisnet.org/links/tilinks.html#BizModel%20Contracts).

### During the Assignment

#### 6. Discuss any adjustments to original estimate.

If you realize that the initially authorized estimate will be used up before you complete the assignment, warn your client and make sure you receive a new authorization or court order before you proceed with the remaining portion of the project. If you are working with a court-appointed attorney, do not proceed until you are given a copy of the court order authorizing counsel's motion for the remaining budget with specific mention of your name and total amount. Remember, an attorney can always file a motion for more time to do whatever it is for which he needs your services.

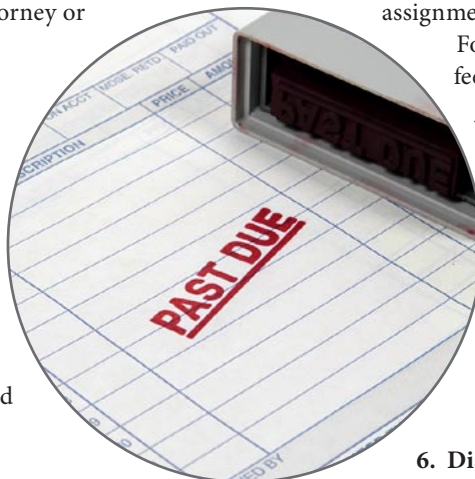
#### 7. Amend original agreement.

If you believe you underestimated the budget required to complete a job, call the client as soon as possible to let him know and get authorization for the adjusted estimate. Confirm the changes discussed by signing an amended contract or by sending an e-mail.

### After the Assignment

#### 8. Submit your invoice promptly.

Once the assignment is completed, submit an invoice that clearly states your contact information, total amount, payment terms, and due date as soon as possible to avoid payment delays.



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**COLLECTION TIPS FOR FREELANCERS** *continued from page 3***9. Do all you can to collect an unpaid balance amicably.**

If you do not receive payment by the payment due date, call the client to find out whether your payment has been sent but not received or to remind him courteously that your bill is past due. It is possible that your client has every intention of paying you but simply forgot.

If necessary, re-submit your invoice with a courteous reminder that the bill is past due, clearly showing any applicable past due charges.

If the above courteous attempts do not work, write the client a formal letter requesting payment of your past due invoice plus late charges and stating what kind of remedial action you plan to take if you do not receive your payment within a certain time.

For more tips on successful debt collections, see: [www.score.org/5\\_tips\\_on\\_2.html](http://www.score.org/5_tips_on_2.html). (The website contains other valuable free business advice to small businesses.)

**Remedial Actions**

If none of the courteous attempts described above work, it is time to take some remedial action. There is no shame in pursuing what is rightfully yours.

**■ Go after the money.**

Keep making phone calls and submitting invoices that reflect cumulative past due charges. Be sure to keep records of your attempts, such as certified mail receipts, sent-fax reports, copies of sent e-mails, or phone call logs, which you may use as proof if you decide to file a complaint.

Refer the matter to a collection agency, which can be very effective and relieve you of the burden of collecting. A collection agency will usually charge you a percentage of the total amount due, contingent upon collection. Remember, these charges are tax-deductible as professional fees.

Here is the contact information for a collection agency that is now offering collection services at deeply discounted rates to NAJIT members:

Mike Horoski

Receivable Management Services – Dun & Bradstreet

(800) 333-6497 ext. 823-7226 • (484) 242-7226

[michael.horoski@rmsna.com](mailto:michael.horoski@rmsna.com)

**■ Put it on record.**

**File a complaint in Small Claims Court.** You may do it on your own or use an online service that will help you file your complaint for a small fee. For more information on how to file a small claim in your state, follow these links:

[www.legalcpu.com/smallclaims/small\\_claim\\_intro.php](http://www.legalcpu.com/smallclaims/small_claim_intro.php) [www.consumeraffairs.com/consumerism/small\\_claim\\_04.htm](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/consumerism/small_claim_04.htm)

**File a complaint with the Better Business Bureau.** Neither you nor your client need to be members of the BBB to file a complaint. While the BBB generally does not handle debt collections unless no other buyer/seller issues are involved, they may keep a record of your complaint, which may help another interpreter who may

want to do business with this particular client in the future. To file a complaint with the national BBB, go to <https://odr.bbb.org/odrweb/public/GetStarted.aspx> or call (703) 276-0100. Or, if you want to locate your local BBB, go to <http://lookup.bbb.org>.

If your client is a court-appointed attorney, **file a motion with the Court** or **write a letter to the judge** in charge of the case. Be sure to include the caption of the case, the date and type of service rendered (translation, interpretation, transcription), a copy of your invoice, and copies of all letters and/or dates of telephone calls made to secure payment from the attorney. Since your services are considered part of the costs incurred in the case, the Court can make a ruling or write a note to the attorney suggesting that you be paid. It is not really an order, but attorneys do not like to receive notes from judges telling them that they should have paid a bill. Therefore they pay. The motion can be filed directly by you, no need to have an attorney file it.

If your client is an attorney, **write a letter** to the disciplinary committee in your state or the local Bar Association. You may find the contact information for your local disciplinary agency or Bar Association at [www.abanet.org/cpr/regulation/scpd/disciplinary.html](http://www.abanet.org/cpr/regulation/scpd/disciplinary.html). While the Bar Association cannot act as a collection agency, it may keep a copy of your letter in the attorney's file. If the attorney ever tries to get appointed as a judge or runs for government office, he is investigated and his file becomes part of the investigation.

If you have joined a payment practices mailing list like the one mentioned above, **send in a report**, which will be stored in their archives and may be used as a reference by other interpreters in the future.

**■ Deduct the bad debt from your taxes.**

If you are unable to collect, be sure to **write off the unpaid invoice** in your tax return. For information on how to deduct bad debts from your income tax, see chapter 11 of IRS publication 535 at [www.irs.gov/publications/p535/ch11.html](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p535/ch11.html). If you do your taxes on a cash basis, simply remember not to include the unpaid invoice as part of your income at year end.

You may also **send your client a W-2** on the basis of unjust enrichment since they derived a benefit from your work, while you were not paid for it. You could obtain a tax credit in your tax return and they will have to pay taxes on the amount that they "earned" from you. Check with a tax attorney or a CPA to find out whether this is allowed in your state.

**■ Give feedback to the referring colleague.**

If you were referred to the assignment by a colleague, inform him/her of what's going on, for general knowledge.

To the extent possible, try to alert other colleagues as to the payment practices of this particular client so that others are forewarned.

