



DEFINING  
COMMUNITY

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## COURT INTERPRETING IN KENYA THE IDEAL AND THE PRACTICE

Kiguru Gatitu

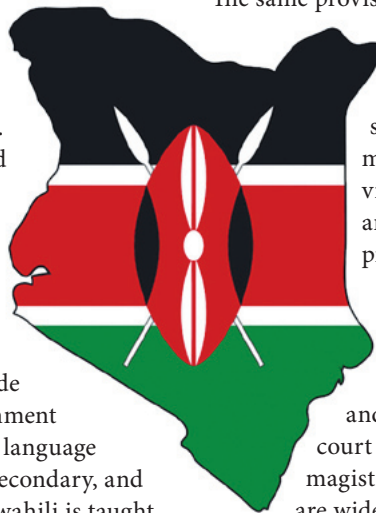
### Introduction

Kenya is a linguistically and culturally diverse country. The linguistic repertoire of Kenyan society includes English, Kiswahili, and over forty indigenous African languages. The prominence of English and Kiswahili is a result of overt government policies dating back to British colonial rule. British colonial administrators and Christian missionaries introduced English into the country and grounded the education system in it, thus making English the most attractive choice for national language after independence. Kiswahili is a language that developed as a result of contacts between Arab traders and indigenous African communities living along the east African coast. It is widely spoken as a lingua franca in east and central Africa. In Kenya, Kiswahili is the national language and is used alongside English to transact business in government offices and institutions. English is the language of instruction in the upper primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education, while Kiswahili is taught as a compulsory subject from the first year of primary school up to the last year of secondary school. Fluency in these languages is dependent on one's educational level, among other things. It needs to be noted that English remains the language of power and elitism in Kenyan society (Musau, 2003). In addition to being largely ignored by language policy makers, Kiswahili is associated with low prestige, and the indigenous African languages are associated with tribalism,

Given their status (with regard to policy), English and Kiswahili are used daily in the business of the courts. By virtue of the role they play in the social order, courts are a stage on which people of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds meet. Part five of chapter 75 of the criminal procedure code directs

that the language of the high court be English, while the language of the subordinate courts shall be English or Kiswahili. Despite the status accorded to these languages in Kenyan society in general and in the judicial system in particular, not all persons who appear before the court are competent in both. Where testimony is given in a language not understood by an accused person, the law requires that it be interpreted. The same provision is made when testimony is given

in any language other than English and not understood by an accused person's advocate. These legal provisions demonstrate an acknowledgment that from time to time, the services of a mediator between languages are required if court business is to proceed smoothly.



### The Kenyan Judicial System

The country's judicial system was inherited from British colonial rule and is arranged in a hierarchy with the court of appeal at the top and subordinate magistrate courts at the bottom. The latter are widespread throughout the country, and are where the bulk of both criminal and civil litigation takes place. The country's legal culture is a common law system and is accusatorial in nature. Given that more than half the population lives below the poverty line, few people are able to afford lawyers. Consequently, the majority of litigants in both criminal and civil suits are unrepresented by counsel. An accused person (this being the term in official use) is in many cases expected to enter a plea after the charge is read, cross-examine prosecution witnesses, and mount a defense. This is a great handicap for a person with no legal training; for a defendant who is not competent in the official language of the court, the handicap is doubled. It is such persons that the

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The new year naturally offers an opportunity to reflect on past goals, evaluate performance, and develop new ideas. As we embrace 2009, I'd like to highlight some of NAJIT's accomplishments in 2008 and illustrate how we are laying the groundwork for continued success in the coming year.

On January 22nd of this year, Nashville voters went to the polls to decide on a proposed charter amendment to make English the city's official language. With the help of our advocacy committee, NAJIT and the Tennessee Association of Interpreters and Translators joined together to send a letter to Nashville's mayor arguing against the proposal. (See our web page for the full text of the letter.) Fortunately, the vote was 32,144 in favor vs. 41,752 against, a losing margin of 13%. If this initiative had passed, Nashville would have been the first major American city with an English-only law. Our advocacy committee will continue to closely monitor English-only initiatives and legislation, and take a strong stance against these divisive policies.

The advocacy committee has also been hard at work on behalf of interpreter colleagues in Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to supporting Amendment 50 of the Defense Authorization Bill, NAJIT came out strongly against the dangerous mask ban policy for Iraqi interpreters. The Pentagon ultimately rescinded the decision to put the ban in place. Congratulations are in order for the advocacy committee, for all their past successes, and I encourage members to consider joining the committee for an exciting 2009. Advocacy committee chair John Estill and Director Rob Cruz will be offering a more detailed account of the committee's activities at our conference in May.

NAJIT continues to work collaboratively with Juliet Choi, Senior Director, Disaster Services Department of the American Red Cross national headquarters and

Jeff Robinson, Director, National Virtual Translation Center. In 2008, NAJIT members assisted the ARC in several national disasters by providing volunteer interpreting services.

During the Presidential election, NAJIT announced through *Cybernews* that interpreters and translators were sought for the Latino Voter Protection Task Force, thus offering members volunteer opportunities to work with monolingual attorneys or as poll monitors at local polling places. The response from NAJIT members was strong. NAJIT members also assisted by providing translations of "Know Your Rights" voter forms. We will continue to seek out programs where our members can become involved in community-based opportunities to assist LEP individuals and help ensure equal protection.

Our partnership with the American Red Cross continues to flourish. Over inauguration weekend, NAJIT was on call as an emergency partner. Thankfully, the American Red Cross did not require our help over that weekend, but we will continue to work with them to ensure that everyone has access to necessary services in the event of a major emergency.

I spent inauguration weekend in Washington, D.C., reaching out to various groups and spreading NAJIT's message. I attended the 2009 Latino State of the Union, hosted by the League of United Latin American Citizens, The Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, and the National Council of La Raza. This was their second annual roundtable discussion on law, policy, and civil rights. I met and reconnected with many dedicated people who share many of NAJIT's goals. With our current office location in Washington, D.C., and a new administration, I have every reason to believe that 2009 will be more dynamic than previous years, and I hope NAJIT will be seen and heard more frequently on a national level.

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

# NAJIT'S LISTSERVE REFLECTS THE INTERPRETER COMMUNITY

Marty Anderson

In mid-2003, NAJIT began an open online discussion group for matters related to court interpreting. Member and non-member interpreters throughout the country took to it immediately, with daily messages numbering in the dozens. In September 2007, the NAJIT board decided to limit listserv participation to NAJIT members only. (A later survey revealed that many more members signed up to the listserv when it was a members-only forum.) In a message to new listserv participants, NAJIT Chair Isa Framer wrote, "We can discuss almost anything (less interpreter fees and the naming of interpreter agencies, for legal reasons) related to the interpreting and translation profession. Some of these issues can be in regard to, but are not limited to, sharing expertise with one another, sharing information and resources such as glossaries and more; exchanging terminology, discussing ethical and professional dilemmas, and discussing transcription and translation standards." The NAJIT listserv is regulated by rules posted on the web site and is monitored by members of the organization's board. Currently 302 members have subscribed and the listserv is alive and well.

Listserv software (spelled without the final e), is defined as an automated mailing list manager, and was first developed in 1985 by a computer engineering student in France. Since then, the software's sophistication has increased and e-mail discussion groups in every conceivable field of endeavor have become commonplace. Listservs are now an important tool for professional organizations, academia, and hobby and fan groups of every stripe.

Historically, judiciary interpreting has suffered from a lack of uniformity both in practice and in the standards that are understood within and outside the profession. Until the advent of the NAJIT listserv, the only way active interpreters could contribute their ideas to the community at large was by writing for our quarterly journal, *Proteus*, and by participating in the national conventions. Neither provided sufficient opportunity for members. Once the listserv came into being, we had a 24/7 forum for any issue an interpreter wanted to discuss related to the never-ending development of our craft. The word deluge might describe the members response.

While the online forum has provided an outlet for the many concerns and frustrations of working interpreters, it has also demonstrated our progress in understanding and appreciating our profession. Undoubtedly, we are better interpreters as a result of

following the discussions posted on the listserv. The service the judicial system receives has been improved as well, I believe, as a result of our ability to share our collective wisdom.

The listserv is a good place to post queries, get an overview of nationwide working conditions, or discuss ethical quandaries. (One small issue that has arisen is the need for accurate use of the subject line. The volume of the members' contributions is so high that busy people need to choose which threads to follow because

they don't have time to follow them all.) It also provides a practical service to members, informing them of job and training opportunities as well as other information useful for professionals. Finally, the listserv is a highly attractive tool to win new members, who will strengthen the organization and the profession as a whole.

There are several means by which one might measure the impact and effectiveness of this tool: the number of participants, the number of contributions, or the number of new

contributors. One might also summarize the various subjects that participants write about and respond to, for the breadth of subjects will reveal the multitude of concerns expressed by professionals in the field.

