

## Statement of candidate for the position of Board member of NAJIT

NAJIT being the specialized group representing judiciary interpreters and translators, is therefore a boutique outfit with a select membership. This allows its members and its leadership to interact in a closer manner than within a larger umbrella organization. This is what drew me and many others to it and what I believe is one of its key features: its capacity to respond to and to act on behalf of its constituents without being constrained by commercial or bureaucratic considerations. I believe this advantage should result in better responsiveness, greater transparency and increased participation of its members in the running of their organization.

No doubt thanks to the efficient leadership in the last few years, attendance to its annual conference, its visibility and advocacy initiatives and its membership have all increased. And due to these successes, NAJIT is now experiencing growing pains as it tries to fulfill its stated mission to service and represent its current members while attracting new ones by promoting and defending and promoting the profession before the industry and other stakeholders.

The goals I would like to promote if elected, are to contribute to the governance of NAJIT by supporting initiatives leading to: 1) greater transparency and accountability of the decision-making process, 2) greater participation for colleagues who may wish to contribute their time and skills as volunteers to manage diverse tasks, and by supporting the expansion of board seats to 7, and 3) by specific proposals aimed at managing the current and future growth of NAJIT as it reaffirms its role as the national voice and home of judiciary interpreters and translators, such as the revision and promotion of the NAJIT certification examination so that it is looked at least as the only existing credential for judicial translators. Given the current status of the FCICE, maybe it's time to revisit the potential benefits of having NAJIT as a potential partner with the AOUSC in giving the federal interpreter certification examination a more suitable home. I state this as someone who has both credentials and has been at times a examinee, a grader, and a trainer of interpreters seeking certification.

An organization dedicated to the promotion of the profession that unites us is only as effective as the coordinated efforts of all its members. I therefore ask you to see my bid for a seat on the Board as an invitation to add your voice and your efforts to mine in seeking a more prosperous NAJIT.