*[The author, a federally certified Spanish interpreter and AIIC member, is also ISIT and ATA-certified. The following are thanked for contributions: Aida Torres, Holly Mikkelsen, Jorge Carbajosa, Louis Aranda, M. Alohalani Boido, Michelle Roth, Moira Pujols, Kathleen O'Hanlon and Claudia Samulowitz.] ▲*



TRANSLATORS	INTERPRETERS
<b>Translators must have good editing and revising skills, since they may be asked to adapt the text to the target readership.</b> For example, a client may request that a moderately technical document be translated so as to be understood by readers with only a limited education.	<b>Interpreters have an ethical duty to be faithful to the speaker's mode of expression.</b> That means they reproduce not only the message but also the speaker's register and style. This is especially important for court interpreters who must render their interpretation without additions, omissions or modifications of any kind.
<b>Translators must be able to analyze many different types of writing and refine their own work product.</b> It is not unusual for translators to go over a finished translation a dozen or so times to check content and structure, and to assure themselves that they have chosen the most suitable style and terminology for the translation. Terms and technical concepts may have to be thoroughly researched in monolingual and bilingual reference works and on the internet.	<b>Simultaneous interpreters must have analytic skills to grasp ideas and decode large chunks of meaning and reformulate them in the most concise form possible.</b> They must be well versed in synonyms so they can opt to use words with the fewest syllables to keep up with the speaker's pace. (Some languages, such as Spanish, have an expansion rate of 30%, i.e. it takes 30% more words than English to express the same meaning.)
<b>Translators translating into their acquired language must employ an editor to check for errors in grammar and usage.</b> Many overconfident practitioners omit this step but to do so is risky since errors and omissions may lead to lawsuits.	<b>Interpreters must self-monitor their performance.</b> In lengthy or complex interpreting assignments, they benefit from the presence of a team partner who can help with terminology and correction of any errors.

### CREDENTIALS, TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Available Translator Credentials:	Available Interpreter Credentials:
<p><b>The most sought-after credential is certification by the American Translators Association (ATA)</b> (see <a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a>), available in many language combinations. There are also Translation Certificates offered by educational institutions after candidates have completed a certain course of study and exams.</p> <p><b>Translation degree programs are available at some universities</b> (see below). It is important for translators to have some kind of credential. Although users of translation services often know little about how to choose an appropriate translator, certification or a degree provides some assurance of competence.</p> <p>An advantage of ATA certification is that candidates don't have to take and pay for a course (as with the college certificates), but ATA-certified translators must maintain membership in ATA or lose the credential.</p> <p><b>Certification in other countries:</b> The Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) has a certification similar to ATA's (see <a href="http://www.cttic.org">www.cttic.org</a>); and many other foreign countries have their own certification systems.</p>	<p><b>Court interpreters: federal court certification</b> is available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Navajo only (see <a href="http://www.ncsconline.org/fcice">www.ncsconline.org/fcice</a>). <b>NAJIT certification</b> (see <a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a>) is accepted by some states. <b>State court certification</b> is offered in states that have developed their own certification exams or participate in the National Center for State Courts' consortium for state court interpreter certification, which has exams in a variety of languages.</p> <p><b>Conference interpreters:</b> Credentials or degrees in conference interpreting are offered by some universities and foreign T&amp;I organizations. See website for international conference interpreters association: <a href="http://www.aiic.net/schools/">www.aiic.net/schools/</a>.</p> <p><b>Medical interpreters:</b> To date, only Oregon and Washington state have certification for medical interpreters. Some private training courses offer certificates of proficiency. See <a href="http://www.ncihc.org/">www.ncihc.org/</a></p> <p><b>Community and telephone interpreting:</b> No certification exists. Certificates are sometimes offered by T&amp;I and community agencies; these are not true "certifications" but may at least show some degree of training.</p>
<p><b>Translators are certified separately in each direction of their language combination.</b> For example, there are separate exams and certifications for translating from language A to B, and from B to A. Most translators translate only into their native language(s).</p>	<p><b>Interpreters are certified in both directions at the same time.</b> Most certification exams consist of two separate exams, one written and one oral. Written exams may test proficiency only in English (as in state court exams) or in both languages (as for Federal, NAJIT and conference interpreting exams). Oral exams test interpreting skills into and out of both languages.</p>
<p><b>Certification is desirable but not required by all clients.</b> However, a valid and nationally recognized credential gives the translator an edge in the marketplace, and helps with potential clients who don't know how to evaluate a translator's skills. T&amp;I associations often have directories where potential clients can look up a translator's credentials and obtain contact information.</p>	<p><b>Certification is required by law or local rules in some state courts and in all federal courts. It is not required by law for conference, medical and community interpreting (Oregon and Washington state excepted).</b> Nevertheless, having a valid credential is a sign of competence and being on a roster of certified interpreters can provide a source of work in other interpreting settings.</p>

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TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS *continued*

TRANSLATORS	INTERPRETERS
<b>Translation degrees and courses are offered at a few universities.</b> The ATA has a publication listing university-level study programs and other training sources — see the ATA website ( <a href="http://www.atanet.org">www.atanet.org</a> ). Some information and links are also available on the NCSC and NAJIT websites.	<b>Interpreter training is offered at few universities.</b> Consult the NAJIT website <a href="http://www.najit.org">www.najit.org</a> and the NCSC web site <a href="http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp.html">www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp.html</a> for links. See also websites of local and state T&I associations.
<b>Translators can benefit from university training in a foreign language but general language knowledge is not a guarantee that a person knows how to translate.</b> The ideal training program includes an apprenticeship or mentoring situation with a translator or a translation bureau that is willing to provide correction and style editing.	<b>Interpreters have limited training opportunities available through university programs or the private sector.</b> Some materials are available for self-training. Interpreting skills are developed and refined through practice and memorization of terminology. Interpreters need to practice skills daily and constantly refine comprehension by exposure to language in all its forms.
<b>Translators can increasingly take advantage of distance learning courses, with professional evaluation of their work.</b> Translators can also find professional development courses and conferences through ATA and local T&I groups.	<b>Interpreters must be physically present at their training courses, so they cannot generally use distance learning methods.</b> They can find professional development courses and conferences through NAJIT, SSTI, local T&I groups, continuing education programs, private training companies, and local healthcare groups or community services groups.

## PHYSICAL AND PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS:

<b>Translators must be able to spend long periods reading and typing.</b> Translators mostly work at their computers. Accommodations for visual, auditory and physical handicaps are generally available in this setting. They need adequate rest and recreation periods. Translation is mentally taxing and most translators set a maximum number of pages or words they can process per day.	<b>Interpreters must have excellent hearing, voice control, memory retention, multitasking ability and stamina.</b> Simultaneous interpreting requires the ability to listen and speak at the same time. Consecutive interpreting requires superior short-term memory. Interpreting is a performing art, like music or athletics. Interpreters generally do not work for extended periods without relief. Loss of hearing can seriously affect an interpreter's ability to earn a living.
<b>Translators enjoy working alone and have confidence in their work, even when they don't receive any feedback from their clients.</b> Once the product is delivered to the client, a translator may not hear anything more about it, good or bad. Translators sometimes agonize about the perfect translation. People who have a great need for praise or frequent input from others will not thrive in this profession.	<b>Interpreters have to withstand the pressure of being in the public eye.</b> They enjoy performing and can amend word choices when challenged. They must become thick-skinned about unfounded criticism but remain flexible about learning from others and accepting correction when warranted.
<b>Translators must accurately evaluate their limitations and refuse jobs that are beyond their abilities or time constraints.</b> Translators can generally review material beforehand in order to decide whether they can accomplish the task competently in the time allotted.	<b>Interpreters must refuse assignments they know are beyond their skills, but do not always have sufficient prior information to assess the level of difficulty.</b> While working, they must actively report impediments to their performance (fatigue, lack of adequate preparation or skills, bad conditions) and they must be willing to admit mistakes and correct themselves, out loud, in public.

