



National Round-Up

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ACHIEVEMENT OVER ADVERSITY:

The First Ilokano Certified Interpreter

Hildre C. Herrera

After passing a newly-established test for interpreters of Ilokano, Edmund Calaycay Jr. is the first person to obtain Hawaii certification as a court interpreter of that language. What is most remarkable about Mr. Calaycay's achievement is his inner strength despite a physically challenging condition — progressive muscular dystrophy — and a lack of materials for interpreters of Ilokano.



Edmund Calaycay Jr.

Edmund Calaycay Jr. was born and grew up in Quezon City, the capital of the Philippines, where he completed his elementary and high school studies. Later, he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in physical therapy. He found a teaching job as an instructor in physical therapy at Mariano Marcos State University in Ilocos Norte, and spent four years training future physical therapists there.

Mr. Calaycay and his family emigrated to Hawaii recently, after spending 15 years in the northern part of the Philippines, specifically Badoc, Ilocos Norte. People jokingly call him "FBI" or "full-blooded Ilokano." He grew up in what he describes as a "closely-knit, conservative and God-fearing family."

His courage was put to the test when Mr. Calaycay was diagnosed with progressive muscular dystrophy, which affects muscle strength. This has been, and still is, the most challenging aspect of his life. In his native city, ADA accommodation, the Equal Opportunity Employment program, and similar services are not available.

Mr. Calaycay's involvement in court interpreting comes from a love of teaching and helping others. As he tells it, "As a physical therapy graduate and instructor, I really was very interested in teaching here; not necessarily PT (because I was informed that I would have to take the state licensure, and must

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR NAJIT CONFERENCE 2008



Ida Chen is a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County, serving in the Family Court Division. She was born in Hong Kong and emigrated to the U.S. from Indonesia. Initially appointed by Governor Robert Casey in 1987, she was confirmed by the state senate in 1988 and subsequently elected to judge in a city-wide political race in 1989. She is the first Asian-American female to be elected a judge in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Currently she presides over civil domestic violence disputes, handling approximately 12,600 matters per year. During the summer of 2006, she worked with Deputy Court Administrator Janet Fasy of the First Judicial District, in collaboration with Quantum (a commercial language service), Javier Aguilar (full-time family court interpreter) and Osvaldo Aviles (interpreter program administrator of the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts) to produce translated versions of the "Final Protection Order" in Russian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Chinese and Spanish. Since 1999, she has participated in voluntary training programs with spoken language and sign language interpreters. In 1994, Chen and her staff issued the "Interpreters' Quick Reference to Abuse Courtroom #3 in Family Court." In 2005, 2006 and 2007, Judge

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Proteus

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

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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

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

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

Dear colleagues:

NAJIT's annual conference is once again around the corner! I am very pleased to report that our conference committee, under conference chair, Director Lois Feuerle, has developed another excellent mix of sessions that you will not only enjoy and learn from, but that will also provide the opportunity for you to earn a great number of required continuing education credits.

The line-up for the May 16-18, 2008, 29th Annual NAJIT Conference, at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA, includes skills building workshops in various languages, as well as excellent pre-conference and educational sessions. Please refer to page 11 of this issue or visit our website at www.najit.org for complete conference sessions, updates and registration information.

During our annual conference, interpreters as well as translators will have an opportunity to take various exams. Once again, NAJIT and the NCSC Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification are collaborating to bring you the opportunity to take the consortium oral examinations in Russian, Korean and Vietnamese. Please see page 13 for those testing schedules. See our website, www.najit.org, for ATA and NAJIT exam information and registration.

This year during the annual meeting, you will be voting on a few bylaw amendments. Some of these are necessary to be in compliance with New York state law and some of the amendments are presented and agreed upon by the NAJIT board of directors. You will be receiving complete information about these amendments together with your election ballots via regular mail between end-March and mid-April. The information will also be posted in the members section of our website, so please make sure to visit our website and members section as often as possible to stay informed.

Our annual conference highlight is

the keynote speech. This year we are very pleased to introduce the Honorable Ida Chen. Judge Chen, appointed by Chief Justice Ralph Cappy to chair the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's Interpreter Services Committee of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial & Ethnic Fairness. You can see from her biography that she has worked extensively on interpreter services. During a recent conversation we had, her passion and enthusiasm were evident. I'm sure we all look forward to meeting her.

As you can see, this is going to be another wonderful and exciting conference, so please make sure to spread the word among your friends and colleagues. I look forward to seeing old friends and new colleagues in Pittsburgh.

On December 14, 2007, I met with all committee and project chairs via teleconference. It was an excellent meeting and from the oral reports, everyone is hard at work. All committees are complete, with the exception of bylaws and governance: we are still seeking volunteers for that committee. See some of the committees' written reports on page 6. Additional reports will be provided at the annual conference.

During the board of directors' meeting after the annual conference, the NAJIT chair either re-appointed current chairs or appoints new chairs to serve on various committees, so please be sure to submit your name prior to or during the annual conference if you would like to be considered for committee member or chair. To view committees and their missions, go to www.najit.org and click on "About NAJIT."

NAJIT's financial status is more healthy than ever and membership continues to grow.

Even with our membership at its highest historic level, we are keen to continue attracting new members. We have been able

> *continues on page 9*

ERRATA

The previous issue of *Proteus* was misidentified as Winter 2007. To avoid future confusion, winter issues which span the end of one year and the beginning of the next will be identified as Winter 2007-2008, Winter 2008-2009, etc. We apologize to readers for last issue's misprint. When referring to the International Issue published in November 2007, please cite the volume number (Vol XVI, No 4) rather than the season.

WORKING CONDITIONS

THE FEDERAL CONTRACT: ONE INTERPRETER'S PERSPECTIVE

Daniel Sherr

When federal court interpreters were presented with a new contract two years ago, e-mails started to flow fast and furiously and the NAJIT listserve heated up with impassioned debate. Since then, interpreters from the Northern District of Illinois and NAJIT conveyed freelance interpreters' concerns to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, and certain ambiguous provisions were modified.

Interpreters did not ask for this contract; it was imposed upon us. Now that we have it, however, we should be familiar with its provisions and not hesitate to invoke those that inure to our benefit.

Traveling to Place of Work

The contract establishes that each district court will establish a "local commuting distance." That distance seems to be set at 30 miles for most districts. If working at a courthouse or jail that is farther away, you are entitled to mileage compensation, or if you travel by mass transit, to be reimbursed for your train or bus ticket.

If the interpreter travels to a courthouse or prison facility within local commuting distance, the work day begins upon reaching the court or prison. However, if the prison or courthouse is outside local commuting distance, the work day begins when the interpreter leaves home and ends upon returning home.

Interpreters having more than one option for travel are referred to the Judiciary Staff Travel Regulations, and are to be guided by a few general principles:

1. The Prudent Traveler Rule: An employee traveling on official business must exercise the same care in incurring expenses that a prudent person would exercise in conducting personal business using his or her own money.
2. Travel on official business shall be by the method of transportation which will result in the greatest advantage to the judiciary, cost and other factors considered. In selecting a particular method of transportation to be used, the traveling employee and the authorizing official shall consider energy conservation and the total cost to the government... and actual transportation costs... The traveler shall use the method of transportation administratively authorized as most advantageous to the government.

As an example, when traveling from Manhattan to Trenton, NJ, an interpreter would have at least two options: to drive or take the train. Driving is less energy-efficient. The government currently pays 48.5 cents a mile for venues beyond the local commuting distance. Thus, considering the 67 miles from New York to Trenton, a driver would be paid approximately \$65.00, plus parking fees.

Mapquest claims that one can cover this distance in 1 hour 14 minutes, so it would take about 2.5 hours for the round trip.

Another option would be to take the train. The train only costs \$21.50 round trip, plus \$4 for the subway. You leave Manhattan at 8:40 a.m. A train departing at 9:10 a.m. puts you in Trenton at 10:33 a.m., and you walk to the courthouse. After meeting with the defendants and their lawyers and doing both pleas, it is 1:00 p.m. The first available train is 1:29 p.m., reaching New York City at 2:56 p.m. You arrive at your residence at 3:20 p.m. Total time elapsed: 6 hours 40 minutes, with no lunchtime.

In reality, nothing ever works with such precision. Traffic jams, delays in train service or in the judge's schedule, and problems related to the transportation of defendants or witnesses are common occurrences. Even one short proceeding under these circumstance will almost certainly involve a full-day fee, and two sets of proceedings some distance apart would most probably take more than eight hours between working and commuting, thus entitling the interpreter to overtime.

If the interpreter has to leave the day before to reach her court or jail assignment, the contract provides for the payment of a "travel-time fee, based on time in travel, equal to the applicable half-day rate or full-day rate."

Obviously, interpreters should not look for roundabout ways to get to their destination. However, be aware of the local commuting distance in your district, and bill accordingly.

