Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force

Member Biographies (April 2016)

Hon. Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, Chair
Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court
Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar began serving on the California Supreme Court in January 2015. He was nominated by Governor Jerry Brown, confirmed unanimously by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, and retained by the voters for a full term in November 2014. A member of the Stanford University faculty from 2001 to 2015, Justice Cuéllar was the Stanley Morrison Professor of Law and Professor (by courtesy) of Political Science. Justice Cuéllar also served in the federal executive branch. While on leave from Stanford, in 2009 and 2010, he worked at the White House as Special Assistant to the President for Justice and Regulatory Policy. He was a presidential appointee, between 2010 and 2015, to the governing council of the U.S. Administrative Conference, an agency designed to improve fairness and efficiency in federal administrative procedures. He co-chaired the U.S. Department of Education's National Equity and Excellence Commission from 2011 to 2013. Before that, in 2008 and early 2009, he co-chaired the presidential transition team on immigration, borders, and refugees. A naturalized U.S. citizen born in northern Mexico, Justice Cuéllar graduated from Calexico High School in California's Imperial Valley. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School, a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford, and a Bachelors of Arts from Harvard University magna cum laude.

Hon. Manuel J. Covarrubias, Vice Chair
Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura
Judge Manuel Covarrubias was appointed to the Ventura County Superior Court in 2002 to a Family Law assignment and continues to serve in Family Law. He also served as a member of the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee and as co-chair to Access and Fairness' Race and Ethnic Subcommittee. In 2011, Judge Covarrubias was appointed to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel, and is currently an active member. He was the co-chair of the Joint Working Group for California's Language Access Plan. Judge Covarrubias often volunteers to participate in the Court Interpreters Ethics Workshop for new interpreters, serving as a panel member, offering new interpreters advice, answering questions and relating his experience working with court interpreters. Prior to being named to the bench, Judge Covarrubias was the Superior Court Commissioner in Ventura County, a position he held from 1993 to 2002. Judge Covarrubias is fluent in Spanish and has served on the boards of a number of Hispanic community and professional organizations. Judge Covarrubias holds a Juris Doctorate from Loyola School of Law.

Ms. Naomi Adelson
Court Employee Interpreter (Spanish), Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Ms. Naomi Adelson is a Spanish language court employee interpreter at Alameda County Superior Court. She is one of the founders of Asociacion Mayab, and is a trainer for Mayan speakers as legal interpreters. She holds a Master of Arts in Pacific International Affairs from University of California, San Diego and a Bachelors of Arts in International Relations and

Spanish from San Francisco State University. She also has a certification in legal/court interpretation from San Francisco State University.

Hon. Steven K. Austin
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa
Judge Steven Austin has served as a trial court judge at the Contra Costa County Superior Court in California since 1998. He has served as a branch court supervising judge, supervising judge of the civil departments and as a member of the court's executive committee. He currently serves as Presiding Judge of the court. Judge Austin was a member of the Judicial Council's Access and Fairness Advisory Committee from 1999 to 2011, and served on the executive committee for several of those years. He is also a past Chair of the Center for Judiciary Education and Research (CJER) Fairness Education Committee. From 2005 to 2014, he was one of two judicial members of the California Commission on Access to Justice and served as Chair from 2007 to 2010. He is now serving as Chair of the council's Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP). In 2013, he also served as Chair of the council's Ad Hoc Group for Court Interpreter Issues. He frequently serves as faculty for judicial education programs, including several satellite broadcasts for judges and court staff. Judge Austin holds a Juris Doctorate from University of California, Hastings College of Law, and a Bachelor's degree in communication studies from University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Kevin Baker
Legislative Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Sacramento
Mr. Kevin Baker is the Legislative Director for the American Civil Liberties Union of California (ACLU). As Legislative Director at the ACLU, he provides direct legislative advocacy for a statewide nonprofit organization focused on civil rights and freedoms with concentration on equal protection and non-discrimination, due process, racial justice, employment rights, free speech, access to justice, immigrants' rights, language access and privacy issues. Prior to his position at the ACLU, he was the Deputy Chief Counsel for the Committee on the Judiciary for the California Assembly where he worked extensively on court interpreter and equal access issues, including as the primary drafter of AB 1657. He holds a Juris Doctorate from New England School of Law, Boston, and a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from Michigan State University.

Hon. Terence L. Bruiniers
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Five
Justice Terence Bruiniers was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal, Division Five in June 2009. Prior to that, he served on the Contra Costa Superior Court for over ten years. He has served in the Criminal, Family Law, and Civil Divisions, as the assigned judge in the Complex Litigation Department, and as the Presiding Judge of the court from 2007 through 2008. Before his appointment to the bench, he was a principal in the San Francisco firm of Farrand, Cooper & Bruiniers. In his practice, he handled business and commercial litigation, as well as maintaining a business transactional practice, representing national and international clients in technology-

related matters. Judge Bruiniers has served on the Court Technology Advisory Committee to the Judicial Council since 1999 and currently serves as Chair of that committee. He is a 1969 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, and a 1973 graduate of Boalt Hall (Order of the Coif).