Given the code of ethics' importance to our profession, it's not surprising that many discussions of ethical issues are among the most central to the listserv. Undoubtedly, the most significant discussion last year revolved around the immigration raid in Postville, Iowa. Erik Camayd-Freixas, a listserv and NAJIT member (as well as a professor of interpreter ethics), who worked in Postville in the aftermath of the raid, had written an essay describing the legal environment in which the raids were conducted, and many NAJIT members reacted to his contribution. It was genuinely controversial, eliciting strong agreement and disagreement among NAJIT members. The passionate debates made us sharpen our views on professional ethical issues—I know it made me think and reconsider mine. But it also showed we could carry out such a discussion without damaging the listserv or the organization. While spirited, and occasionally acrimonious, the debate never broke the spirit of collegiality. The topicality of the immigration issue was such that the *New York Times* published a front-page article on the subject. Though this was the most prominent example of timely issues being debated on the listserv, other ethical concerns often

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NAJIT'S LISTSERVE *continued from page 3*

come up, from experiences inside and beyond the courtroom, if only for members to vent frustration over interactions with court personnel who don't always understand or agree with us on our role. Many difficult situations that interpreters confront are raised, with valuable advice coming from colleagues, including more experienced ones.

Perhaps the most frequent subject on the listserve is terminology: how best to translate a particular word or expression, colloquial or legal. Responses are varied, interesting, and always helpful, often including references to legal terminology in other countries. Here it must be mentioned that while the listserve includes interpreters of many languages, this feature is almost exclusively used by Spanish-English interpreters. Although members in other language combinations are always welcome to post queries as well, few have availed themselves of the resource.

Practical discussions regarding court procedures are common, and can be very useful. Interpreters don't work in a vacuum, but in concrete surroundings with varying rules and procedures. It's great to know that one is not alone. Over time, we may acquire more uniformity in dealing with many situations, with thought-out choices as the norm.

News from around the world concerning court cases involving interpreters, special-interest articles about interpreters, and media or political commentary on the need for, or lack of, interpreting services, is a daily offering, more often than not from the ever-vigilant John Estill, NAJIT's Outreach Committee chair. These are frequently included verbatim, with a link to the source.

The listserve is a never-ending source of information, from job openings to training opportunities. Books and web sites featuring information or resources about interpreting abound, as do notices of certification exams, advice on how to prepare for them, and debates about their content and quality. Interpreters of rare or exotic languages are solicited and occasionally found. Interpreters interested in getting useful electronic dictionaries or other equipment can get helpful advice here. Scams designed to entrap or cheat unsuspecting and hungry interpreters are exposed. Experiences and opinions gleaned from telephone interpreting (which NAJIT has taken a position against) are discussed. Interpreting issues from non-legal fields (not all of us work exclusively in legal settings) such as medical venues, are raised.

Political issues related to interpreting also come up. Some perhaps are borderline appropriate for the listserve and this gets debated, too. Protection and support for Arabic-language interpreters working for the U.S. armed forces has been discussed, with some arguing for a more active NAJIT role in this issue.

When California state interpreters went on strike they were keen to inform the rest of us of their views and the status of their struggle with the state. While NAJIT is not a labor organization, it shares the same concerns about working conditions as the unions that some of us belong to.

One of the most interesting discussions in the past year was a debate about whether simultaneous or consecutive was superior for courtroom witness interpretation. Many intriguing points were made, making some rethink how they work, I suspect. Veteran interpreters and trainers weighed in heavily in the discussion,

highlighting the value of the listserve. This is an on-going discussion, which may never entirely end.

Perhaps the most entertaining feature of the listserve are the funny anecdotes of actual working experiences. These have been extensive and at times hilarious. One wonders if they could become the subject of a short humor book.

Some discussions go to the heart of what NAJIT is all about. They analyze issues that are key for court interpreting and for the future of NAJIT, possibly to appear later as position papers. While NAJIT elected leaders, or former leaders, don't play any particular role in the listserve (it's largely a rank-and-file institution), their contributions reflect years of experience in the trenches and help newer interpreters develop their ideas. If NAJIT has a formal position on some issue, they also ensure that it is known. In the future, members who follow listserve discussions will be better able to evaluate candidates for the NAJIT board, enabling members to feel more confident in their choices.

The NAJIT listserve, then, is a young, growing benefit of a growing organization. It seems certain that this discussion group will continue to make our field more professional and uniform, as well as contribute to the skill level of all. It may very well become the institution that best represents NAJIT and attracts more interpreters to it. Everyone owes it to themselves to log on and experience it. If you don't want to get daily messages, you can sign up for a daily digest, or for a summary of the subject lines.

Interpreters have common experiences and difficulties, and the listserve helps us share them. Sometimes we share more than we think. In a discussion last year over the meaning of a phrase particular to a certain nationality, some interpreters reminisced about their immigrant childhoods. Two of them noted the similarity of where they had been raised, and then realized on line that they had been childhood friends, now separated by years and miles. The listserve served as a catalyst for their renewed friendship. Let's hope for more happy stories like these. ▲

*[The author is a staff interpreter in the New York Civil Court and freelances in the New Jersey courts.]*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR *continued from page 2*

As I look back over the past year, and the momentum we've built as an organization, I become increasingly excited about celebrating NAJIT's 30th annual conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our conference chair, Director Lois Feuerle, has once again brought together a varied, timely and attractive line-up of presenters. The preliminary schedule can be found on page 14. Please visit the NAJIT website for the most up-to-date and detailed information on sessions, testing, and continuing education credits.

This year, we will be voting on a few by-law amendments, with the goal of improving services to our members. Please look for these changes in your mail and in *Cybernews*. The conference not only offers educational opportunities, but also allows us to come together to find new ways of promoting our profession and vision. I look forward to seeing you in Scottsdale!

Isabel Framer,  
Chair, Board of Directors

# NEW JERSEY FREELANCERS' UPDATE

## HEARINGS ON UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE COMPLAINT

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

[This is an update on the status of the N.J. freelance state court interpreters, as first reported in *Proteus* Spring 2008, Vol. XVII, No. 1.]

On December 7, 2005, the Communications Workers of America (CWA) filed an unfair labor practice complaint with the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) against the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). PERC is a state administrative agency charged with administering the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act; its purview is any labor issue including union representation, negotiations, unfair practices, mediation, fact-finding, and arbitration. The complaint filed by CWA alleged a violation of N.J.S.A. 34:13A-5.4a (1) (3) and (5) of the N.J. Employer-Employee Relations Act, based on the fact that the AOC at the time considered ineligible for inclusion in the bargaining unit represented by the CWA any freelancer who signed professional service agreements (PSA or PSSW, as they were later called).

Nearly immediately after a collective bargaining contract for fifty-two unionized New Jersey freelance interpreters had been ratified in July 2004, the AOC unilaterally and arbitrarily imposed a new requirement that freelancer interpreters sign professional service agreements to be eligible to work in the New Jersey courts. This requirement prevented those freelancers who signed such an agreement from acquiring union representation. These agreements had not been negotiated or provided for in the CWA contract, nor had any intent to use them been conveyed to the CWA during the negotiation period (January to July of 2004). Thus, only freelancers initially included in the bargaining unit at the time it was formed and who maintained the minimum 288-hour annual threshold remained in the bargaining unit.

The contract had provided that the only eligibility requirement for union membership was that a freelancer had to have worked a minimum of 288 hours in court over the previous year. However, the AOC quickly modified its data collection process so that freelance hours were calculated based on the number of hours of in-court time rather than the number of hours hired and paid for, as the contract had called for. As a result of these new calculations, union membership plummeted from fifty-two in 2004 to thirteen as of July 2008.



Hearings were held at PERC on May 29, 2007; October 30, 2007, and March 18, 2008, during which freelancers testified. The hearing examiner's finding was that the judiciary violated the PERC Act by excluding from the CWA's bargaining unit those freelance interpreters who had signed professional services agreements, but who met the 288-hour threshold.

The hearing examiner recommended that PERC order the following relief:

1. that the judiciary cease and desist from engaging in any course of action that prevents freelance interpreters from being included in the CWA's unit;
2. that the judiciary cease and desist refusing to negotiate with the CWA by unilaterally implementing a program which excludes otherwise eligible freelance interpreters from inclusion in the unit;
3. that all freelance interpreters who worked 288 hours in calendar year 2007 be included in the unit;
4. that all freelance interpreters wrongly excluded be identified and made whole;
5. that the CWA be made whole for any dues or fees or other losses suffered as a result of the judiciary's unlawful conduct; and
6. that appropriate notices be posted, stating that the judiciary violated the PERC Act.

The hearing examiner's decision must be reviewed by PERC. Either party may file "exceptions" to the decision. After PERC issues a final decision, either party may appeal that decision to the appellate division.

On December 18, 2008, the AOC filed exceptions to the hearing officer's recommendations.

We will keep the interpreting community informed of the outcome. ▲

NAJIT recognizes that this is an issue of interest to many of our members. Since we provide a neutral forum for all stakeholders involved with our profession, we will publish a response from the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts if they so desire. As always, the opinions expressed in *Proteus* articles are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the association or editor.

provisions for interpretation are meant to aid.

