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## THREE SESSIONS ON TAPE TRANSCRIPTION: NAJIT TO DRAFT PROFESSIONAL GUIDELINES

Sylvia Zetterstrand

Three sessions were held at NAJIT's recent annual meeting and educational conference to address the broad and often neglected topic of tape transcription and translation. In the first session, Janis Palma (President of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation) presented her paper *Transcribing Tapes: Where Are All the Experts?* Joaquín Font, a federally certified Spanish interpreter, was the presenter in the second session, *The Case for Forensic Transcription-Translation Guidelines*. Palma and Font were joined by Sylvia Zetterstrand (Chair of the Publications Committee) to lead the third session, working toward the preparation of NAJIT's forensic linguistic guidelines.

Due to space constraints, this report will not give a detailed account of the contents of the above-mentioned papers.<sup>1</sup> Nor can it

adequately reproduce all the attendees' questions and comments, which made for a lively discussion.<sup>2</sup> Rather the goal of this report is to present to our membership: (1) The main ideas that emerged from sessions I and II, which established the general framework for session III; (2) A summary of the group discussion in session III; and (3) NAJIT's future plans for drafting the forensic guidelines.

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### INTERPRETER SKILLS!

DNA, GUNS AND MORE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

See page 17



## MAKING NEWS IN COOK COUNTY: FIRST CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Kathleen M. Orozco

Much has happened since November 1998, when a small but dedicated group of court interpreters in Cook County, Illinois took a hard look at interpreters' inadequate pay and working conditions. At that time they formed an ad hoc committee, the Interpreters Working Group, seeking to improve their professional status and working relationship with the courts.

These energetic language professionals can now proudly point to a proven, successful track record in several important areas. They conducted a highly organized drive to establish an interpreters' union for contract representation through the Chicago Newspaper Guild Communications Workers of America (CNG/CWA). They obtained close to a 70%

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*Proteus*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On the heels of the interesting and successful Annual Conference in Nashville I am inviting all NAJIT members to attend our next annual conference in Denver, Colorado the weekend of May 21-23, 2004.

The Nashville Conference was a great success thanks to the effort of many volunteers. I would first like to thank the Conference Committee (Judith Kenigson Kristy, Richard Quiggins, Sandro Tomasi and Ann G. Macfarlane, our Executive Director) for their hard work and commitment. Also NAJIT owes heartfelt thanks to the Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators (TAPIT), its co-presidents Marvyn Bacigalupo and Judith Kenigson Kristy, and their many volunteers. The delicious pastries and newsletter provided food for both body and mind.

This year Rebecca Montgomery, Senior Staff Attorney, Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, took a unique step in offering scholarships to spoken language court interpreters working in the State of Tennessee. It is the first time that scholarships of this sort have been offered and they are very much appreciated. A special thanks also goes out to Leticia Mason and Lionel Bajaña for organizing the tour of criminal courts—several judges were kind enough to address the attendees and offer them guidance and support. With two of these events under our belt, NAJIT hopes to do it again in Denver. The keynote speaker Duard Bradshaw, President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, sparked interest and discussion among all the attendees, including several attorneys who were getting CLE credits for their attendance.

The presenters were interesting and challenging. Thomas L. West III, President of the American Translators Association and of Intermark Language Services, spoke on “alternative dispute resolution.” C. Sebastian Aloom, Senior Attorney, Coordination and Review Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, gave a presentation about the federal requirements of Title VI legislation as it applies to Limited English Proficiency speakers that was informative and helpful. Esteban Cadena, President of the Organización Mexicana de Traductores, provided us with a fascinating session on “prueba confessional” in which our own Mary Klein took the part of the non-Spanish speaking defendant, and did a great job (no surprise, since she did a great job handling the on-site registrations and other administrative aspects of the conference as well). Esteban, who is also Coordinator of the Regional Network for North America, a new initiative of the FIT (Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs), participated in a great working session on how to further advance the work of the RNNA. There were many other excellent preconference and conference presentations, including those of Claudia Angelelli and Jonathan Hines.

At this year’s conference NAJIT was fortunate to have the support and participation of several American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. NAJIT is committed to increasing cooperation and collaboration with colleagues working in ASL. Dawn Patrie’s sessions were well received by ASL and spoken language interpreters. Thanks to Professional Interpreting Enterprise for their assistance

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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.

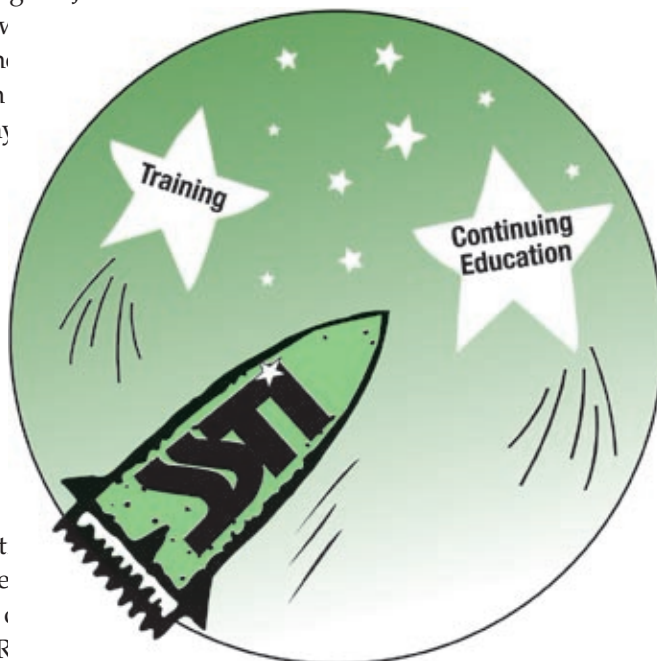
# SSTI LAUNCHES TRAINING COURSES

Janis Palma

**N**AJIT members are familiar with the work SSTI has carried out with the National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination in Spanish. With the invaluable assistance of Measurement Incorporated, NAJIT and SSTI have jointly responded to membership needs by offering the written portion of the exam in as many venues as possible throughout the U.S., and for those who have already passed the written portion, we are committed to offering the oral portion every year during NAJIT's Annual Conference. This is a credential we are proud of because it represents the standard of excellence the profession set for itself independently of any secondary considerations or the needs of other entities.

As we continue to strive for excellence, SSTI has formed a training committee entrusted with the task of creating standardized courses for judiciary interpreters, covering the basic skills and knowledge every professional in this field should master. The committee, co-chaired by Dr. Dagoberto Orrant and Janis Palma, has enlisted the help of outstanding members of the profession, such as Sara García-R (Supervisor of Interpreters in the United States District Court in Newark) and María Cecilia Marty (independent contractor) in Tampa, Florida, to develop course contents.

The committee is currently completing course development to prepare candidates for the written section of a professional certification exam. The new course covers test-taking strategies, and also provides an understanding of the skills and knowledge that each exam segment tests for. **The course does not teach vocabulary or language skills. Students must already have the level of proficiency required for certification to benefit from it.** The content includes reading comprehension, grammar and usage, synonyms and antonyms, analogies, idioms and proverbs, written translation, and ethics. The course is not geared to any specific exam, so candidates to any certification examination may find it beneficial.



Other courses the SSTI Training Committee plans to develop are in consecutive, simultaneous and sight translation for candidates to the oral portion of a certification exam. Post-certification continuing education courses are also planned, for example, in tape transcription and translation, advanced consecutive and simultaneous interpretation, and specialized terminologies.

Our objective is to fulfill NAJIT members' training and continuing education needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner while upholding quality standards in it, contents, and teaching methods. Once these courses are completed, SSTI will make them available individually or jointly anywhere in the United States or its territories, in response to the needs of NAJIT members. For example, if a request is received from Milwaukee for a pre-certification level course in sight translation or professional ethics, SSTI will be able to provide such a course individually. If a group in Salt Lake City requests a course in advanced simultaneous and interpreting techniques, we will arrange a program for those courses only. As the demand grows, so will the need for qualified instructors. SSTI plans to hold a training-the-trainers workshop every year as part of NAJIT's Annual Conference.

We are pleased to announce that the **first preparation course for the written portion of a certification exam** will be offered next **September** in **Austin, Texas** just prior to the NAJIT Regional Conference. The instructors will be Dr. Dagoberto Orrantia and Janis Palma. You may contact Donna Merritt at [Dmerritt@measinc.com](mailto:Dmerritt@measinc.com) to sign up for this exciting new training opportunity. For information regarding the exam or training courses you may call 800-279-7647.

*[The author is a staff interpreter in the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico, an interpreter trainer and consultant, and President of the SSTI Board of Directors.]*

### THREE SESSIONS ON TAPE TRANSCRIPTION

*continued from front page*

#### Transcribing Tapes I and II

Both presenters argued that interpreters—much like other professionals—need guidelines regarding transcription and translation from audio sources,<sup>3</sup> as well as regarding the evaluation of transcripts prepared by others. In general, guidelines and standards strengthen the credibility of a profession, but the most important reason for guidelines on tape transcription are that they will systematize and simplify the task of transcribing. They will provide novice transcribers/translators with a general roadmap. Further, well-defined guidelines will make it easier to evaluate someone else's work, making an interpreter's opinion as an expert witness more meaningful.

It was agreed that interpreters needed to increase public awareness of the complexity of transcription and translation work. The burden is on the profession to define who is qualified as an expert in the field. Specific proposals were put forth regarding the format and contents of expert witness reports, and the assessment of the qualifications to perform forensic linguistic work.

