



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COURT INTERPRETERS
ADVISORY PANEL

www.courts.ca.gov/ciap.htm
ciap@jud.ca.gov

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days before the meeting and directed to:
JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov

COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN MEETING

Open to the Public (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c)(1) and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: May 24, 2022
Time: 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.
Zoom Webinar Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609115401>

Meeting materials will be posted on the advisory body web page on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be e-mailed to ciap@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(C)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of the December 15, 2021, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(K)(1))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means with a view and listen only connection for the public. As such, the public may submit comments for this meeting only in writing. In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be e-mailed to ciap@jud.ca.gov or mailed or delivered to Judicial Council, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688, attention: Claudia Ortega. Only written comments received by 12:15 p.m. on May 23, 2022, will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

III. DISCUSSION ITEM

Item 1

Passage and Credentialing Options for the Interpreting Examinations (No Action Required)

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) will receive a presentation from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) regarding research it has conducted as part of CIAP's annual agenda project to assess passage and credentialing options for the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) for certified languages and explore avenues for increasing the number of examination passers.

Presenter/Facilitator: Ms. Jacquie Ring, Principal Consultant,
Language Access Services Section, NCSC

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn



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MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 15, 2021

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1601709833>

**Advisory Body
Members Present:**

Members: Hon. Brian L. McCabe, Chair; Hon. Teresa P. Magno;
Mr. Hany Farag; Mr. Tam "Tyler" T. Nguyen; Ms. Carol M. Palacio;
Mr. Chris Ruhl. Advisors: Mr. Mark Crossley; and Ms. Jennifer De La Cruz.

**Advisory Body
Members Absent:**

Members: Mr. Hector Gonzalez, Jr., Vice Chair; Ms. Violet Romero; and
Ms. Iris Van Hemert. Advisors: Ms. Angie Birchfield.

Others Present:

Mr. Douglas Denton; Ms. Claudia Ortega; Ms. Cynthia Miranda; and Ms. Naomi
Neal

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:16 P.M., and took roll call.

The chair conveyed that there were no public comments received for the December 15, 2021, meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEM (ITEM 1)

Item 1

Draft 2022 CIAP Annual Agenda (Discussion Item)

Discussion: The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel reviewed its draft 2022 Annual Agenda. The committee made no changes to the draft that was submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 P.M.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.



California Court Interpreter Testing Program: Review of Test Administration Options

May 24, 2022

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS

Background: Court Interpreter Needs



- California Judicial Council Master List – currently has nearly 1,700 certified interpreters in designated languages
- Language Access Metric Report indicates decreasing numbers of interpreters in several languages in 2019 and 2020
- Significant portion of current court interpreter pool nearing retirement age
- COVID-19 pandemic resulted in limited testing opportunities over the last two years

Background: California Exam Requirements



- For California court interpreter certification, candidates must:
 - Pass Written Exam at 80% or higher;
 - Obtain 70% or higher in each of the four modes in one sitting; AND
 - Complete post-exam requirements (orientation and ethics course)

Overview of NCSC Tasks



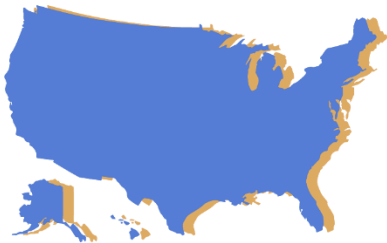
NCSC Tasks:

- Conduct research and candidate data analyses to assist with Judicial Council decisions regarding possible modifications to current test administration and credentialing policies so as to increase the pool of qualified court interpreters available to work in the California courts.

Overview of NCSC Work Performed



- Conducted research on court interpreter test administration and credentialing options that may lead to an increase of interpreters for the courts



- Reviewed court interpreter testing programs used in other states
- Reviewed California court interpreter testing data for certified languages

National Landscape Review



- Conducted review of publicly-available information for 36 states using NCSC Written and Oral Exams



- Conducted telephone interviews with states to review test administration processes in more detail

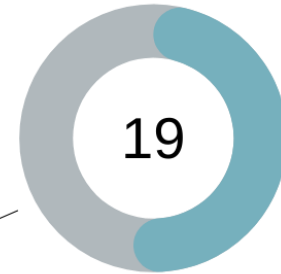
National Landscape Review



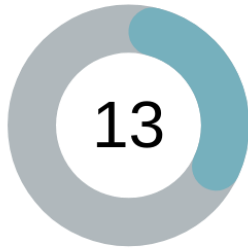
Of 36 states that use
NCSC court interpreter
exams...



