



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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Dear Prospective Court Interpreter:

Enclosed is the information you requested on how to become a certified court or registered California interpreter. By requesting this information packet you have made the first step toward a unique and challenging career.

As a court interpreter, you will play a key role in our trial courts by interpreting for defendants, litigants and witnesses, thereby helping to insure access to justice for thousands of Californians with limited English proficiency. In a state where over 200 languages are spoken, the need for qualified court interpreters is tremendous. You will have the opportunity to experience California's cultural diversity firsthand and be part of a select group of specially trained professionals who have merged their language skills and their ideals of public service in the rewarding career of court interpreting.

We look forward to working with you toward your goal of becoming a certified or registered court interpreter.

Staff of the Court Interpreters Program  
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## COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COURT INTERPRETING PROFESSION

### 1. What is a court interpreter?

A court interpreter is anyone who interprets in a criminal or civil court proceeding (e.g., arraignment, motion, pretrial conference, preliminary hearing, deposition, trial) for a witness or defendant who speaks or understands little or no English.

Court interpreters must accurately interpret for individuals who possess an advanced level of education and/or linguistic ability, as well as for individuals with very limited education and/or language skills, without changing the level of the language spoken (“register”) by the speaker. Interpreters are also responsible for orally translating written documents from English into the foreign language and from the foreign language into English. It is also necessary to have exceptional memory skills and an extensive legal vocabulary in both languages to be a successful interpreter.

### 2. Is it necessary to have a degree to be a court interpreter?

Although there are no minimum requirements that must be met in order to take the state certification exam, candidates are encouraged to complete formal, college-level course work and training in both languages and all three modes of interpreting before applying for the examination. There are several colleges and universities throughout the State of California that offer introductory courses and certificate programs in interpretation or translation.

### 3. Is special training recommended to become a court interpreter?

Yes. Specialized training is recommended as court interpreting is a demanding occupation that requires impeccable fluency in both English and the foreign language. The level of expertise required for this profession is far greater than the fluency level required for everyday bilingual conversation. The interpreter must be able to handle the widest range of language terms that may be presented in the courts, ranging from specialized legal and technical terminology to street slang and idioms. Most people do not have full command of all registers of both English and the foreign language required for court interpreters, and need special training to acquire it.

Interpreter training programs are widely available in English and Spanish; training in other languages, with limited exceptions, is not as readily available. We encourage you to contact the programs listed at the end of this packet and request their current information.



For languages where no formal training is available, the following self-study techniques are suggested: (1) expand your vocabulary, (2) develop your own glossaries, and (3) develop and practice interpreting techniques. Suggested skills-enhancing exercises are available to help you develop in the three modes of interpreting: (1) consecutive interpretation, (2) simultaneous interpretation, and (3) sight translation. These self-study techniques are also recommended even if formal training is available.

**4. What is the difference between a certified and a registered interpreter?**

A certified court interpreter is an interpreter who has passed the required exam process for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters or the Bilingual Interpreting Exam in one of California's 14 certified spoken languages, and subsequently enrolls with the Judicial Council. The certified languages are: Arabic, Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, Cantonese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.<sup>1</sup> The spoken language certification process consists of a Written Exam and a Bilingual Interpreting Exam. Please note that Western Armenian and Japanese currently remain certified languages. Candidates may *not* take Oral Proficiency Exams to become a registered interpreter in these two certified languages.

A registered interpreter is an interpreter of a spoken language other than the certified languages, who has passed all the required exams and enrolled with the Judicial Council. Registered interpreters are required to pass the Written Exam, and the Oral Proficiency Exam in English, and the Oral Proficiency Exam in the non-English language in order to become registered.

**5. What happens when a previously non-designated language (registered language) is designated for certification?**

Languages designated for certifications may change periodically, based on the results and recommendations following the studies of language use and need in the courts and other administrative factors. When a language is designated for certification, a transitional period follows in which a new certification exam is developed or adopted. Interpreters who are currently registered in the newly designated language must pass the Bilingual Interpreting Exam, and are given a Judicial Council approved grace period to prepare for subsequent certification.

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<sup>1</sup> Farsi has been designated for certification, but is not yet certified as a Bilingual Interpreting Exam is not yet developed. Even though Western Armenian and Japanese are certified languages, there is no certification exam presently available.



**6. Does California offer certification reciprocity with other states?**

The Judicial Council **currently** offers reciprocity for:

- Federally certified court interpreters
- ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters who hold the Specialist Certificate: Legal issued by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
- To individuals who have successfully passed the Bilingual Oral Interpreting Exams offered in Consortium for Language Access in the Courts member states and *if all criteria for reciprocity are satisfied*. Please note that the Court Interpreters Program will only recognize bilingual oral interpreting exam standards and scores that meet or exceed the requirements in California and only offers reciprocity for those seeking reciprocity as Certified Court Interpreters

For information and forms regarding reciprocity, send an email to:

[courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov](mailto:courtinterpreters@jud.ca.gov) .

For a complete list of certification requirements among states that are members of the Consortium, visit the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification's Web site at:

[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CourtInterp/Res\\_CtInte\\_ConsortCertRqmntsSurvey2006Pub.pdf](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp/Res_CtInte_ConsortCertRqmntsSurvey2006Pub.pdf)

**7. If I do not pass on the first attempt, how many times may I retake the Written Exam or the Oral Proficiency Exam?**

There is no limit to the number of times a candidate may take the Written Exam or the Bilingual Interpreting Exam, but there are limits to the amount of time between testing attempts. In accordance with Prometric's scheduling protocol, a candidate is limited to two attempts to pass the Written Exam and two attempts to pass the Oral Proficiency Exam for a particular language within any one-year (365 day) period. A candidate must also wait a minimum of 90 days before retaking the same test and pay the full fee each time an exam is taken. For more information please visit

[www.Prometric.com/California](http://www.Prometric.com/California).