### The Need for Competent Interpreting

The Kenyan courtroom is a complex communicative setting, given the myriad of languages and cultures that come into contact. Variations in language competencies, styles and registers are related to differences in age, gender, profession, and education. A typical criminal trial in the subordinate court (lower court) features two sides, the prosecution and the defense. The prosecution is conducted by a police officer, while the defense is often presented by the accused person and, rarely, the accused person's lawyer. The two parties appear before a presiding magistrate and orally present their sides of the story to the trier of fact. Both sides tender their evidence before the court mainly by calling witnesses to give testimony. The presiding magistrate is expected to "take down in writing... in the language of the court all evidence of each witness and also [to] record the demeanor of the witnesses." It is this handwritten account that constitutes the official court record.

The 'fluency' required of an interpreter needs to go beyond the two languages; the interpreter also has to be knowledgeable of, inter alia, the syntax and grammar of his/her working languages. Courtroom discourse features testimony from lay people and professionals, and legalese used by officers of the court. Difficulty in interpreting increases exponentially with the difficulty of the discourse being interpreted.

The power that the court interpreter wields in the Kenyan courtroom is immense. A large part of the population that attends court, especially in rural areas, does not understand English, and their fluency in Kiswahili is limited. The language of choice, when presenting testimony or cross-examining witnesses (in the case of accused persons), is often one of the many indigenous languages spoken in Kenya. In some instances, both the presiding magistrate and the prosecutor may not be conversant with the mother tongue of a witness or an accused person. The success or failure of communication, and the ultimate outcome of the trial in such a case, is totally dependent on the accuracy of the interpretation. The magistrate depends on the interpreter to render the witnesses' testimony for the record, for it is only through the interpreter that the prosecutor is able to examine witnesses and cross-examine defense witnesses. Similarly, the accused depends on the interpreter to be his voice as he addresses the court or cross-examines the prosecution witnesses. The court interpreter's renditions affect decisions on incarceration or freedom, life or death.

### The Practice of Court Interpretation in Kenya

This paper is based on a study carried out in three subordinate courts in Kenya between January and March, 2007. The study sought to identify linguistic challenges encountered by court interpreters in the sampled courts and the interpreting strategies

employed in dealing with such challenges. The study also sought to establish some categories of interpreter error that occur in the course of interpreting the proceedings in the selected courts. An audio tape recorder was used to capture the interpreted verbal discourse in the sampled court sessions. In addition, notes and observations were made during the sessions. A questionnaire was used to gather information related to the work backgrounds and the languages of the court interpreters in the sampled courts. From tape recordings, notes and observations, the difficult expressions encountered by interpreters and the strategies employed to deal with them were identified and described. Incidences of interpreter error were identified, categorized, and discussed.

The study established that in the sampled courts, interpreta-

tion was carried out by persons whose job title is 'court clerk' and who have no formal training in interpretation. They speak at least three languages, namely Kiswahili, English, and a mother tongue. They are assumed to be qualified to interpret just because they are bilingual or trilingual,

a testament to the strength of the fallacious belief that "bilingualism is synonymous with interpreting ability" (Gonzalez, 1988). Yet despite this lack of training, a court interpreter in a typical session is expected to provide simultaneous interpretation during court proceedings, consecutive interpretation during witness examinations and sight translation of documents produced during the proceedings.

The study also identified a number of interpreter errors during the interpretation of proceedings in the sampled courts. This paper argues that some of these errors arise from a lack of clear guidelines for those who act as interpreters and also from a general lack of understanding of the role of the court interpreter by other players in the justice system. Samples of errors are discussed below. In all the examples discussed, translations of utterances in languages other than English (Kiswahili and Gikūyū) are italicized. Errors are identified by the passages in bold typeface.

#### ■ Omission

This involves "omitting words, phrases, clauses, ideas, sentences or portions of discourse" in the interpreted utterance (Gonzalez et al., 1991:288). When information is omitted, the party for whom the interpretation was meant does not get to hear it. This can lead to anxiety, misunderstanding, or the exclusion of one of the parties in a trial. Meaning that was omitted appears in bold.

#### Example 1

**PROSECUTOR:** Your honour, in this matter I wish to apply for an adjournment. My next witness, who is **the investigating officer, has not resumed duty from leave.**

**MAGISTRATE:** Yes, **when is he expected back?**

**PROSECUTOR:** **I have been informed he will be back in two weeks' time, your honor.**

**MAGISTRATE:** Yes, any objection?  
**INTERPRETER:** Kiongozi wa kesi anaomba kesi ihairishwe kwa sababu yule shahidi alikuwa aitelea hayuko. Unakubali au unapinga?  
*(The leader of the case is requesting that the case be adjourned because the witness he was to call today is not there. Do you agree or object?)*

What the interpreter did here was a summary of the exchange. The original statement by the prosecutor makes clear that the witness who was to testify is the investigating officer and that he is unable to attend court as he is on leave. This information is not captured in the interpretation. Also omitted is the magistrate's enquiry as to when the witness can be available and the prosecutor's reply. The main function of proceedings interpretation is to make the accused 'linguistically present' so that s/he participates effectively in proceedings in which s/he is a party (Hewitt, 1995). To achieve this, everything said in a given case by the triers of fact should be interpreted for the litigants. In this instance, a large part of the exchange between the magistrate and the prosecution was omitted.

Omission of information meant for the court record is also evident in the following exchange:

#### Example 2

**WITNESS:** Nindakūmenyire tondū gūtiarī na nduma. Kwārī ta thaa īmwe na nuthu na kwārī na ūtheri mūiganu tondū kwārī na mweri  
*(I recognized you because there was no darkness. It was around seven thirty and there was enough light as there was moonlight.)*  
**INTERPRETER:** I knew it was you because it was not dark. There was enough light.

A positive identification of a suspect at the crime scene is considered crucial in a criminal trial. This is why the information on time and the fact that there had been moonlight, as clearly stated in the original, is crucial. But it was omitted in the interpreter's rendering. This, coupled with the lexical error arising from the fact that the interpreter uses the word 'knew' instead of 'recognized' when interpreting 'Nindakūmenyire' (*I recognized you*) can end up making the witness' assertion that he made a positive identification seem less certain.

Interpreters were also found to regard lengthy discussions between presiding magistrates and prosecutors as off-the-record remarks and thus never interpreted them, even when they were uttered in the presence of litigants. This is what Frishberg (1986), cited in Gonzalez et al. (1991), calls "the classic dilemma for the interpreter," as it goes against the ultimate goal of court interpreting, which is to place the litigant who does not speak the official language of the court in the same position as the one who does. Thus, "[a]nything and everything that is said in English during the course of a legal proceeding should be interpreted for the non-English speaking participant" (Gonzalez et al. 1991:500).

The exchange below illustrates this.

#### Example 3

**MAGISTRATE:** Just a minute, who are the witnesses in this case?  
**PROSECUTOR:** There are three more, your honour... the two girls are the complainants of the doctor and the investigating officer... They are four, your honour.  
**MAGISTRATE:** Have you looked at the P3 form...the doctor's conclusion?  
**PROSECUTOR:** I just got the file yesterday, your honour. I have not had time to....  
**MAGISTRATE:** You have one in your file there...  
**PROSECUTOR:** Yes...  
**MAGISTRATE:** Look at what it says at the back, the last part... 'the court can convict on the basis of other evidence brought before it'... do you see that?  
**PROSECUTOR:** Yes, your honour.  
**MAGISTRATE:** So the doctor's evidence won't really help you.. he will only read what is in that form, anyway. The investigating officer will also tell us what was reported to him, and so on.  
**PROSECUTOR:** Yes, it seems...  
**MAGISTRATE:** How old are the girls.. the victims?  
**PROSECUTOR:** They are — both of them are 6 years old, your honour.  
**MAGISTRATE:** Are there no adult witness, a person who maybe saw the accused with the girls? You know... because the only real evidence you have is what the girls will say. There is no way the court will convict somebody on the basis of the testimony of six-year olds about something that happened over a month ago. Do you get what I am saying? This won't work.  
**PROSECUTOR:** Yes, your honour, I think I will link with the investigating officer to find out if there are other witnesses so that...  
**MAGISTRATE:** You will know what to do for now. Let's take a hearing date. Eh...6th March?  
**PROSECUTOR:** Most obliged, your honour.  
**INTERPRETER:** Cirawaku ūgacirwo mweri ikūmi na ithathatu, mweri wa gatatū.  
*(Your case will be heard on 16th March.)*

Given that none of this discussion is interpreted for the accused, the concepts of presence and due process are brought into question. Due process demands, among other things, that an accused person be present at every stage. In the incident above, it could be argued that the accused person, who clearly did not understand English, since any utterance from the magistrate or the prosecutor had to be interpreted is linguistically absent from his own proceeding, given that matters touching on the case against him are being discussed in open court and the accused person is

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COURT INTERPRETING IN KENYA *continued from page 7*

not privy to the discussion. In a ruling, Justice Lockwood (1974), cited in Gonzalez et al. (1991:49), states that such a situation is comparable to one in which:

[a] defendant is forced to observe the proceedings from a sound-proof booth or seated out of hearing at the rear of the courtroom, being able to observe but not comprehend the criminal processes, whereby the state has put his freedom in jeopardy.