Given that under the contract, interpreters may bill for commuting time and travel expenses, some interpreters are afraid that courts regularly using their services will stop calling them, preferring to use interpreters within local commuting distance instead. Yet interpreters should not be penalized for complying with the contract. I hope that in choosing interpreters, court administrators will choose the most competent, reasonably available interpreter for the assignment. Merit should trump cost.

Per Diem in Other Jurisdictions

An interpreter staying overnight in a district beyond local commuting distance is entitled to reimbursement for "subsistence," defined as "all meals, lodging and tips for meals, hotels, baggage, etc." Each location has an established per diem, but the contract specifies that reimbursement may be paid "up to 150% of the applicable per diem allowance." The catch is that reimbursement beyond the pre-set per diem fee has to be agreed to in advance. Interpreters traveling to other jurisdictions should find out what the applicable per diem rate is; should they consider that per diem to be unrealistically low, they should negotiate a higher amount, to

> continues on page 4

THE FEDERAL CONTRACT *continued from page 3*
be included on their travel order/requisition.

Rates

Interpreters working in languages for which the federal government has established certification exams (Spanish, Haitian Creole and Navajo) are bound by the fee schedule established by the Director of the AO (currently \$376/day, \$204/half-day and \$53/hour or part thereof for overtime). However, interpreters working in other languages have negotiated rates that exceed the fee schedule. With less commonly requested languages, supply and demand factors can play to the interpreter's advantage. Specific approval for rates in excess of the fee schedule must be granted in advance by the AO; an interpreter who feels such a rate is justified should not hesitate to negotiate it before accepting the assignment.

Equipment

The contract specifically provides that "the contract court interpreter must advise the clerk's office of any simultaneous interpreting equipment requirements prior to accepting an assignment." Interpreters accepting work in districts that use interpreters infrequently would do well to explain to the administrator that a simultaneous transmitter and headphones must be in working order at the time the hearing is scheduled to start. Interpreters consulted for this article indicated that oftentimes this is not the case, and judges, angry at time being wasted, vent their wrath on the interpreters.

Cancellation

The new contract specifically sets out something that the AO had never clearly established previously: that cancellation of assignments with less than 24 hours' notice, not counting weekends or federal holidays, entitles the interpreter to a half-day or full-day compensation, depending on the policy of each district. That means that if one is notified on a Friday at 9:30 a.m. that a 9:00 a.m. Monday assignment has been cancelled, one is entitled to reimbursement, since weekends do not enter into the calculation. This may have been the practice in many districts before, but it is good to have the policy in writing.

The question arises, however, of what to do when contracted for a multiple-day or weeks-long trial in another jurisdiction, for which one must turn down work in one's home territory. Some interpreters I spoke with had an easy answer: they don't travel. But others have accepted and found themselves turning down offers for work, including conference interpreting, to accept a multiple-day or weeks-long trial, only to have the trial cancelled the day before jury selection. Technically, under the regulations, one is entitled to one day of compensation. One day is scant compensation for someone who has cleared his agenda for over a week. Interpreters felt very strongly about this. One Spanish interpreter told me that under those circumstances, *te quedas sin Inés y sin el retrato*. Another echoed her colleague's sentiments, saying *te quedas con una mano delante y la otra atrás, pelado como Adán y Eva*. In another words, you end up broke.

Fortunately, there is room for negotiation on this. Dr. Carolyn Kinney, writing in *Proteus* in the Fall 2005 issue, wrote, "Courts

have some discretion in negotiating this [the cancellation] fee, with appropriate AO approval, when the court has difficulty in obtaining services otherwise." At this year's NAJIT conference in Portland, Oregon, Dr. Kinney confirmed that the AO can, and has, approved additional days of compensation for cancellation, on a case-by-case basis. I have spoken with Spanish interpreters who have successfully negotiated a two-day cancellation fee for week-long assignments in other districts. Another asked for a three-day cancellation fee for a week-long trial.

A related issue is that one might accept a several-day trial at a remote venue, fly to the location and, on the day the trial is scheduled to begin, learn that the defendant has pled guilty. In this case, the interpreter is entitled to a full day of compensation for the first day of the trial, plus a day's compensation for the second day of the trial, because she was notified with less than 24 hours' notice of the cancellation of the second day of the proceeding.

All interpreters considering accepting long assignments outside their districts should attempt to negotiate equitable conditions for cancellation. A one-day cancellation fee is not much of an incentive to accept a trial scheduled to last several weeks. On the other hand, as administrators are fond of pointing out, we are independent contractors. If the cancellation clause is sufficiently important to us, and what we consider an equitable arrangement cannot be negotiated, we always have the option of turning down the job.

The (In)famous Federal Court Unit

Interpreters who had assignments in court and later at CJA attorney-client interviews were disappointed to see that the contract prohibited billing twice for work performed during the same 4-hour period. However, the contract also specifies what court units this provision covers. The US Attorney's Office, part of the Justice Department, is not a court unit.

In many districts, interpreters bill the US Attorney's Office at the same rate as for in-court time. Now this is not always the case. In the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area, the agency that has signed a contract with the US Attorney's Office started to pay interpreters at a rate of \$200 per half-day and \$400 for the full day when the AO rate schedule authorized \$178 and \$329 for the same time periods. Since then, the US Attorney's Offices in the region have encountered few problems in finding willing interpreters, and a discreet upward pressure has been exerted on the standard court rate. In another district, some enterprising interpreters got together, formed a sort of interpreters co-op, and offered their services to the US Attorney's Office. Each interpreter is free to charge her own rate, in order to avoid even the appearance of price-fixing, but the amounts are more in line with the private sector than with the court rate.

Federal interpreters were not out pounding the payment demanding a contract. They certainly did not demand this one. But *estos son los bueyes con los que tenemos que arar* (this is the hand we've been dealt). If we sign the contract, we must abide by its provisions. At the same time, we must not hesitate to avail ourselves of the benefits it offers. ▲

[The author is a NY-based federally certified Spanish interpreter who has worked on short proceedings in federal courts in Illinois, Pennsylvania, Indiana and California. None of them were cancelled.]

WORKING CONDITIONS

NEW JERSEY FREELANCERS

To: Colleagues in the legal interpreting community
From: New Jersey freelance state court interpreters

The services of freelance court interpreters are indispensable to the operation of the New Jersey courts in providing justice for all. The following relates the past and current status of freelancers in relation to the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

In January of 1995, the AOC issued a set of guidelines to regulate the hiring and management of freelance language interpreters by the Superior Courts of New Jersey. Although the freelance language interpreters are independent vendors, the guidelines provided for a fixed rate to be paid by all NJ Superior Courts.

At the end of 1999, after more than 5 years without a raise, a group of freelance language interpreters opted to seek union representation in order to negotiate working conditions, hiring and payment compensation. The AOC flatly rejected that request. For four years proposals and counter-proposals were exchanged between both parties.

Finally, in June of 2003, the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) intervened and ruled in favor of union representation for freelance interpreters. Communication Workers of America (CWA) became the representing union. PERC's decision limited unit membership to freelance interpreters who worked at least one-sixth the number of hours worked by staff interpreters of New Jersey Superior Courts; i.e. a minimum of 288 hours. At that time 52 freelancers qualified to be in the bargaining unit. A large number of them voted and affirmed union recognition through secret balloting.

Contract negotiations between the AOC and CWA resulted in a ratified contract that covered the period from 1/1/04 to 6/30/05. This contract included a pay raise for the first time in 9 years, a grievance procedure and a threshold of 288 hours for eligibility to join the bargaining unit. However, immediately after, the AOC embarked on a course designed to reduce union representation.

The number of union members began to fall in a vertiginous decline, reaching a low of 15 in 2007. The AOC effectively prevented non-union freelancers as well as newcomers from joining the union by requiring them to sign a Professional Service Statement of Work as a condition of eligibility to work in the judiciary. Freelancers represented by the union were precluded from signing it because their working conditions were subject to binding arbitration; however, once a non-union freelance interpreter signed, his/her working conditions could no longer be negotiated for the fiscal year covered by the work agreement. The AOC also devised a mechanism to redefine hours of work time for those freelancers in the bargaining unit. This redefinition had the effect of removing people from the unit, reducing its size. Such a recalculation of time is neither consistent amongst the vicinages nor transparent. These breaches of the contract amount to unfair labor practices on the part of the judiciary, in response to which CWA filed a grievance in June of 2005. It is yet to be resolved.

Further, the AOC trains municipal courts to only hire those freelance interpreters listed in its directory, yet it does not consider time worked in municipal courts to determine eligibility for inclusion in the bargaining unit.

No more negotiations are being conducted between the AOC and CWA. For the last two and a half years, the NJ freelance court interpreters have worked without a new contract or pay raise. In the meantime, freelance interpreters in the federal courts have received pay increases in 2004, 2006 and 2007.