**8. Once I pass the Written Exam, how many times may I take a Bilingual Interpreting Exam if I am pursuing certification?**

Once you pass the Written Exam, you are permitted four attempts to take and pass the Bilingual Interpreting Exam for certified languages. There is no time limit to take or to complete the four attempts. You can take the oral exam in a particular language only once during any week long exam cycle. If you do not pass the Bilingual



Interpreting Exam within four attempts, you must begin the testing process again by retaking and passing the Written Exam before taking the Bilingual Interpreting Exam again. For more information on the oral exam please visit:

[www.Prometric.com/California](http://www.Prometric.com/California).

**9. What are the Judicial Council requirements for becoming a certified California court interpreter?**

Court interpreters must meet the following requirements for certification:

- Pass the Written Exam and the Bilingual Interpreting Exam.
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”;
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a certified interpreter (including certificate of completion from the on-line orientation, and the first annual fee);
- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within their first two-year compliance period; and
- Meet ongoing court interpreter professional development requirements. For more details: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/CIP-2013-Compliance-Requirements.pdf>

**10. What are the requirements for becoming a registered California court interpreter?**

Registered interpreters of non- designated languages must satisfy the following requirements:

- Take and pass the Written Exam;
- Take and pass the English Oral Proficiency Exam;
- Take and pass the Oral Proficiency Exam(s) in the non-English language. (Candidates pursuing registered status in one of the languages for which an OPE is not available still must take and pass the Written Exam and the English OPE);
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”;
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a certified Interpreter (including certificate of completion from the on-line orientation, and the first annual fee);



- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within their first two-year compliance period; and
- Meet ongoing court interpreter professional development requirements For more details: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/CIP-2013-Compliance-Requirements.pdf>

**11. What entity is appointed to administer the California court interpreter certification and registration exams?**

The Judicial Council of California has contracted with Prometric Inc. to administer the Certified and Registered California Court Interpreter exams. More detailed information on the test dates and locations, registration, study materials, and appeals process are available on the Prometric web site at:

<http://www.prometric.com/California>

**12. What is the job market like for court interpreters?**

The demand in California for certified and registered court interpreters, particularly in areas with large immigrant populations, is growing. Approximately half of California's certified and registered court interpreters work as permanent employees of the trial courts. The other half of California's court interpreters work as independent contractors, hired by the day or the half day by the courts and other entities requiring qualified court interpreters. A contract interpreter must be willing to travel from one trial court to another, and often from one county to another

**13. Is U.S. citizenship required to be employed as a court interpreter?**

U.S. citizenship is not required to work for the courts, however a court interpreter must be able to prove that he or she can work legally in the United States (possess a valid permanent resident card, or work permit issued by the USCIS authorities).

**14. Does the Judicial Council of California provide sponsorship for green card, H-1 B visa, or permanent resident status?**

The Judicial Council of California does not provide sponsorship for green card, H-1B visa, or permanent resident status.

**15. Is certification required to become a sign language interpreter?**

Under California Evidence Code §754(f) a qualified sign language interpreter is an interpreter who has been certified as competent to interpret court proceedings by an organization approved by the Judicial Council. The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (RID) is currently the only organization authorized by the Judicial Council



to certify court interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. The interpreter must possess the RID's SC:L certification. Please visit RID's Web site at [www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org) for more information.

**16. How do I become a certified translator?**

While interpreters provide oral-to-oral or written-to-oral interpretation, translators work exclusively with written documents, providing written-to-written translation. The Judicial Council of California does not certify translators. For information about translator certification, contact the American Translators Association at 703-683-6100 or visit <http://atanet.org/>

**17. How may I contact the Court Interpreters Program?**

Please direct your questions to [CourtInterpreters@jud.ca.gov](mailto:CourtInterpreters@jud.ca.gov), or call our toll-free number at 866-310-0689. You will also find information and a suite of videos on our public website: <http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm>





## **SUGGESTED SKILLS-ENHANCING EXERCISES FOR INTERPRETERS OF ALL LANGUAGES**

With limited interpreter training classes available it is often difficult to obtain feedback on interpreting performance. The exercises described below will provide both the novice and the experienced interpreter with methods to improve skills in consecutive and simultaneous interpreting and in sight translation.

### **Effective Listening**

- 1) Observe conversations conducted outside of earshot, (e.g., across a room, with the volume turned down on the television, or in a crowded area, such as a shopping center or an airport). Note how facial expressions, gestures, body movements, posture, and eye contact (or lack of it) reveal what the speakers may be saying. What are they talking about? Which, nonverbal cues suggest the nature of a conversation? What language are the participants speaking? How do you know? Do this exercise in all your working languages. How do the cues differ in each language?
- 2) Listen closely to someone you cannot see, such as a telephone caller or radio broadcaster, and analyze the person's manner of speaking: voice pitch, tone, and volume as well as other sounds, such as sighs, hesitations, stutters, and tongue clicking. Do this exercise in all your working languages and compare the differences among them.
- 3) Analyze words and their meanings by asking others what they mean when they use a particular word or phrase. How does their word usage differ from yours?
- 4) Ask someone for directions to a place you know how to get to, and then ask for directions to an unfamiliar place. What happens in your mind in each situation? Do you lose your train of thought or do you jump ahead?
- 5) The next time you have a conversation with someone and miss part of what was said, analyze what went wrong. How did you lose your concentration? Were you daydreaming? Were you distracted by an unfamiliar word or a physical interference? Did a previous, unresolved conversation or thought intervene?
- 6) While listening to a speaker, try to determine the speaker's point early in the presentation. At the conclusion of the speech make another evaluation. Were your evaluations the same? Why or why not?