A point made by both Palma and Font was that proper evaluation of forensic transcripts/translations requires both a quantitative and qualitative analysis of errors. They encourage further research in this area in order to establish detailed taxonomies of errors as well as a ranking procedure, since clearly not all errors should be given the same weight. Several error categories were proposed (e.g. errors of addition, omission, spelling, format, voice designation, register), as well as a suggested format for listing the errors in an evaluation.

Other ideas common to both presenters were in the ethical domain. Forensic linguistics demands high ethical standards that should be uniform for the profession. Many of the standards already established in judiciary interpretation can be extended to audio source transcription and translation, including principles of completeness, accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality and minimal interference.

#### Transcribing Tapes III

A working session was held immediately after the first two sessions in order to introduce NAJIT's forensic guidelines project to the membership. The goal of this session was two-fold: to solicit opinions about the guidelines, and to identify knowledgeable and willing interpreters to work on the project. The session was very successful on both counts.

Participants received a list of 10 suggested discussion topics covering the areas addressed in the preceding ses-

sions. Each topic was further subdivided into specific points to help focus the discussion. The main topics were:<sup>4</sup>

1. Performance testing of skills required to transcribe and translate audio source materials
2. Transcript and translation evaluation
3. Transcription of non-verbal contents (or of partially discernible verbal contents): when and how should these elements be indicated?
4. Transcription of verbal contents: to what extent should they be reflected in the transcript and translation?
5. Formatting standards for transcribers and translators
6. Ethical behavior and professional responsibility in forensic transcription and translation
7. Limits of interpreter expertise as it relates to the transcription and translation of audio material
8. Guidelines for attorneys requesting transcription and translation services
9. Equipment quality and audibility requirements
10. Transcription and translation of audiovisual sources

The participants selected topics (2), (3), (4) and (8), and gathered in small groups to brainstorm about their topic of choice. Each group was led by a discussion leader/recorder, who summarized the comments for the entire group on a flip chart. At the end of the session, each group presented the highlights of their discussion to all participants.

The group discussing transcript and translation evaluation did believe there should be separate taxonomies of transcript and translation errors. It proposed six types of transcript errors: formatting; grammar, punctuation and spelling; voice designation; omissions; embellishments; and failure to reflect pauses. As to translation errors, group members suggested that the same categories would apply, with two more: alteration of meaning and cultural interference (e.g. regionalism, proverbs, etc.).

Determining the acceptable error rate in transcripts/translations proved to be a more challenging task, but the group agreed that this should entail a quantitative and a qualitative analysis of errors. It recommended that further research be conducted in this area, which might include consulting experts in ancillary fields. It was also suggested that a panel of experts be designated to evaluate the research results and reach a consensus on standards.

The group dealing with transcription of non-verbal contents focused on two items: noises and pauses. They concluded that noises should always be reflected, and that every attempt should be made to identify the source of the noise based on the context. In the absence of enough context, a general description of the noise should be provided. The group was unable to reach a consensus as to when

*> continued*



the length and intensity of such noise should be indicated in the transcript.

Group members also agreed that transcripts should reflect pauses—both short and long—but there was no consensus as to whether the length of a pause should be indicated in every instance. They suggested that the guidelines committee consider the following two questions: (1) Should pauses be required to have a minimal length before a specific time measurement is included in the transcript? (2) Should the reason for a pause ever be specified?

Not surprisingly, the topic of transcribing verbal contents was of great interest to many people. This was by far the largest discussion group, appropriate in view of the many complexities involved. Probably the thorniest issue considered was that of grammatical (morphological and syntactic) and phonetic variation, and the extent and manner in which such variation should be reflected in transcripts and translations. Examples of grammatical variation in English are: *I seen her yesterday; She tired; I don't have nothing; I'm gonna go*. Some instances of phonetic variation are: *give 'em, walkin', dese* (instead of *these*), *mouf* (instead of *mouth*).

Members of that group contributed their own examples of linguistic variation from languages other than English, which in turn led to a discussion on the fascinating topic of mixing languages (code-switching). The mixing of English with other languages, as we well know, can be very creative.

A heated debate ensued as to the definition of standard and non-standard language, and whether the distinction ultimately involves a value judgment. No definite conclusions were reached, but the group thought it wise to abide by the principle “transcribe what you hear.” In some cases a *sic* indication may be required.

Other topics, such as how to handle interjections and unfinished words, were also addressed. For the former, the group suggested taking the cue from court reporters. For the latter, they recommended dashes for abrupt interruptions, single dash for self-corrections, double dash for another person interrupting, and ellipses for fade-away and hesitation.

The final group considered the question of whether NAJIT should issue guidelines for attorneys who request transcription and translation services. It was pointed out that attorneys are for the most part unaware of the complexities and limitations of this type of work. In particular, they do not have sense of how time-consuming it is; the group agreed that attorneys would certainly benefit from guidance in this area.

Such guidance should include criteria for assessing the credentials of an interpreter to perform this type of work

(e.g. only certified interpreters should do it), and information about audibility and quality requirements. The party submitting a tape is responsible for its quality, and interpreters should not be expected to clean up noises. Ideally, the interpreter should have access to the first generation copy of the original tape, and any evaluation of the interpreter's work should be based on the same copy as the interpreter received.

Other useful information for attorneys would deal with the type of service to expect from an interpreter. The interpreter should provide a full transcript, meaning a side-by-side translation on the same page. The interpreter should listen to the tape, transcribe faithfully everything heard, and translate the transcribed text accurately. A certification statement to that effect should be attached.

### NAJIT's Future Plans

The ultimate goal of NAJIT's forensic-linguistic guidelines project is to write a guidelines manual for transcribing and translating from audio sources. The manual would also include recommended practices for evaluating transcripts and translations, and other relevant information in the field of forensic linguistics. It is an ambitious project that will take time to complete but will yield great benefits for individual interpreters and the profession as a whole.

The project is still in its initial stages. The Chair of the Publications Committee prepared a general project plan, which was sent to all the interpreters who expressed interest in collaborating. The Publications Committee is forming a subcommittee to work on the project. Interpreters with expertise in the forensic field are encouraged to contact Sylvia Zetterstrand ([zetterst@yahoo.com](mailto:zetterst@yahoo.com)) to obtain more information. An update on the status of the project will be provided during NAJIT's Regional Conference on Forensics in Miami Beach, February 6-8, 2004.

*[The author is chair of the NAJIT Publications Committee.]*

### FOOTNOTES

1. Interested readers may download these papers at the NAJIT website, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org).
2. The presenters wish to thank all of the attendees for their participation. These sessions played an important role in the launching of the forensic linguistic guidelines project.
3. Note that CD-ROMs, rather than cassettes, are being used more and more. Videotapes are also potential sources for transcription and translation work.
4. To obtain the fully itemized handout, please contact the author at: [zetterst@yahoo.com](mailto:zetterst@yahoo.com).

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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with arranging continuing education credits for ASL interpreters. Also NAJIT owes thanks to Sebastian Aloat, Steven Mines and the National Latino Children's Institute, all of whom provided LCD projectors for the conference, thereby allowing NAJIT to keep conference costs down. Finally, thanks to all the generous donors who sponsored Al Delory and his band, "Salsa in Nashville," and to our exhibitors who play a key part in the success of our conference.

NAJIT is very proud that this year so many candidates have taken our certification examination. Many thanks to Donna L. Merritt of Measurement Incorporated, and the MI staff, for administering our examination. Janis Palma, President of SSTI, and the SSTI board are doing so much to advance the field of judiciary interpreting, as can be seen from the article on page 3.

NAJIT has taken on several new initiatives regarding the development of position papers and a clearly defined protocol for tape transcription. These are ongoing projects and anyone interested in working on them should contact Sylvia Zetterstrand, Publications Committee Chair.

As you will see on our web page and in this issue, NAJIT has three up and coming conferences. Come work on your skills and increase your vocabulary September 20th in Austin, Texas. Then join us in Miami for a Regional Conference on Forensics the weekend of February 6-8, 2004. Finally we will all gather in Denver the weekend of May 21-23, 2004. Join us, there is more to come!

Cristina Helmerichs D.  
Chair

## NAJIT Open Listserve Up and Running

NAJIT members and friends are invited to participate in an Open Listserve. This discussion list is available to everyone interested in the profession of court interpreting and translating. Virginia Perez Santalla and Andrew Meehan-Migita serve as volunteer list administrators. This listserv functions a little differently from the previous NAJIT listserves. Visit the NAJIT home page at [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org) to see the way things run, and sign up! Everyone is welcome to join.

## COOK COUNTY

continued from front page

Guild card sign-up rate authorizing a CNG/CWA election, and then they won this election by an overwhelming margin in December 2001.

After decisively winning two Illinois State Labor Relations Board hearings affirming their employee status, Cook County interpreters are now effectively negotiating their first work contract. This ground-breaking accomplishment would not have been possible without the invaluable guidance of Gerald J. Minkinen, CNG Executive Director, and Guild labor law attorney Craig Rosenbaum.

Since October 2002, a total of 17 negotiation sessions have taken place with court management. Recent accomplishments include:

- Signing off on a first-ever grievance procedure article for interpreters, to ensure fair, uniform treatment of all employees.
- Agreement on several preliminary issues such as interpreter residency requirements, who is included in the bargaining unit (interpreters only), and the inclusion of an interpreter code of ethics which enables language professionals to serve the courts according to standard, uniform methods of practice.
- Ongoing negotiations regarding hours of work, methods of assigning full-time and part-time interpreters, a definition of what constitutes overtime work, compensatory time payment procedures, and rest/lunch break provisions.
- Presentation to court management of proposed pay increases for full-time Spanish/Polish interpreters, of suggested per diem half-day and full-day pay increases, and of part-time Sign Language interpreter proposed increases.

