

CHAIR
2021-2022
Lynda C. Shely
Scottsdale, AZ

MEMBERS

Melinda J. Bentley
Jefferson City, MO

Lonnie T. Brown
Athens, GA

Doug Ende
Seattle, WA

Mark Allan Armitage
Detroit, MI

David Majchrzak
San Diego, CA

Chautis Jenkins Floyd
Alpharetta, GA

Robinjit Kaur Eagleson
Lansing, MI

Keith Swisher
Scottsdale, AZ

Hon. Audrey Moorehead
Dallas, TX

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS
LIAISON**
Charles Vigil
Albuquerque, NM

TTIPS LIAISON
Kristen Bush
San Diego, CA

NOBC LIAISON
Wendy Muchman
Chicago, IL

APRL LIAISON
Elizabeth Tarbert
Tallahassee, FL

AALS LIAISON
Rebecca Roiphe
New York, NY

BUSINESS LAW LIAISON
Robert Creamer
Cambridge, MA

**GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO AND
SMALL FIRM DIVISION LIAISONS
(SMALL FIRM)**
John Rainaswamy
Chicago, IL

**REAL PROPERTY, TRUST AND
ESTATE LAW**
Michael Rubin
Baton Rouge, LA

CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Bruce Green
New York, NY

DOJ LIAISON
Stacy Ludwig
Washington, D.C.

**CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

DIRECTOR
Teresa Schmid
Teresa.Schmid@americanbar.org

Lead Senior Counsel
Mary McDermott
Mary.McDermott@americanbar.org

Senior Paralegal
Natalia Vera
Natalia.Vera@americanbar.org



**Standing Committee on Ethics
and Professional Responsibility**
321 N. Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 988-5310
Fax: (312) 988-5491

December 1, 2021

Janis Palma, Chair, Board of Directors
National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators
2002 Summit Blvd., Ste. 300
Atlanta, GA 30319

Dear Ms. Palma:

Thank you for your letter of October 26, 2021, regarding American Bar Association Formal Ethics Opinion 500, which addresses language access in the client-lawyer relationship. We appreciate the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators' perspective about the Opinion's guidance for lawyers on their ethical obligations under ABA Model Rule 1.4 to communicate effectively with clients.

The deliberations of the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility in drafting this Opinion included input from many lawyers who work regularly with both interpreters and translators. In addition to the current members of the Committee, who represent a broad spectrum of practice settings, we have several lawyer and judicial liaisons from various Sections and ABA affiliates. As you'll note in Footnote #2 in the Opinion, we referenced the American Translators Association's publication for terminology and the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders' publication on assistive devices.

Again, thank you for giving us the perspective of your Association on this important topic. We appreciate your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda C. Shely', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lynda C. Shely, Chair
Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility