

What's New in California Court Interpreting?

An Update on Outreach, Training, and Testing

California Court Interpreters Program

In 2010, California began using exams developed by the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (Consortium). Read on to learn more about the efforts of the Court Interpreters Program (CIP) to bring qualified interpreters into the California courts.

ATTRACTING TALENT TO THE PROFESSION

Over the last year, CIP:

- Connected with well-trained interpreters with vast amounts of experience at the annual **Monterey Institute for International Studies** career fair.
- Presented an orientation on California court interpreting to qualified interpreter candidates at the **California Health Care Interpreters Association** annual conference in Fresno.
- Attended the annual conference of **California Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages**, networking with highly educated bilinguals with language and interpreting backgrounds as well as teachers of advanced language students from other countries.

SUPPORTING INTERPRETER TRAINING

CIP also:

- Partnered with University of California, Riverside to host an **Interpreter Education Providers Meeting**. Court staff and directors and coordinators of private and public programs and of small and large interpreter training programs came together to discuss distance learning curricula, innovative ideas in training Other Than Spanish (OTS) interpreters, and opportunities for collaboration.
- Hosted a weekend workshop training for OTS interpreter instructors in partnership with the **Society for the Study of Interpreting** (part of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators). Cosponsored other American Sign Language, Spanish, and language-neutral workshops.

Upcoming Interpreter Exams

Registration is open for on-demand scheduling of the written exam.

The next oral exam administration will be June 28–30, 2011. Registration closes June 13, 2011.

For more information, visit:
www.prometric.com/California/courtintoral.htm.

Test Development

Over the past year the Consortium added

- Bilingual oral interpreting exams in Tagalog, Eastern Armenian, Punjabi, and Khmer
- New versions of bilingual oral interpreting exams in Mandarin and Korean

Next year the Consortium expects to add

- A bilingual oral interpreting exam in Farsi
- New versions of bilingual oral interpreting exams in Spanish and Vietnamese

California also expects to create new versions of its English fluency exam for registered languages.



Have you seen the new candidate videos on our website?

www.courts.ca.gov/7996.htm

Following a presentation to professional interpreters, more than **700** prospective court interpreters watched our three new candidate videos in just one week.

That's a lot of people learning about the profession and the exam process!

Have you seen the National Center for State Courts' Consortium for Language Access in the Courts website?

www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/state-interpreter-certification.aspx

It's full of detailed information on the bilingual oral interpreting exam and includes sample materials and practice exam kits.

JUST THE FACTS!

- Between 2000 and 2010 the oral exam pass rate for all languages ranged between 8% and 15%, with an approximate average of 12%.
- The oral exam pass rate in January 2011 was approximately 16% for all languages.¹

EVERYONE WANTS TO KNOW:

Who are the raters?

- Oral interpreting exam raters are recruited, trained, and monitored by the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts.
- Raters are selected from a national pool of certified court interpreters and other language and linguistic experts.
- Every oral exam is rated by at least two independent raters.
- All Spanish raters are federally certified court interpreters.

Who is passing the oral exam?²

- 65% of recent passers have been interpreting in their work or as a primary function of their jobs.
- 78% of recent passers have a bachelor's, master's, doctoral, or other advanced degree.
- 91% of recent passers completed coursework, a certificate program, a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree in interpretation. **Yes—91%!!!**

¹ The sample size from the January 2011 oral exams is too small to be considered statistically significant. The data should be viewed as a preliminary indicator of results and are specific to California.

² Data represent summary statistics from responses to an optional survey provided at the exam administration site.



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