The Interpreters' Negotiations Team is made up of a committed and enthusiastic core of full-time and part-time interpreters who continue to dedicate many hours to ensuring a practical, fair, and workable contract for their colleagues. Of highest priority are: safeguarding professional standards, raising compensation levels to those which reflect interpreters' specialized skills, and ensuring solid job security for these hard-working professionals.

*[Kathleen Orozco is a Cook County qualified and federally certified court and conference interpreter practicing in the Chicago area. She has also interpreted in the Los Angeles Superior courts. You may contact her at (708) 445-0303 or at [alphaom543@aol.com](mailto:alphaom543@aol.com) for more information on contract representation for court interpreters.]*

# LANGUAGE MATTERS

## (... and how!)

Judith Kenigson Kristy

The United States is a multi-cultural country. Compelling, correct language communications are the single most important way of letting non-English speaking clients know that you value them and intend to take their needs into consideration. Here are some pointers for businesses or governmental agencies that handle foreign language communication:

### 1. Get it right!

A person's language is part of his or her personal as well as cultural identity. If you fail to respect the language, you are showing disrespect toward the person or the people as a group. Make sure that all non-English communications are grammatically correct, culturally adapted, and in the correct register ( formal, familiar, colloquial, etc.).

### 2. Have a roster of competent professionals at hand.

Just as you wouldn't expect a secretary to write advertising copy or a legal brief, you can't expect a "bilingual staff member" or anyone else who is not a professional translator to have the experience, resources and training to do a translation or interpretation assignment correctly. It takes years of experience and specialized knowledge to prepare accurate, culturally correct translations. In this era of e-mail and fax, you can find expert translators nearly instantly, even if they are on the other side of the world. Make a list of proven, competent linguists in your field and have it ready. (See also number 5.)

### 3. Allow enough time (and note: it may take longer than you expected).

You have taken great pains to craft a text in which every thought and word has been carefully chosen to have a desired impact. What makes you suppose that a translator can equal that impact in a different language and for a different cultural group without sufficient time in which to work, rework and verify the expressions used to convey those ideas? You must give the translator enough time to think, research, review and proof the assignment.

### 4. Get it checked by a native speaker who is an expert in your field.

Did you know that the Chevy NOVA campaign was laughed out of Mexico because in Spanish "No va" means "It doesn't go"? A well-intentioned translator might make just such a gaffe in the rush to get the job done. Moreover,

a person unacquainted with a given regional culture might make similar errors through lack of familiarity with local usage and slang. Try to have your translated text reviewed by someone who has intimate, up-to-date knowledge of the language used in the region for which the finished text is intended.

### 5. Don't trust uninformed recommendations.

Most people can't distinguish between a competent professional and a moonlighting bilingual. Don't automatically hire those recommended by friends, local school or agencies. Do your research: consult directories of professional organizations that offer training, certification and/or accreditation (the American Translators Association, the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, local translator and interpreter associations) to find credentialed translators with a proven track record. For translators, a university degree in a foreign language is not necessarily as reliable an indicator of competence as extensive, successful experience "in the trenches." Most serious translators have some sort of translation credentials provided by peer review or professional training programs.

### 6. Be prepared to pay well.

Good translators are valuable and don't come cheaply. Keep in mind that a professional translator needs extensive education, lengthy exposure to other cultures, a library of specialized dictionaries, continuous upgrading of skills and familiarity with technological aids. All this requires a considerable investment of time and money. Moreover, a good translator has superior writing skills—that alone is worth paying for! Think of your translator as you would any other trusted professional—the better the training, the better the results. For the health of your company's multi-cultural outreach, be ready to pay well for the best "language doctor" you can find!

*[Reproduction permitted for educational purposes as long as acknowledgement is given to the Tennessee Association of Professional Interpreters and Translators and NAJIT. The author is a federally certified and Tennessee state certified Interpreter of Spanish, Co-president of TAPIT, and the NAJIT Treasurer. She can be reached at [judith@kristycomm.com](mailto:judith@kristycomm.com)]*

# HEAR MY PLEA

Inge Gómez Michel

As an interpreter who does a lot of criminal work, I have encountered a problem which arises frequently. This column is a plea to defense attorneys to take the time to prepare their clients properly for a guilty plea that will be rendered through a court interpreter.

As we know, when a defendant decides to plead guilty rather than to plead not guilty and go to trial, a lawyer is required to explain the rights the defendant is giving up. Those rights include the right to trial by jury, the right to cross-examine the prosecution's witnesses, the right to call defense witnesses, the right to appeal a guilty verdict, and so on.

Defense lawyers, who have gone through this procedure many times before, are sometimes inclined to see the guilty plea as a formality to be gotten through as quickly as possible. Consequently, even if the client has minimal understanding of English, the attorney will try to get through the whole consultation in English. Then, if the defendant has any questions—inevitably he does, given the technical nature of the whole process—the attorney will also answer them in English. The alternative would be to get an interpreter to convey this content in the client's native language, which takes longer and might involve some inconvenience.

However, later on, when the judge takes the defendant through the same required set of questions to satisfy himself that the defendant understands the consequences of his guilty plea, an interpreter will be present. This may be the first time the defendant hears, in formal words in his own language, the rights he is giving up by pleading guilty. The problem is that the defendant may not be familiar with the formal words in his own language, either, and this exchange may seem to him entirely different from the conversation he had earlier with his lawyer in English. In open court a defendant doesn't have nearly the same opportunity to speak to his lawyer through the interpreter regarding those rights.

The defendant may react with surprise, or even dismay, and his lawyer may reveal disappointment or even disgust (thinking: if he understood this in English, surely he must understand it in Spanish!). But the lawyer and the judge do not realize that the defendant may now be hearing for the first time the formal terminology in Spanish that relates to these legal concepts. The judge may think the defendant is trying to equivocate or shirk responsibility. Worse, the defendant may refuse to acknowledge the

Spanish version of the rights he is giving up, which is likely to upset the judge even more. As a result, the whole procedure may be aborted and the judge will require the lawyer to reschedule the plea so that he can repeat the process of informing his client of the rights that he is foregoing, this time with the help of an interpreter—as he should have done in the first place.

*The moral:* when something as important as a guilty plea is involved, every defendant is entitled to have his rights explained ahead of time in the same language that he will hear in court. Interpreters can help educate defense attorneys so that they realize that a client's acquiescence to a simplified or abbreviated version of his rights in English may backfire once the client is before the judge and hears the same advisement in different, formal language—even if interpreted into his native language.

[The author is a certified Spanish interpreter in the states of Virginia and Massachusetts. She can be reached at [we.interpret@verizon.net](mailto:we.interpret@verizon.net).]

## TRAINERS SOUGHT

The NAJIT Education Committee is seeking trainers to conduct workshops on topics related to interpreting and translation. Selected trainers will be entitled to a modest honorarium and reimbursement of travel and lodging expenses. If interested in conducting a workshop, send an abstract for the proposed workshop (up to 200 words), a biographical sketch and a résumé to the chair of the Education Committee, Sandro Tomasi, at [yodro@aol.com](mailto:yodro@aol.com). Tentative dates for workshops are October, early December 2003 or early January and March of 2004.

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at NAJIT  
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# NAJIT Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2003

Present via conference telephone call: Cristina Helmerichs, Cristina Castro, Judith Kenigson Kristy, Alexander Rainof, Holly Mikkelson, Ann Macfarlane.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 pm PST.
2. Alexander Rainof moved to accept the amended agenda, Attachment 1. Motion carried.
3. Cristina Castro moved to approve the amended consent agenda, Attachment 2. Motion carried.
4. Alexander Rainof moved to amend Item 6 of the Financial Guidelines by adding the words "NAJIT shall bear the cost of all in-person meetings" after the last sentence. Motion defeated unanimously.
5. Cristina Castro moved to substitute the word "receive" for the phrase "be entitled to" in the existing Item 6 of the Financial Guidelines. Motion defeated by a vote of 4 to 1.
6. Cristina Castro moved to approve the revised Board Communication and Meeting Guidelines, Attachment 3. Motion carried unanimously.
7. The Board went into executive session from 6:25 to 6:45 pm.
8. Cristina Helmerichs moved that the Executive Director be authorized to sign without prior approval all checks up to a maximum of \$500; for those checks valued \$500 to \$1,000, prior approval shall be obtained from the Treasurer or an authorized Director; prior approval shall be obtained from two authorized Directors for all checks over \$1,000. The authorized Directors are the Treasurer and the Chair and, if the proposed bylaws amendment passes, the Secretary. All approval shall be either by email or in writing. Motion carried with one abstention.
9. Alexander Rainof moved that Steven Mines be appointed Chair of the Membership Committee until the end of the 2004 Annual Conference. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Cristina Helmerichs moved that the Eastern Regional Conference on forensic interpreting proposed to be held from February 6-8, 2004, at the Radisson Deauville in Miami, Florida, be approved, subject to confirmation that all requested space is available. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Cristina Helmerichs adjourned the meeting as scheduled at 7:30 p.m. PST.

Attachment 2: Consent agenda as revised.