Although the exchange above was not directed to the accused, it was a discussion of the case, carried out in open court and in his presence, by the triers of fact, and he should have been allowed to hear it in his mother tongue.

### ■ Distortion and Intrusion

Another problem arising from lack of understanding of the interpreter's role are errors that change or in some way alter "the overall or partial meaning of the original message" (Gonzalez et al. 1991). The ultimate goal of the interpreter is to conserve every idea and paralinguistic feature in the source message whether or not these ideas 'seem' consequential or 'appropriate' to the formal court setting. From the data it is observed that when courtroom discourse turns to expressions with affective and reflected meanings, interpreters tend to edit them or distort the original utterance in an apparent attempt to protect courtroom etiquette. The interpreter's intrusions and distortions are in bold. Consider the exchange below.

#### Example 4

- ACCUSED:** Naingĩra igoti wahūrurwo tondū wemenyeretie gūka gwītana gwakwa ūtukū mūthuri wakwa atarĩkuo nongorwo ngihenania?  
(If I tell the court you were beaten up because you had developed a habit of coming to call me at my house when my husband is not there, would I be lying?)
- INTERPRETER:** If I tell the court you were beaten up because you had developed a habit of coming to call me at my house when my husband is not there, would I be lying?
- WITNESS:** Ūcio nĩ ūgūrūki wĩnaguo, iyo nĩmĩario ya mūgūrūki.  
(That is madness on your part, that is talk of a mad person).
- INTERPRETER:** **We, nĩuramenya wĩ igoti-inĩ we...**  
(You, do you realize you are in court, you...)
- MAGISTRATE:** What is his answer?
- INTERPRETER:** **Those are lies, your honour.**

The witness in the exchange above is clearly incensed by the accused person's question and his response is abusive. When the presiding magistrate asks for a rendition of the witness' answer, the interpreter's response is, "Those are lies, your honour," which is a distortion of the original utterance, "*That is madness on your*

*part, that is talk of a mad person.*" In this instance, the interpreter departs from his neutral role as a medium for the transfer of information and reprimands the witness for making a statement which he feels is not suited for the court setting (*You, do you realize you are in court you...*). According to Gonzalez et al. (1991, 495):

Interpreters must not make value judgments about the language or demeanor of the parties they interpret for... interpreters should not display any verbal or non-verbal behaviors to convey to others that they deem the testimony improper or unfaithful.

In addition, the interpreter alters the whole utterance and substitutes what he feels should be the "correct" answer. The consequence of this is twofold: a totally different statement is entered in the court record, and the triers of fact get the wrong impression of the demeanor of the witness when faced with this particular question.

Distortion of meaning can also be seen in the following example, where the interpreter distorts testimony by a medical expert by using vague and general statements and failing to be as specific as the witness.

#### Example 5

**WITNESS:**

**On examination, it was found that the patient's vagina and vulva were bruised. The hymen was also broken. This was conclusive evidence that somebody had had carnal knowledge of her that involved actual penetration.**

**INTERPRETER:**

Daktari alipomkagua alipata ushahidi kuwa ulimfanyia kitendo hicho.  
(When the doctor examined her, he found evidence that you had done that act on her.)

The doctor's testimony is about the physical signs he saw in the patient that proved she had had sexual intercourse. The evidence is not linked to any one person nor is it conclusive whether or not the intercourse was consensual. The doctor stated, "This was conclusive evidence that somebody had had carnal knowledge of her that involved actual penetration." The interpreted version avoids the description of the physical signs and instead categorically asserts that the doctor's examination had found evidence that the accused raped the victim, "*he found evidence that you had done that act on her.*" The 'act' the interpreter is referring to is rape, as this is the charge against the accused. The interpreter equates 'having carnal knowledge of somebody' to rape, a clear distortion of the meaning of the expression, which is neutral as to whether there was coercion or not.

### ■ Errors Arising from Undefined Role, Procedure and Ethics

Some interpreter errors stem from a general lack of professionalism and a misunderstanding of the role of the interpreter by interpreters, the public, or persons working within the court system (Gonzalez et al. 1991:209). From the present study, it emerged that court interpreters in Kenya work without a clear definition

of duties or clarification of their role within the administration of justice. It is widely held that a court interpreter should strive to be an objective medium through which information is transferred from one language to another. Gonzalez et al. (1991), however, note that “some interpreters demonstrate a tremendous lack of professionalism” by initiating conversations with witnesses, speaking to them in an inappropriate tone, commanding witnesses to answer questions and summarizing statements made by respondents or witnesses. In addition to these, there were instances when it was observed that interpreters failed to correct their own mistakes, suggested answers to witnesses or the accused, objected to questions or at times reprimanded witnesses or accused persons. In the following examples, utterances by the interpreter that are a departure from his role or are unethical are identified in bold.

The exchange below exemplifies an interpreter objecting to a question that an accused person asks a prosecution witness, and then proceeding to reprimand the accused.

#### Example 6

- ACCUSED:** Nahidiyo wamũthimarĩ, wonire tagũthĩtwo nĩ mũndũrũme kana nĩ mũtumia?  
(And when you examined him, you saw he had been hit by a man or by a woman?)
- INTERPRETER:** Ūyu nĩ ndagitarĩ na ndariho akĩgũthwo nĩguo amenye nũũ wa mũgũthire.  
(This is a doctor and he was not there when he was hit so as to know who hit him.)
- ACCUSED:** Akĩgũthwo niwamũhurire mbica ya kuonania nĩnĩ ndamũgũtha?  
(When he was hit, did you take a picture to show I am the one who hit him?)
- INTERPRETER:** Rĩu icio nĩ ciũria cia mũthemba ũrĩkũ? Kotaraigua ndĩrakwĩra ũyũ nĩ dagitarĩ na ndarĩ hau mwarũagĩra.  
Akorwo ndũrĩ na ciũria ingĩ uge, ũtuge gũte mathaa na ciũria itarĩ na kũriairĩ.  
(Now what kinds of questions are those? Don't you understand what I am telling you? This is a doctor and he was not there where you were fighting. If you don't have other questions, say so, stop wasting time with questions that are baseless.)

It is debatable whether a medical examination can reveal the sex of a person who inflicted an injury, but this is not a debate for the interpreter to try and resolve; instead he should focus on interpreting the questions posed. If the questions by the accused are inappropriate, the prosecutor is entitled to raise an objection; and should a defendant insist on asking ‘irrelevant’ questions, it is not the job of an interpreter to label them as such and reprimand him, as the interpreter does in his second utterance in the exchange above. By doing so, the interpreter betrays his feelings and opinions about the accused person. Gonzalez et al. (1991) categorically state that “interpreters should keep their emotions in check,” since

an expression of feeling or personal opinion is likely to have an impact on the triers of fact and, as a result, erode the interpreter's impartiality.

In the following example, the interpreter demonstrates a lack of understanding of his role as a medium through which messages are transferred from one party to another. He engages in a lengthy exchange with the accused in the midst of the testimony, but interprets none of it.

#### Example 7

- ACCUSED:** Ndaheyo mbũndi ngĩrokio nĩ mũthigari gũkũ kĩgumo borithi.  
(After being given a bond, I was brought to Kigumo Police Station the following morning.)
- INTERPRETER:** Waheo mbũndi ũkĩrokio kana ũkĩrehe?  
(When you were given a bond you were brought in the morning, or did you come in yourself?)
- INTERPRETER:** Tuokire na mũthigari.  
(We came with a policeman.)  
Na wakiuga nĩ waheirwo mbũndi. Kaĩ waheirwo mbũndi na ndũrekio?  
(But you have said you were given bond. Were you given a bond and not released?)

The whole of this exchange between the accused and the interpreter is not interpreted. It is triggered by the interpreter's desire to clarify what seems to be a conflicting statement by the witness about being given bond yet remaining in custody. The court interpreter is the ‘voice’ of witnesses and accused persons who are unable to express themselves in the language of the court, because the interpretation of the testimony of such persons “is the only permanent record of what that person said under oath” (Gonzalez et al. 1991:485). The problem with the exchange above is that it is not ‘heard’ by the court and so does not get into the court record. So, well intentioned as it may be, it serves no purpose in the administration of justice.

During the present study, it was established that persons who act as interpreters in Kenyan courts are employed to serve as clerical officers. Their job title is ‘court clerk,’ but they are expected to step in and interpret whenever the need arises, in addition to their other duties. Gonzalez et al. (1991:502) categorically state that: “Court interpreters should perform only those functions that are directly related to interpreting. They should not engage in clerical work or other non-related duties.”

