

To the Nominations Committee of NAJIT

nominations@najit.org

It is a pleasure to be referred as a candidate for NAJIT Board.

P Diane Schneider, MPA, has worked as a Washington State Court-Certified Spanish interpreter since 1991, the first year Washington State certified court interpreters. I have maintained my credentials current since that time.

I enjoy traveling internationally and have a small ranch on an island in the State of Washington. I hold permanent resident status in Mexico.

My extra-curricular interests in promoting recognition of the profession of language translation and interpretation often focus on promoting awareness among the general public of what skills are required and how they are maintained to perform in the profession. Until the general public is made aware of the concept of language differences, involving structure, words with multiple meanings not having exact matches in other languages and similar sounding words may mean something quite different, the profession may not achieve the respect it deserves.

In my spare time I have translated novels from authors in several countries which are currently in publication. This, I consider an education in itself!

Curriculum Vitae:

B.A. University of Washington, Major Spanish, Minor education.

MPA Seattle University

Short course in mediation, University of Washington, School of Law

Institution of Court Interpretation University of Arizona (completed twice, the second after the text was published : Fundamentals of Court Interpretation

Continuing education includes attendance of presentations at ATA, NAJIT, NOTIS and others as well as on-line courses contributing to updating certification credentials.

Work experience

Taught English as a foreign language for three years in Athens, Greece

It is an honor to be nominated as a prospective candidate to the NAJIT board.

A professional organization undertakes many tasks in addition to supporting members in their efforts to offer effective, ever improving services to the best of their abilities while continuing to improve the quality of service.

One important goal is to promote respect for the profession the organization represents. This is done by seeking to educate other professionals who use the services as well as the general public about the nature of the service performed. There are many misconceptions about the services of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators which tend to minimize what is required to provide language services at the level guaranteed by the U S Constitution.

This is seen when a judge, placing an interpreter under oath, requires them to swear to interpret "word for word" everything which is said at the hearing.

It is encountered when attorney , consulting with their client, berates the interpreter for adding to what they are saying because the interpreter used additional syllables to convey what the attorney said. Or when the attorney accuses the interpreter of giving their client legal advice when the attorney hears a word which sounds similar to an English word the attorney might use when counseling their client.

It is encountered when a law enforcement officer decides to use a colleague who is nominally bilingual to interpret for interrogation of a suspect.

Since the professionals who work in the justice system often are unaware of what it takes to accurately transfer meaning from one language to another, many people may assume that, once one is bilingual it is a simple matter to interpret or transfer from one language to another. This lack of knowledge enables assumptions that language professionals do not need to be paid at the level other judicial professionals are paid.

An additional complication is that many persons present themselves as interpreters of less common languages who are unaware of professional standards expected of interpreters in the Judiciary.

We have a great challenge to raise awareness of the profession in order to promote adequate remuneration and thus inspire more persons to explore becoming a linguist who specializes in Judiciary matters.

EDUCATION

Masters degree in Public Administration Seattle University

Bachelor of Arts University of Washington

Short course in MEDIATION, university of Washington School of Law

Completed the Institute of Court Interpretation at the University of Arizona twice, the second time after the text: Fundamentals of Court Interpretation was published.

Work Experience

Worked for the State of Washington and

Conducted Child Protective Services investigations

Worked as counselor at Western State Hospital (psychiatric)

Worked conducting presentenct investigations and supervising convicted felons and insanity acquittal as Probation and Parole Officer