The draft minutes for February 25, 2003, are hereby approved as submitted.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Mikkelson  
Secretary, NAJIT Board of Directors

April 27, 2003

Present via conference telephone call: Cristina Helmerichs, Cristina Castro, Judith Kenigson Kristy, Alexander Rainof, Holly Mikkelson, Ann Macfarlane.

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:13 PDT.
2. Holly Mikkelson moved to accept the amended agenda, Attachment 1. Motion carried by consent.
3. Judith Kenigson Kristy moved to approve the consent agenda, Attachment 2. Motion carried by consent.
4. Cristina Helmerichs moved that the NAJIT board approve retaining the services of Shirley Bishop Inc. for the year July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004, and propose a 25% increase in fee for the services provided. Alexander Rainof moved to amend the motion by striking the number 25 and including the number 15. Motion to amend carried unanimously. Motion as amended carried by consent.
5. Judith Kenigson Kristy moved that the Summary Budget Projection as of April 15, 2003 be approved as an outline for expenditure during the remainder of the fiscal year, subject to review in light of subsequent financial developments. Motion carried by consent.
6. Holly Mikkelson moved that we purchase a full-page advertisement for this year's Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) Conference, at a cost of \$300. Motion carried by consent.
7. Alexander Rainof moved that we approve the Denver Marriott City Center for the 2004 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference for the dates of May 19-24, 2004, subject to further final negotiations. Motion carried by consent.
8. Cristina Helmerichs moved that a special reduced one- and two-day rate for students be approved for the Nashville conference in 2003 for educational sessions only, excluding the gala reception and meeting luncheon, available to students upon proof of registration at an institution of higher learning. Motion carried by consent.
9. Alexander Rainof moved to adjourn. Motion carried by consent. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PDT.

Attachment 2: CONSENT AGENDA.

Item #1. The draft minutes for February 25, 2003, are hereby approved as submitted.

Item #2. Report Of Mail Vote Taken On April 24, 2003.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS – MEETING MINUTES***> continued from previous page*

BEGIN REPORT: The mail vote taken on April 24, 2003 had the following results:

The following motion was approved. Director Mikkelson recused herself from the vote.

Whereas, Corporate Translation Services LanguageLink has requested the assistance of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators in providing training and setting quality standards for its proposal in response to U.S. Government solicitation JDOIR-03-0232 to provide language interpretation services to the DOJ Executive Office for Immigration Review, and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators considers that it is in the interest of our Association and our profession to assist in achieving this goal, and

Whereas the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, the certification and training board of our Association, has advised that it is prepared to provide the necessary services to Corporate Translation Services LanguageLink, with the assistance of Measurement Incorporated,

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors authorizes Corporate Translation Services LanguageLink to state in its proposal the following:

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators and the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, the certification and training board of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators, are ready to provide assistance to Corporate Translation Services LanguageLink in establishing training standards and programs; administering examinations for Spanish; and possibly creating examinations for languages other than Spanish and/or for the knowledge and skills specific to immigration interpreters. The National Judiciary Interpreters and Translators Certification Examination: Spanish is an outstanding example of a credential prepared to the highest psychometric standards. Further information about this examination is available upon request from Measurement Incorporated, 423 Morris St., Durham, N.C. 22701, telephone 919-683-2413.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann G. Macfarlane, Executive Director.

END REPORT. END CONSENT AGENDA.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Mikkelson

Secretary, NAJIT Board of Directors

**NAJIT and SSTI  
Boards of Directors Joint Meeting****May 23, 2003****Sheraton Music City Hotel • Nashville, TN**

Present: Janis Palma, Alexander Rainof, Cristina Helmerichs, Cristina Castro, Holly Mikkelson, Judith Kenigson Kristy, Ann Macfarlane.

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:40 pm.
2. The agenda was accepted by unanimous consent.
3. The boards went into executive session from 2:55 pm to 3:25 pm.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly Mikkelson,

Secretary, NAJIT Board of Directors

**May 26, 2003****Sheraton Music City Hotel • Nashville, Tennessee**

Present: Directors Cristina Castro, Cristina Helmerichs, Judith Kenigson Kristy, Holly Mikkelson, Alexander Rainof; Director-elect Isabel Framer; Executive Director Ann G. Macfarlane; member Sandro Tomasi.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. CDT. Several items of new business were added to the agenda, which was adopted by unanimous consent.
2. The Chair welcomed Director-elect Isabel Framer and member Sandro Tomasi.
3. The consent agenda—approval of minutes of April 27, 2003 meeting—was approved as presented.
4. The Executive Director made her report.
5. Board matters.

A. Election of Officers.

*Chair.* Holly Mikkelson nominated Cristina Helmerichs. Cristina Castro nominated Cristina Castro. Cristina Helmerichs was elected by ballot vote.

*Treasurer.* Alexander Rainof nominated Cristina Castro, who declined the nomination. Holly Mikkelson nominated Judith Kenigson Kristy. Judith Kenigson Kristy was elected by unanimous consent. *Secretary.* Alexander Rainof nominated Isabel Framer, who declined the nomination. Alexander Rainof nominated Cristina Castro. Cristina Castro nominated Alexander Rainof, who declined the nomination. Cristina Castro was elected by unanimous consent.

B. Review of procedures for voting by e-mail.

Alexander Rainof moved that expert opinions sought

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by the Board should be provided in writing, signed by the expert, and with the expert's qualifications attached. Motion carried by consent.

Holly Mikkelson moved that the Board invite Director-elect Isabel Framer to participate in debate and join the board in Executive Session. Motion carried by consent.

#### 6. Administrative matters.

The Board moved to Executive Session at 11:25 am. The meeting was recessed at 12:30 pm CDT. The meeting resumed at 2:12 pm CDT. Executive Session ended at 2:43 pm.

Cristina Helmerichs moved that NAJIT establish an ad hoc committee to work on website improvement and report back to the Board at next meeting and in September, said committee to be chaired by Judith Kenigson Kristy. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### 7. SSTI Matters. Alexander Rainof moved that the presently constituted SSTI Board be reappointed. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### 8. Conference matters.

A. The Chair of the Education Committee, Sandro Tomasi, presented his report.

B. The proposal re the Austin Regional Conference speaker was postponed to the next meeting.

#### 9. Relations with other T&I Organizations/Publicity.

A. Discussion of the draft Publicity Guidelines was postponed to the next meeting.

B. Cristina Helmerichs moved that NAJIT donate \$75.00 to NATI conference in August 2003 for use of a table for NAJIT materials. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### 10. Other new business. Cristina Helmerichs moved that upon petition of the membership, Life Membership be granted to Nancy Festinger, Mirta Vidal and David Mintz, in recognition of their outstanding service to the Association and the profession. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### 11. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:00 pm CDT.

Attachment: Consent Agenda. The draft minutes for April 27, 2003, and the report of mail vote taken on April 24, 2003, are hereby approved as submitted.

Approved by NAJIT Board of Directors of July 9, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Cristina Castro  
Secretary, NAJIT Board of Directors

## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

May 24, 2003

Sheraton Music City Hotel • Nashville, TN

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm. A quorum was present.
2. Treasurer's Report: attached (*see following page*).
3. Committee Reports were presented orally by Dr. Alexander Rainof (Advocacy Committee), Sandro Tomasi (Education Committee), Albert Bork (Nominating Committee), Dr. Sylvia Zetterstrand (Publications Committee), and Margaret Redd (Miami Beach Regional Conference Committee).
4. Janis Palma presented the SSTI Report.
5. Candidates were presented and elections were held.
6. New Business: Cecilia Ferrer presented a petition to award lifetime membership to Mirta Vidal, Nancy Festinger, and David Mintz.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Mikkelson, Secretary

### ELECTION REPORT

May 24, 2003

The members of the Election Committee present the following results of the elections to the Board of Directors:

Isabel Framer	212
Judith Kenigson Kristy	212
D. Hal Sillers	103

300 ballots were submitted, of which 14 were invalid and 286 valid.

Joyce Y. García, Chair  
Albert G. Bork  
Cecilia Ferrer  
Georganne Weller

### BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

The bylaws amendments prepared by the Board of Directors for consideration by the membership will be presented for a vote at NAJIT's 25th Annual Meeting on May 22, 2004, in Denver, Colorado.