During the study, it was also observed that interpreters, among other duties, collect case files from the court's registries, alert the members of the public in the courtroom to the arrival and departure of the magistrate so that they can stand up as required by protocol, call out the names of litigants in given suits and arrange accused persons in the dock as they are designated on the charge sheet. They also write down on the back of the bond paper the dates for the mention (a day when all parties appear before the trial

> continues on next page

COURT INTERPRETING IN KENYA *continued from page 9*

magistrate to raise any pertinent issues that could have an impact on the actual hearing) and hearing of each accused person who is released on bail, write out warrants of arrest when the court so directs and pass them to the presiding magistrate for his/her signature. They also provide writing paper to the magistrate, and some were even observed replenishing ink in the magistrate's pen. Court interpreters are constantly engaged in whispered consultations with the prosecutor, accused persons out on bail and lawyers who want to find out something about their cases. Such multiple roles sometimes result in actions that are contrary to the ethics of court interpreting. Consider the exchange below:

**Example 8**

- INTERPRETER:** Nīwaheo mbūndi ya ciringi ngiri igana rīmwee kana kīndū kīa mūigana wa mbeca icio.  
(*You have been given a bond of a hundred thousand shillings or something of equal value to that money.*)
- ACCUSED:** Kindu takii? Title kana...?  
(*Something like what? A title [deed] or...?*)
- INTERPRETER:** Īī no ūrehe title, nakorwo nī title...andū anyu megūkū?  
(*Yes, you can bring a title, and if it is a title...are your relatives here?*)
- ACCUSED:** Īī mekuo ...me haria.  
(*Yes, they are there...they are there.*)  
[Pointing to a person in the audience who has stood up]
- INTERPRETER:** [Addressing the person who has stood up] Akorwo nī title mūrenda kūrehe, mūtwe yambe ikwo valuation mūgūnda ūcio woneke nī wa mbeca ta cigana. Marūa marīa mūkaheo mwekirwo valuation mūgoka mano hamwe na title. Nīwaigua?  
(*If it is a title you want to bring, you take it first for a valuation to be done, that piece of land to be seen is of what value. The letter you will be given when the valuation is done you come with it together with the title. Do you understand?*)

Gonzalez et al. (1991) state that a court interpreter should confine him/herself to the role of interpreting and must refrain from giving advice 'of any kind' to any party. However, in the example above, the interpreter understandably steps out of the role of a conduit of information and takes on a clerical mantle, seeing to it that proper documents are brought to the court for the bond to be effected.

■ **Added Information**

Legal scholar David Mellinkoff asserts that another challenge for the lay person in the court setting is the legal shorthand frequently used by officers of the court who are legally trained. Mellinkoff (1963) cited in Gonzalez et al. (1991) notes that players

in the legal setting sometimes truncate their utterances to "an almost symbolic form," posing another challenge to the court interpreter. As stated earlier, the role of the court interpreter in Kenya is not defined and many in the litigation process clearly seem to expect interpreters to do more than act as a medium through which information is conveyed. The triers of fact (magistrates) expect interpreters to amplify their truncated utterances that refer to certain critical stages in the litigation process. The examples below illustrate this, with the added information presented in bold.

**Example 9**

- MAGISTRATE:** Defense.
- INTERPRETER:** Sasa ni wakati wako wa kujitetea.  
(*Now is your time to defend yourself.*)  
**Na kuna njia tatu za kujitetea.**  
**Unaweza kujitetea ukiwa hapo ambapo hautaapishwa na hautaulizwa maswali.**  
**Kama uko na mashahidi unaweza kuwaita.**  
(*You can defend yourself from there [the dock], in which case you will not be sworn and you will be asked questions. If you have witnesses, you can call them.*)  
**Njia ya pili unaweza kuja upande huu ambapo utaapishwa na utaulizwa maswali. Kama uko mashahidi unaweza kuwaita.**  
(*The second way: you can come to this side [the witness stand], where you will be sworn and you will be asked questions. If you have witnesses, you can call them.*)  
**Njia ya tatu, unaweza kuamua kukaa kimya na uongenje uamuzi wa mahakama.**  
(*The third way, you can choose to remain silent and await the decision of the court.*)

All this information is triggered by the one word uttered by the magistrate. This was the practice encountered in all the sampled courts without exception and, on the surface, seems to fulfill the *skopos* of court interpretation as the litigant is made to understand what is expected of him/her at this crucial stage of litigation. However, the rendering of the word "mitigation" in the example below reveals the danger which this practice could lead to.

**Example 10**

- MAGISTRATE:** Mitigation?
- INTERPRETER:** Kuna kitu ungetaka kuambia mahakama kabla huja hukumiwa?  
(*Is there something you would like to tell the court before you are sentenced?*)
- ACCUSED:** Ndiyo. Ningetaka kuambia koti mimi nikuwekelewa nawekelewa haya mambo. Polisi walikuja kwetu wakiwa na mtu ambaye sijawahi kumuona wajaniambia ni mimi nimemuibia...  
(*Yes, I would like to tell the court these are false allegations being made against me. The*

*police came to our home with a person I had not seen before and they told me that I am the one who had stolen from him...)*

**INTERPRETER:** **Hii sio saa za kuelezea vile ilikuwa. Si uli-toa ushahidi wako? Umepatikana na hatia na sasa inatakikana useme kama unashida yeyote koti inaweza kuanglia kabla haujahukumiwa.**

*(This is not the time to explain the way it was. Didn't you give your testimony? You have been found guilty and now you are required to say whether you have any problems that the court can consider before sentencing you...)*

**Uko na watoto? (Do you have children?)**  
**Ndio. (Yes.)**

**ACCUSED:**

**INTERPRETER:** **Eeh ... useme vitu kama hizo ... watoto bibi ... kama uko na ugonjwa fulani.**  
*(Yeah ... say things like that ... children ... a wife ... whether you have a certain illness...)*

The invitation to tell the court "something" does at times result in many responses that may be deemed inappropriate, as the interpreter's interruption shows. This demonstrates the danger in expecting interpreters to amplify truncated statements. When the responses by the persons for whom the interpretation is meant seem out of line, interpreters assume that the amplifications have not been understood. Then the interpreter seeks to address the misunderstanding by suggesting to the accused the things he should say. As one would expect, most people in this position immediately took up the interpreter's suggested answers and conveyed them to the court. One thus wonders whether what the court gets to hear is the interpreter's suggestion of what mitigation is or what the accused persons want the court to hear.

### Conclusion

The findings confirmed the main assumption on which the study was based. It was found that different categories of interpreter error occur in interpreted proceedings in the sampled courts. Of interest is the fact that some of these errors, such as grammatical errors, distortion, lexical errors and omission, can be attributed to interpreters being deficient in the languages they deal with, and are thus directly related to the fact that persons that interpret in Kenyan courts are trained neither in language nor in interpreting. There are no policy guidelines on an interpreter's competence or on the role an interpreter plays in the administration of justice. Nor is there a code of ethics governing the practice of court interpreting in Kenya. As a result, errors arising from hazy role definition featured prominently in the data.

Court interpreting is a profession that requires specialized skills. There is a need to train court interpreters in interpreting in general and in court interpreting in particular so as to impart knowledge about difficulties likely to be encountered in a court setting and to arm practitioners with appropriate interpreting strategies. In addition, it is important to ensure that persons

working as interpreters in court are highly competent in the languages they deal with, as this would eliminate most of the language-based errors that were found to occur.

The role of court interpreters in Kenya needs to be defined so that it is clear what their duties are in relation to other actors in the courtroom and in the administration of justice. Coupled with this, a code of ethics governing court interpreters would guide interpreters in the many professional dilemmas and challenges they face on a day-to-day basis. A code of ethics would assist court interpreters in using the enormous power they wield in a responsible manner and would promote the public's confidence in them and in the judicial process as a whole. ▲

*[The author is a secondary school teacher in Kenya who holds a Bachelor of Education (Arts) degree from Egerton University and an MA in English and linguistics from Kenyatta University, both in Kenya.]*

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

## NAJIT CHANGES BOOKKEEPING TO ACCRUAL METHOD

Over the last few years, NAJIT's leadership has made a commitment to ensuring that our organization is employing good governance and using best management practices.

To that end, at a recent meeting of the NAJIT Board of Directors, NAJIT's leadership decided to make an important change in the accounting method that NAJIT uses to keep its financial records, by changing to the accrual method of accounting.

For many years, NAJIT has used the cash method of accounting. According to this method, NAJIT recorded dues income when received, regardless of the dues year for which the income was intended. We also accounted for expenses at the time that a check was written, not when the expense was actually incurred.

While it's easier to keep books using the cash method, it is not considered a best practice by the accounting profession or the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). For NAJIT to make a first step toward keeping its books using generally accepted accounting principles, it was necessary for us to adopt the accrual method.

Using the accrual method, NAJIT will have to make certain that dues-income received is applied to the proper membership year. So, for instance, dues received in December from someone whose membership expires in December, is really income that should be counted in the next year, not the current year. And expenses that are incurred in December, but paid in January, are expenses that really should be counted against the previous year, not the current year.

Using the accrual method enables NAJIT to have a much better picture of its financial status.

However, there are some bumps in the road in getting from cash to accrual method. For one thing, NAJIT already closed the books on 2007 using the cash method, so dues income that should have been counted toward 2008 income has already been counted as 2007 income. Similarly, when NAJIT begins using this new accounting method for fiscal year 2008—the year just passed—a portion of the dues collected in 2008 will be counted against 2009 income.

