

Maribel Pintado-Espiet

The decision to accept a nomination to the Board of Directors has not been an easy one for me. As I look back at my almost four decades in the field of translation and interpretation, I do ask myself if I can help our association fulfill its mission.

As we face health and survival challenges in this pandemic, we all have had to acknowledge, adapt, and act. Where we work is no longer where we go, but where we are. How we work has never been more transformative. Some of us have had to look deeper than others. While some have blossomed in this new brave new technology way, others have become discouraged and opted out of their jobs.

The times we are living call for a renewed sense of purpose in our personal and professional lives. Since its inception, the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators has been here to assist, educate, organize, and lead. As a national organization we must be the first place our members turn to when looking for help. Whether it is COVID interpreter safety, reduction of hours, or the evaluation and qualification of interpreters in state courts, the Board of Directors must acknowledge, adapt, and take action in our behalf.

As a candidate to the Board I bring my experience as a practitioner, a teacher, and an administrator. While procedural and administrative matters may not be thrilling for everyone, I have learned the value of working collectively and systematically to advance goals and achieve objectives. As a member I want NAJIT to represent and advance my professional interests. As a Board member I want to make sure that I am indeed advancing the professional needs of each and every member. The pandemic put us in a corner....but that did not last long. We have stepped out into the virtual world and ...we are still working... we are still learning. As a Board member I hope to help you work better, learn even more.

My background is in court interpretation and legal translation. I served as Director of Interpreter Services in the Massachusetts courts (1986-2001) where I was in charge of the training and certification of court interpreters. I have provided interpreter services in both the legal and medical field since 1980.

I was an adjunct professor at UMASS Boston for the Certified Spanish Translation Course which covered both medical and legal translation. I have also been an instructor for medical interpretation. I have designed and conducted interpretation/translation workshops over the last 35 years.

My undergraduate degree is from the University of Puerto Rico. My graduate work was in Comparative Literature, at the Sorbonne University and the University of Puerto Rico, and in Translation at the University of Puerto Rico.