Ms. Tracy Clark, MA, SC: L
Manager, Court Interpreting Services, Superior Court of California, County of Ventura
Ms. Tracy Clark is a certified American Sign Language (ASL) court interpreter who worked for over 25 years as an independent contractor before becoming a staff interpreter in 2006. In 2011, she became the Manager of Interpreting Services for the Ventura County Superior Court, overseeing interpreting services of all languages. Ms. Clark has a Master of Arts in Linguistics from California State University, Northridge, where she also taught courses in interpretation and linguistics. She has served on the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel for over six years, chairing the ASL Subcommittee that developed the *Recommended Guidelines for Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) for ASL-Interpreted Events*.

Hon. Jonathan B. Conklin
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno
Judge Jonathan Conklin has served as a trial judge at Fresno County Superior Court since 2006 and is currently the presiding judge for the court. He also works with the Executive Committee to set policies for the court related to judicial functions. Judge Conklin has also handled a misdemeanor trial calendar and civil calendar, which included limited civil matters, unlawful detainers, small claims and temporary injunctions. Prior to his appointment to Fresno County Superior Court, he was the deputy chief for the Fresno Branch Office of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the U.S. Attorney, Eastern District, from 2003 to 2005. From 2001 to 2003, he was a senior litigation counsel, and from 1990 to 2001, Assistant U.S. Attorney, both for the U.S. Attorney's Office. Judge Conklin has been teaching as an adjunct professor at San Joaquin College of the Law in Fresno since 1993. He is a member of the council's Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee (TCBAC) and also, TCBAC's 2% Funding Request Subcommittee. He holds a Juris Doctorate from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Hon. Michelle Williams Court
Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Judge Michelle Williams Court currently serves on the council's Civil Working Group, Commission on the Future of California's Court System. She is a former member of the council's Probate Conservatorship Task Force. Judge Court was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in December 2011, and was elected in 2014 for a term that expires in January of 2021. Previously, since 2002, Judge Court worked for Bet Tzedek Legal Services, including serving as vice president and general counsel. Bet Tzedek is recognized as one of the premier legal service agencies in the country and assists over 15,000 individuals a year in the Los Angeles area with legal problems such as caregiver issues, consumer fraud, employee rights, and foreclosure matters. Previously, she was a senior associate for Milberg LLP from 2000 to 2002. She served

as a community builder fellow and civil rights specialist for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1999 to 2000. She was a litigation associate for Litt and Marquez from 1995 to 1999. From 1994 to 1995, Judge Court was a project attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. She was an associate for Gilbert Kelly Crowley and Jennett from 1993 to 1994. Judge Court earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pomona College.

Hon. Janet Gaard
Assistant Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
Judge Janet Gaard is the Assistant Presiding Judge for Yolo County Superior Court. Since her appointment to the court in 2008, she has presided over criminal, civil, and probate calendars. She currently presides over a family law calendar, drug court, and mental health court. Judge Gaard is a member of the Governing Committee of the Center for Judiciary Education and Research, which develops and delivers education to members of California's judicial branch, teaches at the California Judicial College for new judges, and is a member of the Criminal Law Advisory Committee to the California Judicial Council. Previously, she had a long career with the California Attorney General's Office, serving as Chief Assistant Attorney General for the Division of Public Rights, Special Assistant Attorney General and Director of Legislative Affairs, and Deputy Attorney General in the Division of Criminal Law. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Davis School of Law and a Bachelor's degree from California State University, Fresno.

Ms. Ana Maria Garcia
Managing Attorney, Access to Justice Initiatives, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles (NLSLA)
Ms. Ana Maria Garcia is a managing attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA) where she oversees a network of nine self-help centers—the largest comprehensive network of court-based self-help centers in the nation—that currently assists over 11,000 litigants every month. She serves on the LA County Commission for Women as a representative for the First District. Ms. Garcia is also a member of the council's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee. Previously, she served on both the Elkins Implementation Task Force and the Elkins Family Law Task force where she worked with legal advocates, court administrators and judges to develop policy recommendations for making the family law process more efficient and user friendly. She was a panelist at the Sacramento Language Access Plan public hearing on developing the Language Access Plan (LAP), and assisted in drafting comments on the LAP. Ms. Garcia holds a Juris Doctorate from University of La Verne College of Law.

