



Training and Communication Strategies for Judicial Officers

September 24, 2019

Council of Language Access
Coordinators (CLAC) Conference

Hon. Steven K. Austin and Hon. Erica R. Yew

Language Access Training for Judicial Officers in California



- Language access and court interpreter issues included in:
 - New Judge Orientation (NJO)
 - Ethics courses for judges
 - Continuing education for judges



Judicial Training Examples



Illustrative Information

- Shadowing exercises to show interpreter skills
- Exercises that assist with word meaning – “shank” (meat) vs. “shank” (weapon)
- Information to illustrate interpreter fatigue

Judicial Training Examples



Use of Media

- “Midnight Express” scene to show the litigant’s perspective
- [Tonight Show Google Translate Songs](#) to show the complexity of interpretation/translation and possible issues with machine translation



Judicial Training Examples



- Actual courtroom scenarios that highlight language access issues and working with court interpreters



Judicial Training Examples



- Interpreter video-taped selfies can also be used as effective training complements



Judicial Training Examples



- Can be impactful to share consequences of poor interpretation/lack of language access
 - Mistrials, appeals, etc.
 - Legal consequences
 - Disciplinary action
- Important to help judges see how language access affects their work on the bench

Additional Tools and Resources



- Online, accessible training for judicial officers and court staff (available 24/7)
- Easy-to-access repository of resources (bench cards, tip sheets, statutes, etc.)
- Pre-translated forms
- Pre-recorded advisements



Additional Tools and Resources



- Expanded multilingual communication
 - Documents
 - Online Content
 - Signage
 - Pre-recorded messages
- Outreach to multilingual media to advise LEP court users of services



Questions?