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## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

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**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**NAJIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003**

	BUDGET ITEM	2002 ACTUAL	2003 BUDGET	ITEM AS % OF 2003 BUDGET
	1000 Membership	78,705	90,000	52%
	1200 Advertising	500	2,000	1%
	1300 Publications	68	100	0%
	1400 Conference	65,809	55,300	32%
	1500 ERC	New York 0 (SSTI account)	New York 11,115 (actual)	6%
	1600 WRC	Portland 6730	Austin 12,000	7%
	1700 Other	378	1,000	0%
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>152,190</b>	<b>171,515</b>	<b>100%</b>
	1830 Contribs by NAJIT	14,036	15,000	9%
	1900 Prof fees	52,262	66,000	39%
	1930 Administration	8,701	12,000	7%
	1950 Service Charges	2,520	1,000	1%
	1975 Taxes NY State	250	250	0%
	1980 Website	4,478	4,000	2%
	2000 Proteus	9,052	15,000	9%
	3000 Conference	63,123	35,285	21%
	3100 ERC	New York 0 (SSTI account)	New York 5,151 (actual)	3%
	3200 WRC	Portland 1,580	Austin 4,000	2%
	3300 Training	200	500	0%
	4200 Board	4,541	7,000	4%
	6000 Dues & Subs	75	500	0%
	Retained earnings (loss)	(8,378)	5,829	3%
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>160,568</b>	<b>171,215</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Association earned somewhat less than it spent during the year 2002, but still retained a healthy year-end cushion of \$42,617. Membership revenues appear to be increasing steadily and the projection of \$90,000 for dues revenue in 2003 seems on track. The new management firm has produced a number of important cost savings for NAJIT. Weaker attendance at conferences, due to the poor economy and a large number of T&I events scheduled in the same time frame, remains a concern. However, excellent volunteer organization has resulted in very cost-effective regional conferences which have produced surpluses, and the Board is committed to maintaining this standard of excellence. Thanks to the generosity of members who have donated to SSTI, and the surpluses earned from the three regional conferences held to date, the final costs of developing the NJITCE: Spanish will be paid off during 2003.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

### Getting to Know You

This summer I enjoyed a book by an Englishwoman who bought an old farmhouse on the Italian Riviera and lived there for twenty years. Amidst tales of netting olive trees, learning to recognize edible mushrooms, and struggling to understand the Ligurian dialect with training only in standard Italian, there was an incident that resonated deeply with me. The author described how one year, when she returned from an English vacation, she had become "signora" instead of "signorina." Since this change did not result from marriage or any shift in legal or social status, she spent some time gazing in the mirror seeking its origin, to no avail. Somehow she had become a different person in the eyes of her friends and neighbors, and they accorded her a new title.

We experience time in very different ways depending upon our life situation, our temperament, and our chronological age. Sometimes time takes us unawares, as it did this transplanted Englishwoman. It can be hard, in the press of the day-to-day, to measure what is being accomplished. But as I observe my first year anniversary as NAJIT's Executive Director, I am happy with how the year has gone and look forward to the future. Much of my energy over this past year has gone to setting up the new administrative arrangements that accompanied the transfer of headquarters from New York to Seattle. I've been able to meet quite a few of our members in person at our regional and annual conferences. E-mail and telephone contact have brought me to know others. I've seen the depth of commitment to our profession and the passionate energy that NAJIT volunteers bring to their work, both in and out of the courtroom. It has been a joy to collaborate with the editor of this newsletter in producing our publication, eagerly read by many both inside and outside the Association. And I've enjoyed working with the NAJIT Board of Directors on establishing policies and guidelines to set the future direction of the association (as well as all the usual work that a board engages in).

For the coming year, we have three exciting conferences already on the calendar. I know that they will provide the high-quality training, networking opportunities, and friendly get-togethers of our other recent successes. It is energizing to see NAJIT committees working on the creation of position papers, and legislative monitoring (the Advocacy Committee). As I see the messages coming into headquarters, and the crying need for guidance of those in the public arena, I believe that NAJIT will continue to offer valuable advice to those concerned with language and public service issues. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have ideas or suggestions to help create our future.

Ann G. Macfarlane  
Executive Director

## COMING SOON

### to the NAJIT Website and in Pamphlet Form

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators has prepared a brochure designed to provide guidance about practical aspects of the profession of court interpreting for court administrators.

### Information for Court Administrators

When you need an interpreter...

#### *What to look for...*

- Who decides when an interpreter is needed?
- When do I need more than one interpreter?
- Do I need an interpreter for each defendant?
- How/where do I find a competent interpreter?
- What is the difference between a translator and an interpreter? Are they interchangeable?
- What credentials are available for court interpreters?
- What is a certified interpreter?

#### *What to expect...*

- OK, I've located an interpreter, now what?
- What should the interpreter be expected to do?
- What kind of information do I need to give the interpreter?
- What working conditions are needed for good interpreting performance?
- How are interpreters paid?
- Is there a specific contract needed?

*This publication will be announced on the NAJIT website and the Open Listserve as soon as available.*



## NASHVILLE CONFERENCE REPORTS

## TENNESSEE'S CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

Arlene M. Kelly

Rebecca Montgomery, Senior Staff Attorney for the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts, gave an enthusiastic lecture at the Annual Conference in Nashville on how Tennessee built a coherent system for judiciary interpreter certification. Tennessee, she pointed out, was one of the fortunate states that had all ingredients for the successful development of a court interpreter certification program: a supportive judiciary, available funding, and active, enthusiastic workers. As a result, Tennessee is among the state court systems with one of the most relevant and best-organized certification programs for judiciary interpreters. (Who knew?)

The Tennessee legislature initially created a group called the Judicial Council, composed of judges, lawyers, lay people, legislators and interpreter advocates from bar associations. One of the members was the executive director of the Tennessee Public Defenders Association. After the Public Defenders Association received a request for a Chinese interpreter and had difficulty fulfilling it, the Judicial Council moved to carry out a needs study. The fortuitous location of the Public Defenders' executive office in the same building as that of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute (TFLI) led to the specification of the latter as the lead agency. The TFLI is a public agency that receives higher education funding to provide foreign language training for adults and children. These services include after-school programs and any language needs for the state and its employees. The Institute's responsibilities grew to cover interpretation and translation services as well as ESL programs.

The needs study recommended the following:

- 1) Additional legislation to be proposed to codify the general requirements for language interpreters;
- 2) Tennessee Foreign Language Institute to be designated to identify, qualify, train, certify and compensate competent foreign language interpreters for the state;
- 3) TFLI to establish the minimum foreign language requirements for and develop a statewide directory of court interpreters, and to recommend standards for interpreters;
- 4) the TFLI and the TN Supreme Court to collaborate in developing standards to train interpreters and court personnel.

Once the guidelines were established, the next necessary ingredient had to be found: financing. Fortunately, State Senator Henry became very interested in the project

and believed he could secure state funding if matching federal funding were found. Next, federal grant money (Byrne Grants, administered by the US Department of Justice) was located and a four-year program was funded for \$50,000, with matching state funds of \$15,000 in 1998.

A coordinator for court interpreter certification was hired, and then the crucial components of the credentialing system were assembled. The most costly part, testing, was resolved when Tennessee joined the National Consortium in the spring of 2000. The cost of joining (\$25,000) was offset by access to written exams. In addition to Spanish, the consortium has prepared written examinations for 16 languages. Montgomery stressed that if not for the consortium, there would not now be over 50 registered and certified interpreters in Tennessee.

The Tennessee rules for interpreters include some rather interesting and innovative ideas, among which is the distinction between *registered* and *certified* interpreters. To become a *registered* state court interpreter in Tennessee, candidates must attend an ethics workshop and pass a state proficiency exam covering English grammar, legal terminology and ethics. Written exams were offered twice in 2002, and once so far in 2003, with plans for more sittings. Once successfully completing the written proficiency test, the candidate undergoes a background check. (There already exists case law in Tennessee on the issue of impeaching an interpreter's credibility due to a criminal record. Interpreter candidates in Tennessee must have a clean record—no conviction for a felony or misdemeanor involving dishonesty or false statements—for ten years prior to sitting for the interpreter examination.)

After being qualified as a *registered* interpreter, the candidate must take an oral examination to become *certified*. All registered interpreters are obliged to take the oral once each year it is offered until they pass. Failure to take an available exam within the time period will result in the loss of status as a registered Tennessee state interpreter. (The \$100 fee to take the oral examination is rather low in comparison to other states, such as Georgia, where the fee is \$250.)

It is good to know that Tennessee's canons of interpreter ethics and professional conduct appear to be one of the more cogent on record, and truly applicable to interpreter accuracy in the legal domain. Under canon 1 (accuracy and completeness) "Verbatim, word for word, or literal oral

> *continued*

## COOKING AND THE COURTS

Rosemary W. Dann, Esq.

You know that an educational seminar is successful when, half an hour after the scheduled end time, no one has left the room. Dr. Alexander Rainof—always informative and delightful—has done it again.

Dr. Rainof handed out an extensive list of references, including websites, relating to violence in the home, kitchen utensils, Latin dishes and dialect pitfalls, and took off from there. Noting that over fifty per cent of all violent acts and four-fifths of all murders occur in the home, he displayed and defined in Spanish a compendium of culinary killers: everyday kitchen items—from carving knives to chocolate frothers—which, when used with “nefarious intent,” can be deadly weapons.

In order to prepare for the second segment of the presentation—terminology of the wide variety of foods that frequently appear in testimony—Dr. Rainof sacrificed himself mightily for NAJIT, seeking out restaurants and personally partaking of the cuisine from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru. All in the name of research! Also included was the vocabulary of foods as epithets and those ever-popular foods which, while tasty in one country, are risqué in another. And by the way, did you know that a “taco” is also a pool cue?

Alas, the session came to an end, and we were left hungering for more. But one thing is certain: “Cooking and the Courts” was delicious!

[The author is an attorney in Londonderry, NH.]

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### TENNESSEE CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

> continued from page 16

interpretations are not appropriate when they distort the meaning of the source language, but every spoken statement, even if it appears non-responsive, obscene, rambling, or incoherent should be interpreted. This includes apparent mis-statements.” To all of us who heave a sigh whenever a judge or attorney says: “Just translate literally,” we finally have some official language to point to in the way of precedent. Hooray for Tennessee!

[The author earned a doctorate in Amazon studies in 1984. She is professionally qualified to interpret in federal court for French and Portuguese and was certified in Portuguese by the Office of Interpreter Service, Administrative Office of the Trial Court, Massachusetts. Since June 2002, she has been a full-time staff interpreter for Portuguese with the Office of Court Interpreter Services.]

