

courteous manner and complete your duties. There is also another code section, California Code Section 305 to 755.5, which mandates the appointment of court interpreters for persons who cannot understand the English language. And as important as that is code section 730, which tells you how you get paid.

After meeting with many of the interpreters in my chambers over several hours, I've come to the conclusion that I have not been aware of the needs of court interpreters. I told the ten or twelve people I spoke with that I would like to continue the dialogue, have them come into chambers to point out problems and suggest improvements on how interpreters can comply with the court's needs.

I've begun my fellow judges' education by distributing a publication I highly recommend to those of you from outside California. I'm sure everyone who's an interpreter in California is aware of the book *Professional Ethics and the Role of the Court Interpreter*, put out by the Judicial Council of California, the Administrative Office of the Courts. This again is part of my education. I immediately brought this to the attention of the judges on my bench, and as far as I know every judge now has in his possession this publication which discusses the creed of court interpreters-- accuracy, impartiality, confidentiality, not giving legal advice, professional relationships, continuing education and the duty of the profession. And there are as attachments various rules of court and the codes of professional responsibility for the federal courts and many other courts. If there are those of you who would like a copy, give me your cards and I'd be happy to mail them to you. This is something you can bring to the attention of the judges before whom you appear.

By educating or informing the judiciary of your needs you will be doing a great service. It does require your cooperation and your participation.

I think if there's one criticism I would make of interpreters it's that they are silent, they do not speak up when they should do so. I only became aware of the challenging nature of your profession after this invitation to speak, because I inquired. I think you could do more by way of contacting your judges and bring your needs to their attention.

In closing, I want to thank you for the invitation. I believe I'll be a better judge because of the awareness I now have of these problems. I intend to continue the dialogue with the interpreters in my court, and I also intend to have further conversations with my colleagues in San Francisco. But in the final

analysis, it is you who must continue to voice your needs to the individual judges who will listen to you and to the judiciary as a whole if you are going to maintain the high standards of your profession.

Judge Conway is Municipal Court Judge, City and County of San Francisco. He spoke at the luncheon on May 20, 1995.

NAJIT OPPOSES ILLINOIS SENATE BILL 357

The following resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators at the Association's Annual Meeting, held on May 19-21, 1995, in San Francisco, California. It was adopted in response to a proposed bill before the Illinois legislature that would require defendants to pay for interpreting services if they were deemed financially able to do so.

In NAJIT's view, this would constitute a violation of a right guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Interpreters Act. The resolution was sent to State Representative Robert W. Churchill on May 22, with a copy to the Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA), which initiated the campaign to have the proposed bill defeated.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the right to an interpreter flows from the due process clause of the United States Constitution,

-and-

WHEREAS, passage of Senate Bill Number 357 would be a fundamental violation of said constitutional right,

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT) unequivocally opposes Senate Bill Number 357 in its entirety.

Board of Directors of NAJIT
May 21, 1995