



ASOCIACION MAYAB
3012 16th Street, #202
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 556-9800

October 18, 2013

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye:

I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of interpreter services to cover all matters, both civil and criminal, in order to assure due process and meaningful access to the entire system of justice. As an organization that advocates for the well-being of the Mayan community in the Bay Area, many with Limited English Proficiency and Limited Spanish Proficiency, we strongly support making full use of the in-person court interpreters. At the same time, we support the demands for adequate pay and working conditions of those professionals.

Asociación Mayab is a 501(c) 3, non-profit organization serving the low-income Mayan community in the Bay Area. While the organization originally focused on the Maya from the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico, it has expanded to include communities from Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala. The vast majority of our population is Spanish-speaking and requires interpreters to have access to the courts where due process and equal protection under the law require that everyone fully understand what is being said. A significant portion of Mayab's clients also have limited Spanish proficiency and speak Mayan languages.

Spurred by requests from the Superior Courts of California, Asociación Mayab has been training Mayan-language relay interpreters (they relay interpret from Spanish into the Mayan language and from the Mayan language to Spanish) since 2008. Our interpreters have been working in courts all over California, depending on the presence of *in-person* Spanish court interpreters to be able to relay interpret into Mayan languages. We are alarmed by the push for Video Remote Interpretation (VRI), which would make relay interpretation nearly impossible. VRI requires consecutive interpretation, which would triple the length of proceedings *if the equipment was flawless*. We also believe that providing VRI for languages of lesser diffusion, such as the Mayan languages of Ch'ol, K'iche', Mam, Yucatec Maya and Ts'eltal, would not provide *equal* access to justice, compromising the integrity of the judicial process.

The Judicial Council, the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice, and legal aid organizations have long recognized the unmet need for language access in civil matters and the need to expand interpreter services. The Council has also established equal access to justice and language access as priority goals. The U.S. Department of Justice has noted that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 may be violated under current practice in California. Mayab agrees with the need for expansion and believes that equal access to justice can only be provided through live, qualified interpreters. We support their just demands for decent pay and equal treatment in the courts, and will not be supplying Mayan-language interpreters to the courts in the event of any labor action.

We call on the Judicial Council and local courts to address these critical issues and to support true due process and equal access to justice by supporting the professional interpreters working in the northern California courts. Please direct the surplus in the interpreter budget to providing in-person interpretation services in all court matters, including civil.

Sincerely,

Alberto Pérez Rendón
Director of Programs

n a t i o n a l
IMMIGRATION
p r o j e c t
of the National Lawyers Guild

October 18, 2013

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

I am writing to express our strong support for maintaining in-person interpreter services to cover in criminal matters where the defendant has limited English proficiency.

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG) is a non-profit membership organization of immigration attorneys, legal workers, grassroots advocates, and others working to defend immigrants' rights and to secure a fair administration of the immigration and nationality laws. The NIPNLG provides technical assistance and legal training to the bar and bench on the rights of noncitizens and has participated as amicus curiae in several significant immigration-related cases before the federal courts.

A large percentage of NIPNLG's membership provides direct representation to noncitizens in removal and bond proceedings before the immigration courts, many of which take place via video conference. Conducting hearings via teleconference is not a workable solution for a variety of due process reasons, including, but not limited to, little or no ability for individuals to communicate with their counsel, problematic presentation of evidence, and technological malfunctions and/or failure, as highlighted in a 2005 report by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago and Appleseed.¹

The travesty that has developed in the immigration context sheds light on the detrimental impact of Video Remote Interpreting in the California criminal justice system.

Sincerely,



Dan Kesselbrenner
Executive Director

¹ The report is available at:
http://chicagoappleseed.org/uploads/view/49/download:1/videoconfreport_080205.pdf.

October 23, 2013 by Fax to 415-865-7664

Mrs. Sharon Noonan Kramer
2031 Arborwood Place, Escondido, CA 92029
Tele: 760-746-8026 Email: Snk1955@aol.com

Tani Cantil-Sayauke
Chair, California
Judicial Council (JC)

Steven Jahr
Director, Administrative,
Offices of the Courts (AOC)

Mary Roberts
Chief Counsel
Legal Services
JC & AOC

Ira Kaufman,
Chair AOC/JC
Litigation
Management Comm

Douglas Miller
Chair JC Executive Comm

Re: JC/AOC Legal Services' October 22, 2013 email containing misstated facts as unfounded reason to deny comment on behalf of the public, at the October 25, 2013 Judicial Council meeting.