The result is that financial statements for fiscal year 2008 will show a substantial decline in income on paper—mostly because 2008 income was counted on 2007 financial statements. We're letting NAJIT members know about this issue, because it will result in our books showing a substantial loss in 2008. Please understand, this "paper loss" (apparent loss) does not reflect any real losses or any change in NAJIT's financial health.

Using the cash method, NAJIT's 2008 Profit and Loss Statement is likely to show modest net income of about \$2,000 for on-budget expenses. However, when we produce financial statements in the accrual method, we will show an on-budget loss that will be substantial. We don't yet know how large this will be, because we

have not yet closed the books on 2008.

At the upcoming annual meeting, we'll have financial statements in both the cash and accrual methods so that the membership can see the financial results for 2008 both ways. But the official financial statements will be reported to the IRS using the accrual method, and will therefore show a substantial loss for FY 2008.

Please be aware that NAJIT is financially stable and the board has taken this difficult step in order to bring our practices up to the best practice level suggested by ASAE and the accounting profession.

Robin Lanier,  
Executive Director



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## NAJIT NEWS

### NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

#### ■ Rosemary W. Dann — Bio

Rosemary W. Dann, Esq. has been a member of NAJIT since 1999 and serves as Secretary on NAJIT's Board of Directors. She has chaired the Commission on Concerns and the Certification Commission, and has served on the Advocacy Committee since its inception. She currently serves as a member of Advocacy and Certification. She holds a BA from Boston University in Spanish language and literature, an MA from NYU in Spanish literature, and a JD from Temple University. After teaching Spanish at the high school and college levels for six years and practicing law for thirteen years, she decided to devote her time to judiciary interpreting, and has worked as a freelancer in New Hampshire and Massachusetts since 1997. She is a founding member and former president of NHITO (New Hampshire Interpreters' and Translators' Organization), and is a member of ATA.

#### Statement

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as a member of the NAJIT Board of Directors for the past two years, as well as to have chaired and served on various commissions and committees. Through Advocacy and the Board, I have contributed to our association's public statements on a wide variety of issues regarding interpreters and our profession, including expedited visas for interpreters aiding our troops in Afghanistan and Iran, the unmasking of Iranian interpreters, the Tennessee "English only" law, and the Iowa ICE raid, among many others. I have seen our association grow in number and mature over the past nine years that I have been a member, and I strongly believe that as a group we have the power to improve the situation for interpreters, limited-English proficient persons, and the judiciary system in general. I feel that my experience continues to be an asset to the board and the association, and I would greatly appreciate your vote of confidence.

#### ■ Nancy Zarenda — Bio

Nancy Zarenda is a California court certified interpreter (Spanish/English) and serves on the NAJIT Certification Commission and the Advocacy Committee. Nancy is a consultant for the California Department of Education and a subject-matter expert on language access and LEP consumer issues for government agencies and businesses. Her background in teaching includes K-12 and adult public schools, community colleges, and the private sector. She is an adjunct instructor at Lake Tahoe College, and has trained in law enforcement academies, the California State Legislature, and non-profit organizations. Nancy served as a governor appointee on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. She has authored publications on interpreting and translating, and on multilingualism in politics, business, education, and national defense. She was recently appointed to the Global Advisory Council for Language Line Services, and serves on a number of state and national business, education, and health care boards.

#### Statement

Thanks to our dedicated past and present leadership and members, NAJIT has become the nation's champion in advancing professional standards of performance, high quality professional development, advocacy for equal access to justice, and integrity in the field of judiciary interpreting and translating. NAJIT educates legal communities and the public about the unique role of interpreters and translators in the legal system, provides vital professional development and opportunities for members to become involved, and strives to protect the rights of a vulnerable limited-English-proficient population.

It is an honor to be nominated to serve as a member of the NAJIT Board of Directors, and I believe that my experience on the Advocacy Committee and the Credentials Commission has helped prepare me for this position. I am enthusiastic about building on NAJIT's strong foundation, delivering effective outreach and education, sharing resources, engaging key stakeholders and policymakers, and expanding collaborative partnerships. I would be grateful for the opportunity to apply my experience from government, community-based organizations, business, and education to assist NAJIT in achieving its goals and serving its membership at the highest level.

## May 15-17, 2009

DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort  
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### THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

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# THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

**May 15 – 17, 2009**  
**DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale, AZ**

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE\*

### Pre-Conference Events

**Friday, May 15, 2009**

- All Day Workshops: 9 AM to 5 PM (lunch on your own)
- Morning Workshops: 9 AM – Noon / Afternoon Workshops: 2 PM – 5 PM

TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	TIME
SSTI Spanish Skills Building	TBA	All Day
Consecutive Interpretation	Rainof	All Day
Advanced Spanish	Agustin de la Mora	All Day
Tour of the Courts	Local Guide	AM
Ethical and Professional Issues in Psychiatric Exams	Garcia-Rangel and Orrantia	AM
Team Interpreting in the Courtroom	Gomez-Ferry and Samuel	AM
Transcription and Translation: The Software	Jenard-Navarette and Kenigson-Kristy	PM
Note-taking Workshop for Consecutive Interpretation	Valencia	PM
Guilty by All: A Realistic, Safe, and Ethical Approach to Group Hearings	Carrillo	PM

\* Program as of February 18, 2009

\* All educational sessions and speakers subject to change



## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

### Saturday and Sunday

#### May 16 and 17, 2009

SATURDAY	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8 AM – 9 AM	Translating Topics from the World of Organized Crime <b>Camacho</b>	Guilty by All <b>Carillo</b>	When Codes Collide <b>Lindquist, Dann, Kenigson-Kristy</b>	Focus on East Asian Languages Panel <i>TBA</i>
9:15 AM – 10:15 AM	Ethical Compliance with the Court Interpreter Code of Professional Responsibility (part 1) <b>Gomez-Ferry and Samuel</b>	Interpreting Terrorism <b>Kagan</b>	Hand-Holding for Handhelds: PDA Support for Court Interpreting <b>Estill, Bajana, Courtright</b>	Tapes and Transcripts: A Lawyer's Perspective <b>Fishman</b>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Ethical Compliance with the Court Interpreter Code of Professional Responsibility (part 2) <b>Gomez-Ferry and Samuel</b>	Digital Terminology Research <b>Draves</b>	AOC Update <b>Kinney</b>	Developing Curriculum for Legal Interpreter E-learning for OTS Languages <b>Bromberg and Jesionowski</b>
11:45 AM – 3 PM	<b>Annual Luncheon and Meeting</b>			
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	The Infamous Offer <b>R. Gonzalez</b>	Government Affairs/ Advocacy Update <b>Estill and Cruz</b>	The Translator/Interpreter: Sherlock Holmes of Tape Transcription and Translation <b>Rainof</b>	How and Why CFI Organized Court Interpreters in California <b>Barden</b>
4:45 PM – 5:45 PM	Tools for Advocacy Change and Addressing Vicarious Trauma <b>Chaudhuri and Shah</b>	Relaxation Techniques <b>De la Mora</b>	Arizona's AOC Online Project to Increase the Pool of Interpreters <b>Mitchell and A. Gonzalez</b>	Improving Latino Academic Success <b>Fatás Cabeza and Dueñas González</b>
SUNDAY	ROOM A	ROOM B	ROOM C	ROOM D
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Quality in Translation <b>Franks</b>	Department of Justice Update	From Asylum Interviews to Immigration Court Interpreting <b>Teleki and Gill</b>	Speed Demons in the Courtroom <b>O'Connor and Senor</b>
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	The Dependency Process in Arizona <b>Michael and Garcia</b>	Roundtable for Federal Public Defender Interpreters <b>Jenard-Navarette</b>	The Professionalization of Interpreters and Translators <b>Weller and Ortiz</b>	Dissenting Voices in Recent Appellate Rulings <b>Benmaman</b>
11 AM – 12 NOON	Pitch Perception <b>Baer and Acosta</b>	English to Spanish Translations for the Private Sector <b>Camacho</b>	Understanding Schizophrenia <b>Guijarro</b>	Writing Ethics about Interpreting <b>Breckenridge</b>

\* Program as of February 18, 2009

\* All educational sessions and speakers subject to change



## THIRTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators

**May 15 – 17, 2009**

**DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale, AZ**

### REGISTRATION FORM

First name

Last name

Company/Agency

Address

City

State/Province

Zip code

Country

Telephone

E-mail

**PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

- Early bird and hotel deadline: April 17, 2009
- Conference registration closes: May 8, 2009
- Last day for refund (less a \$35 processing fee): May 8, 2009

**Register early to be sure** — on-site 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, and handouts.*

EARLYBIRD (by April 17)			REGULAR (April 18 – May 8)			TOTALS
Member	Non-member	Student*	Member	Non-member	Student*	
320	390	120	350	420	150	\$
TOTAL CONFERENCE FEE						\$

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

Please let us know if you require special accessibility or assistance — attach a sheet with details.