The New Jersey freelance interpreters have served and will continue to serve the legal community and to contribute effectively to providing due process for litigants who don't master English. Nevertheless, the AOC chose from the beginning to deny freelancers the right to unionize. Furthermore, once union representation was fought for and won, the administration engaged in systematic efforts to whittle away at the number of represented freelancers by violating the terms of a legally-ratified contract. ▲

ACHIEVEMENT OVER ADVERSITY *continued from page 1*

have a master's or doctorate degree first), but any subject in which I could apply my knowledge of medical terminologies, basic anatomy, or basic physiology. I was referred to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation by the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and there I completed a two-week pre-employment training program. The job counselors responded to an ad by Helping Hands Hawaii (a bilingual access line), and sent my résumé. I took their screening tests. It was all history after that. I became involved just by accident, because my inclination is teaching, and my efforts initially were to get into some colleges or schools. But maybe because of my communication and language skills, God has a different plan for me. He put me in the interpretation field, and I must rise to the challenge, and be the best I can be."

Mr. Calaycay's main concern is mobility. There is ADA accommodation for wheelchair transportation (Handivan, CityBus), but as with any shared ride, it is hard to arrive consistently on time at the courts. Court assignments in Kauai, Maui, and the Big Island sometimes have to be turned down because of a lack of ADA accommodation in these areas.

Mr. Calaycay hopes that in the future state agencies can provide accommodation so that his interpretation services can be used in all the courts that need him in Hawaii.

[The author is a freelance Spanish<>English interpreter and translator in Honolulu, Hawaii. Mr. Calaycay can be reached at bcalaycay@gmail.com]

NAJIT NEWS

Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee Activities

June, 2007. At the request of Alohalani Boido, Advocacy drafted comments on proposed rules implementing HB 600, a statute governing the qualification and certification of court interpreters. After review by the committee, comments were forwarded to the board for approval and were transmitted to Hawaii. Response time: six days.

June-July, 2007. The ATA discussed the plight of Iraqi and Afghani interpreters who are imperiled because of work with American troops in hostile territory, who ought to receive improved consideration for admission to the United States. Advocacy was asked to formulate a possible joint statement. Chair Isabel Framer provided a first draft which advocacy committee members developed and forwarded to the board for final approval. The letter was directed to Secretary Michael Chertoff and Secretary Condoleezza Rice, with copies to Senators Kennedy, Smith, Biden, Hagel, Leahy, Levin and Lieberman.

July, 2007. A Maryland rape case was dismissed after having been pending for three years, with the explanation that the court had been unable to obtain a Vai interpreter for the defendant. The case became a cause célèbre and NAJIT determined that a response was necessary. Advocacy was asked to draft a press release, and did so. In the meantime, developments in the case indicated that a different kind of document was needed. This turned out to be a joint statement with ATA which was issued on July 27, less than a week after the story first broke.

August, 2007. Received word from Sean Lillywhite on the NAJIT listserve about AB 349, a California bill to rationalize the filing of foreign-language documents in California courts. Sean suggested that the bill be expanded to include certified interpreters as persons authorized to provide translations. John asked the committee for its preference, and received no response. There appears to be no strong desire to comment.

December, 2007. Peter Lindquist raised the question again on the listserve, as the position of Iraqi and Afghani interpreters has changed little. We have not determined whether to intervene again, or how.

Projected: A project was begun, but foundered, to send a copy of the combined statement about the Maryland rape case to the many news organizations who commented on the case. The project now appears stale. However, it points up the necessity of developing a means to distribute press releases and other similar communications.

Projected: In relation to the Maryland rape case, the need for a fact sheet became apparent. This would be a concise explanation

for the layman of the important characteristics of the interpreting profession.

Transcription Tool Ensemble Committee

We continue to progress in the development of the Transcription Tool software.

1. On 10/24/07 in a limited-participation telephone conference with Dr. Alan Melby, BYU student Jake Karcsi and Jeck Navarrete, Dr. Melby announced that Jake Karcsi would be joining our task force as a new consultant/programmer.
Jake Karcsi's interest and collaboration were well-received. Under Dr. Melby's direction, Jake is to continue and advance the "alpha-January 2007" version of the existing Transcription Tool.
2. Under Jeck Navarrete's direction, we have done over 30 successful installations of the "alpha-January 2007." At installation, we gathered information to provide to the programmers.
3. Information and suggestions have been gathered from selected transcription practitioners. The following information was shared with Dr. Melby, Marc Carmen and Jake Karcsi in preparation for the 10/24/07 teleconference:
 - A. The January 2007 version 1.a for the Transcription Tool software has been successfully installed by 35 individuals.
 - B. The following bugs have been detected after running the Transcription Tool software:
 1. Mouse touch pad freezes (touch pad was working properly before; user did not perform any change of settings).
 2. When accessing control panel, the touch pad shows "disabled."
 3. User has to reset touch pad setting.
 - C. Feature suggestions:
 1. Place a main menu bar at the top of the program screen.
 2. Make menu options consistent with those found in most other programs (for example, file, edit, view, create).
 3. Export compatibility with column and/or table text format.
 4. Design the Transcription Tool software to have the ability to float over a word processing screen.
 5. Include the ability to change low-frequency cutoff.
(This feature is found in the recently updated version of Express Scribe; download available from www.nch.com.au/scribe/).
 6. Enable Transcription Tool to "recall" position in audio file at the time of closing the file and/or program. (This feature is also found in the recently updated version of Express Scribe, www.nch.com.au/scribe/).
 7. Add visual WAV file representation.
 8. Incorporate the ability to select WAV file start and end segments by clicking on the visual WAV screen.
4. Dr. Melby and Jake Karcsi attended the ATA Conference in San Francisco, where they met with NAJIT's executive director, Andy Ozols.

NAJIT Board of Directors Election Candidate Statements

[Note: These are edited versions of candidates' statements and biographies. For full texts, see www.najit.org.]

❖ Peter Lindquist

For thirty years, NAJIT has worked to advance our profession and to protect the rights of those with limited English in our judicial system. Professional organizations exist to protect the needs and interests of their members, and as interpreters and translators, as members of NAJIT, we work diligently to protect the rights of those in need of our services.

Professionalism is achieved through the application of rigorous standards, effective and ongoing education, and identification of those who are truly qualified to serve in high-stakes areas such as judicial and medical settings.

As part of NAJIT's effort to advance professionalism and professional status for its members, SSTI was formed to develop and administer the NAJIT certification exam, and to provide interpreter education and training programs based on sound academic principles. The NAJIT advocacy committee advises and informs legislative bodies, the judiciary, and our membership on issues critical to our profession. As the president of SSTI and a member of the advocacy committee, I feel honored to have participated in this important work. The credit for our accomplishments goes to my colleagues, predecessors, and to the NAJIT membership.

I am honored to have been nominated for a position on the board of directors and would be grateful for the opportunity to apply my experience in translation and interpreting education and research to help meet the goals and needs of NAJIT and its membership.

Biography

Peter Lindquist holds a PhD in translation and interpreting from the Universidad de Alicante in Spain and teaches translation and Spanish both at San Diego State University and the Universidad de Alicante. His research, which has been published in the United States, Europe and Asia, is primarily focused on improving interpreter instruction through empirical evidence of interpreter performance.

❖ Lois Feuerle

NAJIT can be proud of what it has accomplished. Membership has reached a new high and the organization has earned the respect of other national organizations promoting access to justice and other vital services to members of linguistic minorities. NAJIT's committees have raised NAJIT's profile nationally and NAJIT's position papers are a respected source of guidance to providers and users of interpreting services. But there still remains much to do to be done to promote quality and increase respect for the profession.

NAJIT's recent move to Washington, DC places us in a better position to speak out in favor of national legislation that will improve language access. It is especially important that NAJIT continue its efforts to support legislation that will provide the

financial resources needed to help all states achieve our goals

Although Spanish is still statistically the most requested language in our courts, the need for other languages has increased exponentially. Unfortunately, language-specific training in languages other than Spanish is still rare or even non-existent in most parts of the country.

Consequently, in 2007 NAJIT, though SSTI, made a commitment to address this situation by offering training in three languages in addition to Spanish. SSTI organized two-day intensive skills-building classes in Korean, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese in March with a one-day follow-up in May. Because such training is so rare, an impressive total of seventy-five interpreters in these four languages came from sixteen different states and one Latin American country to take advantage of this opportunity. The initiative will be repeated this year.

While on the NAJIT board I have served as conference committee chair, on the position paper committee, and as board liaison to SSTI, where I helped organize SSTI's first OTS skills-building training. It has been an enriching experience, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to contribute as a board member for another two years.

Biography

Lois Feuerle has been the coordinator of court interpreter certification, testing and training for the Oregon Judicial Department since 2000. She holds a Ph.D. and JD and is admitted to the New Jersey Bar. Certified by the American Translators Association for German > English, she is also an approved translator for the IMF. Currently she chairs the ATA honors and awards committee. For two terms she served on Oregon Governor's Commission on Healthcare Interpreters. She has taught workshops for interpreters and frequently presents at conferences for interpreters and legal professionals.