- 7) How and why are “linkage” words (“however”, “but”, “unless”, “therefore”, etc.) used? How do they establish the relationships of ideas? Make a list of these words and analyze their usage. Do this in all your working languages.

### **Memorization Techniques for Consecutive Interpreting**

- 1) How do you remember? Are you a visual or a verbal learner, neither, or both? If you forget something you have heard, try to understand what prevented you from storing or retrieving the information.
- 2) Your short-term memory capacity is normally limited to between five and nine bits of information (units of memory), and your ability to recall depends on how well you can organize what you have heard by finding patterns. Have someone read a series of seven unrelated numbers to you. As soon as you are able to repeat the series accurately, try to repeat it backwards. To do this, you must be able to retain the series in your short-term memory.
- 3) Increase your analytical skills by reading a newspaper or magazine. After finishing each story, try to summarize what you read in a single sentence. Do this in all your working languages.
- 4) Try exercise 3 after listening to a news report or a radio or television talk show. Summarize the main idea in a single sentence.
- 5) For the exercises below, have someone read a newspaper or magazine article into a recorder, or record talk or interview programs from the radio or television.
- 6) Limit yourself to non-technical material. Do not record the news, because the newscaster reads from a prepared script. Record increasingly longer texts as your skills improve. You will only repeat the information you hear in the same language, and will not interpret it.
  - a. Listen to the passage without taking notes and try to repeat as much as possible.
  - b. Listen to the passage and write down key words to help you remember the content. Then repeat as much information as possible. Compare the results you achieved with and without notes. Which worked best for you?



- c. As you listen to the passage, try to condense it into a few meaningful units. Organize the information into groups. For example, if a person were to list the schools she had attended and the subjects she studied, you could group the schools by location and the subjects studied by topic. Numbers can be grouped the way people recite phone or social security numbers, in groups of two, three, or four numbers, rather than as a string of unrelated numbers. Please note that when interpreting testimony you should maintain the speaker's word sequence as spoken, except to accommodate the syntax of the target language.
  
- d. Do not allow your opinions to color your rendition of a speaker's words, even if you have strong opinions about the subject matter. Pay close attention to your reaction to the text while listening, and maintain the same level of language (register) as the speaker.

*Note that improving your listening and memory skills is an ongoing and lifelong endeavor. As you gain experience and confidence your skills will improve.*



## EXERCISES FOR SIGHT TRANSLATION

The exercises outlined below will help you develop skills in Sight Translation. Practice them in all your working languages.

### Exercises in Public Speaking

- 1) **Reading Aloud:** Stand in front of a mirror and read passages aloud from any book, newspaper, or magazine. A legal textbook, code book, or other legal text is useful for familiarizing yourself with legal language. Record or videotape yourself and analyze the outcome critically. Pay attention to your voice, pitch, tone, hesitations, signs, projection, enunciation, and posture.
- 2) **Controlling Emotions:** Practice controlling your emotions while reading aloud texts with high emotional content, such as fear, anger, humor, etc. Make sure you convey the author's intended emotions and not your personal reaction to the subject matter.
- 3) **Public Speaking:** Practice speaking before a group of people at every opportunity. People you know will constitute a less threatening audience and will allow you to ease your way into public speaking and build your confidence. Court interpreting is an ongoing exercise in public speaking.

### Reading Ahead in Text

- 1) **Extensive Reading:** Build up your reading speed and, as a bonus, your vocabulary by reading as much as possible in many different fields.
- 2) **Analyzing:** Analyze the content of each text and practice picking out the subject and verb to determine the core meaning.  
*Example:* Although less influential than in Argentina, migration from Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century affected the development of Chilean political culture. Subject: migration; Verb: affected.
- 3) **Identifying Sentences and Embedded Sentences:** While reading a text aloud, break up long sentences into smaller, more manageable units.  
*Example:* Juvenile delinquency, which is seen most often among minority youths in urban ghettos, cannot be attributed to the urban environment alone, as it plagues the suburbs as well.  
Three separate sentences are embedded in this complex sentence:
  - a. Juvenile delinquency is seen most often among minority youths in urban ghettos.



- b. It cannot be attributed to the urban environment alone.
  - c. It plagues the suburbs as well.
- 4) ***Deciphering Handwriting***: Obtain texts written by hand (e.g., letters) and practice deciphering the handwriting on the first oral reading.

### **Analytical Skills**

- 1) ***Reading for Content***: Read a text aloud to a friend and then have the person ask you questions about its content.
- 2) ***Chunking***: Choose a text and mark off the units of meaning in it.  
*Example*: I was getting ready/ to go out to lunch with/ my mother-in-law/ when/ all of a sudden/ I felt sick to my stomach. / It occurred to me that/ it might be/ something psychosomatic, / but I later found out that/ I was simply allergic to/ the perfume she always wore.
- 3) ***Using Transcripts***: Perform chunking with transcripts of court proceedings (or any document with a question-and-answer format). Try to establish a hierarchy of importance of the units of meaning.  
*Example*: Now, Mr. Jones, in your earlier testimony you mentioned that you had seen the defendant in that bar prior to the date of the incident. Can you tell us or give us an approximation of how long before the incident it was that you first saw the defendant in the El Camino bar?  
Hierarchy of importance:
  - a. How long before the incident
  - b. You first saw the defendant
  - c. In the El Camino bar
  - d. Tell us, or give approximation
  - e. Had seen defendant prior to date of incident
  - f. Mentioned in earlier testimony
  - g. Mr. Jones
  - h. Now
- 4) ***Completing Phrases***: Have a friend write a series of incomplete phrases. Complete the phrases and determine whether the resulting sentences convey the same idea the friend originally had in mind.  
*Examples*:
  - a. After being reprimanded unfairly by her boss in front of her coworker, the secretary tendered



- b. The judge determined that the defendant had strong ties to the community and therefore released him

As you do this exercise, note the errors you make and be aware of how susceptible we are to reaching false conclusions based on partial information.