Receive the membership discount by submitting an application today! ( Go to [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org) )

## FRIDAY PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT FEES

All day workshops 9 AM – 5 PM (lunch on your own), AM workshops 9 AM – 12 Noon, PM workshops 2 – 5 PM

No on-site registration is available for Friday sessions.

	EARLYBIRD (by April 17)		REGULAR (after April 17)		TOTALS
	Member	Non-member	Member	Non-member	
Spanish Skills Tune-up – All Day	125	150	150	175	\$
Consecutive Interpretation – All Day	125	150	150	175	\$
Agustin de la Mora (session title TBD) – All Day	125	150	150	175	\$
Tour of Courts – AM	20	20	20	20	\$
Ethical and Professional Issues in the Interpretation of Psychiatric Examinations – AM	75	95	95	115	\$
Team Interpreting in the Courtroom – AM	75	95	95	115	\$
Transcription and Translation: The Software – PM	75	95	95	115	\$
Note-taking Workshop – PM	75	95	95	115	\$
Guilty by All – PM	75	95	95	115	\$
Pre-conference Total					\$

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

### PAYMENT

☐ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.

☐ Please charge my credit card as follows:

☐ Visa    ☐ Mastercard    ☐ American Express

Credit card number

Expiration date

Name on card

**Refunds will be given, less a \$35 processing fee, if request is received by Friday, May 8, 2008. No refunds after that date, but substitutions are permitted.**

If you require additional tickets for the Friday courthouse tour, dinner dance, or Saturday luncheon, please fill out the additional tickets registration form and return it with your registration.

Register online at: [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org), or fax this form to: 202-293-0495, or mail to: NAJIT, 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036.

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

# ADDITIONAL TICKETS REGISTRATION FORM

May 15 – 17, 2009

DoubleTree Paradise Valley Resort, Scottsdale, AZ

Please use this form for additional tickets to the dinner dance, Saturday luncheon, or courthouse tour.

First name		Last name	
Company/Agency			
Address			
City	State/Province	Zip code	Country
Telephone		E-mail	

## ADDITIONAL TICKETS

EVENT	PRICE	NUMBER	TOTAL
Friday Courthouse Tour	\$20.00		\$
Saturday Luncheon	\$45.00		\$
Friday Dinner Dance	\$80.00		\$
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$

## PAYMENT

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Credit card number	Expiration date
Name on card	

Please mail or fax this registration form to:

NAJIT, 1707 L Street, NW, Suite 570  
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 FAX: 202-293-0495



## A LEXICOGRAPHER'S LAIR

SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS  
IN ONLINE FORUMS

Dennis McKenna

I'm an avid reader of online language forums— another way of saying that I'm a glutton for punishment. Witness the lengthy discussions of language-related matters on NAJIT's listserve. A typical inquiry starts out with a question like, "Does anybody know how you say '\_\_\_\_\_.' in Spanish?" This is followed by twenty or thirty answers, all about the supposedly difficult translation of '\_\_\_\_\_.' Many of the answers are good, but others may be based on personal views rather than on any research. In fact, the whole listserve process can quickly turn into a kind of interpreter opinion poll. And if there is anything that I've learned from interpreter training sessions over the years, it's that a majority of interpreters believing something to be true doesn't make it so. A knowledgeable instructor can map out useful strategies for researching terms and then lead the group to deciding on an accurate translation. But because the internet is so democratic, which in most respects is a good thing, it has the drawback of spinning out of control and turning thoughtful discussions into heated misinformation sessions.

All my hours reading online discussions have led me to conclude that we need to be reminded of how to effectively research a vocabulary item. The following discussion is divided into two parts, general vocabulary and legal terminology. But there will be no follow-up messages because this is my blog, er, column, and here I have the final word.

**General Vocabulary (Non-legal Terms)**

Surprisingly often I get phone calls, text messages and emails marked *urgent!* regarding general vocabulary terms. Years ago, when I first started getting these panicky pleas, I would drop everything and set about solving the problem right away. Flattered that people were coming to me for answers, I didn't begrudge a minute of my time. In my answers I would include sample translations exemplifying various contexts, dialects and registers.

One day while crafting a well thought-out answer to an inquiry, I suddenly realized that it wasn't me this desperate interpreter needed, but a good dictionary, the kind of reference book that should be on all of our desks (or laptops, palm pilots or other devices). All I was doing was enabling unprepared interpreters by doing their work for them.

So for general vocabulary items, please check your favorite dictionary first. For words not immediately found in a standard dictionary, check the spelling. When I'm in court I've always found court reporters extremely helpful in providing the proper spelling and punctuation of spoken English. Large monolingual

dictionaries contain many more entries than bilingual ones, as well as a good deal of slang. I like English dictionaries with the word "college" in the name, but any large, contemporary monolingual English dictionary from the U.S. will do. I also have a collection of American slang dictionaries. However, large English dictionaries already contain a good deal of slang and are probably sufficient for our purposes.

For Spanish vocabulary items, I follow much the same course: I go first to large monolingual dictionaries, followed by good bilingual dictionaries (e.g., unabridged Oxford, Collins, Larousse or Simon and Schuster bilingual dictionaries), and then to country-specific glossaries and dictionaries. Once we have a clear idea of what a word means in the original language, then we're ready to consult a bilingual reference work and select the appropriate translation for the context. In most cases I've found this method effective. My point is that for general vocabulary inquiries, there is next to no need for consulting colleagues online. All of us are professionals and should know how to use dictionaries. (For a list of useful dictionaries, please see the references at the end of this article.)

**Legal Terminology**

When met with an unfamiliar bit of courtroom jargon or legal terminology, our first reaction is often to assume that it can't be found in any known reference work. Just because it sounds odd, however, doesn't mean the term or expression never appeared in the long tradition of English and American law. Much legal jargon has infused itself into the language and is included in standard English dictionaries. There is even quite a lot in the bilingual reference works most of us carry on our Palm Pilots or other PDAs. So standard works are once again the first place to look.

When we come up against a phrase like "affirmative defense," which is not in most standard monolingual or bilingual reference works, I reach for a more specialized dictionary such as **Black's Law Dictionary** or one of the bilingual legal guides or glossaries on my bookshelf. I don't put the question out to 50,000 yahoos on the internet. Indeed, "affirmative defense" can be found in multiple reference books. But the best place to start is **Black's**. There you will find that an affirmative defense is one in which the defendant does not dispute the facts in the case. Instead, the defense is based on another element that excuses his behavior, such as self-defense, insanity, or duress, in the case of a crime of violence.

Admittedly, it is not as easy to find U.S. legal terminology as compared to standard terminology in published dictionaries. In part this is because laws differ from state to state. Federal court

> continues on next page

LEXICOGRAPHER'S LAIR *continued from page 19*

terminology is more standardized, but even here there may be variations from one jurisdiction to another. For example, if I search for "proffer session," I initially come up empty, even when consulting **Black's** and most other legal dictionaries. That's when one must dig a little deeper.

That doesn't mean asking a friend or text messaging the whole world; other resources are available. After looking in all my trusted paper reference works, I know I can go to the interpreter's office at my local courthouse. For example, the Southern District of New York interpreter web page states: "The office has a well-stocked reference library in which subject areas are clearly labeled. All are welcome to use reference materials (and contribute to them), but please put the books back where you found them." If you happen to be working in New York, that's the place to start. Some people might say that we don't all live and work in New York. However, just the other day I received an e-mail from Lenne Rosen-Kabe, the interpreter services manager at my local federal court in Los Angeles: "Please be aware that a new orientation material, 'Interpreting at the Witness Stand,' has been posted on the interpreters' pages. Please take a moment to review this document. It represents what this court expects from interpreters who are contracted to interpret at the stand. Also remember that the interpreters' pages contain many other orientation materials, most of them with glossaries pertinent to particular proceedings. Below is a link to the interpreters' pages on the internet, where you can also find various forms used at this court and general information regarding your profession."

For "proffer session," I go to this web page and look up government witnesses, click on the attachment and see: "**Proffer Session:** This is a meeting between the AUSA, the defense attorney, and the defendant. Other government agents may also be present. It is a question and answer session whereby the prosecutor evaluates the information given by a defendant who has or will plead guilty. Depending on the outcome of the proffer session, the AUSA may recommend to the court whether the defendant qualifies for the safety valve provision and/or recommend a change in the defendant's sentencing guideline range. The interpreter will be asked to interpret a 'proffer letter' setting forth the purpose and conditions of the meeting."

This gives me a basic understanding of the term in the source language (English). Now I'm ready to start looking for a translation. I decide to check the Southern District of New York's online glossary at <http://sdnyinterpreters.org/> which offers "reunión exploratoria con los fiscales" (exploratory meeting with the prosecutors) or "sesión de divulgación de información" (information disclosure session). These online sources are available to all, not restricted to those who have already passed the federal exam or are working in federal court. States and county courts around the U.S. also have their own websites devoted to explaining their judicial system to the public. Often there is a great deal of valuable information on these sites regarding local laws, procedures and terminology.