Ms. Susan Marie Gonzalez
Legal Advocate, Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency (DCARA), San Leandro
Ms. Susan Marie Gonzalez is a legal advocate for Deaf Counseling Advocacy and Referral Agency, a nonprofit agency (DCARA; 2015–present). She advocates and ensures full linguistic and communication to all Deaf/Deaf Blind/Hard of Hearing/Late-Deafened individuals who utilize any part of the legal system and its services. Previously, she was a Program Developer for DCARA (2010–2015) and worked as grant writer and researcher to support the organizations' existing and new programs. Among her degrees, she holds a Juris Doctorate from New College of California School of Law, a Master's in deaf education and a Bachelor's degree from University of California at Davis.

Hon. Dennis W. Hayashi
Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Judge Dennis Hayashi has devoted his entire life to serving the public and working to preserve individual civil liberties. He currently serves as a judge at the Alameda County Superior Court, and is a member of the council's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness. Under President Clinton, Judge Hayashi was the Director of the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As one of the top public officials in the Clinton Administration, Judge Hayashi was responsible for ensuring that civil rights laws were enforced including the Age Discrimination Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Previously, Judge Hayashi served as the Director of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The Department protects the rights of seniors, women, the disabled and minorities who face discrimination on the job, in housing, or public accommodations. Judge Hayashi holds a Juris Doctorate from University of California, Hastings College of the Law and a Bachelor's degree from Occidental College.

Ms. Janet Hudec
Court Employee Interpreter (Spanish), Superior Court of California, County of Madera
Ms. Janet Hudec is a Spanish language court employee interpreter at Madera County Superior Court. She is currently the Region 3 court interpreter member of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) and a former member of the Joint Working Group for California's Language Access Plan. She is also an educator and has taught interpreting at California State University, Fresno where she assisted in the re-design of the current interpreting program. She holds a Master of Arts in Commercial Law from the Universidad del Valle de Atejemac, Guadalajara, Mexico and a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Monterey Bay.

Ms. Oleksandra Johnson
Independent Contractor Court Interpreter (Russian), San Diego
Ms. Oleksandra Johnson is a Russian/Ukrainian language independent contractor court interpreter. She is also a research attorney for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California. Ms. Johnson is a current voting member of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) and a former member of the Joint Working Group for California's Language Access

Plan. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego, School of Law, and a Masters degree from Kiev Shevchenko University, Ukraine. Ms. Johnson is also a certified translator and a member of the American Translators Association.

Ms. Joann Lee
Directing Attorney, Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Community Outreach Project, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)
Ms. Joann Lee is the directing attorney of the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Community Outreach Project of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA). Bilingual in Korean, Ms. Lee has provided direct legal services to the growing indigent API immigrant population in the Los Angeles area at LAFLA since 2000. She specializes in the areas of family and immigration law and has extensive experience navigating court systems to obtain interpreters for her clients. She also has filed administrative complaints and litigated cases based on state and federal civil rights language access requirements. Ms. Lee was a panelist at the Sacramento Language Access Plan public hearing and coordinated the submission of legal services comments on the LAP. Ms. Lee holds a Juris Doctorate from George Washington University Law School and a Bachelor's degree in social policy and women's studies from Northwestern University.

Hon. Miguel A. Márquez
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District
Justice Miguel Márquez was appointed to the California Court of Appeal by Governor Edmund G. Brown on May 18, 2012, and was confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments on June 28, 2012. Before assuming judicial office, Justice Márquez served as the County Counsel for the County of Santa Clara. As County Counsel, he was the chief legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive, all elected officials and department heads of the County, as well as several school districts and other special districts. Prior to joining the County Counsel's Office, Justice Márquez served as General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District. He had previously served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office and as a Deputy County Counsel in San Mateo County. Justice Márquez received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, his Masters in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and his Bachelor's degree in Public Policy from Stanford University.

Ms. Ivette Peña
Court Counsel, Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Ms. Ivette Peña has served as court counsel for the Los Angeles Superior Court since 2000. In that capacity, she advises the Presiding Judge and the Court Executive Officer on a variety of legal issues affecting the court but focuses on labor and employment. In 2013, she served as President of the California Public Employers Labor Relations Association (CALPELRA) and has served on the Board since 2007. She also serves on the board of the Latina Lawyers Bar Association and was its President in 2012. She is a member of the California Bar Association,

the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Hispanic National Bar Association, and the Association of Workplace Investigators. She was appointed in December 2013, as an advisor to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP). Ms. Peña holds a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1990, where she was the Associate Editor of the International Law Journal.

Hon. Jonathan K. Renner
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Third District
Justice Jonathan Renner was nominated to the Third Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Following his unanimous confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, and election by California voters, Justice Renner joined the court in January of 2015. In the four years prior to joining the court, he served as the Legal Affairs Secretary to Governor Brown. Justice Renner provided advice and counsel to the Governor and top administration officials, and oversaw the defense of significant litigation against the Governor and the administration. Before working in the Governor's Office, Justice Renner was the statewide head of the Government Law Section at the California Department of Justice. At the Department of Justice, his legal practice focused on the operation of state government and the authority of government officials. Justice Renner holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Davis.