- 5) **Paraphrasing:** Read a text aloud and rephrase it as you go along, taking care not to change the meaning.

*Example:* Since political parties are found almost everywhere in Latin America, they would seem to be a common denominator in the region's political life. Yet, this is not the case. Cultural, environmental, and historical influences on party development are so varied, they challenge conventional notions. Most nations hold periodic elections, but, like political parties; the implications of elections may differ profoundly from those of our own culture.

Rephrased: Because political parties can be found in just about every Latin American country, one might conclude that they are a common thread in the political life of this region. This is not so, however. There is such a great variety of cultural, environmental, and historical influences on the development of parties that commonly held ideas are contradicted. Elections are held periodically in the majority of countries, but the implications of these proceedings, like those of parties, are very different from the assumptions we can make in our own culture.

- 6) **Expanding:** Read a text aloud and expand it (i.e., say the same thing in more words) as you are going along, again taking care not to change the meaning.

*Example:* In spite of what you may have heard, scientists are just like other people. A scientist walking down the street may look just like an insurance agent or a car salesman: no wild mane of hair, no white lab coat.

Expanded: Although you may have heard assertions to the contrary, there are no differences between scientists and people who are not in that profession. As a matter of fact, if you saw a scientist out for a stroll on the sidewalk, you might mistake him for a person who sells insurance, or an automobile dealer. Scientists don't all have wild manes of hair and they don't always wear white laboratory coats.

- 7) **Condensing:** Read a text aloud and condense it (i.e., say the same thing in fewer words) as you go along, retaining the same meaning.



*Example:* The multiplicity of cues which are utilized in the categorizing and sorting of the environment into significant classes are reconstructed from the strategies and modes of coping with the problems presented to the subjects. In many situations, no certainty can be achieved; the varying trustworthiness and merely statistical validity of the cues frequently make inferences only probable.

Condensed: Many cues are used to classify the environment. They are reconstructed from the subject problem-solving strategies. Often, because the cues are not uniformly reliable and are valid only statistically, the results are not certain.

- 8) ***Manipulating the Register:*** Read a text aloud and alter the register or language level as you go along, being careful not to stray from the original meaning.

*Example:* As I was driving to work in the morning, I noticed that the stop sign which used to be on the corner of Main and 1st had been removed.

Higher level: Upon transporting myself to my place of employment in a motor vehicle at some point in time prior to noon, I observed that the insignia to cause motorists to bring their vehicles to a stationary position, which had formerly been stationed at the intersection of the thoroughfares known as Main and 1st, had been displaced.

Lower level: On my way to work in the morning, I saw that they took out the stop sign that used to be at Main and 1st.

*Note: These are learning exercises designed to build mental agility, linguistic flexibility, and analytical skills and to heighten awareness of language usage. In actual sight translation, the interpreter does not paraphrase, summarize, or change the register of the original text.*



## **EXERCISES TO DEVELOP AND IMPROVE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING SKILLS**

The suggested exercises listed here are based on experiences gained in the training of both conference and court interpreters. Since the various modes of interpretation involve many of the same mental tasks, the exercises recommended in the sight translation and consecutive interpreting sections will contribute to the development of simultaneous interpreting (SI) skills as well. The exercises in the sight translation section that are designed to develop analytical techniques are particularly applicable to SI, as are the memory-building exercises outlined in the consecutive interpreting section.

The following exercises, designed specifically to build the skills involved in SI, are divided into those that emphasize dual-tasking and those that emphasize input analysis. These exercises should be done in all of the interpreter's working languages, beginning with the native or more dominant language. They should be practiced daily for about a half hour at a time, as SI skills must be acquired and developed over time to insure for continued competency.

### **Dual-Tasking Exercises**

- 1) Have someone record passages from magazines or newspapers on tape, or record radio or television talk shows or interview programs (news broadcasts are not suitable for these exercises because the pace is too fast and the content is too dense). The subject matter of these passages is irrelevant, but it should not be too technical or contain too many statistics and proper names. Essays and opinion columns are good sources of texts for recording. As you play back the tape, "shadow" the speaker: repeat everything the speaker says verbatim. Try to stay further and further behind the speaker, until you are lagging at least one unit of meaning behind.
- 2) Once you feel comfortable talking and listening at the same time and are not leaving out too much, begin performing other tasks while shadowing. First, write the numerals 1 to 100 on a piece of paper as you repeat what the speaker says (make sure you are writing and speaking at the same time, not just writing during pauses). When you are able to do that, write the numerals in reverse order, from 100 to 1. Then write them counting by 5's, by 3's, and so on. Note what happens whenever numbers are mentioned in the text you are shadowing.
- 3) When you are able to do exercise 2 with minimal errors, begin writing out words while shadowing. Begin with your name and address, written





repeatedly. Then move on to a favorite poem or a passage such as the preamble to the US Constitution (always choose a passage in the same language as that which you are shadowing). When writing this text, you should copy from a piece of paper placed in front of you. Do not try to write the passage from memory while shadowing the tape.

- 4) While shadowing the tape as in the previous exercises, write down all the numbers and proper names you hear. Then play the tape back and check to see if you wrote them correctly.