❖ Rob Cruz

I view the role of the judiciary interpreter as an integral part of our judicial system. Equal access to justice, regardless of national origin, is one of the fundamental tenets of our Constitution, and it is a promise that could not be kept without the professional judiciary interpreter.

As a full-time practicing judiciary interpreter, I am passionate about our profession and aware of its importance and challenges. At the vanguard for the profession, NAJIT serves a unique and vital role. If elected, I will serve our members to the best of my abilities and help lead our organization as it continues to advance our cause to raise the profile of professional interpreters.

Biography

Rob was born in Cuba and immigrated to the United States at the age of two. He grew up in Miami, where he earned two associates degrees. After working in management for a multinational corporation and as a corporate trainer, he became a certified interpreter in Tennessee. For the past four years he has worked as a full-time court interpreter in Tennessee.

> continues on page 9

NAJIT Members in Action

Carlos Benemann and his wife, retiring after thirty years in the business, sold their Eureka, CA, antiquarian rare bookstore *Eureka Books* in December. It was the last of three they had owned.

In June 2007, **Marcella Alohalani Bornstein Boido**, was appointed to a four-year term on the Office on Language Access Advisory Council for the state of Hawaii. Alohalani is also the legislative action chair for the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network as well as a trainer for the Hawaii judiciary's court interpreter certification program.

María Eugenia Conde was awarded a Masters of Arts in Linguistics from the University of Texas at El Paso in December.

Mindy Emmons, a trainer for the Hawaii judiciary's court interpreter certification program, was elected vice-president of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network.

Andrew Erickson gave a presentation on "Team Interpreting in the Courtroom" at the California Court Interpreter Association's annual conference in Newport Beach, CA, in October.

Mandarin interpreter **Andrew Ferrier** completed a forty-hour course in healthcare interpreting in the fall.

Nancy Festinger, chief interpreter of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, was an invited speaker at the NYC Access to Justice Summit held in City Hall in September. The session focused on language access for the city's administrative tribunals. In November she and attorney Sue Bryant taught a CLE session for legal aid attorneys in civil proceedings on how to work with interpreters in the courtroom.

Lois Feuerle was invited to be a panelist at the plenary session entitled "Quality and Accuracy: Benchmarking Interpreting Quality" at Critical Link 5, held in Sydney, Australia this past spring, where she also gave a paper "Collaborative Multi-pronged Approach to Increasing and Enhancing Access to Justice for Speakers of Indigenous Languages – A Model for Training Interpreters in Rare Languages." Loie was recently named chair of the Honors and Awards Committee of the American Translators Association.

Isabel Framer served on a panel, "The Importance of LEP Planning in Meeting the Challenges of Responding to Disasters," at the US DOJ Civil Rights: Federal Interagency Conference on Limited English Proficiency in March 2007. In April she presented at the Cuyahoga County Judges CLE Seminar "Keeping Courts Ahead of the Immigration Wave: Acquiring and Deploying Competent Interpreter Services" and at the Ohio Division of Police Law Enforcement seminar, "Interpreters in Hostage Negotiation."

Isa presented the keynote address, "Interpreting Beyond Words: The Profession Comes of Age" at the meeting of the Midwest

Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI) in Beloit, WI in September.

Doina Francu interpreted at the Human Rights Defenders Policy Forum on mass atrocities and genocide held in September at the Carter Center in Atlanta for human rights activists from all over the world. The forum was presided over by former president Jimmy Carter and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour.

Patricia Harpstrite, a trainer for the Hawaii judiciary's court interpreter certification program, was elected secretary of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network.

Karla Hoelscher, is currently teaching and mentoring potential state certification candidates at Purdue University, Fort Wayne Indiana campus. In the spring she will also be teaching two ethics seminars to EMS workers and other professionals. In November Karla participated in a discussion on the role and ethics of interpreters on "Conversemos," a Spanish talk show on local television.

Tuan Jensen-Lech was elected president of the Hawaii Interpreter Action Network.

Piet Koene, who teaches Spanish full-time at Northwestern College in Orange City, IA, presented a paper, "Professional Court Interpretation & the Christian Professor," at the North American Christian Foreign Language Association in March. It has been accepted for publication for the Spring 2008 issue of *Journal of Christianity and Foreign Languages*. In June Piet was a guest speaker at a community forum in Rock Valley, IA, on "Our Hispanic Neighbors." In November he was a panelist on "Immigration and Hispanics," at Northwestern College.

Vanesa Lopez was the interpreter for the delegation that accompanied former Mexican president Vicente Fox to a meeting between representatives of Mexico and the United States sponsored by the New York Chamber of Commerce last year.

Gladys Matthews has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Hispanic Studies at the College of Charleston, South Carolina. She is teaching in the masters program in bilingual legal interpreting and will assume the directorship of the College's programs in interpretation in fall 2008. In addition to teaching and interpreting in the courts, Gladys has completed a translation of large sections of the Indiana Code in collaboration with **Montserrat Zuckerman** and has worked on a trilingual glossary of legal terminology. Gladys recently received a grant for research on legal interpreting.

Patricia Michelsen-King has given or will provide upcoming interpreter orientations and skills-building workshops in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, and in Hawaii by video

> continues opposite

conference. She also made two presentations to judges in Virginia and one for the Virginia Bar Association. In addition, Patricia worked for Lionbridge developing new interpreter training and testing materials.

ATA board member **Jacki Noh** presented "Getting Started in Translation and Interpreting" at the Northern California Translators Association in San Francisco last January; "Yes, I Do Have the Best Job in the World" at San Jose State University and at National Hispanic University, San Jose, CA, in April. She gave the keynote address on "Strategies for Successful High-Profile Conference Interpretation" at the New England Translators Association's annual conference in Marlborough, MA, in May. The latter talk was also presented at the ATA annual conference in San Francisco in November, together with "Korean Grammar: Observing the Rules." Jacki interpreted for the Six-Party Talks in Beijing, China; at the Apparel Sourcing Show 2007 in Guatemala City; and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission in Vladivostok. (For all you word mavens, anadromous fish are those that swim up rivers to spawn.)

Virginia Pérez-Santalla, Connecticut Spanish/English translator, federally certified interpreter and co-moderator of the NAJIT listserve, was elected secretary of the ATA at its annual conference in San Francisco. Virginia was also re-elected as an ATA director to a second three-year term.

Merie Spring was honored by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) in Australia with its accolade for excellence award at NAATI's 30th anniversary celebrations held at the University of Queensland, Australia. She also received a certificate of acknowledgement for contributions to NAATI for her participation as past convenor of the NAATI Queensland regional advisory committee, a position she held for ten years. Until recently she also served as a NAATI examiner for Auslan/English interpreting examinations. ▲

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS *continued from page 7*

Rob serves on the board of directors of the Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators and is an approved provider of the ethics and skills building workshop mandated by the Supreme Court of Tennessee. His extensive community service includes directorship of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of East Tennessee, where he served as the education chair. Currently he serves on the board of directors of the Athens Area Council for the Arts as well as the Hispanic Community Outreach Committee of the E. G. Fisher Library. ▲

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *continued from page 2*

to save a few thousand dollars by re-evaluating various budget areas.

In my message in the last issue of *Proteus*, I informed you that NAJIT would be offering an endorsed professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance. I am happy to announce that the program is up and running. I've already taken advantage of this member benefit, so make sure that you also look into this unique program and inform others. The link to access the E & O insurance information and application is at: www.najit-ins.com.

Lastly, in an effort to improve NAJIT services to members and the public, we have a temporary new website (with the same website address, www.najit.org) that will be easier and less expensive to maintain while the website committee works on reconstruction. During the transition, we ran into a technical glitch that left the listserve down for a couple of days, as the new year unfolded. In addition, some members had problems accessing the executive director, headquarters and/or committee members. We apologize for the inconvenience this may have caused. Our administrative company addressed the problems as quickly as possible, given that it all happened in the midst of the holidays.

Once again, I look forward to seeing you all in Pittsburgh, at which time I will be providing other exciting updates. ▲

Isabel Framer, Chair
NAJIT Board of Directors

CALL FOR APPLICANTS TO SSTI BOARD

The NAJIT Board of Directors cordially invites you to submit your name to be considered for appointment to the board of directors of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation (SSTI).



SSTI is NAJIT's non-profit, 501 (C)(3) educational organization charged with the responsibility of creating skills training programs during the NAJIT annual pre-conference, arranging for skills training sessions outside of the annual conference, providing oversight to the NAJIT Scholar Program and exploring new and innovative ways of improving the art and science of interpretation and translation.

Every year at the NAJIT board of directors' meeting, on the Monday following the annual conference, the board reviews recommendations from the membership on the appointment or re-appointment of members to the SSTI board of directors. This year that meeting will take place on Monday, May 19, 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA.