## WORKING CONDITIONS:

<b>Freelance translators can set their own schedules.</b> As long as the deadline is met, they can work nights or weekends or whenever they choose.	<b>Freelance interpreters must be available when client needs service, usually during regular business hours.</b> They can accept or refuse work, but when they make a commitment, they have to appear as scheduled or find an acceptable replacement.
<b>Freelance translators can work wherever they choose and don't have to leave home if they don't want to.</b> Most have home offices and can create a personalized working environment. No commuting necessary, unless to meet with client personally. Because increasingly translation work is sent and received by fax and email, a translator can work pretty much anywhere he or she has a computer, fax line and internet access.	<b>Freelance interpreters must travel to the work site, often out of town and sometimes for long periods.</b> Community and medical interpreters usually work locally but may have several assignments in one day in different locations. Some courts and business locations present challenges because of poor acoustic conditions. Conference interpreters usually work in soundproof booths with audio feeds, an ideal environment.

TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS *continued*

TRANSLATORS	INTERPRETERS
<b>Translators are mostly invisible – they don't have to invest money in professional attire or their appearance.</b> They can do a perfectly good translation in their pajamas if they choose.	<b>Interpreters are on display when working (except over the telephone).</b> Professional demeanor includes professional attire and refraining from displaying emotion or expressing opinions about what is heard and seen.
<b>Translators can be loners or hermits.</b> Except for infrequent communications with clients (usually by telephone or email), they have little obligation to mingle with other people. A shy or retiring personality is not a problem and may be an advantage.	<b>Interpreters need to be more outgoing and use social skills to interact with clients and collaborate with colleagues.</b> Since interpreters often work in tandem with other interpreters, they have to work effectively with team members and share resources and knowledge.
<b>Translators have time to perfect their work product.</b> Translators can look up words in a variety of dictionaries, do research while they are working, cogitate over the best formulation of a concept and modify drafts many times before settling on a finished product. They may use computer software, translation memory programs or other term management tools to assist their efforts.	<b>Interpreters have to produce a good work product immediately.</b> They must be able to grasp concepts in the source language instantaneously and re-formulate them quickly in the target language. They must have a vast vocabulary and do research and/or glossary building before each assignment.
<b>Translators are usually paid by the word.</b> Charges may range from 7 cents or below to 35 or more cents per word, depending on technical difficulty and language combination. Clients often don't know how to gauge technical difficulty (they all think their own jargon is easy!) so translators must know their market and how to negotiate. Many people think that translation is easily done by any bilingual individual. T&I professionals frequently need to educate clients.	<b>Interpreters are paid by the hour or by days and half days. Travel expenses, mileage and travel time are often also covered.</b> Fees vary, depending on language combination, specialization and length and complexity of the assignment. Long assignments require at least two interpreters because of the fatigue factor (see relevant article at <a href="http://www.najit.org/proteus/back_issues/vidal2.htm">www.najit.org/proteus/back_issues/vidal2.htm</a> ), but many clients are unaware and must be educated.
<b>Translators usually can set their own rates</b> (within what the market will bear). Pricing is always a problem for beginners so to join a professional association and benefit from others' experience.	<b>Interpreters are often limited to rates set by state or governmental agencies,</b> and those rates tend to affect the expectations of clients in the private sector. The interpreter must know market and set prices accordingly.
<b>Translators may have to compete with native speakers of their chosen language in other countries</b> (there is cheaper labor in economically challenged countries where U.S. dollars are prized).	<b>Interpreters usually compete with other locally available interpreters.</b> Some who work nationally or abroad may compete on a national level or with foreign colleagues. Even with a limited pool of candidates, interpreter competition can be intense.
<b>Translators have more civil liability</b> since their product is a physical object subject to scrutiny. Poor work or translations with significant errors can make a translator vulnerable to civil lawsuits. Translators are well advised to have special "Errors and Omissions" insurance for this reason.	<b>Interpreters have less liability but sometimes run other risks.</b> Since the product is fleeting (unless recorded), there is less scrutiny and fewer chances of challenges over time. However, for interpreters in the medical and legal fields, errors can have grave consequences. Interpreters' careers rest on their expertise. Significant errors can ruin a reputation. Knowledge of ethical parameters and protocols is a must.
<b>Translators must have office equipment, including computer(s), fax and email, copy machine, file cabinets, an extensive library of specialized dictionaries, computer-aided translation or terminology software, and so on.</b> Since translators work with written documents they need a suitable, quiet office space in which to work, do research and store reference works and previous projects. Many clients may require that they use certain translation/terminology software so that the product meets certain compatibility specifications. Translators sometimes hire administrative or secretarial help.	<b>Interpreters need mobile communication and scheduling devices</b> (cellphone, PDA), as well as easy-to-carry research materials (specialized dictionaries, preferably installed on a laptop computer); <b>they may also need their own simultaneous interpreting equipment (FM or infrared).</b> Interpreters market their availability, so they must have a way for clients to contact them even while away on other assignments.

*Judith Kenigson Kristy, © 2006. Reproduction permitted with permission of author for educational purposes. ▲*

# Training and Testing Opportunities for Interpreters of Korean, Russian and Vietnamese

(see page 18 to register)

**Consortium Oral Performance Test\* in Korean, Russian or Vietnamese**  
**Sunday, May 20, 2007 in Portland, Oregon**

**I**nterpreter skills training and certification testing in Korean, Russian and Vietnamese is a rarity. Consequently, everyone who works in one of these languages and is not yet certified is encouraged to register for classes and/or testing. The number of openings for prep classes is limited. Those interested in participating should sign up before March 1.

NOTE: Each language requires a minimum of 10 participants. If fewer than 10 participants are registered by March 1, 2007, that language workshop will be canceled on March 2 and fees returned. **Please wait to purchase airplane tickets until you are certain that the class will be offered.**

## **TEST PREP WORKSHOPS: Korean, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese**

Language-specific preparation for court interpreter certification examinations, by experienced instructors. Practice in consecutive, simultaneous and sight translation.

- **Date:** Saturday, March 24, 2007 (8:30 AM – 5 PM)  
Sunday, March 25, 2007 (10 AM – 3 PM)
- **Venue:** Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway
- **Instructors:** **Korean:** Young S. Lee; **Russian:** Dr. Elena Bogdanovich-Werner; **Spanish:** Susana Stettri Sawrey; **Vietnamese:** Joseph Pham
- **On-line and printable registration forms** can be found on the NAJIT website, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org).

**Earlybird registration fee** (by March 1, 2007): \$200

**Registration after March 1 or onsite:** \$260

(Fee includes coffee, light refreshments, handouts, practice opportunities. Lunch on your own.)

*SSTI and NAJIT gratefully acknowledge the support of the Oregon Judicial Department in organizing these workshops.*

## **SKILLS TUNE-UP in Korean, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese**

- **Date:** May 18 in preparation for Consortium exam on May 20.

