



***National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and
Translators (NAJIT)***

Case Statement

2024-2025

History of the Association

The National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators promotes the highest professional standards in interpretation and translation. Professional interpretation is required to ensure due process, equal protection and equal access to the administration of justice for non-English or limited English proficient (LEP) individuals. Judiciary interpreters work in court settings, but also out of court, when the proceedings may have legal consequences. For example, professional legal interpreters are required for accurate interpretation during depositions, administrative hearings or attorney-client interviews. Professional legal interpreters are also used in law enforcement investigations, or in the review, transcription and translation of recorded evidence.

NAJIT members include judiciary interpreters and translators, as well as conference, community and medical interpreters. NAJIT boasts a growing number of interpreters and translators who work between English and all major non-English spoken languages as well as American Sign Language (ASL), and counts among its members judicial officers and administrators, language service providers, academics and interpretation and translation students. While most of our membership resides in the U.S., some members live and work in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Australia. Anyone with an interest in the field of legal interpretation and translation or who shares NAJIT's interests and objectives is welcome to join. Members need not be interpreters, nor do they need to be certified. Also, membership is available simply by registering at the NAJIT website; there is no peer review or any other qualification process.

Stewardship, Vision Statement, and Mission Statement

Stewardship Statement

As the primary stewards of the organization, the NAJIT Board of Directors issue this statement as a vital expression of the outcomes that we will strive to achieve and of our commitment to transparency in our intent. We will ensure that the Association's short- and long-term projects and activities are aligned with the ethical principles and best practices of the judiciary interpretation and legal translation professions. We support the committees' efforts to create distinctive and meaningful activities that add value to NAJIT's membership in alignment with the Association's mission and vision. In addition to our prescribed fiduciary duties of care, loyalty and obedience, the Board also partners with its management staff to fulfill our duty of foresight as we consistently seek opportunities for innovation, as well as professional recognition and advancement for practitioners. We always strive to ensure that our work embodies a commitment to exchanges and collaborations with members, sister organizations, and all stakeholders that share our passion for the highest standards and our quest for intellectual growth and progress in all aspects of the judiciary interpretation and legal translation professions.

Vision Statement

NAJIT's vision is to be the professional association that sets national uniform standards for judiciary interpreters and legal translators, assuming a leading role in identifying academic and skills-building continuing education of the highest caliber in order to uphold and maintain said standards. NAJIT would also be the foremost respected authority on what constitutes reliable credentialing in accordance with criteria established by and for members of the profession. In advocating for the profession, NAJIT will provide unrelenting support for initiatives in defense of best practices for judiciary interpretation and translation.

Mission Statement

NAJIT's mission is to promote continuing excellence and ensure professional recognition for judiciary interpreters and translators, by advocating, upholding, and safeguarding the highest professional standards. The Association provides practitioners with in-person, digital, and virtual forums where they can network, share experiences, and research topics in a timely fashion, supporting these activities with training and educational opportunities to build on their field-specific knowledge, hone their interpretation and translation skills, mentor and be resources for each other. NAJIT brings together the strength of its members in one united front to pursue initiatives that benefit the best interests of judiciary interpreters and translators.

NAJIT's Bright Future: Embracing Opportunities and Building on Strengths

The leadership of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) has conducted a thorough analysis to understand our current position and future potential. This analysis revealed our dedicated team, strong community support, and solid financial health as key strengths. We also identified areas for improvement, such as enhancing our digital presence and streamlining operations.

The potential for new partnerships, expanding our services, and leveraging technology presents exciting opportunities. By embracing these possibilities, we can reach more members and provide even greater value. We are also mindful of external challenges like economic changes and evolving regulations, which we are prepared to navigate proactively.