Honorable JC Chair Cantil-Sayauke, AOC Director Jahr, Counselor Roberts, and Justices Miller & Kaufman,

On October 22, 2013, I received an email from JC/AOC Legal Services¹ denying my timely submitted, October 21, 2013, request to speak before the Judicial Council this coming Friday.² My request was made and is being made again, to relay a message on behalf of the public. This is in an effort to stave off federal litigation against AOC employees and Judicial Council members for their roles in aiding to fleece the public.

It is regarding a matter which is adversely impacting the public's health and safety via extrinsic fraud of AOC employee legal document falsifications in SLAPP -- initiated by federal contractors who are toxic tort expert defense witnesses -- with AOC employee falsified court documents concealed as being fraudulent and void by several JC members and other court officers. If no public comment is permitted, the probable necessity of federal litigation would delay the public's protection for years to come and would waste tax dollars by a matter that could and should be addressed by the Judicial Council this Friday, via response to my and the public's comments.

Specifically, the message the public wants me to deliver in person this Friday is: "**Administrator Jahr and JC Chair Cantil-Sayauke, TOXIC MOLD! I want to know if extrinsic fraud is fleecing the US public.**" Over one hundred people have asked that I deliver this message on their behalves. See attached for some their comments of why this is important to the public that JC members and the AOC Director get the message, now.

It should not be made this difficult for a U.S. citizen to relay this message via public comment at a Judicial Council meeting, to encourage that the Judicial Council and Administrator of the Courts answer questions regarding document falsifications by subordinate AOC employees, concealed as such by AOC supervisors, Judicial Council members and other officers of the court.

According to the Judicial Council website, "*At its meeting Oct 24-25 in San Francisco, the Judicial Council continues its move towards greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency when it considers enhancements in oversight of its administrative office.*"

¹ 10/22/13 JC/AOC Legal Services Denying Ability For Public Comment To the Judicial Council regarding AOC employee felony court document falsifications while fleecing the public <http://freepdfhosting.com/f81938391a.pdf>

² 10/21/13 Sharon Kramer request to speak before the Judicial Council on behalf of the fleeced public; including an overview of the statements intended to be made. <http://freepdfhosting.com/bb2275da0d.pdf>

These words of accountability, transparency and efficient oversight, do not ring as true when the public and I are offering the JC and AOC leaders and opportunity to enhance AOC oversight while holding AOC employees accountable for Penal Code 134 violations; in an efficient, timely, and transparent manner. It should take me no longer than 5 minutes to speak on behalf of the public; should JC members remain mum on the subject, pose no questions, or offer no immediate plans to investigate how they intend to mitigate the damage to the public.

The JC/AOC Legal Services October 22nd email contains erred statements as reason for denial to speak:

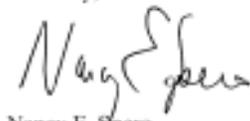
Re: Your request to speak at the October 25, 2013, Judicial Council Meeting

Dear Ms. Kramer:

We received the letter you sent via fax on October 21, 2013, requesting to address the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council's Executive and Planning Committee has exercised its discretion under Rule 10.6(d) to deny your request to speak at the October 25, 2013, Judicial Council meeting. The contents of your letter do not demonstrate that your comments would be relevant to an agenda item for the council's deliberations. Your letter also mentions ongoing court proceedings as the subject of your comments. The Judicial Council does not receive comment pertaining to specific court cases.

Thank you for your interest in the Judicial Council and its mission to advance the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice.

