

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION**

2125 Canoas Garden Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95125  
SCCGAA@gmail.com

Maxmilian Zarzana, President  
Kipp Davis, Vice President  
Kevin Smith, Treasurer  
Kelley Kulick, Secretary

Erin West, Board Member  
Jim Sibley, Board Member  
Mark Duffy, Board Member  
David Phillips, Board Member

RECEIVED

NOV 22 2013

CHAMBERS OF THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE

November 20, 2013

To: Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice  
judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov  
Judicial Council of California Chair  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Re: Court Interpreter Services/Negotiations (Public Comment: Dec. 12-13 Judicial Council Meeting)

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Clara County Government Attorneys Association to encourage the courts to reach a fair agreement with CFI. As an organization of roughly 300 lawyers who appear in court regularly, GAA is acutely aware of the essential role interpreters play in the criminal justice system. Without such well-trained interpreters, people who are not proficient in English may be denied their right to access our excellent system of justice, whether they be victims, defendants or witnesses.

It is critically important that courts use competent, certified or registered, in-person interpreters to provide this sensitive and highly skilled service. We strongly encourage the courts to come to a fair agreement with the interpreters.

Sincerely,



Max Zarzana,  
President, GAA

cc: Hon. Brian Walsh, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of Santa Clara  
191 N. First St.  
San Jose, CA 95113

# National Lawyers Guild

## San Francisco Bay Area Chapter



RECEIVED

NOV 22 2013

CHAMBERS OF THE  
CHIEF JUSTICE

November 22, 2013

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

Re.: Public comment on court interpreter services, for the Dec. 12-13 Judicial Council meeting

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

We are writing to express our strong 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.

The National Lawyers Guild San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (NLGSF) has hundreds of members throughout Northern California. We are a human rights bar association, in existence for over 75 years. We recognize the critical work that court interpreters do within our justice system and are concerned about proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video.

As our National Immigration Project has already found in immigration courts, Video Remote Interpreting has undermined due process rights: It doesn't allow for adequate confidential communications between defendants and their legal representatives; it interferes with the presentation of evidence; and it is often riddled with technological problems that disrupt the proceedings. That is not a system that we should be contemplating expanding.

As long time supporters of labor rights, particularly regarding legal workers, 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 court users with limited proficiency in English.

The NLGSF urges the Council and local courts to take immediate steps to comply with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users, regardless of their national origin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CVillarreal".

Carlos Villarreal  
Executive Director

cc: Judicial Council of California, Hon. Cynthia Ming-mei Lee, Hon. C. Don Clay, Hon. Diane M. Price, Hon. Barry P. Goode, Hon. Brian Walsh, Hon. James R. Ritchie, Hon. John Salazar, Hon. Richard J. Henderson, Hon. Rene Auguste Chouteau, Hon. Marla O. Anderson, Hon. Robert D. Foiles

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0049  
(916) 319-2049  
FAX (916) 319-2149

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1255 CORPORATE CENTER DR., SUITE 306  
MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754  
(323) 264-4949  
FAX (323) 264-4916

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Chou@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature



ED CHAU  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-NINTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
JUDICIARY  
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE  
CHAIR: PRIVACY

November 26, 2013

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

Re: Court Interpreter Services - Public Comment for December 12-13 Council Meeting

Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the expansion of in-person interpreter services to cover all civil matters for Limited English Proficient (LEP) parties who are otherwise denied full and meaningful access to our judicial system.

California is the most populous state in the nation with over 38 million people, and is home to one of the world's most diverse populations. There is also an increasing diversity among the languages spoken by LEP communities. Currently, nearly seven million Californians cannot access the courts without significant language assistance. I commend your vision of improving access to justice for Californians by adopting the Access 3-D initiative, and for recognizing that equal language access is an essential concern to the State of California.

It was recently brought to my attention that interpreters in Los Angeles and the Bay Area have been working without a contract, have not received a pay adjustment of any kind in more than six years, and do not have wage steps that other employees enjoy. As a result, 15 Northern CA counties have authorized a strike.

