

Anahit Flanagan Statement of Intent

In December of 1988, a devastating earthquake hit Armenia. For the first time, I used my long-held passion for words and extensive background in learning and teaching languages to help the earthquake victims. I supported the international relief efforts, to ensure aid was given where it was most acutely needed. Shortly thereafter, I immigrated to the United States with a newfound passion for interpretation and translation.

Since then, I have had a rewarding career focused on consecutive and simultaneous interpretation in legal, medical, community and academic contexts. I have honed my craft by developing curricula and by teaching students of all backgrounds and experience levels. I also had the pleasure of compiling specialized medical and legal glossaries for interpreters. Working with NAJIT, I hope to use my experience to mentor interpreters and guide the formulation of professional training services. The specialized areas of medical and legal interpretation require a high degree of precision and I believe my penchant for excellence would be an asset to the NAJIT board.

From the early days of my linguistics education in the 1970s to my current work on interpreting in complex medical and legal contexts, I remain fascinated by words. I appreciate the languages, cultural contexts and people that belong to those words. I hope to be able transmit this passion to the next generation in my profession.