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Spero
Senior Attorney

1. Contrary to the JC/AOC email, there are no current "ongoing court proceedings" pending over this matter. My comments on behalf of the public are necessary to help stave off any future litigation involving AOC employees and Judicial Council members – which would prove unnecessarily costly for the taxpayer when they can be addressed now; and while JC/AOC's stalling aids the underlying scientific fraud of the federal contractors, Veritox, Inc, to continue to harm the public for years to come via drawn-out federal litigation.
2. According to the Judicial Council website, under California Rules of the Court, 10.6(b)(2)(6) public comments are relevant to "(2) Claims or litigation in which the Judicial Council has an interest;" "(6) Allegations of criminal or professional misconduct."
3. This is not an item which would be specifically on the agenda. If the JC, the AOC Director, and JC/AOC Legal Services, were addressing the known problem; no public comment would be needed. With allegations of extrinsic fraud and obfuscation being brought to JC's attention; it is now an item needing to be addressed publicly on behalf of the public's welfare. Under California Rules of the Court 10.6(d), the Judicial Council has the discretion to address this matter via public comment. 10.6(d) states, "The Executive and Planning Committee, in its discretion, may allow a member of the public to speak at a business meeting."
4. Having JC/AOC Legal Services repeatedly send obfuscating correspondence containing misstatement of facts to avoid addressing extrinsic fraud by court employees, is not indicative of the Judicial Council having a "mission to advance the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice" via a "move towards greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency when it considers enhancements in oversight of its administrative office." In fact, the obfuscating and misdirecting correspondences I have received from JC/AOC Legal Services serve as further evidence of willful wrongdoing, should federal litigation ensue.

Prior to the October 22, 2013 obfuscation sent by JC/AOC Legal Services; on June 27, 2013 I provided JC Chair Cantil-Sayauke and AOC Director Jahr, with the direct evidence substantiating my accusations made of extrinsic fraud upon the court aiding federal contractors to fleece the public with scientific fraud.

On July 11, 2013, JC/AOC Legal Services mailed their first obfuscating response to me on the JC Chair's and AOC's Directors' behalves. They attempted to send me on a wild goose chase, instead of addressing the direct evidence of AOC employee document falsifications which are aiding federal contractors to fleece the U.S. public. On October 12, 2013, I sent a reply³ to the July 11th JC/AOC Legal Services' obfuscation. My reply contains the following accurate statements of whose responsibility it is to stop the fraud:

"Hon. Chairperson Cantil-Sayauke, Director Jahr, Justice Kaufman & Counselor Roberts,

You hold the key to stop those responsible for causation of much U.S. environmental disabilities, from being able to shift their liability costs onto Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). To turn that key, you must admit that AOC employees falsified documents in SLAPP; and that AOC supervisors, JC members, court officers and plaintiffs concealed the falsifications as they continued to use the legally invalid documents to harass me.

As such, I was stunned when I received a form letter from JC/AOC Legal Services dated 7/11/13.⁴ It was in response to direct evidence that I sent on 6/27/13⁵ to the JC Chair and AOC Director. A San Diego AOC employee mailed a document to me from a non-existent "The Court" on 6/12/13⁶ This, while abusing the court to aid a judge to obfuscate from answering questions about misuse of prior AOC falsified documents, coram non judge.⁷ A form reply to direct evidence of yet another AOC employee Penal Code 134 violation is not an acceptable response.

Deflecting your responsibilities to address AOC employee document falsifications onto complicit San Diego Superior Court supervisors, must surely be an oversight. And as you know, contrary to your directive to me, the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) does not discipline AOC employees and complicit AOC supervisors for AOC document falsifications. This key aspect of the sordid matter is the responsibility of AOC's Director.

The fact is, Chairperson Cantil-Sayauke, Director Jahr, Chief Counsel Roberts, and Justice Kaufmann; upon your personal acknowledgements of the AOC falsified documents in two SLAPP suits; the false concept that it has been scientifically proven by Veritox's Mr. Bryan Hardin and Mr. Bruce Kelman that microbial toxins could never reach a level indoors to harm anyone, will cease to exist in public health policies, courts, medical schools, medical practices, and in workers' comp, property/casualty insurer cost shifting schemes. U.S. physicians and policy setters will no longer be misled to parrot the false proof of lack of causation.

³ 10/12/13 NOTICE of Intent to File Federal Lawsuit if the Judicial Council and AOC Director continue to obfuscate from addressing AOC employee document falsifications aiding and abetting fed contractors to fleece the public in SLAPP <http://freepdfhosting.com/c89071eb7d.pdf>

⁴ 7/11/13 Stalling form letter reply from JC/AOC Legal Services <http://freepdfhosting.com/910259429c.pdf>

⁵ 6/27/13 My letter to JC/AOC/CJP re: AOC employee fraudulent mailing <http://freepdfhosting.com/f201f57da3.pdf>

