


The background of the slide features a faint, light blue image of a pair of scales of justice. The scales are positioned on the right side of the frame, with the vertical pillar and the horizontal beam extending across the top and right. Two pans hang from the beam, one on the left and one on the right. The overall aesthetic is professional and legal.

Court Interpreter Training & Certification Program

New Judge Orientation

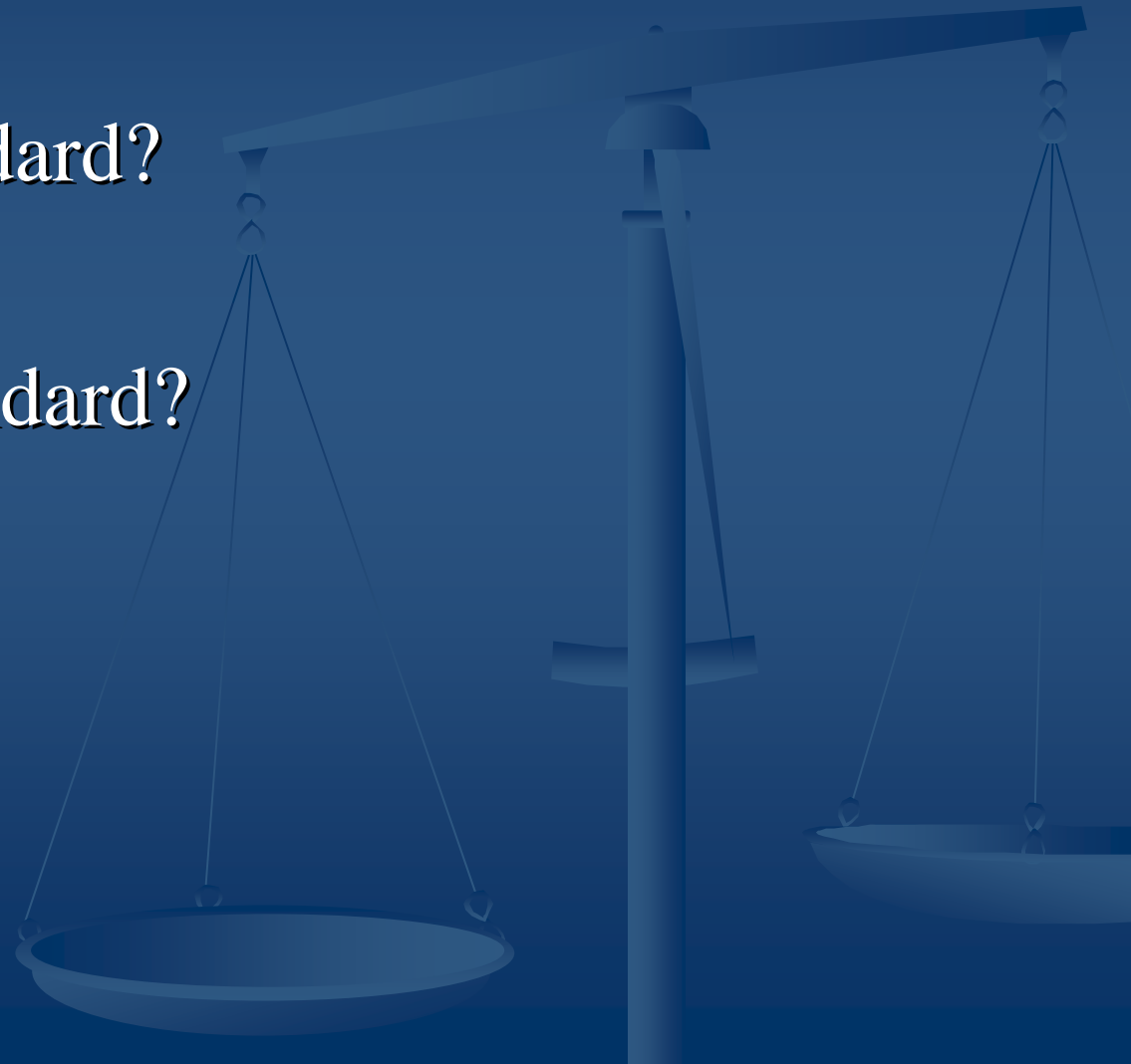
March 2007

Program Information

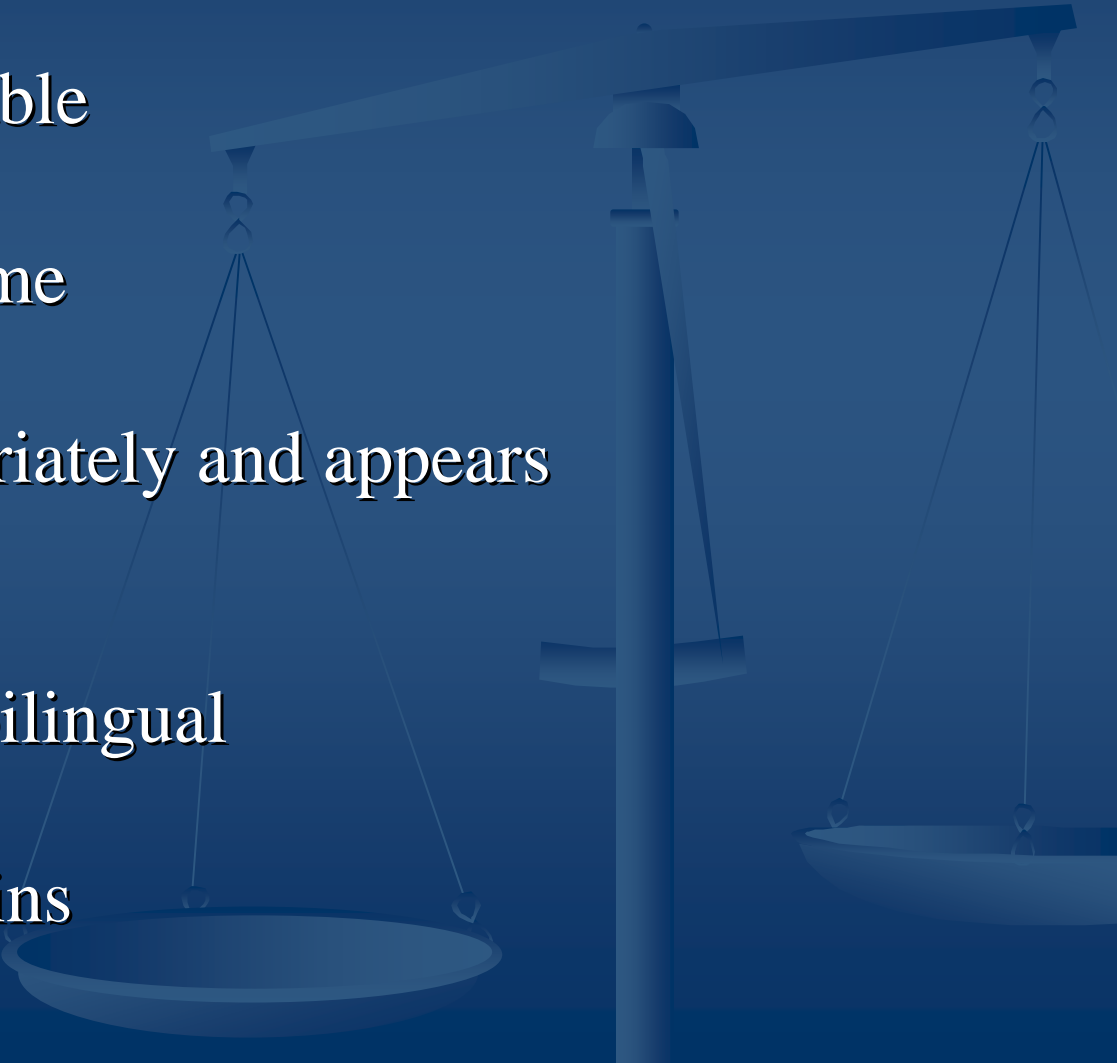
- I.C.A.R. 52(c)
 - Court Interpreter Subcommittee
 - Website (http://www.isc.idaho.gov/intpret_cov.htm)
 - Member of the Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification (36 states)
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How Do We Know That A Person Has the KSAs?