SSTI offers a six-hour skills tune-up workshop by the same instructors on Friday before the NAJIT Annual Conference. Sharpen your abilities in Korean, Russian, Spanish or Vietnamese, and then take the consortium exam.

- **Venue:** Embassy Suites Portland Downtown.

The Consortium examination registration form is posted on the NAJIT website, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org).

The skills tune-up registration form will be available in late January 2007 when NAJIT conference registration is open.

**\* For information on the Consortium tests, contact Carola E. Green, National Center for State Courts, 757-259-1837.**

## MEET NAJIT'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**T** Andris (Andy) Ozols has a BA in Philosophy from Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ, a Master in Psychology from The New School in NYC, and an MBA (Finance) from National University in San Diego.

He began his professional career as a rehabilitation counselor in New Jersey. After moving to California, he became the executive director of a non-profit, community-based organization, Able-Disabled Advocacy, that provided independent living and vocational services to the physically handicapped in San Diego County. During his 7 years as director, the agency was recognized by the CA Governor's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, as well as the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped. Next he became the national

director of a 635 chapter, 50,000 member, U.S. and Canadian health-related association, the United Ostomy Association.

For the past thirteen years, Andy has been managing publications, conferences, seminars and trade show involvement for a Los Angeles-based entertainment industry trade publication, Production Update Magazine. He has been a general manager, associate publisher and publisher of newspapers, magazines, books, videos and software, with circulations ranging from 20,000 to 240,000.

His many talents will no doubt serve NAJIT well. We are fortunate to have his guidance as we seek to bring NAJIT into a new period of growth. Members will have the opportunity to meet and greet him at the Portland conference. ▲



# NAJIT 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 18 – 20, 2007 • Embassy Suites, 319 SW Pine Street, Portland, Oregon

## Preconference Events

Friday • May 18, 2007

■ All-day workshops: 9 AM to 5 PM (lunch on your own)

■ Morning workshops: 9 AM to 12 NOON / Afternoon workshops: 2 PM to 5 PM

	TITLE	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	ROOM
A	SSTI Korean skills tuneup	all day	Lee	Suite 104
B	SSTI Russian skills tuneup	all day	Bogdanovich-Werner	Marshall Joffre
C	SSTI Spanish skills tuneup	all day	Stettri Sawrey	Roy Yates
D	SSTI Vietnamese skills tuneup	all day	Pham	Suite 103
E	Tour of courts	AM	Feuerle	Meet in lobby for offsite tour
F	Procedural knowledge & the translator English w/ translated Spanish examples; suitable for all languages	AM	Matthews & Orrantia	Gevurtz
G	Security for court interpreters all languages	AM	Martin & U.S. Marshals	Fireside
H	Legal aspects of transcription & translation all languages	AM	Fishman	John Steinbach
I	Spanish linguistic tools	PM	Navarrete	Fireside
J	21 Days to Better Interpreting	all day	De la Mora	Chief Poker Jim

*Program as of December 30, 2006. Preconference events and speakers are subject to change.*

## Educational Sessions

Saturday and Sunday • May 19-20, 2007

SATURDAY	TRAINING	PROFESSION	TECHNIQUE	OTHER
A 8:00 to 9:00 AM	TBD	Green & Romberger Disciplinary Procedures	Matthews & Orrantia Translation Procedures	Framer Advocacy Committee briefing
B 9:15 – 10:15 AM	Piper & Douglas Establishing a T&I Program at Des Moines CC	Martin & US Marshals Security for Court Interpreters	Lindquist Native-Speaker Errors in Simultaneous	Mikkelsen Legal Reforms in Spanish-speaking Countries
C 10:30 – 11:30 AM	Rainof Teaching Translation & Interpretation	Kinney Update from the AOUSC	Navarrete Tools for Transcription & Translation (TT)	Katschinka & Nicholson Update on FIT and Europe
D 3:30 – 4:30 PM	Dueñas González & Cabeza Univ of Arizona Undergraduate Program	Rosado Fed Interpreters Roundtable	Fishman Legal Aspects of TT	Festinger Proteus & Position Papers briefing
E 4:45 – 5:45 PM	Huang Postgraduate Interpr. Training at China Univ of Poly Sci & Law	Alger-Robbins Interpreter as Expert Witness	Navarrete, Salazar & Segal TT Guidelines & TT Ensemble briefing	Sherr Diccionarios en CD-ROM
SUNDAY	TRAINING	PROFESSION	TECHNIQUE	OTHER
F 8:30 – 9:30 AM	Braun Left/Right Brain Processing	Stettri Sawrey Ethics I	Vendor panel: Simul. equipment	de la Mora Spanish-specific Skills Training
G 9:45 – 10:45 AM	Cline Expert Tips on Establishing a T&I Program	Stettri Sawrey Ethics II	Burukina Memory Development	Troop Signed & Spoken Language Interps Working Together
H 11:00 - 12 NOON	Kagan Mentoring Project briefing	Sanchez Teatro Milagro Bilingual Theater	Comstock Telephone Interpreting in Oregon Courts	McKenna Case for a Spanish Criminal Dictionary

*Program as of December 30, 2006. All educational sessions and speakers are subject to change.*

# PORTLAND: YOUR PORT IN A STORM

**NAJIT's 28th Annual Conference, May 18 – 20, 2007**

Embassy Suites, 319 SW Pine Street, Portland, Oregon

There are myriad reasons to make the trip to Portland for the NAJIT conference — and there is always the possibility of extending your trip for a few days.

First there is the historic hotel. The Embassy Suites offers amenities and cost-savers that many other conference hotels don't. A cooked-to-order breakfast is included in the price of the room — as is the nightly Manager's Reception. As the name implies, every room is a charming suite ... and being a historic hotel, the rooms are not cookie cutter. There are the cozy fireplaces in the lobby, a health club, sauna and a beautiful, curvaceous and columned pool reminiscent of the Roman Baths of Caracalla.

Then there is the main attraction: location, location, location. No \$25 cab rides necessary to get to a good restaurant....there are scads nearby, and if you want to venture further, the hotel is located in the "Fareless Square" — in the heart of downtown Portland, no one has to pay for the bus, streetcar or the light-rail. You just hop on and hop off!

Nature is practically at your doorstep. Portland boasts the largest forested in-city wilderness park in the United States — Forest Park offers more than 70 miles of trails winding their way through 5,000 acres of ferns and moss-covered trees. For \$1.70 and a generous half hour, a Portland bus can whisk you away to an entrance to Forest Park, or if you prefer your nature tamed, to Portland's famed Rose Gardens or the Japanese Gardens. You can walk along the Willamette River, cross one of the seven bridges spanning the river and then jog along the Eastside Esplanade. You can watch dragon boat teams at practice.



Travel Portland/POVA

## Portland's Living Room

Pioneer Courthouse Square is a 40,000 square foot plaza that is the beating heart of downtown. Known as "Portland's Living Room," located directly west of Pioneer Courthouse, is Portland's oldest building (1875) and the oldest federal courthouse in continuous use west of the Mississippi. Other downtown highlights include Saturday Market, Powell's City of Books, the exquisite Classical Chinese Garden, the Pittock Mansion

with a 180 degree view overlooking Willamette and Columbia Rivers and Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens.