Board's Goals and Timetables

Goal 1: Enhance Technological Resources to Foster Member Engagement and Improve Communication

Timeline: 5 Years

Objectives - Establish Three Task Forces:

- New Website: Develop and launch an optimized user-friendly website to improve user experience and engagement. *Timeline: 1-2 years*
- NAJIT App: Enhance and broaden the functionality of our existing mobile application to provide members with easy access to resources, updates, and events. *Timeline: 1 year*
- Learning Management System (LMS): Implement an LMS to facilitate online education and professional development. *Timeline: 2-5 years*

Goal 2: Optimize Volunteer Management and Recruitment

Timeline: 1 Year

Objectives:

- Develop measurable targets for volunteer recruitment, engagement, and satisfaction.
- Implement strategies to enhance volunteer management, ensuring efficient recruitment, effective engagement, and high satisfaction levels.
- Provide training to our volunteers to increase their capacity to support these goals through training that will benefit them beyond their work with NAJIT.

Goal 3: Strengthen Partnerships with Aligned Organizations

Timeline: 1 Year

Objectives:

- Establish a framework to measure the number and impact of collaborative partnerships and initiatives.

- Engage with organizations that align with NAJIT's mission to maximize resources, expand reach, and ensure NAJIT's influence on policies affecting the profession.

Goal 4: Develop a Comprehensive Educational Outreach Plan

Objectives:

- **Webinars:** Provide accessible education through 8-10 webinars per year hosted by the NAJIT Academy. *Ongoing*
- **Best Practices and Standards:** Establish and disseminate best practices and standards for the profession. *Timeline: 2 years*
- **Panel Discussions:** Organize at least one annual panel discussion on relevant topics to foster professional engagement and dialogue.

Goal 5: Conduct a Viability Study for Certification Programs

Timeline: 2 Years

Objectives:

- Form an ad-hoc committee with the necessary expertise to conduct a viability study for developing a legal translation certification and potentially reviving the NAJIT interpretation certification.

Goal 6: Develop a Model Statute for Language Access and Court Interpreter Services

Timeline: 2 Years

Objective:

- Establish an ad-hoc committee composed of experts to draft a Model Statute for language access and court interpreter services.

Empowering Committees to Achieve Our Vision

Our committees are the backbone of NAJIT's success, bringing unique expertise and perspectives to the table. By working collaboratively and leveraging their specialized knowledge, our committee members play a crucial role in implementing the strategies needed to achieve our goals. The Board of Directors is dedicated to providing the necessary resources and support to ensure these objectives become a reality.

Support and Resources

The Board of Directors is committed to working closely with our committees and management team to make these goals and objectives a reality by providing the necessary resources and support.

A Promising Path Forward

NAJIT is at a pivotal point, with a Board of Directors committed to adapting to the evolving professional landscape and ensuring a bright future for our organization. Our Case Statement (a.k.a. a strategic plan), based on a comprehensive analysis of our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, guides our initiatives and goals. We are focused on enhancing member engagement, optimizing volunteer management, fostering strategic partnerships, expanding educational outreach, and exploring new certification opportunities.

NAJIT's reputation as a leading authority in judiciary interpretation and translation forms the foundation of our strategic initiatives. Our members' expertise and active engagement drive technological upgrades and the expansion of our educational offerings. By leveraging these strengths, we aim to maintain our leadership in the field and provide unparalleled value to our members.

Recognizing the need to modernize our technological infrastructure, we are committed to improving communication and engagement with our members. Enhancing our volunteer management processes is crucial for maximizing member contributions and ensuring sustainable growth. Addressing these areas will directly improve our operational efficiency and member satisfaction.

The rapidly changing technological landscape offers significant opportunities for NAJIT. By updating our digital platforms, including developing a new website, a mobile app, and a Learning Management System (LMS), we aim to enhance member interaction and streamline operations. Forming strategic partnerships with organizations that align with our mission will allow us to maximize resources, expand our reach, and influence policies affecting our profession.

To stay competitive and relevant, we must adapt to industry trends and technological advancements. Our strategic plan includes measures to mitigate potential challenges, such as technological lag and volunteer burnout, by proactively updating our resources and implementing structured management practices. Additionally, exploring the development of legal translation and interpretation certifications can fill a gap in the market and enhance NAJIT's professional offerings. This approach ensures that NAJIT remains at the forefront of the profession, providing cutting-edge services and support to our members.

By focusing on these strategic initiatives, NAJIT is well-positioned to continue its leadership in the field of judiciary interpretation and translation, ensuring ongoing growth and success for our members and the communities we serve.