The purpose of the above exercises is to train your brain to operate on two "channels" at once, and to force you to lag behind the speaker. If you find yourself breezing through the exercise with no problem, move on to the next one. You should be fully taxing your mental capacities at all times. On the other hand, if you are having difficulty keeping up with the speaker and are barely able to mumble a few words at a time, go back to the previous exercise until you are comfortable doing it. These exercises should be repeated as many times as necessary over a long period of time.

### **Analysis Exercises**

- 1) Using the same tapes you prepared for the above exercises (or new ones, if you have grown tired of those), rephrase what the speaker says rather than simply repeating it (see the paraphrasing exercise in the sight translation section). Stating a message in different words forces you to lag behind the speaker, waiting until he or she has said something meaningful for you to work with. To change the wording of the message without altering the meaning, you must thoroughly analyze and understand the original message. This exercise also develops your vocabulary because you are constantly searching for synonyms and alternative phrasing. It is perfectly acceptable, and even advisable, to look up words and phrases in a dictionary or thesaurus before attempting to rephrase a passage. It does not matter how many times you go over the tape. Even if you have memorized the passages, you are still deriving benefit from the exercise. Rephrasing simulates mental processes required in SI in that you must abandon the original wording and put the message into a different external form while retaining all of its meaning.
- 2) To develop your ability to predict the outcome of a message based on your knowledge of the source language syntax and style and on your common sense and experience, do the following exercises with written passages from a magazine or newspaper:



- a. Cover up the latter half of a sentence and try to predict what it says. Do certain key words in the first half provide important clues?
  - b. Read the title of an entire article or essay and try to predict the content. Confirm or reject your conclusion as you read the article.
  - c. Read the article, paragraph by paragraph, predicting what will come next. Again, pick out key words that contain hints about the direction in which the author is heading.
  - d. Repeat exercises a and b with oral input, having someone read the passages to you.
  - e. As you increase your awareness of key words, learn to look for pitfalls that can lead you astray, such as embedded clauses and dangling participles. Develop your ability to skip over those distractions and get to the heart of a sentence or passage.
- 3) Using all the techniques you have developed in the preceding exercises, begin interpreting from the source language to the target language. At first, use the tapes you have already recorded and worked on in the other exercises, then make new tapes specifically for interpreting practice. You may want to choose texts related to law and the courts for this purpose, but do not make them too technical at first. When you feel you are ready, record some actual court proceedings for practice. Court reporting schools are a good source of professionally recorded tapes of law-related texts.



## **SUGGESTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

### **COURT INTERPRETER PRINT, WEB, AND AUDIO RESOURCES**

*This list is not comprehensive, nor does it constitute an endorsement of these resources; it is provided for informational purposes only.*

#### **GENERAL INTEREST**

Berk-Seligson, Susan. *The Bilingual Courtroom: Court Interpreters in the Judicial Process*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, Paperback, 2002.

Conley, John M., and William M. O'Barr. *Rules Versus Relationships: The Ethnography of Legal Discourse*. University of Chicago Press, 1990.

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Harding, Edith, and Philip Riley. *The Bilingual Family: A Handbook for Parents*. 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Lederer, Richard. *The Miracle of Language*. New York: Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, 1991.

Loftus, Elizabeth, and Katherine Ketcham. *Witness for the Defense: The Accused, the Eyewitness and the Expert Who Puts Memory on Trial*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991.

Macrone, Michael. *It's Greek to Me!* New York: Harper Collins, 2001.

Marquex, Alex. *The New Interpreters Handbook: A Step-by-Step Guide to Becoming a Professional Interpreter*. Anaheim: Iberia Language Press, 1987.

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Solan, Lawrence M. *The Language of Judges*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Tannen, Deborah. *That's Not What I Meant!* New York: Ballantine Books, 1987, reprinted 1992.

## **SLANG/IDIOMS**

Chapman, Robert L. *Thesaurus of American Slang*. New York: Harper & Row, 1991.

Dalzell, Tom, and Terry Victor, eds. *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*. New York: Routledge, 2008.

Makkai, Adam, Maxine Boatner, and John Gates. *Handbook of Commonly Used American Idioms*. 4th Edition. New York: Barron's Educational Series, 2004.

Spears, Richard A. *NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2000.

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE DICTIONARIES AND GLOSSARIES**

Benson, Morton, Evelyn Benson, and Robert Ilson. *The BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English: A Guide to Word Combinations*, revised ed. Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing Co., 1997.

Garner, Bryan A. *Black's Law Dictionary*, 8th ed. Eagan, MN: West, 2004.

Glazier, Stephen. *Random House Webster's Word Menu*. Revised Sub Edition. New York: Ballantine Books, 1997.

Benson, Morton, Evelyn Benson, Robert Ilson, and Richard Young. *Using the BBI: A Workbook with Exercises for the BBI Combinatory Dictionary of English*. Philadelphia: John Benjamin's Publishing Co., 1991.

## **INTERPRETING SKILLS/BILINGUAL RESOURCES**

Free glossary of English-Spanish legal terms at <http://ernestoromero.net/LS.pdf> 



McKenna, Dennis. Criminal Court Dictionary: English-Spanish Español-Inglés Western Addition. Pasadena, CA: Adelfa Books, 2006.

McKenna, Dennis. Dictionary of Mexicanisms, Second Edition: Slang, Colloquialisms and Expressions Used in Mexico. Pasadena, CA: Adelfa Books, 2006.

Mikkelson, H. The Interpreter's Companion, 4th Edition. Spreckels, CA: Acebo Press.

Mikkelson, H. The Interpreter's Edge, Generic Edition. Self-Study Package. Spreckels, CA: Acebo Press.

Mikkelson, H. The Interpreter's Edge (multiple languages available). Self-Study Package. Spreckels, CA: Acebo Press.