## LEGAL INTERPRETING IN MEXICO

Jorge Carbajosa

Esteban Cadena, independent interpreter and translator for the Supreme Court of the State of Jalisco in Guadalajara, gave a presentation for the Nashville conference on *pruebas confesionales* in Mexico, which can be translated literally as “confessional evidence.”

Mr. Cadena began by showing some legal documents that had been translated into Spanish in the U.S. He emphasized that in order to translate properly, a translator must have an understanding of how the legal system works in the country that will receive the document (in this case, Mexico) as well as an excellent understanding of the Spanish language, which is usually not the case. He pointed out some Spanish words not used properly in American documents, either because meanings are erroneous or translations too literal. One example of a bad translation given was the Spanish word *corte*, which in Mexico is used to refer to the Supreme Court but not the other courts.

Mr. Cadena explained that *prueba confesional* is a procedure that occurs in Mexico in civil, mercantile and criminal matters. In civil proceedings, the *prueba confesional* is conducted during the evidentiary period, after a lawsuit is filed and accepted. A party or legal representative of the party responds to questions asked by the other party for the purpose of establishing facts which are harmful to one position and relevant to the positions of the opposing party. For better understanding, a simulation of a *prueba confesional* was done during the session.

In criminal court, a *prueba confesional* is the admission or confession of wrongdoing by the defendant.

Mr. Cadena’s presentation appealed to many interpreters because they are interested in knowing how the judicial system works in Mexico and because the great majority of interpreters in the U.S. interpret for Mexicans.

Mr. Cadena is also an interpreter in Mexico for the French and Canadian Consulates, and translates Spanish, English, French and German. He can be reached at [estebancc@infonsel.net.mx](mailto:estebancc@infonsel.net.mx).

[The author works as a Portuguese and Spanish interpreter in the Chicago area, and also translates documents from Danish and French into English. He is certified in Spanish by the National Consortium of State Courts, and accredited to work for Immigration courts in both Spanish and Portuguese by Bowne Global Solutions. Mr. Carbajosa is the moderator of a group communities web site for interpreters nationwide: <http://communities.msn.com/CookCountyInterpreters>. He can be reached at [jcarbajosa@msn.com](mailto:jcarbajosa@msn.com).]



## NAJIT REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERPRETER SKILLS

**September 20, 2003**

Austin Town Lake Holiday Inn  
20 N. Interregional Highway  
I-35 at Town Lake  
Austin, TX 78701  
Tel: 512-472-8211

- **Friday, September 19, 2003, afternoon**  
**National Judiciary Interpreters and Translators Examination:** Spanish—written portion  
Preregistration is required; see page 21.

- **Saturday, September 20, 2003**  
**Educational Sessions**

- 7:30 AM Registration and continental breakfast
- 8:30 AM Welcome
- 8:45 AM Protocol and ethics of court interpreting
- 10:00 AM Refreshment break
- 10:15 AM Four 35-minute sessions on DNA, rape examinations, guns and gunfire, and fingerprints, with distribution of English glossaries
- 1:15 PM Box lunch (included)
- 2:30 PM Language-specific work in small groups using English glossaries. (Arabic, Korean, Spanish, Vietnamese, depending on enrollment)
- 4:00 PM Refreshment break
- 4:15 PM Consecutive interpreting exercises using materials developed during preceding session
- 6:00 PM Conference adjourns.

To register for this conference, go to the website, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org), or contact NAJIT headquarters. The Austin Town Lake Holiday Inn has offered us the excellent rate of \$80 single/\$95 double for Thursday and Friday (+15% tax). Come for the Regional Conference and also enjoy *Austin City Limits*—a music festival out of the ordinary!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### NAJIT's forthcoming conferences

(Details and registration information to be posted on the website.)

#### NAJIT Regional Conference on Interpreter Skills

**Saturday, September 20, 2003**

Austin Town Lake Holiday Inn  
20 N. Interregional Highway, I-35 at Town Lake  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Hotel telephone: 512-472-8211

#### NAJIT Regional Conference on Forensics

**Friday – Sunday, February 6-8, 2004**

Radisson Deauville Resort • 6701 Collins Avenue  
Miami Beach, Florida 33141  
Hotel telephone: 305-865-8511

#### NAJIT Silver Anniversary – 25th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

**Friday – Sunday, May 21-23, 2004**

Denver Marriott City Center • 1701 California Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
Hotel telephone: 303-297-1300

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**April 1 – June 30, 2003**

Akhter, Mohammed. Chicago, IL.  
Alibali, Agron. Boston, MA.  
Badillo, Jorge. Brandon, MS.  
Bear, Augsti. Alexandria, KY.  
Benavides-Beltran, Belinda. Ossining, NY.  
Brogdon, Stephen. Ada, OK.  
Garranchan, Thais. N. Miami Beach, FL.  
Gosser, Andrew. Vancouver, WA.  
Gutierrez, Lourdes. Yakima, WA.  
Herrera, Maureen. Fort Myers, FL.  
Kim, Chol. Los Angeles, CA.  
Kim, Jin. Houston, TX.  
King, Gloria. Pompano Beach, FL.  
Linder, Jerry. Statesville, NC.  
Neathery, Robert. Renton, WA.  
Opper, Lisette. Bronxville, NY.  
Palacio, Maria. City of Industry, CA.  
Piper, Michael. Des Moines, IA.  
Quijano, Ezequiel. San Antonio, TX.  
Ruiz, Silvia. Fort Collins, CO.  
Springstead, Vern. Rapid City, SD.  
Sum Lau, Chi. Middle Village, NY.  
Szal, Amma. Westport Point, MA.  
Thompson, Russell. Sanford, FL.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

### TERRORISM CHARGE DROPPED

On July 22, 2003, U.S. District Court Judge John C. Koeltl dismissed the charge of terrorism against Mohamed Yousry, an interpreter who interpreted for the blind sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman. Lesser charges are still pending against Yousry and Lynne Stewart, the lawyer for whom he provided the services.

### OHIO JOINS CONSORTIUM

Ohio has joined the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification, founded in 1995 and administered by the National Center for State Courts, as recommended by the Ohio Supreme Court's Racial Fairness Implementation Task Force. "It is essential given the changing demographics of the state—particularly the increase of non-English-speaking residents," Chief Justice Thomas Moyer said in a press release.

### AGGRIEVED INTERPRETERS VINDICATED

In June of 2001, a Magistrate Judge in New Mexico's Doña Ana County Magistrate Court ordered an interpreter arrested and charged with contempt. The interpreter was arrested in the courthouse, booked, placed in a holding cell and later released. This matter among others recently resulted in a formal reprimand of the judge. On April 15, 2003 the Judicial Standards Commission recommended that the New Mexico Supreme Court approve a plea and stipulation between the commission and Judge Susana Chaparro. Judge Chaparro stipulated that the commission had sufficient evidence to prove the factual allegations and Code of Judicial Conduct violations by the applicable clear and convincing standard. The judge agreed to receive discipline consisting of a formal reprimand, mandatory participation in a mentorship program and successful completion of an Ethics for Judges course. Among the stipulated facts were that from April 2001-June 2002 the judge "failed to be patient, dignified and courteous with interpreters, another judge and the court clerk."

### CAN'T GET NO SATISFACTION

On June 29, 2003 the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* published a Letter to the Editor from Marcella Alohalani Boido under the headline "Court interpreters' raises long overdue" In part, the letter said:

"Some people suffer from receding hairlines. After 20 years without a raise, Hawaii's court interpreters are suffering from an ever-receding pay raise. Court administrators came up with a pay raise scheme that gives only a minor raise in most circumstances, no raise in others, and sometimes even less money than interpreters are earning now."

## CALENDAR

**September 13-14, 2003. Nashville, TN. First Annual TAPIT Conference.** Information: Marvyn Bacigalupo at [langservicesmhb@mindspring.com](mailto:langservicesmhb@mindspring.com) or 615-354-0813.

**September 20, 2003. Austin, TX. NAJIT Regional Conference on Interpreter Skills.**

**October 11-12, 2003. Newport Beach, CA. CCIA Annual Conference.** Information: [www.ccia.org](http://www.ccia.org).

**October 17-18, 2003. Boston, MA. "The Role of Culture in Medical Interpretation," Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association.** Information: [joyconnell@dmh.state.ma.us](mailto:joyconnell@dmh.state.ma.us).

**October 18, 2003. Twin Cities, MN. 2nd Annual Conference of the Upper Midwest Translators and Interpreters Association.** Information: [mtl@umn.edu](mailto:mtl@umn.edu).

**November 5-8, 2003. Phoenix, AZ. ATA Annual Conference.** Information: fax (703) 683-6122 or e-mail [conference@atanet.org](mailto:conference@atanet.org). See also [www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org).

**November 8-9, 2003. San Francisco, CA. BACI/CFI Conference.**

**February 6-7, 2004. Miami Beach, FL. NAJIT Regional Conference on Forensics.**

**May 21-23, 2004. Denver, CO. NAJIT 25th Annual Meeting and Educational Conference.**

**May 20-23, 2004. Critical Link IV. Stockholm, Sweden.** Information: [www.criticallink.org](http://www.criticallink.org).

No, those aren't red sails in a Hawaiian sunset. That's our pay raise, receding into an infinite bureaucratic future.

