

It is an honor to be nominated for the NAJIT Board. I joined NAJIT in 2018, when I started working for the federal and state courts, after many years as a conference interpreter and translator. I want to become a Board member to support the organization's efforts towards greater stakeholder education and advocacy toward better wages and working conditions.

Most issues we face today – underappreciation of interpretation services, paltry wages, subpar working conditions, and an overall perception of interpreters as a hindrance to the court's efficiency – stem from stakeholders' lack of understanding of our role in the court system, of what it means to be a competent interpreter, and of the cognitive and intellectual effort necessary to provide the justice system with high quality interpretation services. Therefore, while efforts to certify and provide continuing education to judiciary interpreters are and will always be of great importance, greater educational efforts focused on judges, attorneys, and court administrators are also essential for the sustainability of our profession.

As a member of the Board, I will work closely with the Training and Education Committee to promote more regional workshops in partnership with local associations to strengthen ties, and share resources, educational initiatives, and best practices. Strengthening regional ties in states across the country would also allow NAJIT to become aware of advocacy initiatives faster, allowing us time to prepare position papers or letters of support on behalf of our colleagues.

I am running for the NAJIT Board because I strongly believe that, as an organization, we can do more to inspire and empower judiciary interpreters to add their voice to our collective efforts to promote excellence and ensure we are professionally recognized, and appropriately compensated, as an essential and respected part of the judiciary.