If you would like to be considered for appointment to the SSTI board of directors, please submit your name, statement of interest and résumé to headquarters at hq@najit.org by May 1, 2008. Once the NAJIT Board of Directors has reviewed the information and made its decision, the executive director will contact individuals to inform them of the appointments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear NAJIT Members,

As you have doubtless noticed, we've made a few changes to the NAJIT webpage and a few changes to the various interactive systems that we use to communicate with our members and the general public. I'd like to run down these changes for you:

1) New E-mails for Key Staff

Because of problems with an overwhelming amount of spam, we have changed a few key e-mails. Please make a note of the following staff e-mails:

execdirector@najit.org will reach me;
hq@najit.org will reach the headquarters staff;
robin@najit.org will reach Robin Lanier, the main NAJIT administrator; and
listadmin@najit.org will reach the listserve administrators.

Most of your enquiries can be directed to NAJIT through these e-mail addresses. We no longer have publicly accessible e-mail addresses for NAJIT committees and boards. If you need to get in touch with a committee member, you can e-mail HQ and they will forward the message. This is to cut down on the amount of junk mail our key volunteers have been getting from people outside the NAJIT community.

2) New Membership Area

If you go to NAJIT's webpage at www.najit.org, you'll immediately notice a slightly different look to the page. On the left hand side of the page is a link for a member login. Use your password and username (those have not changed) to log in to the members only area. In the *members-only* area you can do the following things:

- Edit your profile information** by clicking on the word "profile" that appears at the top of the members only screen. You'll need to log in again, to take you to a secured server where you can edit your information. Remember, if you leave something blank, like your languages or certifications, the public won't be able to find you by those fields in the public directory.
- Join the listserve.** Now that the NAJIT listserve is for members only, the only access to the subscribe and unsubscribe areas is through the *members-only* area. In the past the listserve area was publicly available.
- Read publications and Proteus.** Members have access to a wide array of NAJIT documents under in the publications area. These include minutes of board meetings and other useful information. Members can also access the entire *Proteus* archive, including the current issue of *Proteus*.

- Download a special logo.** We've made a special NAJIT 2008 logo available for download on in the NAJIT *members-only* area. The file comes as a *.zip file and includes two versions of the logo: one for use on webpages and electronic applications, and a second that can be pasted into word processing documents and printed. You'll need to have the Winzip utility on your computer in order to "unzip" these files, and you'll find a link to the supplier of this utility. If you have any trouble with these files, contact HQ at hq@najit.org.
- Job listings.** Job listings are only posted in the *members-only* area.

3) A new public directory search function

As many of you know, the old directory search function was hard to find and difficult to search. We have made the directory

function much easier for the public to find and we've simplified its use. Anyone can access the public directory by clicking "Directory" on the navigation bar on the left side of the new NAJIT webpage. You can search by last name, and a variety of other fields, like state and language.

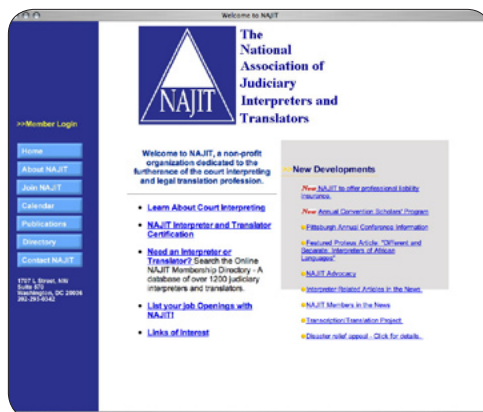
Please remember, though, that if you haven't edited your profile your name may not appear when you search for a specific language or state. So, make sure to search for your last name and take a look at what's displayed. If it needs updating, go to the members only area, click "profile"

and update your record. Also, it's important to remember that unless you opt out, your information is going to be displayed in this public directory. To keep portions of your information private, you will need to edit your profile. So take a moment to check out your listing in the new directory and then make corrections and changes.

Because some of these systems are new, there are bound to be a few glitches along the way. If you have a problem or something doesn't seem to be working correctly, contact Robin Lanier, the NAJIT administrator right away. She can be reached at robin@najit.org. The only way to fix something that isn't working properly is to alert the administrator to the problem. Robin is very committed to getting the new systems working properly for the NAJIT membership.

We hope you will agree that the changes we've made will help us move into the future. If you have any concerns, please contact me at execdirector@najit.org.

Sincerely,
 T. Andris Ozols
 Executive Director



NAJIT 29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 16 – 18, 2008 📍 Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA

Preliminary Schedule At A Glance*

Pre-Conference Events

Friday, May 16, 2008

■ All-Day Workshops: 9 AM to 5 PM (lunch on your own)

■ Morning Workshops: 9 AM – 12 Noon

■ Afternoon Workshops: 2 PM – 5 PM

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	TIME
SSTI Korean Skills Building	Young S. Lee	All Day
SSTI Russian Skills Building	Elena Bogdanovich-Werner	All Day
SSTI Spanish Skills Building	Susana Stettri-Sawry	All Day
SSTI Vietnamese Skills Building	Joseph Pham	All Day
Translation Techniques	Gladys Matthews, Dagoberto Orrantia	All Day
Consecutive Interpreting: Note-taking Skills	Agustín Servín de la Mora	All Day
Tour of the Courts	Local Guide	AM
Translating Criminal Justice Terms	Sandro Tomasi	AM
Criminal Procedure in Latin America	Katty Kauffman and Rafael Carillo	AM
Advanced Topics in Mexican Spanish	Dennis McKenna	PM
Juvenile Justice Terminology	Jayson Meline and Ali Salcedo	PM

Educational Sessions | Saturday and Sunday • May 17 and 18, 2008 **

SATURDAY	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8 AM – 9 AM	Specialized Topics in Mexican Spanish Dennis McKenna	Overview of Latin American Criminal Procedure Katty Kauffman & Rafael Carillo	Tape Transcription from A to Z Liliana González	Advocacy and Community Liaison Committee Briefing Peter Lindquist, Robert Cruz, John Estill
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Methamphetamine/Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation	Appeals Based on Interpreter Issues Nancy Schweda-Nicholson	Paremiology & Interpreting Proverbs In the Courtroom Alexander Rainof	Ethics and Standards of Practice Jorge Ungo
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Clandestine Laboratory/Marijuana Eradication Unit Special Agent Dennis Lowe	How the Consortium Interpreter Tests are Graded NCSC	Interpreting in the Diplomatic Arena Jacki Noh & Doina Francu	AOUSC Update Carolyn Kinney
11:45 AM – 3 PM	Annual Luncheon and Meeting			
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Plea Bargain: A Comparative Analysis Sandro Tomasi	Collaborative Partnerships: A Framework for Successful Language Assistance Planning Judge Ronald Adrine	Pennsylvania Panel: Working Together for Equal Access to Justice	Training Interpreters in Mexi-Indian Languages Georgeanne Weller, Guadalupe Ortiz
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Getting the Most out of the Consortium Test Prep Kit Carola Green	Collaborative Partnerships (continued)	Challenges of Interpreting Foul Language Verla Viera, Claudia A'Zar	Federal Interpreters' Roundtable Tony Rosado
SUNDAY	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Witness Interpreting Lionel Bajaña	Ethics and Standards of Practice - Part I Melinda González-Hibner	Interpreting in Domestic Violence Cases Purvi Shah	Terminology Management Natasha Curtis
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Team Interpreting in the Courtroom Thelma Ferry	Ethics and Standards of Practice - Part II Melinda González-Hibner	An Interpreter Exam – So What? Relax! Agustín Servín de la Mora	Walking out Free: Interpreting in Death Penalty Cases Jacki Noh
11 AM – 12 Noon	Interpreting for Members of the Jury Tony Rosado	OTS Roundtable	Idioms, Sayings and Bad Words Claudia Samulowitz	California Testing Program Lucy Smallsread

* Program as of January 15, 2008. All educational sessions and speakers subject to change.

** Korean, Russian and Vietnamese testing testing all day Saturday and Sunday by appointment. Register at www.najit.org.

Certification Commission Update

JANUARY 2008

The Certification Commission had their first teleconference meeting in October 2007 and is currently working with Measurement Incorporated, the entity responsible for the development and administration of the NAJIT Certification Exam.

The written portion of the exam will be offered once again on Thursday, May 15, 2008, prior to NAJIT's annual conference. Candidates interested in taking the written portion of the exam should contact Stephanie Richie of Measurement Incorporated by calling 1-800-279-7647 or e-mailing srichie@measinc.com. Those candidates who have already passed the written portion of the exam will be contacted by MI to schedule an appointment to take the oral portion of the exam.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER *continued from page 1*

Chen was part of a team that conducted training for judges in Philadelphia and at the statewide Conference of State Trial Judges.

Judge Chen graduated in 1976 from Temple University Beasley School of Law, where she taught as an adjunct professor from 1983 to the present. From 1985 to the present, she has been a lecturer at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

From 1976 to 1986, she served as a trial attorney with the US Equal Opportunity Commission, where she litigated cases and class actions involving federal employment discrimination laws in federal courts from Massachusetts to West Virginia.

In 1986, she was the first Asian-American to be appointed a commissioner to serve on the Philadelphia Commission of Human Relations by Mayor W. Wilson Goode. During her first year as commissioner, she mediated an incident regarding street signs posted in Korean. She worked with the commission to establish criteria that required human relations workers to speak various languages which led to the hiring of individuals who spoke Russian, Korean, Chinese, Khmer, Laotian and Vietnamese.

After an FBI wiretapping device was found in the mayor's office, Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia appointed Judge Chen in December, 2003, to chair an ad hoc ethics committee as part of his re-election transition team. The committee's mission was to make immediate recommendations on how to restore confidence in city government. On March 11, 2004, the ethics committee of the 21st Century Review Forum published a thirty-page report which made 16 recommendations regarding the new omnibus code of ethics. These included recommendations for the creation of a new board of ethics; the adoption of a handbook of ethics and rules for city employees and appointees; the revision of an executive order pertaining to gifts; the provision of more resources to the inspector general; new rules regarding financial disclosure forms, city procurement, as it relates to campaign contributions ("pay to play") and no-bid contracts; and the

advocacy of state-wide legislative reform with respect to campaign financing. In December, 2005, the City Council adopted several of the committee's recommendations and the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter was amended to create a new board of ethics with investigatory and enforcement powers in 2006.

In 2005, Chief Justice Ralph Cappy of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania appointed Judge Chen to chair the Interpreter Services Committee of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial & Ethnic Fairness, which seeks to bring about language access programs for individuals of limited English proficiency and for the deaf and hard of hearing in the courts and administrative agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Although various studies focus on the utilization of interpreters in the court system, in May, 2006, Chen's committee commissioned a first-ever professional survey of administrative agencies (with the active support of Nora Winkelman, Esq., Executive Deputy General Counsel for Legislative Affairs of the Office of the General Counsel to the Governor; and the Honorable Pedro Cortes, Secretary of the Commonwealth) on their use of interpreters and translators in conducting administrative hearings. The results of the survey were published in August 2007. During the summer of 2007, under the leadership of president Judge Louis Presenza of Philadelphia's Municipal Court, the committee field tested a "cue card" and conducted training with court officers, court criers and judicial aides.

In 2005, Judge Chen collaborated with Melita Jordan, director of the Bureau of Family Health of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, to initiate and innovative children's health program. Thereafter, Judge Chen worked with the Philadelphia Family Court, under the leadership of Administrative Judge Kevin Dougherty and Supervising Judges, Margaret Murphy and Idee Fox, to design a pilot project with the state health department. The objective of the project is to build family court's capacity by identifying eligible families (while they are visiting the family court regarding legal matters) and provide them with free health insurance for their children, in accordance with the Child Health Insurance Program.

Currently, Chen serves on the following boards: Drexel University, On Lok Senior Citizens Home, the Samuel S. Fels Fund, and has been a co-chair for the Martin Luther King Day of Service for the past few years. In 2007, she served on the Susan B. Komen Breast Cancer Grant Committee. Previously she served on the following boards: Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues, Action AIDS, Aids Services in the Asian Communities, the William Penn Foundation, the Center for Responsible Funding, the Free Library of Philadelphia, the Franklin Institute, the Mid-City YMCA, Hahnemann University Hospital, and the National Constitution Center.

In 1987, Judge Chen co-founded the Asian-American Women's Coalition and at her urging in 1995, they established a scholarship fund to honor Cecilla Moy Yep (her co-founder). Over the years, AAWC has awarded 30 scholarships to outstanding and financially needy Asian-American women. ▲

HELPING HANDS ASSISTED BY STUDENT INTERPRETERS

Rosemary Dann

On December 15, 2007, I had the pleasure of attending the Unity Holiday Telethon for greater Santa Barbara. Unity is a group of charitable organizations that help the often-overlooked indigent population in what is generally perceived to be an upscale, affluent area. The telethon is supported by well-known actors and other celebrities. Last year, it raised over half a million dollars, allowing Unity not only to provide holiday food and gifts, but also to help stock its year-round commissary-style store where eligible individuals can purchase quality food and clothing for about a sixth of the normal price.

While the celebrities were on stage, I watched the enthusiastic student interpreters in a tiny room, their earphones and microphones cued, their eyes glued to monitors as they provided simultaneous interpretation into Spanish. I spoke with several while they waited their turns to jump in. They were excited, nervous and a bit awed, just as we all were when we first began interpreting in public. I listened to the interpretation provided by one young man, and was impressed with his grace under pressure.

Last year, 2007, marked the fifth year that students from California State University at Long Beach and UCLA have participated in the telethon. Approximately sixty students, divided into teams of between five and eight volunteers, covered each hour of the ten-hour program. The venture is organized by NAJIT board member Alexander Rañof and Carlos Cerecedo, former president of California Court Interpreters' Association, who currently provides simultaneous interpretation for television news programs.

"This is a win-win situation," stated Rañof. "It's a good pedagogical tool, and the students are providing a service to Spanish-speaking people in the Santa Barbara area while gaining valuable experience. It makes them feel useful, and they take pride in their work. They get public recognition as well, with their names appearing in the credits following the broadcast."

I would add an extra "win." Programs such as the telethon allow us to educate the public about what we do and foment an interest in our profession. NAJIT encourages student participation in our association through the scholars program, and I hope that all of you will spread the word in educational institutions where interpreting is taught. Perhaps more student opportunities can be found for other televised fundraising activities. ▲

[The author is a freelance interpreter working in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and is a member of NAJIT's board of directors.]

WANTED: MENTORS AND MENTEES

This year at our 29th annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA, NAJIT will officially inaugurate its mentoring project.

The project will kick off with an orientation and meeting of mentors and mentees early on Saturday morning. Then during the conference, mentors and mentees will be responsible for finding each other and matching up. (Ribbons will identify participants as either mentors or mentees.) Those who pair up will be asked to exchange contact information and meet with each other sometime during the conference to break the ice and identify the areas of need that the mentors may be able to help with.

If you are interested in participating, as either a mentor or a mentee, please send an e-mail to: Michael Kagen, mentoring committee chair, at: miguelkagen@comcast.net. Please indicate whether you are interested in being a mentor or a mentee, and a brief description of what areas of expertise you would like to be mentored in or for which you can offer mentoring help.

Further details for both mentors and mentees will be posted on the website and at the registration desk at the conference in May.

NAJIT's 29th ANNUAL CONFERENCE | May 16 – 18, 2008

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• PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT DEADLINES •

Earlybird registration and hotel deadline

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

ATA translation exam deadline (ATA)

Friday, April 18, 2008

NJITCE: Spanish deadline (Measurement Inc)

Monday, April 21, 2008

Korean, Russian, Vietnamese exam deadlines (Consortium)

Monday, April 21, 2008

Conference registration closes

Friday, May 9, 2008

Last day for refund (less a \$35 processing fee)

Friday, May 9, 2008

Register early to be assured a place! Go to www.najit.org.

On-site registration offered only if space permits, and at higher fees.

**Message from the Director-General of UNESCO, on the
Celebration of 2008 – International Year of Languages**

LANGUAGES MATTER!

THE YEAR 2008 has been proclaimed International Year of Languages by the United Nations General Assembly. UNESCO, which has been entrusted with the task of coordinating activities for the year, is determined to fulfil its role as lead agency. The Organization is fully aware of the crucial importance of languages when seen against the many challenges that humanity will have to face over the next few decades.

Languages are indeed essential to the identity of groups and individuals and to their peaceful coexistence. They constitute a strategic factor of progress towards sustainable development and a harmonious relationship between the global and the local context.

They are of utmost importance in achieving the six goals of education for all (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on which the United Nations agreed in 2000.

As factors of social integration, languages effectively play a strategic role in the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1). As supports for literacy, learning and life skills, they are essential to achieving universal primary education (MDG 2). The combat against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6) must be waged in the languages of the populations concerned if the message is to be understood. Furthermore, the safeguarding of local and indigenous knowledge and know-how with a view to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG 7) is intrinsically linked to local and indigenous languages.

Moreover, cultural diversity is closely linked to linguistic diversity, as indicated in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and its action plan (2001), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005).

However, within the space of a few generations, more than 50% of the 7,000 languages spoken in the world may disappear. Less than a quarter of those languages are currently used in schools and in cyberspace, and most are used only sporadically. Thousands of languages – though mastered by those populations for whom it is the daily means of expression – are absent from education systems, the media, publishing and the public domain in general.

We must act now as a matter of urgency. How? By encouraging and developing language policies that enable each linguistic community to use its first language, or mother tongue, as widely and as often as possible, while also mastering a national or regional language and an international language. Also by encouraging speakers of a dominant language to master another national or regional language and one or two international languages. Only if multilingualism is fully accepted can all languages find their place in our globalized world.