On July 9, 2003 the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* published an article under the headline "New fees fail to satisfy state court interpreters" to report that the new guidelines and fees for interpreters will go into effect on January 1, 2004. Interpreters expressed dissatisfaction with the new scheme and Circuit Judge Sabrina McKenna, chairwoman of the state Supreme Court's Committee on Certification of Court Interpreters, was quoted as saying "We're trying to be fair while being fiscally responsible." The Legislature appropriated \$91,000 for the new fees, cutting in half the amount that the Judiciary originally requested.

## DICTIONARY REVIEW

## FORENSIC TERMS IN SPANISH

Margaret Redd

***Diccionario criminalístico: Glosario básico usual en investigación judicial***

Guillermo Cejas Mazzotta

Mendoza, Argentina: Ediciones Jurídicas Cuyo, 1998. 232 pages. Monolingual Spanish. ISBN: 950-9099-63-5

The 500 entries in this excellent Spanish monolingual dictionary pertain to general science and forensics, including physics, ballistics, fingerprint analysis, analysis of writing (mechanical and by hand), chemistry, medicine, bombs and arson, and criminology. These fields form part of what the author calls *scopometría*, or the critical methodology applied to crime scene analysis and the assessment of evidence. Thematic subdivisions are *accidentes, lesiones, homicidios, identificación humana, balística forense, explosiones e incendios huellas* and *fototécnica y planimetría*.

The lion's share of entries, well over 50%, deal with differing aspects of ballistics: types of weapons, parts of firearms, calibers, types of projectile jackets, chemical composition of gunpowder, physical laws governing the trajectory of the bullet through the air and its kinetic energy, stippling patterns of gunpowder on clothing and entrance wounds, physical relation of the target to the shooter, injuries sustained as a result of recoil. Individual entries contain explanatory detail and include cross-references to other entries. Under the entry *fusil*, for example, the definition reads: *Arma larga o de hombro en el que el cañón, estriado y la recámara forman una pieza única. Puede ser de tiro simple, de repetición, semi-automático y automático. Se construyen con o sin selector de tiro. Existen fusiles de caza, de guerra y de competición.* (Shoulder weapon in which the barrel, rifling and chamber form a single piece. It may be single-shot, repeating, semi-automatic, or automatic. They are constructed with or without a shot selector. Types include hunting rifles, as well as those used in war and competition.) The entry goes on to describe the "Ithaca shotgun" as a double-barreled rifle, capable of firing one or multiple projectiles, noting six separate calibers, two of which are automatic (83).

This attention to detail results in a wealth of very

useful information. The caliber of a firearm depends on barrel type: if the interior barrel is smooth (*de ánima lisa*), as in shotguns, measurement is taken outside the choke areas (*zonas agolletadas*), whereas a rifled interior barrel (*de ánima rayada*) dictates the measurement be taken as groove diameter (*entre estrías opuestas*) or land diameter (*entre campos de macizos opuestos*). Further, the caliber of the bullet need not be the same caliber as that of the barrel from which it is fired. Under the entry *Lesiones por velocidad de los proyectiles* (injuries based on speed of projectile), the author provides velocity specifications producing an explosive effect, a clean wound, and contusion effects. The entry goes on to describe the impact of bullets on running or stationary animals.

After ballistics, the two thematic areas treated most frequently are fingerprint analysis (dactyloscopy, but including marks of the palms, feet, etc) and writing analysis, especially handwriting. An example of the latter is the entry "*retoma*": *continuación de un trazo interrumpido por el levantamiento del instrumento escritor*" (162).

The dictionary includes a three-page bibliography and an index of terms. The reading is dense but worth the effort. Court interpreters will appreciate the precision of the definitions and examples of incorrect usage, as when under "*blanco batido*" it is noted that the expression indicates *que se ha acertado en el blanco con un disparo .... sinónimo de 'haber hecho blanco' o 'dar en el blanco'* while "*blanco, pegó en el*" is described as *expresión impropia por 'haber hecho blanco'* (30).

Reviewer's note: The dictionary was purchased from Campomanes Libros, email contact: [ledesma@campomaneslibros.com](mailto:ledesma@campomaneslibros.com), website: [www.campomaneslibros.com](http://www.campomaneslibros.com); this or similarly titled books will be on display at the NAJIT Regional Conference on Forensics, Miami Beach, February 6-8, 2004.

[The author is a federally certified interpreter residing in Kentucky, and the conference organizer for the forthcoming Regional Conference on Forensics.]

## IN APPRECIATION

IN RESPONSE TO THE PETITION PRESENTED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE 24TH ANNUAL MEETING, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE FOLLOWING THREE INDIVIDUALS IN APPRECIATION FOR ALL THEY HAVE DONE FOR NAJIT AND FOR OUR PROFESSION:

**NANCY FESTINGER**

**DAVID MINTZ**

**MIRTA VIDAL**

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP, THE NAJIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS WISHES GRATEFULLY TO ACKNOWLEDGE HOLLY MIKKELSON'S VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO NAJIT DURING HER FOUR YEARS AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION. AS A BOARD MEMBER WITH EXTENSIVE AND VARIED EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF COURT INTERPRETING, HOLLY CONTRIBUTED TO BOARD MEETINGS AND DECISIONS WITH DEDICATION, ENTHUSIASM, AND PRACTICAL, WELL-REASONED SUGGESTIONS FOR NAJIT'S ACTIVITIES AND GROWTH. AS SECRETARY OF THE ASSOCIATION, HOLLY PREPARED MINUTES AND REPORTS TO THE MEMBERS THAT WERE ALWAYS PROMPT AND COMPLETE, AND WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THE HARD WORK AND SKILL SHE CONTRIBUTED IN THAT ROLE. HOLLY HAS ALSO GRACIOUSLY VOLUNTEERED HER TIME, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE THROUGH PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS FOR NAJIT'S CONFERENCES AND OUTREACH. WE WILL MISS HER VOICE AND PRESENCE AT THE BOARD MEETINGS BUT HOLLY HAS TOLD US THAT SHE STILL INTENDS TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN NAJIT. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HER ON COMMITTEES AND IN OTHER NAJIT EVENTS. THANK YOU HOLLY!

**HOLLY MIKKELSON**

## WEBSITES OF INTEREST

### English Words And Usage

<http://titania.cobuild.collins.co.uk>

A linguistic gold mine: "Helping learners with real English," Cobuild is a department of HarperCollins Publishers, specializing in the preparation of reference works. Since 1980, Cobuild has built up a large corpus of modern English, software tools to manipulate and analyse the corpus data, and a team of specialist corpus linguists and lexicographers. The current corpus, known as the [Bank of English](#), runs to hundreds of millions of words. The site has links to idiom of the day, definitions games (60,000 fill-in-the-blank definitions), word banks on line in English, French and Spanish, huge reference corpus of English usage.

<http://dictionary.oed.com/entrance.dtl> Portal to the eminent Oxford English Dictionary

### English Language Idioms

[www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6720/](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6720/)

Categorized by imagery: plants, food, parts of body, clothing, etc.

### Forensic Psychology

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/crime-psych/>

Disseminates information of interest in the forensic psychological context, aimed primarily at the academic audience in the UK. Subscribers have access to the searchable archive (currently well over 600 posts). Current subscribers include academics, students, prison psychologists, police officers and other forensic professionals.

### Law Enforcement Information And Issues

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

Law enforcement subjects, including law enforcement agencies worldwide, corrections, death penalty issues and more. Click on Justice Directory to find legal services links in the U.S., Australia, the U.K. and Canada. Click on public service to find links to agencies and organizations working with community and the police.

### Legal Texts

[www.georgetown.edu/pdba/](http://www.georgetown.edu/pdba/)

Political Database of the Americas, containing links in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, as well as links to the constitutions of all OAS member states.

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

An excellent starting point for any legal research.

### Picture Collection

<http://picturecollection.nypl.org>

The Mid-Manhattan Library of the New York Public Library has a vast picture collection, 15% of which is now available online, with more to come. Divided into more than two dozen subjects, the images are collected from books, newspapers and magazines.

### Professional Testing Programs

[www.dshs.wa.gov/trial/msa/ltc/word/manual.doc](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/trial/msa/ltc/word/manual.doc)

Dept. of Social and Health Services, Washington state. Professional language certification examination manual online.

### Spanish Usage

Site for Diccionario de la Real Academia: [www.drae.es](http://www.drae.es)

### Spanish-English Terms

[www.orosha.org/pdf/dictionary/english-spanish.pdf](http://www.orosha.org/pdf/dictionary/english-spanish.pdf)

Dictionary of Occupational Safety and Health Terms compiled by Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division.

### State & U.S. Government Sites

[www.usdoj.gov/crt/legalinfo/nordwg\\_brochure.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/legalinfo/nordwg_brochure.html)



### CERTIFICATION EXAM ANNOUNCEMENT

An examination leading to the credential of

**NATIONALLY CERTIFIED JUDICIARY INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR: SPANISH**

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

The written examination is being administered in Austin, Texas prior to the beginning of the NAJIT Southern Regional Conference, Sept. 20, 2003.

#### DATE

Friday, September 19, 2003

#### TIME

##### Registration:

12:00 noon – 12:45 p.m.

