



# NAJIT

Empowering Interpreters  
& Translators Worldwide™

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators

## ***Special Announcement***

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The NAJIT Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Aimee Benavides and Dr. Julie Sellers as Directors. Pursuant to the NAJIT By-Laws, these are interim appointments until the election of board members at the 2018 NAJIT Annual Meeting.

Aimee is a Federally Certified and California Court Certified Spanish Interpreter. She has over 16 years of experience as an interpreter, both as a full-time staff interpreter and freelance interpreter. She lives in Central California with her husband and 2 children. Aimee is passionate about our profession and enjoys seeing all that can be accomplished when we work together. She believes the keys to success - both for individual interpreters as well as the association - include education, specialization, diversification, marketing, appropriate use of technology, and outreach to clients (including work like that done by the Bench and Bar Committee). As a NAJIT Board Member, she looks forward to helping the Association move forward to improve transparency and member participation and confidence.

Julie is also Federally Certified (English<>Spanish), state certified in Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania (Master), and works as a freelance interpreter. A specialist in adult second language acquisition and in Latin American popular culture and identity, Julie is an Associate Professor of World and Classical Languages and Cultures (Spanish) at Benedictine College. She has published on language acquisition and interpreting skills and advocacy in publications such as *The Language Educator*, *Proteus*, and *The Wyoming Lawyer*, and has presented at NAJIT, MICATA, and the Hawaii International Conference on Education, among others. Julie has published three books on Dominican music and identity, including her most recent book, *The Modern Bachateros: 27 Interviews* (2017), and delivered a keynote address at the international conference *Música, Identidad y Cultura en el Caribe: Bachatas y cuerdas* in Santiago, Dominican Republic. She was recognized as part of that conference's Committee of Honor and as a Special Consultant, and is the 2017 Kansas World Language Association's Teacher of the Year.

We are excited to add both Aimee and Julie to the Board of Directors and know they will make significant contributions to our Association.

Sincerely,

The NAJIT Board of Directors  
Dr. Gladys Matthews, Chair  
Ernest Niño-Murcia, Secretary  
Hilda Shymanik, Treasurer

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Thank you for your membership!*

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