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P.O. Box 7485  
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Fax 831-455-1541  
www.acebo.com

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

[http://www.ncsconline.org/D\\_Research/CourtInterp.html](http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp.html) Click on “Resources for Interpreters” link.



## SUGGESTED BOOKSELLERS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE BOOKS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

*Some bookstores dealing in foreign language materials are listed below. The list of bookstores is not complete, and if our readers are aware of others, we would be pleased to print additional addresses in subsequent issues. This list does not constitute an endorsement of these companies, but is provided for purposes of information only.*

### Dictionaries In All Languages:

Alexander Horn  
Internationale Buchhandlung  
Kirchgasse 22  
Postfach 3340  
6200 Wiesbaden Germany  
Email: alexhorni@aol.com

Imported Books (Fr-Gr-Sp)  
2025 West Clarendon  
Dallas, TX 75208  
Ph: 214-941-6497

Orbis Books (London), Ltd.  
206 Blythe Road, Brook Green  
London, W14 0HH  
Ph: 44- 020 7602 5541

Schoenhof's Foreign Books (MEP)  
76 A Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
e-mail: info@schoenhof.com  
[www.schoenhofs.com](http://www.schoenhofs.com)

La Maison du Dictionnaire  
98, Bd du Montparnasse  
F-75014 PARIS  
FRANCE  
Ph: 33 (0) 1 43 22 12 93

e-mail : service-client@dicoland.com  
[www.dicoland.com](http://www.dicoland.com)

Grant & Cutler  
55-57 Great Marlborough St.  
London, England  
W1V 2AY  
phone - (44) 020 7734 2012  
fax - (44) 020 7734 9272  
e-mail - contactus@grantandcutler.com  
[www.grantandcutler.com](http://www.grantandcutler.com)

Blackwell, Ltd.  
50 Broad St.  
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United Kingdom  
[www.bookshop.blackwell.com](http://www.bookshop.blackwell.com)

Hobart International Bookport  
615 Main Street – P.O. Box 227  
Hobart, NY 13788  
Ph: 1-607-538 3010  
[www.hobartbookport.com/2030408.html](http://www.hobartbookport.com/2030408.html)



### Romance Language Dictionaries:

Continental Books Company, Inc.  
6425 Washington Street, # 7  
Denver, CO 80229  
Ph: 303-289-1761  
[www.continentalbook.com](http://www.continentalbook.com)

Ediciones Universal  
P.O. Box 450353  
Miami, FL 33145  
Ph: 305-642-3234  
[www.ediociiones.com](http://www.ediociiones.com)

### Near East Dictionaries:

Edition du CNRS  
15 rue Malebranche  
75700 Paris, France  
[www.cnrseditions.fr](http://www.cnrseditions.fr)  
(Good for Middle Eastern languages)

(Distributes good Arabic Dictionaries)

Editions Klincksieck  
6 rue de la Sorbonne  
75005 Paris, France  
[www.klincksieck.com](http://www.klincksieck.com)  
(Good for Middle Eastern languages)

Otto Harrassowitz GmbH & Co. KG  
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65174 Wiesbaden  
Germany  
Ph: 49-0-611-5300  
Fax: 49-0-611-530 560  
e-mail: [service@harrassowitz.de](mailto:service@harrassowitz.de)  
[www.harrassowitz.de](http://www.harrassowitz.de)

Brill – North American Office  
153 Milk Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02109  
Ph: 1-617-263-2323  
Fax: 1-617-263-2324  
e-mail: [cs@brillusa.com](mailto:cs@brillusa.com)

Representative in North America:  
North American Library Services  
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2C  
Mobile, Al 36609  
Ph: 1-800-348-6886

International Book Centre  
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Shelby Township, MI 48317  
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Fax: 1-248-879-8436  
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[www.ibcbooks.com](http://www.ibcbooks.com)

French and European Publications, Inc.  
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e-mail: [frenchbookstore@aol.com](mailto:frenchbookstore@aol.com)  
[www.frencheuropean.com](http://www.frencheuropean.com)

### Chinese Dictionaries

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[www.jptrading.com](http://www.jptrading.com)

OCS America 202-347-4233  
(Overseas Courier Service)  
Kinokuniya 212-869-1700  
[www.kinokuniya.com](http://www.kinokuniya.com)

### Asian Dictionaries:

Most large bookstores carry dictionaries for Asian countries, however, North Korean dictionaries are available only from Tokyo at the following address:

25-3-2 Fujimi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo, Japan  
Ph: 261-7634-6193

National Book Store, Inc.  
Gen. Roxas Street, Araneta Center  
Cubas, Quezon City 1109  
Philippines  
Ph: 49-43-06-09 (Pilipino) [www.nbsstores.com/ourstores.asp](http://www.nbsstores.com/ourstores.asp)





### **Russian Dictionaries:**

Western publishers do not generally buy the publishing rights to Russian dictionaries because the market for such dictionaries (compared to the market for European dictionaries) is relatively slim. Translators can perhaps find old copies of Russian dictionaries in second-hand bookstores. A listing of new Russian dictionaries may be available from the cultural attaché at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Also check major University book stores.