⁶ 6/12/13 AOC employee fraudulent mailing from nonexistent "The Court" <http://freepdfhosting.com/62339ad6d0.pdf>

⁷ 5/29/13 My letter to 18 CA judiciaries, CJP and JC/AOC heads requesting proof that falsified AOC documents in SLAPP suits have not been concealed to defraud the public <http://freepdfhosting.com/592844a365.pdf>

The key to stopping Veritox's scientific fraud lays with your acknowledgment that AOC employee falsified documents have been concealed by AOC supervisors, court officers - including Veritox's attorney, and JC members, in SLAPP over my writing exposing how the scientific fraud became policy to mislead U.S. courts – rather than the environmentally injureds' counsels needing to know how to discredit the fraud, one mold case at a time, when used by defense witnesses as false proof of lack of causation of illness and death,...

1. The December 2008 Void Judgment in *Kelman & GlobalTox v. Kramer*, Case No. GIN044539. (Attached as Exhibit) Void on its face, it states a date of cost award not possible to have occurred to conceal it was ante-dated, twice. **California Chief Justice Cantil-Sayauke and Director of the Administrative Offices of the California Courts Judge Jahr, admitting that this one court document is fraudulent and void to be used for any purpose; will cause the fleecing of the public by Veritox, et.al, to immediately cease....**

THE POINT IS THIS

Now that you have once again been shown the massive damage occurring by the concealment of falsified AOC employee documents in SLAPP suits over a matter impacting thousands of your fellow human beings:

Chief Justice Cantil-Sayauke, Judge Jahr, Justice Kaufman, and Counselor Roberts: You will be unable to prove that Judicial Council (JC) members, court officers and Administrative Offices of the Courts (AOC) supervisors did not commit felony concealment of AOC employee falsified material court documents in Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation; with the SLAPP suits being initiated by federal contractors of the US DOJ, and their California counsel against an advocate for truth in U.S. health marketing. Therefore under Penal Code 134, as JC/AOC governors, it is your legal responsibilities to not also commit felonies by concealment of your subordinates' concealments; and to mitigate the damage to the truth advocate and to the United States public for whom she advocates."

As such, I must insist for the sake of prompt protection of public health and safety; for promotion of integrity among Judicial Council members and AOC employees; and to stave off unnecessary federal litigation costly to the taxpayer; that my request to offer public comment to the Judicial Council on October 25, 2013 be granted. Please let me know what time I should be at 455 Golden Gate Avenue on the 25th. For ease of accessing the documents referenced in this letter, it may be read online at, ContemptOfCourtFor.Me, title, "**TOXIC MOLD! Judicial Council and Administrator of the Courts, Quit stalling from admitting AOC/JC extrinsic fraud which is fleecing the U.S. Public**". Link: <http://wp.me/p20mAH-rB>

Thank You,

Mrs. Sharon Noonan Kramer

Some of the Public's Comments that I, Sharon Noonan Kramer, Intend to Hand Deliver in Writing to the Judicial Council on October 25, 2013

1. Judicial Council Chairperson Cantil-Sayauke and Director of the Administrative Offices of the Courts Jahr, TOXIC MOLD! I want to know if extrinsic fraud is fleecing the U.S. public.
2. This fraud is wasting billions in untreated, misdiagnosed illness in the United States
3. STOP the FRAUD and CORRUPTION

4. Its time the law stops ignoring the issue of toxic mold. If its used in chemical weapons...why isn't the medical community taught about this in college? I shouldn't know more about mold than my doctor!!!!
5. We cannot allow ignorance and corruption to stand in the way of what very well could be one of America's greatest health problems.
6. This deceit has cost us our lives. It needs to end and the criminals held accountable. Restitution to the injured is a right we all have.
7. Go Sharon!
8. I lived in a HUD apartment complex for over ten years. The buildings are very old, and were built in swampy, marsh area. I did not know this, but when my unit was built, a vent for the dryer was never put in, so the dryer vented inside the walls for decades. My daughter came ill, and moved in with my brother, and her symptoms improved. I had no where to go, and not knowing what was happening, I stayed for years longer...before I moved in I was working full time, going to college and raising my daughter. Not long after I moved into the Meadow Road apartments in Keene, NH I became ill. More than a decade later, and many different diagnosis, a mold inspector, hired privately, came in and did surface and air testing, which both came back with high levels of many types of toxic molds. I had to move and throw away all of my daughter's and my own belongings. I was homeless for a while, I am still sick, haven't been able to afford to replace my bed yet, that had to be thrown away too. I pray and wish that the People with the power to do something to help will. Children are suffering, please stop this unfair and cruel treatment. God Bless.
9. My whole family was sick from toxic mold. We lived in it for almost 5 years, all the time getting sicker and sicker while doctors prescribed various drugs and did performed surgeries that were not needed. All they had to do was admit that mold can make people sick. VERY sick. <http://agoodhealthadvocate.com> .
10. The impact of toxic mould on the lives of us sufferers and those around us are horrendous. If you walk out of your home thinking what a great day it is, remember us who have lost loved ones, who are are sick every day, who have lost the ability to work, lost our possessions and home, all due to the known effects of mycotoxins. If it now feels less of a great day, then let us use honesty to confirm publicly and legally the truth behind the dangers and consequences of exposure to toxic mould. Health and life is ALWAYS more important than money or pride.
11. My children were poisoned by 50k toxic mold spores for 7 weeks, even after 5 1/2 years or trying to recover they are still tainted by the stain it left on their 3 main systems..... All bc of greed, negligence, and ignorance.
12. If you wish to see what toxic mold can do to some.it nearly killed both me and my husband..
13. Our Government Don't Care.
14. I would like to know this as well because I have been denied disability more than once for Mycotoxicosis, ME/CFS, +ANA (Lupus), MCS all due to toxic mold exposure yet it's very evident how sick I am!
15. I [Crystal Stuckey] am the owner of Katy's Exposure. I started the blog because of the fraud involved in my lawsuit to keep it out of court. The retaliation I have suffered and will continue to suffer has been unimaginable. This retaliation includes intentional changes to Katy's Exposure to limit it's placement in search results. [It should also be noted that Administrator Jahr and Chief Justice Cantil-Sayauke are aware that Veritox and their "legal" counsel, Mr. Keith Scheuer, mailed AOC employee falsified court documents to Ms. Stuckey, interstate, in May of 2011. The void legal documents were enclosed in a threat that should Ms. Stuckey continue to blog of this matter in the California courts and its continued adverse impact on the public; Veritox and Mr. Scheuer would sue her.]

16. JC Chair Cantil-Sayauke, AOC Director Jahr, AOC/JC Chief Legal Counsel Roberts, and JC/AOC Chair of Litigation Management Kaufmann, already have this piece of information, along with directions of where they can read it on the Internet with the links corroborating the statements made of their obfuscating from addressing extrinsic fraud causing the continuance of federal contractors' scientific fraud, adverse to the public's best interest⁸:

ODE TO TOXIC MOLD SUFFERERS

by Sharon Noonan Kramer

To those harmed by the US Chamber Institute for Legal Reform's (ILR) & the Manhattan Institute Center for Legal Policy's (CLP) "A Scientific View of the Health Effects of Mold"; and by California Judicial Council (JC) members' concealment of administrative court employee (AOC) falsified documents in Strategic Litigation Against Public Participation (SLAPP) to retaliate for exposing how and why it became a false concept in U.S. public health policy that mold toxins are proven not to harm; And harmed by the Silence of All Those Who Know!

If you're poisoned by microbe toxins and no one will listen, think of the largest lobbyist and coins which glisten. Know why elected officials will not give them a di\$\$in', as the fleeced public continues to feel it.

A retired Assistant Surgeon General took a think-tank's bribe. His written words and true science do not jibe. They're spewed in U.S. courts as false denial diatribe, and U.S. Senate HELPed to conceal it.

A Citizen exposed how policy fraud came to be. She named those involved as she blogged of the fee. Cal courts framed her for libel so no one would see, and repeatedly refused to repeal it.

They jailed her and hurt her and falsified docs. She was terrorized for example so no one else balks. Excuses abound of why no one talks, CAUSING environmental injuries til a Loud Voice squeals it.

JC/AOC Heads seem political to the core. They shield court employee crimes hiding frauds of more. They may need to be shown the jailhouse door! and the Citizen knows how to reveal it:

USDOJ's witness Veritox took Manhattan Institute's bribe. They forged UCLA doctor authorship as the US Chamber lied. *Feds, Politicians, Regents, Cal Court leaders came along for the ride, and mass silence as defense can't conceal it.*

*Veritox's extrapolations alone are not scientific proof. Expert witnessing that they are, causes cost-shifting by spooof. **Falsifying court docs in Cal SLAPP puts culpability through the roof!! The admission of AOC's frauds will seal it.***

*Uncontradicted evidence are considered as truths. Feigning they're not are lies, court fraud and abuse. JC/AOC Heads' refuting evidence would prove its not ruse. **Since there is none, Mea Culpa to the defrauded public must heal it!!!***

⁸ 10/12/13 Page 2 of the NOTICE of intent to sue if the JC & AOC leaders continue to obfuscate with the link of where they can read the corroborating statements online: <http://freepdfhosting.com/28f417eb4f.pdf> & the link that was provided of the direct evidence of extrinsic fraud abetting scientific fraud: <http://wp.me/p20mAH-qJ>

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGAL OUTREACH
1121 MISSION STREET · SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103 · 415/567-6255

October 22, 2013

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

Our four agencies from San Francisco that work with immigrant and Limited English Proficient (LEP) communities write to express our strong support for the expansion of interpreter services to cover all civil matters in which LEP parties are otherwise denied due process and full and meaningful access to the court system.

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach (API Legal Outreach), is a community-based, social justice organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities of the Greater Bay Area with offices in San Francisco and Oakland. Founded in 1975, our mission is to promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services for the most marginalized segments of the API community. Our work is currently focused in the areas domestic violence, violence against women, immigration and immigrant rights, senior law and elder abuse, human trafficking, public benefits, and social justice issues.

Founded in 1969, Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA) advocates for programs, policies, and legislation to meet our communities' needs, and to change or eliminate those that are harmful and discriminatory. CAA's core civil rights issues include language rights, immigrant rights, and racial justice. In San Francisco, CAA monitors implementation of the Language Access Ordinance with a focus on the City's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant affairs that coordinates and centralizes language services and resources throughout City departments.

People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER) is a grassroots, environmental justice organization based in San Francisco's Mission District. PODER's mission is to organize with Mission residents to work on local solutions to issues facing low-income communities and communities of color through the active participation of all people in decision-making processes.

Filipino Community Center (FCC) is a community-based organization in San Francisco who work to assist immigrants and low-income Filipinos to access services and resources, to know their rights, and to enhance their capacity to assert their rights through civic participation and to ensure that they have equal access to resources and opportunities for advancing their rights and well-being.

In our collective experience, many LEP court users are survivors and victims of violent crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, stalking, and child abuse. However, their cases in civil court to address issues related to child custody or to obtain a civil harassment restraining order may not make their plight obvious. Other times, their only recourse

to receive further services and referrals for assistance rely on their ability to talk directly to a court certified interpreter. For these reasons, it is essential that LEP court users, judges, attorneys and court staff have access to competent language services by certified interpreters who are available throughout the court process. Proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video raise significant concerns about adverse impacts on access and due process.

The Judicial Council, the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice, and legal aid organizations have long recognized the unmet need for language access in civil matters and the need to expand interpreter services. The council has also established equal access to justice and language access as priority goals.

It is critically important that courts use competent interpreters who are certified or registered to provide this sensitive and skilled service. We support the interpreters in their demands for fair pay, benefits and working conditions. Recognizing the value of these services is necessary to ensure that quality interpreter services are available for LEP court users.

Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), PODER, and the Filipino Community Center (FCC) urge the council and local courts to take immediate steps, as recommended by the Department of Justice in its ongoing investigation, to comply with the requirements of Title VI and ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users regardless of their national origin.

Sincerely,

/s/

Cindy C. Liou, Esq.
Staff Attorney
Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach

Endorsing Organizations:

Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA)
People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER)
Filipino Community Center (FCC)

cc: Hon. Cynthia Ming-mei Lee
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of San Francisco,
400 McAllister St.
Department 206
San Francisco, CA 94102-4514



canal alliance

September 24, 2013

Hon. James R. Ritchie
Superior Court of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Judge Ritchie, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Council Members:

I am writing to support the concerns that have been voiced by court interpreters regarding their role in the Northern California court system. As an organization that advocates for the needs of immigrants, we strongly support making full use of live court interpreters in both civil and criminal matters. At the same time, we back their demands for adequate pay and working conditions.