Investing in the certified interpreter workforce is absolutely fundamental to ensuring full and equal access to justice for all Californians. It is essential that LEP court users, judges, attorneys and court staff have access to competent language services by certified interpreters throughout the court process. LEP individuals who can neither communicate nor understand what is happening in court struggle to protect their children, homes and safety. When courts fail to provide interpreters the integrity of our judicial system is threatened.

The need for in-person interpreter services to cover all civil matters has been a well-recognized problem and a longstanding issue that must be addressed. For these reasons, I introduced Assembly Bill 1127 earlier this year to ensure that all Californians have equal access to the courts without regard to language proficiency by providing LEP parties with court interpreters in civil proceedings.

I support the expansion of interpreter services and I believe that supporting the interpreter workforce is essential to such an expansion. Hence, I support the interpreters in their demands for fair pay, benefits and working conditions. I urge you to do whatever is necessary to support this workforce of certified interpreters in order to expand in-person interpreter services for civil proceedings and equal access to our courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Chau', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**ED CHAU**  
Assemblymember, 49<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Honorable C. Don Clay, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Alameda  
Honorable Brian Walsh, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of Santa Clara

EC:ec



December 3, 2013

Hon. Brian Walsh, Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of Santa Clara  
191 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

**Re: Court Interpreter Services/Negotiations  
(Public Comment: Dec. 12-13 Judicial Council Meeting)**

Dear Judge Walsh:

On behalf of the Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association (LRLA), I am writing to express our organization's strong 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.

The purpose and mission of LRLA is to provide a forum for communication among attorneys interested in promoting the professional advancement of the Hispanic/Latino community, to provide a mechanism for concerted action in support of the cultural values, economic interests and social dignity of the Hispanic/Latino community, to enhance the technical skills of Hispanic/Latino attorneys through sponsorship and promotion of continuing legal education programs, and to promote the visibility, impact and election and appointment of political candidates, judicial candidates and public officials who advance and promote the interests of the Hispanic/Latino community.

Our experience has shown that justice cannot be served unless LEP court users, judges, attorneys and court staff have direct access to competent language services by certified interpreters throughout the court process. Proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video raise significant concerns about adverse impacts on access and due process on the most vulnerable of populations, the Latino/a community. Unfortunately, our community suffers from a low socio-economic background and a disproportionate representation in the criminal and civil areas. Without qualified on-site interpreters, our community will be unduly impacted.

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, certified or registered, in-person interpreters to provide this sensitive and highly skilled service. We strongly 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 court users with limited proficiency in English.

The Santa Clara County La Raza Lawyers Association 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 of the Civil Rights Act and ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users, regardless of their national origin.

Very truly yours,



Patricia D. Castorena, Esq.

President

SCC La Raza Lawyers Association

cc: Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice  
judicialcouncil@jud.ca.gov  
Judicial Council of California Chair  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

bcc: California Federation of Interpreters (cfi@mediaworkers.org)

**From:** [Emma Dewald](#)  
**To:** [Chouteau, René A.](#); [Judicial Council](#)  
**Subject:** Language Access: Public Comments for December 2013 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Friday, November 22, 2013 1:20:07 PM

---

November 22, 2013

Hon. Rene Auguste Chouteau, Presiding Judge Superior Court of Sonoma County  
Hall of Justice  
600 Administration Drive, Courtroom 15  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Language Access: Public Comments for December 2013 Council Meeting

Dear Judge Chouteau,

I am writing to share how important the provision of in-person interpreter services is to my practice. Without the skilled work of our certified interpreters, my clients with limited English-language skills would be denied due process and full and meaningful access to the court system.

I work as a Deputy Public Defender at the Sonoma County Public Defender's office and frequently represent clients with limited English-language skills. The in-person certified interpreters that I have the privilege to work with ensure that those clients can understand and meaningfully participate in the justice system. Proposals to provide interpreters remotely by video raise significant concerns about adverse impacts on access and due process. The value of the services provided by our talented and hard-working interpreters cannot be overstated. Every day I am grateful to work with such gifted individuals.