##### Written Examination:

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

#### PLACE

Holiday Inn Austin Town Lake  
10 N. Interregional Highway  
I-35 at Town Lake  
Austin, Texas 78701

For complete details contact:

**Stephanie Weber or Donna Merritt**  
Measurement Incorporated at

**1-800-279-7647**

Or visit the NAJIT web site at:

**www.najit.org**

## NATIONAL JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS CERTIFICATION EXAM

### WRITTEN EXAM: SPANISH

September 19, 2003

NAJIT Regional Conference on Interpreter Skills – Austin, Texas

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, Sept. 8, 2003**

## REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Pager (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

#### FEE SCHEDULE

	Member	Non-member
Written Examination.....	\$125.00*	\$150.00*
Oral Examination .....	\$200.00*	\$250.00*

**\*Cancellation Policy:** A \$35.00 service charge will be deducted from any refund. In order to receive a refund, **the cancellation request must be submitted in writing and received** by Measurement Incorporated no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, September 12, 2003. Postmarks will not be accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who do not appear on the day and time of their scheduled examination.

### YOU MAY REGISTER BY:

- 1. MAIL:** Measurement Incorporated/attn: Donna Merritt  
423 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701
- 2. FAX** (credit card only): 919-425-7717
- 3. PHONE** (credit card only): 1-800-279-7647
- 4. SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION:** [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

#### PAYMENT METHOD

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

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Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of cardholder \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT.)

**A Special Note for the Disabled:** NAJIT wishes to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently from other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you need any of the aids or services identified in the American with Disabilities Act, please call Measurement Incorporated at 1-800-279-7647 by September 8, 2003.

# CERTIFICATION EXAM ANNOUNCEMENT

An examination leading to the credential of

**NATIONALLY CERTIFIED JUDICIARY INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR: SPANISH**

The NAJIT and SSTI Boards of Directors are pleased to offer members and non-members the opportunity to register for the written component of the National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination.

The American Translators Association has graciously agreed to allow us to administer this examination prior to the beginning of their ATA 2003 Annual Conference: November 5-8, 2003 in Phoenix, AZ.

### DATE

Wednesday  
November 5, 2003

### TIME

**Examinee  
Check-In Time:**  
12:00 noon – 12:45 p.m.

**Written Examination:**  
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

### PLACE

Pointe South Mountain Resort  
7777 South Pointe Parkway  
Phoenix, AZ

For complete details contact:  
**Stephanie Weber or Donna Merritt**  
Measurement Incorporated at

**1-800-279-7647**

Or visit the NAJIT web site at:  
**www.najit.org**

# NATIONAL JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS CERTIFICATION EXAM

## WRITTEN EXAM: SPANISH

November 5, 2003

ATA 44th Annual Conference–Phoenix, AZ

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Monday, October 6, 2003**

## REGISTRATION FORM PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Ph. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Pager (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

### FEE SCHEDULE

	Member	Non-member
Written Examination.....	\$125.00*	\$150.00*
Oral Examination .....	\$200.00*	\$250.00*

**\*Cancellation Policy:** A \$35.00 service charge will be deducted from any refund. In order to receive a refund, **the cancellation request must be submitted in writing and received** by Measurement Incorporated no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, October 20, 2003. Postmarks will not be accepted. Refunds will not be issued to candidates who do not appear on the day and time of their scheduled examination.

## YOU MAY REGISTER BY:

- 1. MAIL:** Measurement Incorporated/attn: Donna Merritt  
423 Morris Street, Durham, North Carolina 27701
- 2. FAX** (credit card only): 919-425-7717
- 3. PHONE** (credit card only): 1-800-279-7647
- 4. SECURE ONLINE REGISTRATION:** [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

### PAYMENT METHOD

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**A Special Note for the Disabled:** NAJIT wishes to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently from other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you need any of the aids or services identified in the American with Disabilities Act, please call Measurement Incorporated at 1-800-279-7647 by October 6, 2003.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### NAJIT REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORENSICS MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

February 6-8, 2004

The Conference Committee invites proposals for presentations of 75 minutes in length on the following topics:

- autopsies, autopsy protocol, types of injuries, causes of death
- ballistics
- bombs, explosives, arson
- computer crimes: child pornography, or uses of computer to solve crimes
- crime scene analysis: preserving and recording crime scene + details (blood spatter patterns, etc)
- DNA
- fingerprints
- forensic chemistry: separation techniques, analysis of drug residues in human tissues and packaging
- forensic document translation
- forensic medicine
- international crime/terrorist organizations
- legal/judicial system of other countries
- laboratory processes
- money laundering, auditing, document fraud
- psychiatric evaluations: mental disorders, mental competency
- psychological evaluations: domestic, sexual, substance abuse serology
- Spanish slang: Caribbean, Colombian, etc., or specialized slang
- traffic accidents
- workmen's compensation: workplace injuries
- tape transcripts for use in criminal or civil cases. Topics may include, but are not limited to: issues of transcribing in non-Roman alphabet languages, issues for transcribers of other languages, legal standards of proof relating to transcription, expert testimony, case law re: tape transcription and translation.

*Note: NAJIT is currently working to produce Guidelines for Tape Transcription and Translation (see article this issue). Before submitting any proposal, please refer to the papers posted on [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org) by authors Joaquín Font and Janis Palma.*

The Conference Committee welcomes proposals for presentations in Spanish, Portuguese, Haitian Creole, and other languages. Please submit abstracts of 250 to 400 words to:

Margaret Redd, 116 McDowell Road, Lexington, KY 40502 or via email, to: [mredd@kih.net](mailto:mredd@kih.net)

NAJIT members may contact Margaret via email with other ideas, preferences, or suggestions of an outstanding speaker to recommend for this conference.

**Deadline for submission of proposals: September 5, 2003**

### NAJIT SILVER ANNIVERSARY 25TH ANNUAL MEETING AND EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Denver Marriott City Center

1701 California Street

Denver, Colorado 80202

Hotel telephone: 303-297-1300

May 21-23, 2004

NAJIT invites proposals on any topic related to court interpreting and legal translation, including:

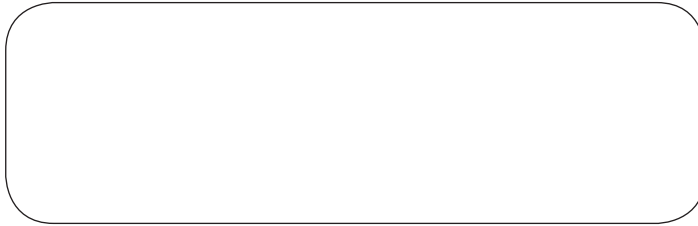
- Interpreter training
- Specialized terminology
- Language-neutral interpreting techniques
- \_\_\_\_\_ language interpreting techniques
- Tape transcription and translation
- Translation of evidentiary materials
- The court interpreter as expert witness
- Court interpreting in specialized settings
- Interpretation and translation theory
- Cross-cultural issues
- Professional concerns (ethics, working conditions, financial planning)
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit proposals on the form available on the website, [www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org), or contact Headquarters to request the form. Mail or fax your proposal to:

NAJIT  
2150 N. 1075th St., Suite 205  
Seattle, WA 98133-9009  
Fax: (206) 367-8777

**Deadline for submission of proposals:  
September 25, 2003**

**Visit us online  
at NAJIT  
<http://www.najit.org>**



**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization/Corporate name (org/corp members only) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hm Ph. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Business Ph. ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pager/Cellular ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ website \_\_\_\_\_

Languages: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_ NJITCE: Spanish  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Court Certification \_\_\_\_\_ Haitian Creole \_\_\_\_\_ Navajo \_\_\_\_\_ Spanish  
 \_\_\_\_\_ State Court Certification: From which state(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ ATA: What language combinations? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Department of State: Escort \_\_\_\_\_ Seminar \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
 Academic Credentials: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you **DO NOT** want to be listed on NAJIT's website \_\_\_\_\_  
 I was referred to NAJIT by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instructor at \_\_\_\_\_ Freelance instructor \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am an interpreter \_\_\_\_\_ translator \_\_\_\_\_

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

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: JANUARY 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31

	Active	Student*	Organi- zational	Corporate	Corporate Sponsor**	Associate
Dues	\$95	\$40	\$100	\$150 with hot link to website	\$300 with hot link to website	\$75
Suggested voluntary contribution to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (fully tax-deductible)	\$35	\$10	\$65	\$100	\$100	\$25
<b>Total</b> (outside U.S.A. and territories, \$15 additional postage fee.)	<b>\$130</b> (\$145)	<b>\$50</b> (\$65)	<b>\$240</b> (\$255)	<b>\$250</b> (\$265)	<b>\$400</b> (\$415)	<b>\$100</b> (\$115)

\* NAJIT reserves the right to validate applications for student membership on a case-by-case basis.

**PAYMENT METHOD**

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

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Number Expiration Date

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

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

**NAJIT**  
 2150 N. 107th St., Suite 205  
 Seattle, WA 98133-9009  
 Tel: 206-367-8704  
 Fax: 206-367-8777  
[headquarters@najit.org](mailto:headquarters@najit.org)  
<http://www.najit.org>

NAJIT occasionally makes its member information available to organizations or persons offering information, products, or services of potential interest to members. Check here if you **DO NOT** wish to have your contact information given out for this purpose.

From July 1 through November 31, membership is valid through the end of the **following** calendar year and dues are as follows: Active \$142; Student \$60; Organizational \$150; Corporate Sponsor \$450; Corporate \$225; Associate \$112.

- \*\* Other benefits of Corporate Sponsorship include:**
- hotlink from the NAJIT website to your website;
  - a longer descriptive listing on the website about your organization;
  - one free quarter-page print ad in *Proteus* per year;
  - the grateful thanks of your fellow members for your support.

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 an ordinary and necessary business expense to the extent permitted under IRS Code. Contributions or gifts to the Society for the Study of Translation and Interpretation, Inc. (SSTI) are fully tax-deductible.