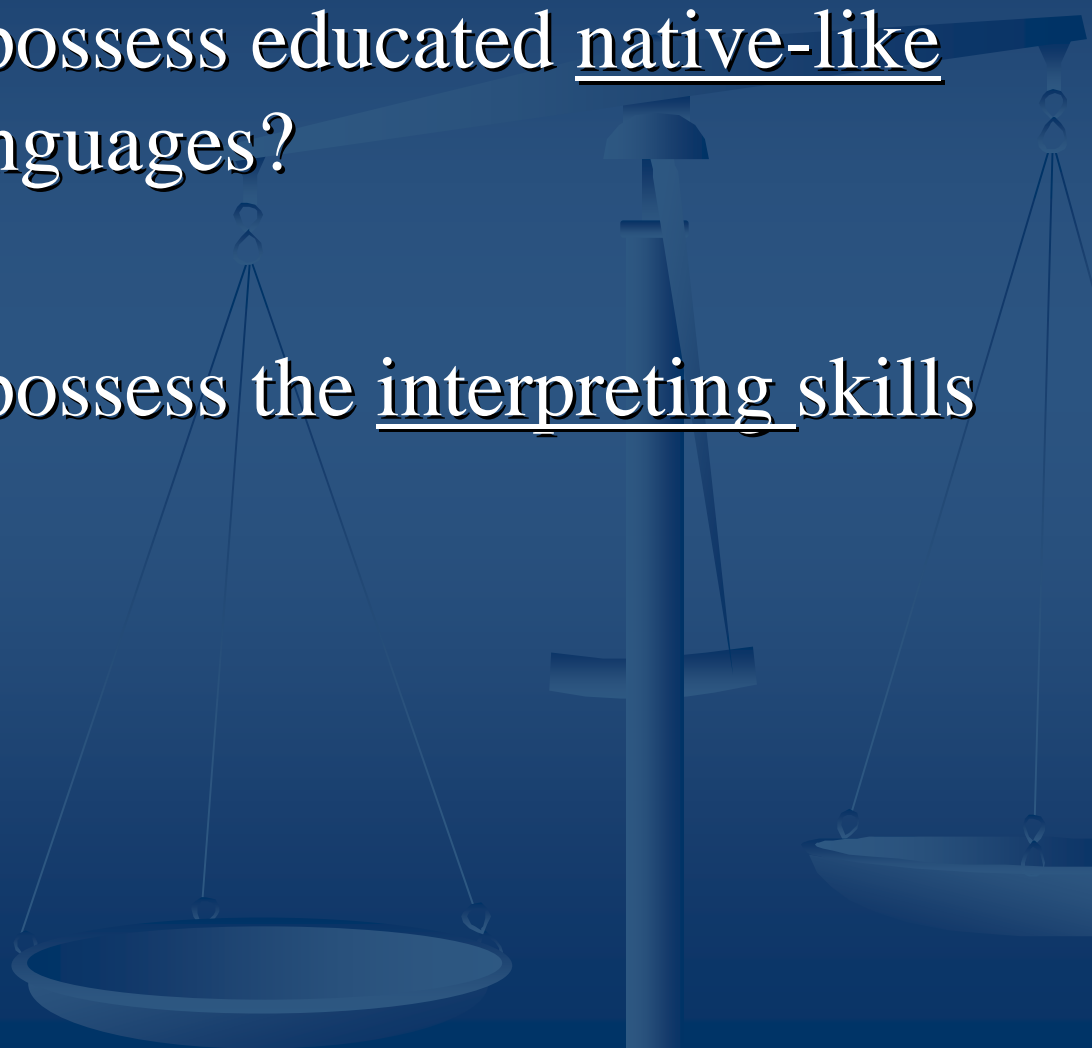
- Appearance standard?
- Performance standard?



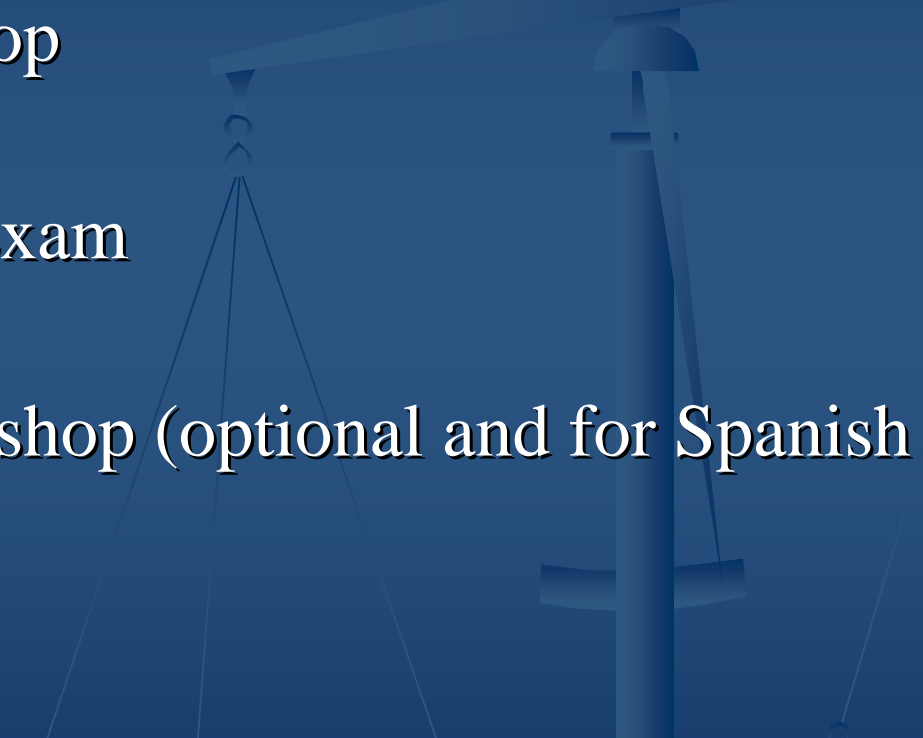
Appearance Standard of Interpreting

- Person is available
 - Shows up on time
 - Dresses appropriately and appears professional
 - Appears to be bilingual
 - No one complains
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Performance Standard