I urge the courts and the Judicial Council to ensure full and meaningful access to services for all court users regardless of their national origin.

Yours,  
Emma Dewald  
Deputy Public Defender  
[Emma.Dewald@gmail.com](mailto:Emma.Dewald@gmail.com)

cc: Hon. Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice Chair  
Judicial Council of California



# CPDA

California Public Defenders Association  
10324 Placer Lane  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
Phone: (916) 362-1690 x 8  
Fax: (916) 362-3346  
e-mail: cpda@cpda.org

*A Statewide Association of Public Defenders and Criminal Defense Counsel*

**President**  
Winston A. Peters  
Los Angeles County

**1st Vice President**  
Garrick Byers  
Contra Costa County

**2nd Vice President**  
Jean Wilkinson  
Orange County

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Michael Ogul  
Santa Clara County

**Assist. Secretary/Treasurer**  
Charles Denton  
Alameda County

**Board of Directors**

Jeff Adachi, 15  
San Francisco County

Laura Arnold, 15  
San Diego County

Oscar Bobrow, 15  
Solano County

Jennifer Friedman, 15  
Los Angeles County

Juliana Humphrey, 15  
San Diego County

Susan Leff, 15 Associate  
San Francisco County

Michael McMahon, 15  
Ventura County

Traci Owens, 15  
Santa Clara County

Susan Israel, 14  
San Bernardino County

Robin Lipetzky, 14  
Contra Costa County

Frank Ospino, 14  
Orange County

Bart Sheela, 14  
San Diego County

Jack Weedin, 14  
Los Angeles County

Brendon Woods, 14  
Alameda County

**Past Presidents**  
Richard Erwin, 1968, James Hooley, 1969  
Sheldon Portman, 1970  
Wilbur Littlefield, 1971  
William Higham, 1972, Paul Ligda, 1974  
Farris Salamy, 1975, Robert Nicco, 1976  
David A. Kidney, 1977  
Frank Williams, 1978, John Cleary, 1979  
Glen Mowrer, 1980, Fred Herro, 1981  
Stuart Rappaport, 1982, Jeff Brown, 1983  
James Crowder, 1984, Laurel Rest, 1985  
Charles James, 1986, Allan Kleinkopf, 1987  
Michael C. McMahon, 1988  
Tito Gonzales, 1989  
Norwood Nedom, 1990  
Margaret Scully, 1991-92  
Kenneth I. Clayman, 1992  
James McWilliams, 1993, Terry Davis, 1994  
Jack Weedin, 1995, Michael Arkelian, 1996  
Mark Arnold, 1997, Hank Hall, 1998  
Diane A. Bellas, 1999, Gary Windom, 2000  
Michael P. Judge, 2001, Joe Spaeth, 2002  
Louis Haffner, 2003, Paulino Duran, 2004  
Gary Mandinach, 2005, Barry Melton, 2006  
Kathleen Cannon, 2007  
Leslie McMillan, 2008, Bart Sheela, 2009  
Jose Varela, 2010, Margo George, 2011  
Juliana Humphrey, 2012

December 4, 2013

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

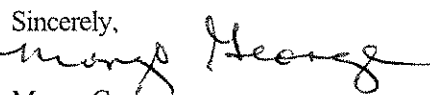
Dear Chief Justice and Council Members:

The California Public Defenders Association (CPDA), a statewide organization of public defenders, private defense counsel, and investigators urges the California Judicial Council to secure due process and meaningful access to our court system for our Non-English or Limited English speaking Californians by providing for in-person interpreter services for all civil matters. We encourage 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.

Our experience in the criminal courts has shown that justice cannot be served unless court users, judges, attorneys and court staff have direct access to competent language services by certified interpreters 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 the courts use competent, in-person interpreters who are certified or registered to provide this sensitive and highly skilled service. In order to provide such services it incumbent upon the court to provide the interpreters with fair pay, benefits and working conditions.

Sincerely,  
  
Margo George  
CPDA Legislative Committee Chair