## Brew Pubs and Wine Country

When you are ready to stop sightseeing, Portland has more microbreweries than any other American city, so you can compare the craft brews of more than 28 local breweries. Downloadable maps of the local breweries are available from the Oregon Brewers Guild. Oregon's more than 300 wineries earn it second place for the number of wineries in a state, and it ranks third in the nation for wine production. More than 40 types of wine grapes are grown on 13,400 acres in Oregon.

All these delights await, and a chance to network with your many colleagues from around the country, too. So why not plan a beautiful spring visit to Portland? The Pacific northwest is a gem that sparkles any time of year, but spring is most enchanting. Hope to see you there! ▲



Travel Portland/POVA



Travel Portland/POVA



Travel Portland/POVA

## NAJIT NEWS

### Committee News Advocacy Committee

January 3, 2007

Hon. Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Equal Access to Justice

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

On behalf of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), I thank you for recognizing the importance of access to justice for all Californians, and especially the need for civil court interpreters. As you prepare your budget proposal for the coming year, I urge you to provide funds for court interpreters in civil cases. I commend the collective wisdom and foresight of the bipartisan supporters of this issue and its funding.

California's linguistic and cultural diversity is among the state's greatest assets and has helped make California an international leader in business, entertainment, engineering, medicine, tourism, and more. This diversity also poses unique challenges in providing effective delivery of government services, particularly in the courts.

It is essential to assure qualified interpreters in civil as well as criminal cases (where they are already provided by law) in order to provide meaningful access to California's nearly seven million limited English proficient residents. In the many child custody and domestic violence cases that are tried in California's Civil Courts, use of qualified interpreters is essential to protecting the civil rights of the victims.

The use of qualified interpreters is also essential to eliminating wasteful expenditures. NAJIT is cognizant of budget limitations, and therefore, emphasizes that cost savings to state government can be achieved through the use of qualified interpreters. Language assistance in civil cases would improve the operation of the judicial system by reducing the amount of courtroom time for hearings, ensuring that non-English-speaking litigants appear more consistently at subsequent hearings, substantially reducing delays and the backlog in some areas.

The lack of civil interpreters negatively impacts the efficient administration of justice, therefore costing the state unnecessarily. The lack of language assistance can result in severe and costly consequences affecting safety, health, families, property, and finances. Inadequate resources to assist litigants with limited English proficiency affects the court's ability to function properly, causing inefficient and costly delays in proceedings for all court users, inappropriate defaults, and faulty interpretation that can ultimately subvert justice. Our failure to provide interpreters also increases the demands placed on our judges.

California's economic and social well-being depends on a healthy civil justice system. Please support funding for interpreters in civil courts.

Sincerely,  
Alexander Rainof, Ph.D.  
Chair, Board of Directors  
National Association of Judiciary  
Interpreters and Translators

cc. Chris Kahn, Legislative Affairs Secretary  
Mike Genest, Director, Department of Finance

October 24, 2006

The Honorable Ronald George, Chief Justice  
Supreme Court of California  
350 McAllister St.  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4783

Dear Chief Justice George:

With this letter, I enclose the statement issued by the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators in response to Governor Schwarzenegger's veto of AB 2303 providing funding for court interpreters in civil matters.

Also enclosed please find a copy of our newsletter, *Proteus*. We would be very pleased to provide you with a complimentary subscription to this publication if it is of interest. Mr. William Vickery of the Judicial Council has been kind enough to say that he values the information that it provides. This issue contains the text of the eight position papers that we have published to date on key aspects of professionalism in judiciary interpreting.

The members of our association very much appreciate your call for "improving access and fairness in our court system" in your speech of October 7 at Monterey, and your statement that "interpreter services continue to be a critical component of access to justice for many Californians." Thank you for all that you are doing to further the work of justice in the California judicial system.

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

Colleagues:

After more than three years of effort, as the current two year legislative session was about to expire, the Pennsylvania state legislature passed SB 669, the court interpreting bill today. The bill will finally move Pennsylvania into the modern age and create a certification system for court interpreters. It will mandate that interpreters be provided in certain court proceedings and almost all state administrative hearings. Although far from perfect, it is a huge step forward.

> continues on next page



## NAJIT NEWS

continued

The hopes of advocates had been fading as the days passed and the end of the legislative session approached and we faced the possibility of starting over for the third time from scratch when the new legislature convened next year. Yesterday, the state house passed the bill as amended by a 191-0 vote, but the amendments required that the bill go back to the state senate. Today, the senate approved of the amended bill, 49-0 on the last day of its scheduled session. The bill will now go to Governor Rendell for signature, which is not expected to be a problem. To see the history of the bill or its text, go to:

[www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us)

Thanks to all those who helped work on or support the bill!

Paul M. Uyehara

Staff Attorney, Language Access Project

Community Legal Services, Inc.

1424 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19102

215-981-3718 or 3700

267-765-6481 (fax)

[puyehara@clsphila.org](mailto:puyehara@clsphila.org)

[www.clsphila.org](http://www.clsphila.org)

## Wireless Equipment for Interpreters

**For less than \$100, interpreters can now have their own set of wireless transmitter and receiver, including microphone and earphone.**

TN Communications, an Oregon company, offers dependable, long-lasting wireless equipment that easily fits in a shirt pocket. All equipment comes with a one-year warranty.



**Single-channel equipment**

In addition to our single-channel equipment, multi-channel transmitters and receivers are now available



**Multi-channel equipment**

Please visit [www.tncommunications.com](http://www.tncommunications.com) for product specifications and availability. For more information, contact us at [info@tncommunications.com](mailto:info@tncommunications.com) or call 1-888-371-9005

## Position Paper Committee

NAJIT continues to develop position papers on issues of importance to the profession. The following position papers are currently being researched and drafted: *Team Interpreting*; *Interpreter Credentialing*; *Attorney-Interpreter Protocol*; *Confidentiality*; *The Use of Interpreters in Civil Matters*; *Standard Spanish and Dialects*; *Fundamentals of Preparing Transcripts of Foreign Language Recordings*.

Members will be informed when the new papers are ready for distribution. To participate in drafting or editing, contact Proteus editor: [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org).

## In Praise of NAJIT Position Papers

*A recent letter from a NAJIT member who wishes to remain anonymous.*

During a recent murder trial, prosecutors mentioned that they intended to introduce a holding cell videotape as evidence. Although the evidence was in a foreign language, they had not obtained a translated transcript prior to trial. They were confident that they would have no problem presenting it to the jury, assuming that the two interpreters provided by the state judicial department could efficiently interpret the soundtrack during court.

One of the interpreters had recently received the brand new NAJIT position paper: *"Onsite Simultaneous Interpretation of a Soundfile is not Recommended."* At the next recess, with the judge and court clerks' assistance, he downloaded the position paper from [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org) and printed copies for the judge and both legal teams. The judge made full use of the position paper, insisting that neither party use the court's interpreters to provide simultaneous interpretation of the video soundtrack. And she reproved prosecution for not obtaining transcription and translation prior to trial.