UNESCO therefore invites governments, United Nations organizations, civil organizations, educational institutions, professional associations and all other stakeholders, to increase their own activities to foster respect for all languages; and in particular, to promote the use and protection of endangered languages, including their use in educational and all other contexts.

Whether it be through initiatives in the fields of education, cyberspace or literature; be it through projects to safeguard endangered languages or to promote languages as a tool for social integration; or to explore the relationships between languages and the economy, languages and indigenous knowledge or languages and creativity, it is important that the idea that **languages matter** be promoted everywhere.

The date of 21 February 2008, that of the ninth International Mother Language Day, will have a special significance and provide a particularly appropriate deadline for the introduction of initiatives to promote languages. Our common goal is to ensure that the importance of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in educational, administrative and legal systems; cultural expressions and the media; cyberspace and trade; is recognized at the national, regional and international levels.

The International Year of Languages 2008 will provide a unique opportunity to make decisive progress towards achieving these goals.

– Koïchiro Matsuura



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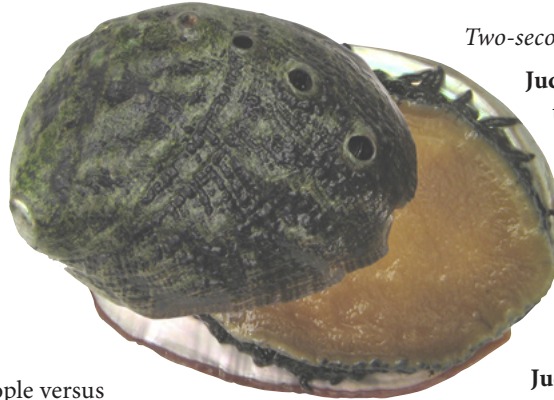
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HEARD IN COURT

A FISHY STORY

Andrew Erikson

- **Date:** a December morning in 2007
- **Location:** Fort Bragg, CA, on the remote northern California coast
- **Town population:** under 10,000
- **The scene:** a courtroom with an unusually large arraignment and pre-trial criminal calendar
- **Languages spoken in courtroom:** English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Portuguese



Two-second pause.

Judge: Madam Interpreter, could you please let the defendant know that?

Interpreter: Uh, yes, Your Honor.

Sound of a pen furiously scratching can be heard over the speaker phone. Another pause.

Interpreter: (Speaks Cantonese, then stops.) Your Honor, what is a B.O.P.?

Judge: V.O.P. It's a violation of probation.

Interpreter: Violation of probation from October 19th?

Judge: No. Violation of probation from an '05 case. October 19th of '07 is the date of the current violation.

Interpreter: The current violation is a violation of probation?

Judge: Yes. No. Violation of Section 5521.5(b) of the California Fish and Game Code in case number CRO-05-4455.

District Attorney: I think Your Honor just cited the '05 case for which we've filed the V.O.P. The current case is the one ending in 652.

Judge: Oh yes. Forgive me. The current case is CRO-07-012652.

Two-second pause.

Judge: Did you get that, Madam Interpreter?

Silence.

Judge: Just tell her that she's here for a new case and a V.O.P. for an old case. The new case is for a 5521.5(b) of the Fish and Game Code.

Interpreter: (Speaks Cantonese.)

Defendant: Mmm.

Judge: Ms. [garbled name], what this means is that you've essentially been charged with a second-offense over-the-limit abalone catch.

Two-second pause.

Judge: Madam Interpreter, could you please explain that?

More pen writing sounds. A pause.

Judge: Ms. Interpreter, are you there?

Interpreter: Uh, yes, Your Honor. Could you please repeat the last part of your sentence?

> continues on page 16

Judge: The court calls the case of the People versus [garbled name, garbled name.] Ms. [garbled name], please approach the podium.

A 40-something, Asian female rises from the gallery, shuffles past the other defendants seated in her row, makes her way to the podium.

Defendant (heavily accented): Yes, sir?

Judge: Are you [garbled name], [garbled name]?

Defendant (with slight hesitation): Yes, sir.

Judge: Ms. [garbled name], do you need an interpreter, or are you okay speaking English?

Defendant: Yes, sir.

Court: Aha. So, you need an interpreter for what language?

Defendant: Yes, sir.

The bailiff approaches the judge and whispers something in his ear.

Judge: You need a Cantonese interpreter. In the Cantonese dialect. Because you're Cantonese. Is that correct?

Defendant: Yes, sir.

The court clerk dials a number on the telephone, exchanges a few words with the party on other end of the line, then pushes a button. A female voice is heard over the speaker phone.

Interpreter: Hello. I am your Cantonese interpreter.

Judge: Wonderful. *Ni hao ma*, Madam Interpreter.

Interpreter: Uh...

Judge: We have a Ms. [garbled name] present who is charged with an October 19th misdemeanor violation of Section 5521.5(b) of the California Fish and Game Code here in Mendocino County. There are other related charged counts in the complaint filed by the District Attorney's office that I will read shortly. Plus there's a V.O.P. petition for an '05 case with similar code section violations.

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A FISHY STORY *continued from page 15*

Judge: Certainly: 'Second-offense over-the-limit abalone catch.'

Interpreter: Your Honor, is that aba...? Uh...

Sound of furious shuffling of pages.

Judge: Yes, abalone.

Interpreter: Uh, could you please define that word? I'm not familiar with it.

Judge: Of course. Abalone is a sea creature not unlike a shellfish or mollusk that's about 7 or 9 inches in length.

Silence.

Judge: It has a colorful inner shell.

More silence.

In the gallery, waiting, I suddenly realize that I have no idea how to say "abalone" in Spanish or Portuguese, nor do I know what the people I'm here to interpret for are charged with. I dive into my briefcase for a dictionary. Any dictionary. Nothing. I take advantage of our wireless, high-tech world by sending out an emergency mass text message to Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking colleagues throughout the state with the following query: "How do you say 'abalone'?"

Nothing. I wait. Two minutes later: Nothing.

Then I hear the judge: "We will continue this case to December

24th when we can have a Cantonese interpreter physically present. Now let's get a Vietnamese interpreter on the phone for our next case. It's also abalone-related."

Discreetly I get up from my seat in front of the courtroom. Turning to the gallery, I say in Spanish and then in Portuguese: "All those who need an interpreter, please follow me outside."

Addressing the entire group outside in the hallway, first I ask the Spanish-speakers if any of their cases are fish-related. The unanimous answer is: "No."

I ask them to please find their seats back in the courtroom. Then I approach the Portuguese-speaker. His face is tan and weathered, his hands are calloused and he's wearing a hat that says "Fort Bragg Fishing."

Tenuously I ask in Portuguese, "Does your case have to do with fishing or removing something from the ocean or shoreline?"

His response: "Well, I was on a boat."

With panic setting in, I ask: "How many fish or things with shells did they catch you with?"

He says: "No, no. Nothing like that. I was drinking on my boat next to my house. I got into a fight with my girlfriend. Then she pushed me, so I hit her. The cops came, and I was arrested. Then I bailed out."

Thank goodness, I thought. "Please have a seat inside," I told him, as I resolved to research more on "abalone."

[The author is a California and federally certified Spanish court interpreter. He is also CA Portuguese certified and Italian registered.]

NOTE: Abalone, also called *ear-shells*, *haliotis*, *sea-ears* and *Venus's-ears* in English, are a group of shellfish (mollusks) found primarily in cold waters off the coasts of New Zealand, South Africa, Australia, and Chile. In the Northern Hemisphere they are found off the coasts of Japan and Western North America.

In Spanish: *abulón*, *oreja de mar*, *loco*.

In Portuguese: *abalone*, *haliote*

In Cantonese: 鮑魚, 鮑魚, 鮑魚

In Vietnamese: *bào ngư*, *chào ngư*

ITEMS OF INTEREST

To order the *Diccionario de Parlache* reviewed in the last issue of *Proteus*: <http://www.lalibreriadelau.com/catalog/>

For the second year, CAPI (Colorado Association of Professional Interpreters) is awarding three scholarships (one in each language) to Colorado interpreters of Korean, Russian and Vietnamese to help defray the cost of attending the SSTI language-specific skills-building in Philadelphia in March.

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THE LEXICOGRAPHER'S LAIR

WORD WARRIORS

Dennis McKenna

On the shelf above my computer I've posted two photographs of people I admire a great deal. One is of a grandmother by the side of the road with a grandchild on her knee. The other is of a severe-looking man with a long white beard, dressed in turn-of-the-century coat and tie. Sometimes late at night as I sit at the computer investigating some obscure word, I look at these pictures and feel a new infusion of energy.

A Patient Woman

In March 1939, regular radio programming in Valencia, Spain was interrupted as an announcer broke in to say that fascist troops were entering the city. Maria Moliner started to feed stacks of documents into the coal stove as her children looked on in disbelief. Into the fire went page after page of documents attesting to her personal achievements in support of the Second Republic's literacy program. Until that moment, she had been head librarian at the University of Valencia, enthusiastically promoting literacy through the establishment of neighborhood and village libraries and disseminating Spanish literature throughout the world by serving on the Book Acquisition and International Exchange Board. The unifying principal behind her work for the Second Republic was to democratize the world of Spanish letters, making literacy, literature and learning accessible to everyone. She would later remark that in those days, women were more valuable than men. During the preceding months, her husband, a physics professor, had lost all his students to the brutality of war and the decreased interest in physics classes, yet she and her female contemporaries were able to continue working at a fevered pitch.

On March 30, Franco's Nationalist troops captured Valencia, and the following day he proclaimed victory in the civil war that had racked the country for three years. Maria Moliner was forced to discontinue her activities. Soon she was demoted eighteen steps on the civil service scale. Her husband was stripped of his teaching position. Others who had remained faithful to the legitimately elected government suffered far worse fates, including work camps and death. She and her husband benefited from the favorable testimony of some neighbors, the deciding factor apparently being that she was deemed a "good mother."

It was not until 1952 that Moliner decided to reinstate her work. The country remained repressed under Francoist rule, and Moliner perceived the Spanish language as oppressed by a parallel dictatorship under the Real Academia Española. But when one of her sons brought home an English learner's dictionary, she had an epiphany: she realized that a new kind of Spanish dictionary was needed, one that would explain the actual usage of words and phrases. For fifteen years she labored ten hours a day on her proj-

ect. During that time, the RAE was a gentleman's club of eighty-year-old academics, a bastion of traditional conservative thinking about language. Whereas the Real Academia's dictionary defined the verb *alardear* with the noun *alarde* (*hacer alarde*), in an endless game of lexicological ping-pong in which a verb was used to define a noun, and a noun to define a verb, Moliner sought to put an end to this silliness. Her work offered multiple definitions, and examples of usage which included standard and non-standard words and phrases. Synonyms and antonyms were incorporated so that the work would not only be a useful reference for academics, but also a book for writers, translators and regular everyday users.

Moliner's *Diccionario del uso del español* was published in 1967 and forever changed the way we view dictionaries in Spanish. Gabriel García Márquez described it as "over twice as long and twice as good as the RAE's dictionary." Twenty-seven years after Moliner had been stripped of her position, salary and prestige, her persistent counter-offensive against Franco and the enemies of linguistic democracy prevailed.

A Careful Reader

When Herbert Coleridge began working on the Oxford English Dictionary in 1860, he expected to complete the first part "in about two years." Two years later he died of tuberculosis, and the dictionary was little better off. The project largely foundered until James Murray was put in charge in 1879, when he re-launched the volunteer reader program in use during the initial years. Handbills were sent out requesting volunteers to send in quotations from well-known books to illustrate each word's usage. This was the great innovation of the OED, because, like Maria Moliner's Spanish dictionary, it was a dictionary of usage.

One of the many people who responded to the call for help was William Chester Minor, a retired U.S. Army surgeon residing in England. Over the years, Minor was responsible for thousands of entries, making him one of the dictionary's most valuable and prolific contributors. Being a man of means, and having a keen interest in English literature, he had amassed an excellent collection of rare books, many of which were invaluable as source material for early English usage. Minor had also developed his own system for noting down and cross-referencing recurring words. Using this system, he was able to supply quotes for Murray and the rest of the editors of the OED whenever the need arose. Murray could not help but be grateful for the contribution Minor was making, and after several years of successful collaboration, Murray was eager to meet this American scholar in person. Murray invited him to Oxford on numerous occasions. Each time Minor graciously declined the invitation, although he only lived about fifty miles

> continues on page 18

WORD WARRIORS *continued from page 17*

away. Finally, Murray could no longer contain his curiosity and decided to go visit Minor at his place of residence, the Broadmoor, in the village of Crowthorne.

Murray was met at the small train station by a coach that was to transport him to Minor's home. There is some disagreement as to what Murray knew about Minor at this point, but a chill must have gone down his spine when the carriage pulled up outside the Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, an imposing brick and stone building. When the two men came face to face, it was as if each were looking in a mirror. One English, the other American, they both were serious-looking men with thin noses and long white beards. One was widely recognized for his work as editor of the OED, while the other was interned as a dangerous lunatic.

Minor had come from a privileged background and had studied medicine at Yale. He had served as a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War and had complied with an order to brand an Irish conscript on the face with the letter "D" as a deserter. This episode apparently caused him enormous guilt and paranoia. After this incident, he began to frequent Bowery brothels while stationed in New York. Eventually he was awarded early retirement from the Army for his strange and dissolute behavior, with full pension in recognition of his service to the nation. He then traveled to England, ostensibly to study art. There he rented a room in a London slum and once again took up with prostitutes. One night as he was strolling in his neighborhood, he heard someone

approach from behind. Imagining that the branded Irish soldier had come to get him, Minor drew a gun and shot the man dead. At trial his defense attorney invoked the McNaghten rules (H.L. 1843), and Minor was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Lexicographers do not become well known, except perhaps to other lexicographers — or to dictionary lovers such as writers and translators. The character traits that unite Moliner and Minor are prodigious persistence and acute mental restlessness. Both lived through bloody civil wars, one as a combatant, and the other as a civilian committed to the Republican cause. William Minor's mental instability was caused by the demons of war that haunted him. As for Maria Moliner, she once wrote, "There was a point in the afternoon when I felt really empty. I felt like I was missing something, and it was then that I started to really work hard on the dictionary." Her daughter referred to those years as a kind of internal exile for her mother. Each of these lexicographers fought a type of inner war, waging battle with each word, earning one victory at a time. Their work was monumental, and we are the fortunate beneficiaries. ▲

[The author is a lexicographer and federally certified Spanish interpreter as well as a California state certified interpreter and translator. This article inaugurates a new column that will focus on themes in lexicography.]

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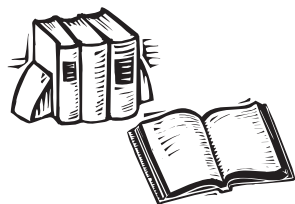
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Book Review

Gladys González Matthews

The Majesty of the Law: Reflections of a Supreme Court Justice

Sandra Day O'Connor

Random House, 2004; 350 pp

ISBN: 0-8129-6747-X • Price: \$14.95

Publications about the U.S. courts and the judicial system abound, but Sandra Day O'Connor's reflections stand out for several reasons. This work is accessible to all readers, as it is written in a simple yet elegant fashion; but it also stands out for its conciseness. In 350 pages, the author traces the majestic events, people and landmark cases that shaped the U.S. judicial system. The reader will be struck from the very first pages by the humanity of the woman who became the first female Supreme Court Justice.

The book is organized in six parts totaling 28 chapters and an epilogue. In the first part, titled "Life on the Courts," O'Connor reflects about her appointment to the Supreme Court by President Reagan in September 1981, as well as on the Court's agenda, especially the Court's plenary (cases decided by the Court after full briefing and oral arguments) and criminal-procedure docket. In part two, she lays out the history of the U.S. Constitution, the meaning of the rule of law and the elements of the Constitution bequeathed by the Magna Carta (the first and fifth amendments, among others). She reflects on the importance of the interpretation of the Constitution, and refers to heated debates generated by laws whose constitutionality has been questioned. Among the cases she cites as those that have led to significant societal changes are *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954); *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), and *Roe v. Wade* (1973). In this section, the author also details the fight for the addition of a Bill of Rights as a condition for ratification of the Constitution by the states.

In later sections, O'Connor reflects on the people who helped shape the court, and then examines women's roles in the law and in society in general. In part four, she analyzes the structure of the American judicial system, including the jury system, its problems and possible solutions to those problems. Part six is a reflection on the rule of law in the twenty-first century. The author expresses her faith in the democratic principles that have shaped the nation and enumerates the benefits the rule of law has brought as a mechanism to secure freedoms.

This book is a valuable resource to court interpreters because it gives an historical background to many of the concepts discussed on a daily basis in the courts.

Other sources

For an in-depth exploration of the Constitution, the Bill of

Rights, and landmark decisions of the Supreme Court, the reader may visit the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C. A personal visit would be ideal, but a virtual visit to the web page (<http://www.archives.gov/>) is also a wonderful way to locate additional resources. A click on the tab <The National Archives Experience>, followed by a click on <Charters for Freedom> at the top of the page, leads to images of the original Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights (including the original Bill of Rights containing the first two amendments to the Constitution that were never adopted). The tab Our Documents contains full-text reproductions of court decisions such as *Gideon v. Wainwright*, including the original petition handwritten on prison stationery.

[The author is professor of bilingual legal interpreting at the department of Hispanic Studies of the College of Charleston, South Carolina.]

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