



National Association of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators  
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## **Supporting Nebraska Court Interpreters in their Right to Pursue Fair Compensation**

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) stands in solidarity with Nebraska court interpreters as they advocate for compensation that is in line with their exceptional professional knowledge, skills, and abilities. NAJIT recognizes the vital role court interpreters play in ensuring language access and facilitating effective communication within the legal system, and we support their efforts to secure equitable recognition and remuneration.

Court interpreters are essential to the administration of justice for both LEP (Limited English Proficiency) and deaf or hard-of-hearing individuals, bridging language barriers, and enabling meaningful communication throughout the legal process. Their mastery of two or more languages, specialized legal terminology, and cultural understanding is indispensable in safeguarding due process and equal treatment under the law.

Despite the crucial contributions court interpreters make, many face significant challenges when it comes to fair compensation. Current compensation structures nationwide often do not adequately reflect their professional skills, experience, and the demanding nature of their work. This discrepancy hinders their ability to fully dedicate themselves to their profession and can undermine the quality of interpretation services provided.

Good administration in any organization treats all professionals upon whose services they depend for maintaining effective and efficient operations with appropriate compensation and enabling working conditions. However, the longer compensation packages stagnate and working conditions remain difficult, court interpreters—just like any other professional—tend to become discouraged and demoralized. This leaves them only a few options, among them inviting court managers to do right by them and leaving the court system they have been committed to for more sustainable and satisfactory work elsewhere.

NAJIT supports the rights of our members and all interpreting professionals to seek compensation commensurate with their knowledge, skills, and abilities and their role in the system as well as their right to negotiate compensation packages with the entities in charge of remuneration.

We express our deepest appreciation to Nebraska court interpreters for their unwavering commitment to ensuring language access and preserving best practices in their role in the administration of justice. Their dedication and professionalism are fundamental to the legal system, and they deserve to be adequately compensated for their invaluable services which enable the courts to deliver effective access to justice to their LEP constituents.

The NAJIT Board of Directors