In order to be able to present the video evidence to the jury, following a full day in court, a district attorney went to work with her language informant until long past midnight, using a video player: PLAY – REWIND – PLAY again – REWIND again – and again – and again... trying to get down one-sided telephone conversations in an Asian language, typing pages of English translation and/or explanation.

Somewhere else in the city, the defense team's language informant was hard at work doing the same thing.

Back in court, the language informants took the stand to testify about the content of the video soundtrack, while the court interpreters, interpreting the proceedings to the defendant, were grateful to NAJIT's TT Project for providing the right tool, within easy reach, available when needed. ▲





# TIRED OF TRYING TO COLLECT?

**NAJIT is pleased to announce that Receivable Management Services (a Dun & Bradstreet affiliate), is now offering the following discounted rates to NAJIT members**

## **COLLECTION SERVICES CHARGES** (per account, *contingent upon collection*)

**Annual subscription rate** (includes supply of courteous past due reminders for use on letters/invoices and \$25.00 collection coupon)

Regular charge: \$199.00/year

Discounted charge for NAJIT members: \$29.00/year

**If amount to be collected is:**

- **under \$300** – Regular charge: \$150 flat fee  
Discounted charge for NAJIT members: \$100 flat fee
- **\$300 – \$501** – Regular charge: 50%  
Charge for NAJIT members: 50%
- **\$501 – \$3,000** – Regular charge: 30% of collected amount  
Discounted charge for NAJIT members: 25% of collected amount
- **\$3,001 – \$10,000** – Regular charge: 27% of collected amount  
Discounted charge for NAJIT members: 22% of collected amount
- **Accounts over 1-year old, regardless of amount** – Regular charge: 33%  
Charge for NAJIT members: 33%

To take advantage of this valuable service, please contact:

**Mike Horoski**

Receivable Management Services

Toll-free: (800) 333-6497

extension 823-7226

Direct: (484)242-7226

Fax: (800) 678-3074

[michael.horoski@rmsna.com](mailto:michael.horoski@rmsna.com)

<http://www.rmsna.com>



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Librarian to the Rescue**

Many interpreter program websites will want to link to this excellent list of resources published in March of 2006: [www.ilrx.com/features/interpreters.htm](http://www.ilrx.com/features/interpreters.htm)

"Interpretation and Translation Resources for the Criminal Justice System," compiled by Ken Strutin, law librarian, attorney and Director of Legal Information Services at the New York State Defenders Association. One-stop shopping for legal and other relevant information related to state and federal programs, interpreter associations, guides to working with interpreters, courses and programs, reference sources, bibliographies, books, state reports, articles, internet sources and other subject areas. Includes links to essential *Proteus* articles, by title.

### **New web address for federal certification information.**

The web site for the federal court interpreter certification examination is now housed and maintained at the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburg, Virginia. For exam dates and locations, FAQs, examination handbook and oral practice examination, go to: [www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CourtInterp.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp.html)

### **Online Glossary of Legal Terms in Plain Language**

Vancouver Community College announces a new Online Glossary of Legal Terms in Plain Language (English) and Chinese, Farsi, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese, [www.legalglossary.ca](http://www.legalglossary.ca).

Please have a look at it, and take a moment to fill out the brief survey (just click on survey on the home page). It was created to assist interpreters and legal personnel as well as lay persons not familiar with Canadian law.

### **Free DVD – Access to Justice**

The National Center for State Courts is about to distribute a free DVD that they developed called "Access to Justice: Protection Orders and Limited English Proficiency," a training tool designed both for court staff who may have to assist petitioners with limited English proficiency, and for domestic violence advocates who are oftentimes placed in the role of interpreter for clients. To receive a free copy, write to [cgreen@ncsc.dni.us](mailto:cgreen@ncsc.dni.us).

### **International Calendar of Events for Language Industry**

The Institute of Translation & Interpreting is offering a free facility for publicising calls for papers, training, conferences, product launches, social events, etc. Enter details of your events and see them instantly displayed. Event organisers can search up to 60 months ahead to check on availability of dates. ICE also includes world holidays — an easy to use list of all bank and public holidays by country. If you want to attend an event, you can search by many criteria including date, city, country, event, organiser and organiser type. Available in English, French, German and Spanish at [www.iti.org.uk](http://www.iti.org.uk). ▲

## CALENDAR

**March 10, 2007. Seattle, WA.** Domestic violence workshop including ethics, scenarios and role-playing. The Administrative Office of the Courts has approved 6 continuing education credits for this workshop. To register: [www.courts.wa.gov/programs\\_orgs/](http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/) Questions, contact: Tina Williamson at (360) 705-5279 or [tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov](mailto:tina.williamson@courts.wa.gov).

**March 17, 2007. Miami, FL.** Immigration Terminology Conference  
Presenters: Pedro A. Miranda, immigration judge; Hector A. Suco, supervisory interpreter. 10:00 am- 1:00 pm, at Miami Dade College, Inter-American Campus, 627 S.W. 27th Ave., Room 3103. No cost for admission. No pre-registration required. Attendees receive a certificate of attendance from Miami Dade College. Contact Hector Suco at: [hsuco61@aol.com](mailto:hsuco61@aol.com) or [hsuco@mdc.edu](mailto:hsuco@mdc.edu).

**March 24 – March 25, 2007. Portland, OR.** Test preparation workshops in Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. Saturday classes 8:30 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday classes 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Online and printable registration forms available on the NAJIT website. Venue: Portland State University, Smith Memorial Student Union, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon.

**March 30-31, 2007. Des Moines, IA.** Advancing the Profession of Health Care Interpreting. See: [www.iita.org](http://www.iita.org)

**April 11-15, 2007. Sydney, Australia.** Critical Link V: Community Interpreting. See: [www.criticallink2007.com](http://www.criticallink2007.com)

**April 28-May 3, 2007. Granada, Spain.** First International Forum of Translation/Interpreting and Activism.  
See: [www.translationactivism.com](http://www.translationactivism.com)

**May 18-20, 2007. Portland, OR.** NAJIT's 28th annual conference.  
To register: [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

**May 31-June 3, 2007. Cleveland, OH.** ATA medical division mid-year conference. To register: [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

**July 12-15, 2007. Seattle, WA.** International Association of Forensic Linguists, 8th Biennial Conference on Forensic Linguistics, Language and Law. To register: [www.iafl.org](http://www.iafl.org)

**Jul 28-29, 2007. Buenos Aires, Argentina.** INTERPRETA 2007.  
To register: [www.interpreta2007.org](http://www.interpreta2007.org)

**August 3-8, 2007. San Francisco, CA.** RID Biennial Conference.  
See [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

**October 31-November 3, 2007. San Francisco, CA.** ATA's 48th Annual Conference. See [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

**November 15-18, 2007. San Antonio, TX.** ACTFL Annual Convention & Exposition. See [www.actfl.org](http://www.actfl.org)

**August 1-7, 2008. Shanghai, China.** FIT's XVIII World Congress.  
See [www.fit2008.org](http://www.fit2008.org)

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

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Model translation contract available for download

Uwe Muegge, author of *Translation Contract: A Standards-Based Model Solution*, announces the availability of a PDF version of his book for immediate download. Translation Contract is based on the most relevant international translation standards, and the individual forms can be customized to suit the needs of both translators and translation clients. The bound version is available at Amazon and bookstores.