For those rare situations in which we can't find anything on our

## Wireless Communications Equipment for Interpreters

The use of wireless equipment for simultaneous interpretation frees the interpreter from having to sit next to the listener. The interpreter can now move to a spot offering the best hearing and visibility, where the interpreter can concentrate on the message without interruptions or distractions.

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own, we can always consult colleagues. An online inquiry should contain the following information:

- 1) the exact term or phrase, with proper spelling;
- 2) the context in which it comes up; and
- 3) the intended audience we are interpreting for, or the national origin of the person who used a Spanish-language expression.

Those helpful colleagues who respond should strive to limit their answers to the specific question at hand, providing ample information about their sources so that others can decide how reliable the information is. Can the rest of us check it for ourselves? When an answer is based on experience alone, it would be helpful if people would say: "I have been working as a Spanish interpreter in the \_\_\_\_\_ courts for \_\_\_\_\_ years. When the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ comes up during \_\_\_\_\_ hearings, it means \_\_\_\_\_." By following this kind of format, others can benefit most from discussions in online forums.

### Enhance your Lex Life

There are times when the information superhighway can be a bridge to nowhere. As language professionals, we are responsible for having up-to-date reference works and for actually using them. Our first reaction when confronted with an unfamiliar term should never be to beg a friend or colleague for the answer (unless you are in the courtroom and time is of the essence).

If you are new to the profession or have not updated your reference library recently, I recommend that you attend NAJIT's 30th annual conference this year in Scottsdale, Arizona (May 15-17), where you can visit Freek Lankhof of InTrans Books. His booth has a wide selection of useful books for interpreters and translators, such as Javier Becerra's new **Diccionario de terminología jurídica norteamericana**, designed to explain U.S. legal and related terms to Spanish speakers. And for the more technologically inclined, he also carries the Casio Ex-Word EW-S3000, a great little machine that contains a complete English dictionary, the monolingual Larousse Spanish dictionary, the bilingual Oxford Spanish dictionary, as well a good English thesaurus. If you can't make it to Arizona, you can visit the stock online at [www.intransbooks.com/](http://www.intransbooks.com/).

It's not always a matter of having the proper resources. Recently an interpreting partner informed me that several unusual terms had come up: "hatchback" and "spoiler," and no one knew how to interpret them into Spanish. I went to her desk, picked up her copy of my **Criminal Court Dictionary**, and turned to the entries for both terms, to which she sheepishly replied that she hadn't thought of looking in there. It's moments like these that bring to mind the words of English poet Edward Young (1683-1765), who once observed: "Unlearned men, of books assume the care, As eunuchs are the guardians of the fair." Having good reference books is the first step; using them often is the second. In this era of instant electronic gratification, let's not deny ourselves the pleasure of holding a book in our hands and searching for the answer to our query. ▲

### RECOMMENDED DICTIONARIES:

#### ■ English Dictionaries:

*American heritage dictionary of the English language* (4th ed.). (2000). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Gove, P. (Ed.). (2002). *Webster's third new international dictionary* (3rd ed.). Springfield, Massachusetts: Merriam-Webster.

#### ■ Spanish Dictionaries:

Moliner, M. (2007). *Diccionario de uso del español* (3rd ed.). Madrid: Gredos.

Rico, F. (2008). *Gran diccionario de la lengua española* (1st ed.). Barcelona: Larousse.

Seco, M et al. (2006). *Diccionario del español actual* (2nd ed.). Madrid: Santillana.

Editors of Vox. (2003). *Diccionario de uso de América y España*. Madrid: Vox.

#### ■ Bilingual Spanish Dictionaries:

Carvajal, C.S. and Horwood, J. (Eds.). (2008). *Oxford Spanish dictionary*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, C. and Bradley, D. (2005). *Harper Collins Spanish unabridged dictionary* (8th ed.). New York: Harper Collins.

#### ■ Legal Dictionaries:

Garner, B. (Ed.). (2004). *Black's law dictionary* (8th ed.). St. Paul, MN: West Group.

Ossorio, M. (2007). *Diccionario de ciencias jurídicas, políticas y sociales* (34th ed.). Buenos Aires: Heliasta.

Pina, R. de and Pina Vara, R. (2006). *Diccionario de derecho* (35th ed.). Mexico: Porrúa.

#### ■ Bilingual Legal Dictionaries and Interpreter Guides:

Alcaraz Varó, E. and Hughes, B. (2007). *Diccionario de términos jurídicos* (10th ed.). Barcelona: Ariel.

Becerra, J.F. (1999). *Diccionario de terminología jurídica mexicana*. Mexico: Escuela Libre de Derecho.

Becerra, J. F. (2008). *Diccionario de terminología jurídica norteamericana*. Mexico: Escuela Libre de Derecho.

McKenna, D. (2006). *Criminal court dictionary*. Pasadena, CA: Adelfa Books.

Mikkelsen, H. (2000). *The interpreter's companion* (4th ed.). Spreckels, CA: Acebo.

#### ■ Useful Websites for Interpreters

U.S. District Court, Central District of California:

<http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/> (Select "general information," then "interpreters," for useful information about legal terms and court proceedings.)

U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York:

<http://sdnyinterpreters.org/glossary.php> (a useful online glossary for federal court)

For state or local courts:

Google the name of your state, plus "interpreter," followed by the words "judicial" and "courts." Go to the National Center for State Courts website, [www.nscsonline.org](http://www.nscsonline.org), and click on "court websites."



## THE NAJIT PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM INSURANCE BROKERAGE

NAJIT is excited to now offer comprehensive professional liability coverage designed for the interpreter, translator and transcription community, with special discounts for our members who spend most of their time providing services in legal and quasi-legal settings.

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The National Association  
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**ADMINISTERED BY:**  
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## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### Judiciary Offers Interpreter Training

The judiciary, through its Office on Equality and Access to the Courts, announces the commencement of the 2009 orientation and testing cycle of the Hawaii State Judiciary Court Interpreter Certification Program. The program is designed to promote and ensure equal access to Hawaii's state courts for individuals who are limited-English proficient, deaf, or hard-of-hearing, by providing the best qualified interpreters available.

Individuals who can interpret in Chuukese, Marshallese, Pohnpeian, Kosraean, Tongan, and Samoan are needed. Certified sign language interpreters are also encouraged to apply. Application forms may be obtained from the Office on Equality and Access to the Courts at 539-4860, or by e-mailing [oeac@courts.state.hi.us](mailto:oeac@courts.state.hi.us).

### Disability Insurance Solution

In addition to offering NAJIT members Professional Liability Insurance, NAJIT has now made available a new best-in-class disability insurance program for most if not all NAJIT members including part-time independent contractors. For more information visit [www.najitdisability.com](http://www.najitdisability.com)

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### Interpreter Program Staff at AO in Washington, D.C.

Carolyn Kinney, Ph.D., earned her doctorate in linguistics, with a specialty in sociolinguistics, from Georgetown University following service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal. As a court interpreter program specialist at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, she coordinates the federal court interpreter certification program, assists courts with questions related to interpreting in the federal courts, works with the court interpreter advisory group, and gathers and analyzes interpreter usage statistics.

Javier A. Soler is a federally certified interpreter and is the newest staff member in the District Court Administration Division at the Administrative Office of the United States Courts. His previous position was with the Maryland judiciary, where he worked as the court interpreter program administrator for the state. As a court interpreter program specialist, he provides staff support to the courts and interpreters, and is primarily responsible for the development of court interpreter policies and procedures.

Robin Cole works with the federal court interpreter program in a student cooperative program while she pursues her master's degree in linguistics at Georgetown University. She is currently coordinating the upcoming federal staff interpreter training program scheduled for May 2009, is involved in coordinating activities of the court interpreter advisory group, and assists program staff with daily operations. ▲

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



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

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

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- Subscription to CyberNews, NAJIT's automatic e-mail updates on training opportunities, meetings, and other matters of professional interest
- NAJIT position papers on topics of critical interest to the profession
- Electronic access to NAJIT publications, including archived materials available at the Members' Portal
- Right to use the NAJIT logo on your business card
- Reduced-rates for language-specific interpreting and translation skills-building workshops, including preparation courses for certification tests
- Access to reduced-price professional liability insurance and disability insurance
- Access to required continuing education sessions at reduced rates
- Membership registration rates for NAJIT conferences and for regional and local workshops



- Right to vote and hold office (active members only)
- Opportunities for committee membership and participation in NAJIT special projects
- Opportunity to chair committees and to be actively involved in NAJIT decision-making and long-term planning
- Participation in NAJIT's lively and informative members' listserve, where members share expertise, information, and resources. Through this e-mail discussion list, members exchange terminology, discuss transcription and translation standards, and confer on ethical and professional dilemmas and association matters.
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- Opportunity to present at NAJIT conferences, workshops and training events
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- Participation in a national and international network of professionals
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# PROTEUS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS

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Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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☐ Check here if you have ever been a NAJIT member. ☐ Check here if you do NOT wish to receive e-mails from NAJIT.  
☐ Check here if you do NOT wish to be listed in the NAJIT 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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

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

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APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:

# NAJIT

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