



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

## **Judicial Council of California**

### Language Access Educational Webinar Sessions

#### Overview of Language Access Services in the Courts and Recent Innovations – Panel Bios

##### **Panel Moderator:**

##### **Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez**

*Judge, Superior Court of California, Alameda County*

*Chair of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness Language Access Subcommittee*

**Judge Victor A. Rodriguez** was appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court in January 2018. Before taking the bench, Judge Rodriguez worked at the California Supreme Court from 2006 to 2018 in the chambers of Justices Carlos R. Moreno, Goodwin H., Liu, and Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar. Judge Rodriguez is Chair of the Language Access Subcommittee of the Judicial Council’s Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and was a member of the Council’s Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force. He also served as co-chair of his court’s Access Committee, which is currently focusing on language access issues. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law; a Master of Arts degree from California State University, Long Beach; and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Southern California.

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##### **Panelists:**

##### **Michele Minsuk**

*Federally and California-State Certified Court Interpreter*

*Interpreter Services Manager, Alameda Superior Court*

**Michele Minsuk** is the Interpreter Services Manager and Court Language Access Representative for the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda. She is a state and federally certified Spanish Court Interpreter since 2001 and holds a bachelor’s degree in Language Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

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**Jessica Thomson**

*Information Technology Director, Santa Barbara Superior Court*

**Jessica Thomson** graduated from the University of Redlands in 2001 with a degree in Computer Science. She spent five years in the Information Technology Department at the Housing Authority for the City of Ventura before moving to Santa Barbara, where she began working as a Network Administrator for the Santa Barbara Superior Court. Jessica transitioned to her current role as the Court's Information Technology Director in 2019.

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**Paula Couselo-Findikoglu**

*Court Services Deputy Division Director  
New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts*

**Ms. Paula Couselo-Findikoglu** serves as the Court Services Deputy Division Director at the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts. Prior to this position, she served as the Language Access Senior Statewide Program Manager until 2020. The Justice Index, published by the National Center for Access to Justice, ranked the New Mexico Judiciary's Language Access Program under her direction #2 among 50 states in the nation for its language access efforts in 2016. Ms. Couselo-Findikoglu is a nationally recognized leader in the language access field and has spearheaded multiple initiatives to advance court access for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP), low literacy, and disabilities. She was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she received a master's degree in Translation and pursued doctoral studies in English while founding and managing her translation and interpretation services company. She moved to the US in 2005 and has been with the New Mexico Judiciary since 2010.