The author currently serves as corporate terminologist at Medtronic, the world's largest manufacturer of medical technology, and teaches computer-assisted translation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. For more information, please visit: <http://www.muegge.cc>

### Heritage Language Initiative at Portland State University

The Heritage Language Initiative, a project of the foreign languages and literatures department at Portland State University, is actively working toward the creation of a certificate in translation and interpretation. To date, the department has formed an advisory board consisting of interested faculty and local translators and interpreters, piloted a theoretical sequence through the Department of Applied Linguistics and offered courses in Japanese,

Russian, and Spanish. In addition the department applied for grants to create durable, Web-based instructional modules to be used in the new program. HLI will be co-sponsoring NAJIT's training workshops in Korean, Russian Vietnamese, and Spanish at Portland State this coming March.

Through the Heritage Language Initiative, the department currently provides instruction in Arabic, Hindi, Persian, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Urdu. In some instances, Tagalog, for example, instructors come from the local community. In others, the department has been assisted by the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant program. During the last three years the program has hosted FLTAs from Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Oman, Pakistan, Russia, and Turkey. For further information, contact program directors Pat Wetzel ([wetzel@pdx.edu](mailto:wetzel@pdx.edu)) or Linda Godson ([godsonl@pdx.edu](mailto:godsonl@pdx.edu)).

### Iowa college offers associate's degree in interpretation and translation

The Des Moines Area Community College's Interpretation and Translation Program is now offering an Associate of Science degree and Specialist Certificate. The program currently emphasizes study of translation and interpretation in two areas, judiciary and health-

care, and plans are underway to add emphases in human services, education and business translation and interpretation, according to Michael J. Piper, the department chair. Through a DMACC partnership with the Iowa Division of Latino Affairs, interpretation and translation courses are now being offered throughout Iowa. Participating students can apply for tuition scholarships, in return for which they agree to provide a certain number of pro bono community interpreting hours after finishing the program. The program is located at the DMACC Urban Campus in downtown Des Moines.

### Interpretation Services

*Courts function in increasingly multicultural communities. Interpretation services help members of the public who do not speak the official language(s) of the court to access justice and participate in the justice system. Translation and interpretation services should be provided at every stage of the proceedings. (See further the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Art. 14(3)(f); European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR), Art. 6). Such interpreters must be competent and must receive basic training in the law, as well as on-going training on particular issues (for example: sexual offences, child-friendly interpretation), as well as cultural competence training.*

- A. *Does the court provide interpretation services for the accused, victims, and witnesses in criminal proceedings? At which stages? For which languages? Including sign language? How are interpreters qualified? Is there a certification process? What training do they receive? Are interpreters court employees? If not, how are they hired/compensated? If the court does not pay for their services, who or what agencies does?*
- B. *Are there sufficient numbers of interpreters? Is there any particular language for which there seems to be a shortage of interpreters? Are missing interpreters a source of delays? Do courtrooms routinely wait for interpreters to become available to be able to proceed with a scheduled hearing? How often do hearings need to be rescheduled because no interpreter is available? Do the courts use uncertified interpreters? Do the courts not hear the testimony of some witnesses because no interpreter is available and the witnesses are unable to testify in the official language of the court?*

[Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Access to Justice: the Courts." Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit, Section 6.2, [www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice/COURTS.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/COURTS.pdf)]

### Hawaii

A court interpreter certification bill has been introduced in the current session of the Hawaii legislature. The bill, based on the NCSC Model Act, has been adapted for local conditions. Go to link for status and updates on SB 625 and HB 600 [www.capitol.hawaii.gov/](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/)

News Flash: On January 30, 2007, the Judiciary Committee recommended that HB 600 be passed with amendments, and it passed in the House. Close to 20 people or organizations testified or submitted statements, including NAJIT's Advocacy Committee, in support of the bill. The next step is for the bill to go to the Senate.

*The Interpreter Connection*, a January 2007 publication by the Hawaii's State Judiciary Intergovernmental and Community

Relations Department, Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, can be obtained from: [www.courts.state.hi.us/courtinterpreting](http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courtinterpreting). The Office has issued a certification program mission statement:

*To promote and ensure equal access to Hawaii's courts for linguistic minorities by providing the best qualified interpreters available to state court users in need, and to expand and improve the Judiciary's pool of qualified interpreters by:*

- 1) *establishing a minimum standard for court interpreter certification, and*
- 2) *coordinating the screening, training and testing necessary to assist interpreters in meeting and surpassing this standard.*

### Translation in Brazil

FAQs regarding sworn translations in Brazil can be found at: [www.lamensdorf.com.br/tpicen.html](http://www.lamensdorf.com.br/tpicen.html)

### Found In Translation

Great name for a website? You bet. But it has already been taken by a medical journal that deals in "translational medicine." What, you may ask, is translational medicine? It appears to be a new term used in the medical field. According to Wikipedia: "Translational medicine is growing in importance in the healthcare industry, and is a term whose precise definition is in flux. In particular, drug discovery and development, translational medicine typically refers to the 'translation' of basic research into real therapies for real patients. The emphasis is on the linkage between the laboratory and the patient's bedside, without a real disconnect. This is often called the 'bench to bedside' definition. Translational medicine can also have a much broader definition, referring to the development and application of new technologies in a patient driven environment — where the emphasis is on early patient testing and evaluation. In modern healthcare, we are seeing a move to a more open, patient driven research process, and the embrace of a more research driven clinical practice of medicine." ▲

### BRAIN TEASERS

Test your ability to render slang in the following examples.

1. He told me he had done time on a bum rap.
2. The guards came into the cell for a shakedown.
3. Don't bug out on me now.
4. The heat was on, so they flew the coop.
5. It was an easy score, so he went for it.
6. He made a play for her but she told him to get lost.
7. The cops told him to assume the position.
8. He was getting in my face so I rapped him one.
9. After that, losing my job was a double whammy.
10. The FBI did a profile of the killer, which helped the cops track him down.
11. They went into the apartment like gangbusters.
12. He's such a dirtbag his own mother disowned him.
13. The prosecutor thought the case was a slam dunk.
14. He wasn't the hit man, he was the front guy.
15. Everything he was selling fell off a truck.

## LETTERS

December 20, 2006

Dear Dr. Rainoff:

Thank you for your letter of October 24, 2006 to Chief Justice Ronald M. George. The Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts continue to support increased access to the California courts by extending interpreter services to civil matters.

Thank you also for the copy of your newsletter, Proteus, as well as your generous offer to provide us with a complimentary subscription. We already receive your very informative newsletter, which is used by our court interpreter program staff, so there is no need to send a second copy at this time.

Please know that we value the input from professionals such as yourself, and appreciate all you are doing to further the work of justice in California.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth L. Kann  
Director, Executive Office Programs Division

Dear members of NAJIT,

Emma Garkavi and I testified on January 10, 2007 before the House Judiciary Committee of the Washington state legislature about professional interpreter concerns. We presented information about why professional court interpreters are essential to ensure access to justice, how the current payment and scheduling system in our state shortchanges freelance interpreters, and why team interpreting should be required in all proceedings longer than two hours. Afterwards one of the judges present told us, "you converted them!" (She meant of course that we had succeeded in conveying the importance of the issues, not that the committee had accepted all our points in toto.)

It was exciting to speak about these issues, buttressed by Maria Cecilia Marty's fine article about the Alfonzo case in Florida and Mirta Vidal's classic article on team interpreting. Ten years separate the two articles, and each is relevant, effective and powerful. We also gave all the committee members and staff copies of the NAJIT position paper on access to justice as grist for their mill. To our knowledge, this was the first time that direct testimony from a professional interpreter was presented to the legislature in our state.

I would like to say to you all that the four and a half years that I have served as executive director of NAJIT have been some of the most satisfying in my professional life. It has been a joy to work with you and to advance access to justice in our nation through NAJIT publications, conferences and projects. I will continue to support court interpreting and translating through service as a public member on the Washington State Court Interpreter Commission, to which I was appointed last year, and in any other venues that may occur. I wish NAJIT and all its members continued success in 2007 and beyond, and I look forward to keeping in touch. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for your friendship.

Sincerely,  
Ann G. Macfarlane  
PO Box 77553  
Seattle WA 98177  
Email: [info@russianresourcesint.com](mailto:info@russianresourcesint.com) ▲

### Feedback Wanted

**P**roteus is interested in your feedback. What subjects would you like more articles about? Do you have an idea for an article but don't want to write it? Please contact [proteus@najit.org](mailto:proteus@najit.org)

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# Registration Form – NAJIT 28th Annual Conference

page 17

Friday – Sunday • May 18–20, 2007 | Portland, Oregon

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Working languages \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

- Earlybird and hotel deadline: **Wednesday, April 18, 2007**
- Korean, Russian, Vietnamese exam deadlines (Consortium): **Monday, April 23, 2007**
- ATA translation exam deadline (ATA): **Friday, April 20, 2007**
- Conference registration closes: **Friday, May 4, 2007**
- NJITCE: Spanish deadline (Measurement Inc): **Monday, April 23, 2007**
- Last day for refund: **Friday, May 4, 2007**

**Register early to be sure** — onsite registration will be offered only if space permits, and at higher fees.

- **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES** Includes opening dinner dance Friday, Saturday lunch, light breakfasts & refreshment breaks, Saturday & Sunday educational sessions, handouts

EARLYBIRD (by April 18)			REGULAR (April 19 – May 4)			
Member	Nonmember	Student*	Member	Nonmember	Student*	
290	360	100	320	390	130	\$

\*Student registration does not include Friday dinner. If you are not a student member of NAJIT, you must submit evidence of your current enrollment & courseload with your registration form.

Receive the membership discount by submitting an application today!

REGISTRATION FEE = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## ► FRIDAY PRECONFERENCE EVENT FEES

- All day workshops 9 AM – 5 PM (lunch on your own)
- AM workshops 9 AM – 12 NOON
- PM workshops 2 – 5 pm

	EARLYBIRD (by April 18)		REGULAR (April 19 – May 4)		
	Member	Nonmember	Member	Nonmember	
A SSTI Korean skills tuneup all day	110	130	130	150	\$
B SSTI Russian skills tuneup all day	110	130	130	150	\$
C SSTI Spanish skills tuneup all day	110	130	130	150	\$
D SSTI Vietnamese skills tuneup all day	110	130	130	150	\$
E Tour of courts AM all languages	15	15	15	15	\$
F Procedural knowledge & translator AM English w/ translated Spanish examples; suitable for all languages	60	80	80	100	\$
G Security for court interpreters AM all languages	no charge	80	no charge	100	\$
H Legal aspects of TT AM – all languages	60	80	80	100	\$
I Spanish Linguistic Tools PM	60	80	80	100	\$

Preconference Event Fees Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAYMENT = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- **PAYMENT** ☐ Check payable in U.S. funds to NAJIT Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Credit card no.

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_ Credit card verification value \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required for credit card payment) \_\_\_\_\_

- Please let us know if you require special accessibility or assistance — attach a sheet with details.
- Refunds will be given less a \$25 processing fee if request received by Friday, May 4, 2007. No refunds after that date, but substitutions permitted.
- If you require additional tickets for the Friday courthouse tour, Friday dinner dance or Saturday lunch, please telephone headquarters at 206-267-2300.

Register online at [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org), or fax this form to 206-626-0392, or mail to NAJIT 603 Stewart St., Suite 610, Seattle, WA 98101-1275.

We regret that telephone registration is not available for this event.

## ORAL EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

NAJIT and the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification are collaborating to bring you the opportunity to take a **Consortium Oral Examination** in one of three languages: **Korean, Russian, or Vietnamese.**

The two organizations are pleased to open registration for these oral performance examinations, which will be administered in PORTLAND, OREGON during the 28th Annual NAJIT Conference.

*Seating is limited —  
Register early!*

### DATE

**Sunday, May 20, 2007**

### PLACE

Embassy Suites Portland Downtown  
319 SW Pine Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204

*Minimum of 4 registered candidates  
required*

For test information and registration,  
contact:

**Carola E. Green,  
National Center for State Courts  
757-259-1837**

Visit the Web site:  
[http://www.ncsconline.org/d\\_research/  
CourtInterp/CICourtConsort.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/d_research/CourtInterp/CICourtConsort.html)

Contact NAJIT for conference  
and meeting information,  
visit the NAJIT Web site:  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

## NAJIT & THE CONSORTIUM FOR STATE COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION OFFER

### Oral Performance Examinations: Korean – Russian – Vietnamese

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007**

### YOU MAY REGISTER BY:

**1) MAIL: NCSC/Attention: Carola E. Green**

300 Newport Avenue, Williamsburg, VA 23185

**2) FAX:** (credit card only – MasterCard or Visa) using this form, Fax to: 757-564-2013

### REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Language: \_\_\_\_\_

### FEE SCHEDULE

**Oral Examination (including administration, scoring, score reporting to the examinee) \$325.00**

*(Cancellation policy: A \$25 service charge will be deducted from any refund. To receive a refund, the cancellation **must be received by NCSC by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, April 30, 2007.** Postmarks are not accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who fail to appear for a scheduled appointment.)*

### PAYMENT METHOD

Check or Money Order (payable to NCSC) VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_

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Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Accommodations:** If you wish to request a special accommodation under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA), please call NCSC at 757-259-1837 before 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 16, 2007.

*Please note that individual states certify court interpreters on the basis of established criteria. The Consortium encourages all member states to accept a passing score on this examination as fulfillment of the oral testing portion of the certification process but cannot guarantee acceptance. The Consortium will report your score to you and it will be your responsibility to follow up and fulfill any additional requirements for certification.*





# PROTEUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

I am an ☐ interpreter ☐ translator ☐ freelance instructor

I am applying for the following class of membership: ☐ Active ☐ Associate ☐ Student (NAJIT may validate applications for student membership)  
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(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.

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

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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

## PAYMENT METHOD

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

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

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

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED  
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