Canal Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving the low-income, Spanish-speaking community in Marin County. We serve over 3,500 clients per year in a range of different programs. Our clients with limited English -- i.e., most of the people we serve -- struggle every day with the challenge of the language barrier. Nowhere is the challenge greater, and the need more urgent, as when they wind up in court. A great many of our clients are currently studying English, but a courtroom is not the place where they should be trying to get along with what they know. Due process, and equal protection under the law, require that everyone fully understand what is being said -- and that means having live interpreters present in court. Remote interpretation by video link is not the same. This is true for civil matters as well as for criminal proceedings.

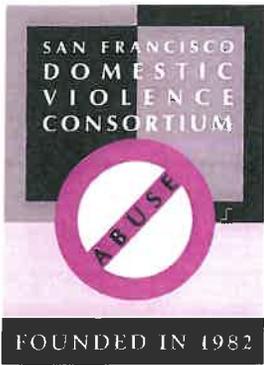
Canal Alliance is not alone in its opinion on this matter. The State Bar Commission on Access to Justice, the Judicial Council, and various legal aid organizations have all called attention to the need for equal language access in civil court and criminal court alike. We understand that the U.S. Department of Justice has also raised the concern that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 may be violated under current practice.

At the same time as we support language access for those appearing before the court, we also support the just demands of the court interpreters for decent pay and working conditions. They have gone half a dozen years without even a cost of living increase, at the same time as there is a surplus in the state's account for interpretation services.

We call on the council, and local courts, to address these issues. To not do so would be to violate Title VI, common sense, and our shared notions of decency. Our immigrant population, and the community of court interpreters, both deserve a better deal than the current situation.

Sincerely,

Tom Wilson
Executive Director
Canal Alliance



Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2013

JUDICIAL COUNCIL
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

I am writing to express our strong support for the expansion of interpreter services to cover all civil matters in which Limited English Proficient (LEP) parties are otherwise denied due process and full and meaningful access to the court system.

The San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium is a network of seventeen organizations that dedicate themselves to eliminating domestic violence and ensuring the basic rights of safety, self-determination, and well-being to victims and survivors of domestic violence and their children.

It is essential that LEP court users, judges, attorneys and court staff have access to competent language services by certified interpreters who are available throughout the court process. Proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video raise significant concerns about adverse impacts on access and due process.

The Judicial Council, the State Bar Commission on Access to Justice, and legal aid organizations have long recognized the unmet need for language access in civil matters and the need to expand interpreter services. The council has also established equal access to justice and language access as priority goals.

It is critically important that courts use competent interpreters who are certified or registered to provide this sensitive and skilled service. We support the interpreters in their demands for fair pay, benefits and working conditions. Recognizing the value of these services is necessary to ensure that quality interpreter services are available for LEP court users.

The San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium urges the council and local courts to take immediate steps, as recommended by the Department of Justice in its ongoing investigation, to comply with the requirements of Title VI and ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users regardless of their national origin.

Sincerely,



Beverly Upton
Executive Director

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2013

cc: Honorable Cynthia Ming-mei Lee, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of San Francisco

CLERK SUPREME COURT

San Francisco Domestic Violence Consortium

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100 Montgomery St., The Presidio San Francisco, CA 94129
Phone: 415-626-8709



Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice
Judicial Council of California Chair
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

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OCT 24 2013
CHAMBERS OF THE
CHIEF JUSTICE

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

I am writing to express support for the expansion of in-person interpreter services to cover all civil matters in which Limited English Proficient (LEP) parties are otherwise denied due process and full and meaningful access to the court system.

Causa Justa :: Just Cause serves low-income Spanish-speaking tenants and homeowners with know-your-rights information to help them keep their homes and improve the conditions they live in. Language access is a fundamental need for the community we serve.

Proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video raise significant concerns about adverse impacts on access and due process. Direct access to competent in-person language services by certified interpreters is crucial to a just court process that respects civil rights and grants equal access.

We also support the interpreters in their demands for fair pay, benefits and working conditions. Recognizing the value of these services is necessary to ensure that quality interpreter services are available for LEP court users.

Causa Justa :: Just Cause urges the council and local courts to take immediate steps, as recommended by the Department of Justice in its ongoing investigation, to comply with the requirements of Title VI and ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users regardless of their national origin.

Yours truly,

María Poblet
Executive Director