Mr. Michael M. Roddy
Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of San Diego
Mr. Michael Roddy is the Court Executive Officer at San Diego County Superior Court. He has more than 30 years of court administration experience, both in the trial courts and in state court administration. Before returning to San Diego County Superior Court in January 2006, Mr. Roddy served as the Administrative Office of the Court's Regional Administrative Director for the Northern/Central Region (2001-2006), Court Executive Officer of Sacramento County Superior Court (1989-1994), Assistant Court Executive Officer (1988-1989) of San Diego County Superior Court, and in a variety of other administrative positions in the Superior Courts of San Diego and Los Angeles Counties. Mr. Roddy has been active on numerous Judicial Council committees including the Court Executives Advisory Committee, the Court Technology Advisory Committee, the Working Group on Court Security, the Emergency Response and Security Task Force, the Probation Services Task Force, the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Jury System Improvement, the Trial Court Budget Advisory Committee, the Mental Health Issues Implementation Task Force and the Center for Judicial Education and Research Governing Committee. He served on the Judicial Council from 2006 to 2011.

Ms. Jeanine D. Tucker
Court Executive Officer, Superior Court of California, County of Tuolumne
Ms. Jeanine Tucker was hired as the Court Executive Officer for the Tuolumne County Superior Court in March of 2013. She came to the court from the Stanislaus County Superior Court, where she served as a Court Operations Manager for eight years, having worked for that court in

various capacities a total of twenty-one years. Ms. Tucker is also currently serving her community as an elected city council member for the City of Riverbank. She is an active member of the Judicial Council Trial Court Facilities Modification Advisory Committee, and is also a member of the National Association of Court Managers. Ms. Tucker holds a Juris Doctorate from the Santa Clara University School of Law and a Bachelor's degree in political science from Santa Clara University.

Dr. Guadalupe Valdés, Ph.D.
Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education
Dr. Guadalupe Valdés is the Bonnie Katz Tenenbaum Professor of Education at Stanford University, Graduate School of Education (2002–present). Her previous teaching experience includes professor positions at Stanford (School of Education, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, 1992-2008) and University of California at Berkeley (School of Education, Division of Language and Literacy, 1986–92). Dr. Valdés helped design the New Mexico written and oral exam for court interpreters (English/Spanish), and has an extensive resume of language-related publications as author, including books, textbooks and articles. She holds a Masters and Ph.D. from Florida State University, and has a Bachelor's degree from University of West Florida. Dr. Valdés is a Certified Federal Court Interpreter and currently teaches classes in community interpreting at Stanford.

Mr. José Varela
Public Defender, Marin County
Mr. José Varela is the Public Defender for Marin County (2010-present). He was previously Assistant Public Defender for Marin County (2001–2010) and Supervising Attorney for the Office of the Alternate Public Defender in San Diego County (1993-2001). He is a former advisory member of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) and a former member of the Joint Working Group for California's Language Access Plan. Appointed by the Marin County Board of Supervisors as the executive department head of the Department of the Public Defender, Mr. Varela sets policy for the office and manages a budget of over $5 million. Mr. Varela holds a Juris Doctorate from University of California at Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, and a Bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College of California.

Hon. Brian Walsh
Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara
Judge Brian Walsh is a judge (since 2000) at Santa Clara County Superior Court, covering civil trials, family law, felony trials, appellate division, and misdemeanor direct. In 2013 and 2014, he was the presiding judge and in 2011 and 2012, he was the assistant presiding judge for the court. He was a member of the Judicial Council of California from 2013 to 2014 and also, 1994 to 1998. He was chair of the council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee from 2013 to 2014 and was chair of the Task Force on Trial Court Fiscal Accountability from 2013 to 2014. Judge Walsh holds a Juris Doctorate from University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and a Bachelor's degree from Notre Dame University.

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Member Biographies (April 2016)

Hon. Laurie D. Zelon
Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Seven
Justice Laurie Zelon has served as an associate justice of the California Court of Appeal since 2003. During the twenty-three years that preceded her appointment to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2000, she had an active litigation practice, involving scientific and technical issues, fiduciary obligations, and other complex commercial disputes. Justice Zelon has been a long-time member and served as Chair of the California Commission on Access to Justice. She is an active member of several statewide judicial committees addressing administration of justice issues. She is co-chair of the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness. She is a past President of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. She is a past member of its Board of Trustees, and past Chair of its Federal Courts Committee, its Judiciary Committee, its Access to Justice Committee, and its subsection on Real Estate Litigation. Justice Zelon holds a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and has a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University.