

Member Program Innovations Summary 2012 Annual Business Meeting

Collaborations

Minnesota

Minnesota partnered with the University of Minnesota's *Program in Translation and Interpreting*, to offer Somali interpreter candidates a semester-length, non-credit legal interpreting course in preparation for the oral certification examination. Sixteen candidates successfully completed the class and sat for the oral certification examination in February.

Missouri

Missouri collaborated with local colleges and foreign language departments to provide orientations.

New Mexico

New Mexico collaborated with the Southwest Indian Law Center to ensure language and cultural access for tribal members in state courts by offering a symposium which laid the foundation for qualifying legal interpreters in Pueblo languages.

New York

New York began working with colleges and universities to create curriculum for improvement of language skills and development professional tracks for interpreters.

Washington and Kentucky

Washington and Kentucky collaborated to write a grant jointly seeking funds to host sign language interpreter training.

Firsts

West Virginia

West Virginia obtained its first certified Spanish interpreter.

Funding and Grants

California

California AOC was awarded a grant to conduct surveys of superior courts to highlight effective and innovative practices in serving LEP court users. The results will be used to create and replicate effective tools, resources and strategies to improve access to justice for LEP court users.

Massachusetts

Massachusetts obtained a grant from the State Justice Institute (SJI) to translate Uniform Small Claims forms into seven languages.

New Mexico

New Mexico established a scholarship program for forty bilingual employees to participate in a 12-week online training which leads to certification.

Tennessee

- ◆ \$50K grant to fund interpreter services in criminal cases to non-indigent defendants
- ◆ \$100 grant to pay for a remote interpreting project using internet based video conferencing equipment in three courts
- ◆ STOP grant to pay for translation of order of protection forms in five languages
- ◆ Request of \$2 million by governor to expand interpreter services

Outreach and Public Awareness

Arizona

Arizona completed a project to translate order of protection forms into 3 languages.

California

California developed an interactive online course for LEP community leaders to educate them about California courts and self-help resources.

Kentucky

Kentucky developed an interactive web tool for LEP litigants that includes access to translated documents.

New Mexico

New Mexico sponsored a Navajo interpreters training seminar which has led to the creation of a Navajo Interpreters Association.

New York

New York initiated satisfaction surveys to determine the quality of interpreter services and to evaluate interpreter performances.

Professionalism in the Interpreting Field

Delaware

Delaware created a book club for Spanish interpreters to foster professionalism and camaraderie.

New Mexico

New Mexico will sponsor the fourth Annual New Mexico Interpreters Conference.

Ohio

Ohio will host forums throughout the year to provide an opportunity for interpreters to address issues affecting the profession

Training, Education and Credentialing

California

California developed an interactive online orientation course for new court interpreter candidates. The course will cover the structure of the California judiciary as well as the role of the interpreter in the courts.

Delaware

Delaware created a two-day ethics program for Interpreters.

Nevada

Nevada implemented Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs) for "Registered" interpreters who speak languages of lesser diffusion for which no Consortium oral examination exists. Registered interpreters are required to meet a score of "12" on ALTA's testing scale or "Superior" in LTI's score.

New Mexico

New Mexico established a scholarship program for 40 bilingual employees to participate in online training which leads to certification.

New York

New York developed a 16-minute training video for judges which will be available on their website.

Oregon

◆ Creation of an ASL interpreter credential

The ASL Oregon Certified Court Interpreter Credential is awarded to an ASL interpreter who holds a valid Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). The interpreter must be an Oregon resident and fulfill other credential steps including: achieving a passing score on the ethics examination, completing 20 hours of court interpreting services or court observation, attending the ethics orientation and a swearing-in ceremony.

◆ Development of oral exam preparation pilot workshops for LOTS speakers

The Oregon Court Interpreter Services Certification and Training Program is offering a new hands-on series of court Interpreting oral examination preparation workshops in order to develop a larger pool of skilled, non-Spanish speaking Oregon certified court interpreters.

◆ Development of mentorship program

The Oregon mentoring program has continued to successfully support new interpreters to the profession and in 2011 has resulted in 111 mentees for a total of 225 hours.

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania created a "Qualified" interpreter level whereby oral exam candidates who obtain 60-69% in the simultaneous portion will be allowed to take the consecutive and sight portions. Candidates who pass one or both, they will be placed on the list as "Qualified" interpreters and will be allowed to work in limited types of cases.

Texas

Texas added a pre-examination orientation course which is limited to six hours. The course must be pre-approved but will be offered by private providers.

Use of Technology and Software**California**

California used VRI for sign language interpreting cases in three courts for 20+ events. The results of the pilot will serve to finalize the *Recommended Guidelines for the Use of Video Remote Interpreting in American Sign Language*. The guidelines will be published and made available in 2012.

Washington

Washington collaborated with their IT department to develop the "Interpreter Profile System." This web-based application is designed to collect and maintain certified/registered court interpreters contact information, their geographic availability, and track their compliance requirements such as continuing education.