Average sight
translation scores



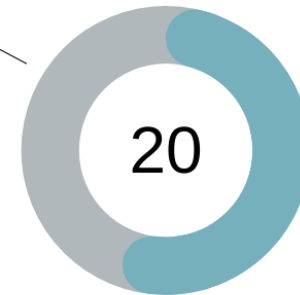
Use tiered classifications



Require candidates to
take and pass all exam
parts in one sitting



Use a simultaneous
screener



Permit carry-over
scores

Areas for Further Review



- Permitting an average score for both sight translation portions
- Carrying over passing scores from one test administration to another
- Using different classifications to recognize candidates with near passing scores

Average Sight Translation Scores



- **Sight Translation Option (17 of 36 states allow):**
 - Sight Translation English-Foreign Language and Sight Translation Foreign Language-English are averaged in accordance with NCSC policy
 - Allows for a cut score of 70% or higher, averaged between the two Sight Translations, as long as the candidate scores no lower than 65% on either one of the two Sight Translation sections

Utilization of Carry-Over Scores



- **Carry-Over Scores (20 of 36 states allow):**
 - Carry over passing scores of 70% or higher on one or more sections from one test administration to another, eliminating the requirement to pass all four sections of the exam at 70% or higher in one sitting
 - Policy includes an expiration date of up to two years on the partial exam scores

Utilization of Different Classifications



■ Classification Options (19 of 36 states allow):



- Assigning different classifications to court interpreters based on scores (e.g., Certified, Provisionally Qualified, Conditionally Approved, Journeyman, Rostered)



- May include assigning court work in accordance with classification level as well (e.g., lower classifications assigned to bilingual assistance)

Reasons for Use in Other States



- Incentivizing candidates to stay in testing pipeline for certification
- Being able to assign interpreters at near passing score ranges to appropriate work
- Being able to identify and support near passer candidates with certification pathway (through training, mentoring, etc.)

Application in California: Analysis

- Review of California court interpreter testing data from 2014-2019
- Analyze how different testing practices may impact pass rates across languages



Analysis – Average Sight Translation Scores



Language	Additional Passers if Sight Translation Sections Were Averaged
Arabic	1
Cantonese	1
Eastern Armenian	1
Farsi	0
Khmer	0
Korean	1
Mandarin	2
Portuguese	0
Punjabi	1
Russian	0
Spanish	29
Tagalog	0
Vietnamese	4

Analysis – Utilization of Carry-Over Scores



Language	Additional Passers if Carry-Over Scores Were Used
Arabic	1
Cantonese	2
Eastern Armenian	1
Farsi	1
Khmer	0
Korean	1
Mandarin	2*
Portuguese	0
Punjabi	0
Russian	0
Spanish	24**
Tagalog	0
Vietnamese	3*

* In each of the languages marked with an asterisk (*), two candidates who eventually passed the exam in one sitting would have also passed earlier by carrying over scores from test administrations occurring within a two-year period.

** Due to the high volume of data, carry-over score data reflects exam results from September 2017- September 2019 only.

Analysis – Provisionally Approved Status (65% or Higher)



Language	Additional Number with Scores 65% or Higher
Arabic	2
Cantonese	3
Eastern Armenian	1
Farsi	3
Khmer	1
Korean	3
Mandarin	7
Portuguese	0
Punjabi	1
Russian	1
Spanish	105
Tagalog	2
Vietnamese	7

Analysis – Provisionally Approved Status (60% or Higher)



Language	Additional Number with Scores 60% or Higher
Arabic	3
Cantonese	4
Eastern Armenian	3
Farsi	7
Khmer	1
Korean	9
Mandarin	24
Portuguese	0
Punjabi	1
Russian	4
Spanish	331
Tagalog	3
Vietnamese	11

Analysis – Provisionally Approved Status (50% or Higher)



Language	Additional Number with Scores 50% or Higher
Arabic	6
Cantonese	12
Eastern Armenian	7
Farsi	18
Khmer	2
Korean	20
Mandarin	49
Portuguese	4
Punjabi	6
Russian	14
Spanish	630
Tagalog	5
Vietnamese	23

Considerations



- Utilize test data to determine potential benefits of averaging sight translation scores and/or utilizing carry-over scores.
- Utilize test data to support the identification and possible classification of individuals within specified score ranges to work in identified court settings.
- Utilize test data to identify candidates within specific score ranges for courts to use for provisional qualification purposes when no certified interpreters are available.

Considerations



- Utilize test data to identify candidates within specific score ranges for additional pipeline development efforts (i.e., training, workshops, mentoring).
- Utilize test data to identify candidates within specific score ranges for targeted incentivizing efforts (i.e., near passer trainings, high-touch communication).
- Continue to develop and implement targeted recruitment and outreach efforts to attract potential candidates to the profession of court interpretation.

Questions and Discussion