Viktor Kamkin, Inc.  
12224 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Ph: 301-881-5973  
e-mail: [kamkin@kamkin.com](mailto:kamkin@kamkin.com)

Schoenhof's Foreign Books  
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76 A Mount Auburn Street  
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[www.schoenhofs.com](http://www.schoenhofs.com)

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e-mail: [Sabine.Sagner-Weigl@kubon-sagner.de](mailto:Sabine.Sagner-Weigl@kubon-sagner.de)  
[www.kubon-sagner.com](http://www.kubon-sagner.com)

### **Czech and Slovak Dictionaries:**

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Toll free: 1-(866) 210-6451

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Fx: 650-780-0967  
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<http://www.szwedoslavibooks.com>



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<http://www.slavica.com>

**Nordic Dictionaries:**

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[www.tls.se](http://www.tls.se)

Australia  
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<http://www.languagebooks.com.au/>

Language Book Centre  
131 York Street Sydney NSW

**Distributors:**

*(These distributors provide a free catalogue on request)*

ALTA-ESL  
13 Adrian Court  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
1-800-ALTA-ESL  
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include: Accurate English, Clear  
English,  
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## INTERPRETER TRAINING PROGRAMS: SPOKEN LANGUAGE AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE

The following is a list of colleges and universities that offer court interpreter training programs. This is not a complete list. You are encouraged to call your local colleges and inquire if they offer court interpreter training programs. This list does not constitute an endorsement of these programs, but is provided for information only.

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

#### **UCLA Extension**

10995 Le Conte Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
310-825-1898

<https://www.uclaextension.edu/interpretation/>

Spanish/English, and Mandarin/English Legal Interpretation and Translation Certificate Programs. These are one-year programs.

#### **UC Riverside Extension**

1200 University Ave., Rm. 331  
Riverside, CA 92507-4596  
951-827- 5801 ext. 22564

[http://www.extension.ucr.edu/academics/certificates/professional\\_interpretation.html](http://www.extension.ucr.edu/academics/certificates/professional_interpretation.html)

Spanish/English Interpretation and Translation Certificate Program. This is a one-year program.

#### **UC San Diego Extension**

9500 Gilman Drive, 0170-A  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0170  
858-964-1046

<http://www.extension.ucsd.edu/translation>

Translation and Interpretation Certificate Program Spanish/English-  
Spanish/English Professional Certificate in Translation and Interpretation  
CIMCE credits available for select classes  
This is a one to two-year program.



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**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES**

**California State University, Fresno**

Extension and Non-Credit Programs  
Division of Continuing and Global Education  
Extension Programs Office  
5005 North Maple Avenue, M/S ED76  
Fresno, CA 93740-8025  
Ph: 559-278-0418; Fax: 559- 278-0395

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/cge/programs/certs/legal-interpreting.html>

Certificate Award in Interpreting Spanish/English. This is a one-year program.

**California State University, Fullerton**

University Extended Education  
2600 E. Nutwood Avenue #100  
Fullerton, CA 92831  
Ph: 657-278-2611 Fax: 657- 278-2088

<http://extension.fullerton.edu/ProfessionalDevelopment/Interpretation>

Legal Interpretation and Translation Spanish/English certificate offered. This is a one-year program.

**California State University, Los Angeles**

Office of Continuing Education  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8629  
Ph: 323-343-4900, Fax: 323- 343-4954

<http://www.calstatela.edu/extension/sub/professional/legalInter.htm>

Spanish/English Certificate Program in Legal Interpretation and Translation.  
This is an eighteen month program.

**San Francisco State University**

College of Extended Learning  
SFSU Downtown Center  
835 Market Street, 6th floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
415-817-4223

[www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation](http://www.cel.sfsu.edu/interpretation)

Spanish/English Legal & Court Interpretation Certificate Program.  
This is a 14-to-16-month program.



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**COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**Cañada College**

4200 Farm Hill Boulevard  
Redwood City, CA 94061  
650-306-3141

<http://canadacollege.edu/university/interpretation.html>

Spanish/English Legal & Court Interpretation Certificate Program.

This is a 14-to-16-month program.

**Laney Community College**

900 Fallon St.  
Oakland, CA 94607  
510-986-6988  
510-834-5740

<http://www.laney.edu/wp/>

With support of the Superior Court of California –Alameda County. This is a certificate program in legal interpretation. The program is administered through the Career and Technical Education Division of the college.

**PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES & SCHOOLS**

**College of the Sequoias**

915 S. Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 93277  
559-730-3700

<http://www.cos.edu>.

Spanish Interpreter Certificate Program prepares students for the oral portion of the state exam.

**Middlebury Institute of International Studies**

Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation Non-Degree Programs

460 Pierce Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Phone and FAX: 831-647-4100

<http://translate.miis.edu/ndp/index.html>

Masters Degree in Translation, Translation/Interpretation, Conference Interpretation, and Translation/Localization Management

two year program or one-year advanced entry-



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**National Hispanic University**

1427 Story Road  
San Jose, CA 95127-3823  
408-254-6900 or 888- 520-9719  
<http://info.nhu.edu/>

Spanish/English Interpretation Certificate Program. This is a one to two year program.

**Northridge Institute of Interpretation**

P.O. Box 920160  
Sylmar, CA 91392-0160  
818-644-0407  
<http://niiedu.com/Welcome.html>

Spanish/English Court Interpreter Certificate Program  
This is an 18 month program. Home Study course also available.

**Southern California School of Interpretation**

10012 Norwalk Blvd., Suite 120  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562-906-9787 FAX 562- 906-9780  
<http://www.interpreting.com/>

E-Mail: [SCSINTER@ix.netcom.com](mailto:SCSINTER@ix.netcom.com)

Additional branches are located in San Diego, Corona and Las Vegas, Nevada. A distance learning program is also available. Spanish/English court translation and interpretation courses for interpreters at precertification and continuing education stages. This is a six month program.



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**OUT-OF-STATE PROGRAMS**

**University of Arizona**

National Center for Interpretation

PO BOX 210432

Tucson, AZ 85721

520-621-3615

<https://nci.arizona.edu/>

Spanish/English Court Interpreting course offered through the Agnese Haury Institute for Interpretation.

This is a three week course.

**New Mexico Center for Language Access in the Courts**

in partnership with the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts

505-270-0206

<http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/index.php>

Offers certificate in Justice System Interpreting and certificate as a Language Access Specialist.

The interpreting course is 20 weeks and includes an internship. Online courses are combined with a face-face internship. Professional development courses available for current interpreters.

**Boston University – Center for Professional Education**

808 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 270

Boston, MA 02215

Phone: 1-866-633-9370 or 617-353-4497

<http://professional.bu.edu/programs/interpreter/>

Offers certificate in Spanish, Chinese or Portuguese interpreting. Course is 12-18 months with internships available.

**University of Northern Colorado**

1059 Alton Way, Box 7

Denver, CO 80230

1-866-885-6087

4 semester Certificate Program in Legal Interpreting

Distance opportunities for interpreter training

<http://www.unco.edu/doit/home.html>





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**AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE**

**American River College**

4700 College Oak Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95841  
916-484-8011

[http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs\\_of\\_Study/Humanities/Sign\\_Language\\_Studies.htm](http://www.arc.losrios.edu/Programs_of_Study/Humanities/Sign_Language_Studies.htm)

A.A. degree in Sign Language Studies/Interpreter Preparation Program  
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**El Camino College**

16007 Crenshaw Boulevard  
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310-532-3670; 866- 352-2646

[www.elcamino.edu](http://www.elcamino.edu)

A.A. in Sign Language Interpreting

**Mt. San Antonio College**

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909-594-5611

[www.mtsac.edu/instruction/humanities/signlang/courses.html](http://www.mtsac.edu/instruction/humanities/signlang/courses.html)

A.A. degree & Certificate programs in ASL-English Interpretation

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<http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/interpreting/>

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Voice/TDD 510- 659-6269

[www.ohlone.edu/instr/div\\_deaf/ipp](http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/div_deaf/ipp)

ASL Interpreter Preparation Program is a full time 2 year program. Offer classes for those who are working as ASL interpreters.



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**San Diego Mesa College Interpreter Training Program**

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<http://www.sdmesa.edu/asl/index.cfm>

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**Palomar Community College**

1140 W Mission Road

San Marcos, CA 92069

760-744-1150 x2405

760-744-7438 TDD

[http://www.palomar.edu/speech\\_and\\_asl](http://www.palomar.edu/speech_and_asl)

A.A. degree in American Sign Language Interpretation

**Riverside Community College**

4800 Magnolia Avenue

Riverside, CA 92507

909-222-8832

[www.rcc.edu/programs/certificate\\_details.cfm?code=128](http://www.rcc.edu/programs/certificate_details.cfm?code=128)

A.A. degree & Certificate programs in ASL-English Interpretation

**San Diego Mesa College Interpreter Training Program**

7250 Mesa College Drive

San Diego, CA 92111

619-388-2604

[www.sdmesa.edu/academic-programs/?DeptID=65](http://www.sdmesa.edu/academic-programs/?DeptID=65)

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San Antonio, TX 78212

210-733-2071 link Broken-

<http://mysaccatalog.alamo.edu/>

AA Degree and Certificate Program in Interpreting for the Deaf



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**National Technical Institute for the Deaf**

52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, NY 14623  
585-475-6713

<http://www.rit.edu/overview/ntid>

BA in ASL-English Interpretation  
AAS in ASL-English Interpretation

**University of Northern Colorado**

1059 Alton Way, Box 7  
Denver, CO 80230  
1-866-885-6087 BA in ASL-English Interpretation  
Distance opportunities for interpreter training

<http://www.unco.edu/doi/home.html>

**College of St. Catherine**

2004 Randolph Avenue  
St Paul, Minnesota  
651-690-6035

[http://www.stkate.edu/academic/asl\\_interpreting/](http://www.stkate.edu/academic/asl_interpreting/)

B.A. & M.A. programs in ASL-English Interpretation

**University of Arkansas**

2801 S. University Avenue  
Little Rock, AR 72204-1099  
501-569-3169

[University of Arkansas, Interpreter Education Program Department of Counseling, Adult & Rehabilitation Education](#)

A.A. in ASL-English Interpretation 4 Semesters-  
B.A. in ASL-English Interpretation 8 Semesters-

**Gallaudet University**

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Washington, DC 20002  
202-651-5149

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/interpretation.html>

B.A. and M.A. in ASL-English Interpretation



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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### INTERPRETER TESTING INFORMATION

#### **Written Exam:**

Prometric administers the Written Exam using a professional computer-based exam delivery network. The computer-based exams are offered at Prometric testing center locations throughout the state of California. Candidates can take the exam by appointment. A hands-on tutorial is provided before the exam is administered so candidates can become familiar with the computerized exam delivery.

For more information on the computer-based written exams and scheduling protocols, visit [www.prometric.com/California](http://www.prometric.com/California) or contact by phone **866-241-3118 (U.S. and Canada)** or **+1-651-647-1723 (International)**.

#### **Oral Proficiency Exams in English and Non-English Languages:**

Prometric administers the Oral Proficiency Exams in English and Non-English languages. These are scheduled by appointment and the candidate comes to a selected Prometric test center. They will then be checked-in and proceed to a private testing room where a phone call will be placed to the testing interviewer. [www.prometric.com/California](http://www.prometric.com/California) and a **separate phone number is used for information regarding these exams 1- 888-226-9406.**

#### **Bilingual Interpreting Exam:**

Generally the Bilingual Interpreting Exams are offered twice a year. Prometric administers these exams. Please check our website regularly for updates: [www.courts.ca.gov/courtinterpreters](http://www.courts.ca.gov/courtinterpreters).

For more information, visit Prometric at [www.prometric.com/California](http://www.prometric.com/California) or call their main number **866-241-3118**.