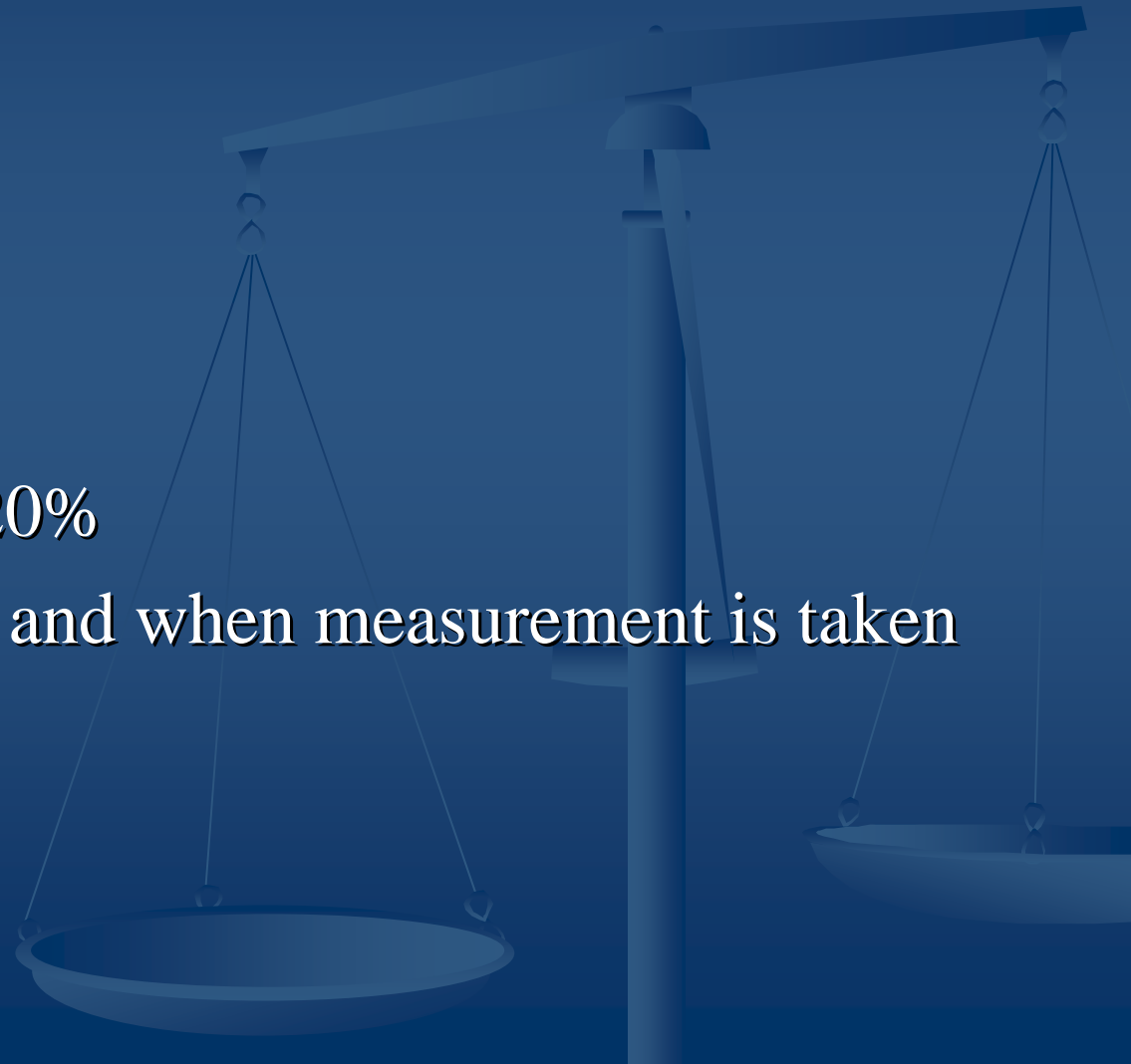
- Does the person possess educated native-like fluency in two languages?
 - Does the person possess the interpreting skills necessary?
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Certification Process

- Orientation Workshop
 - Written Screening Exam
 - Skill-building Workshop (optional and for Spanish language only)
 - Certification Exam
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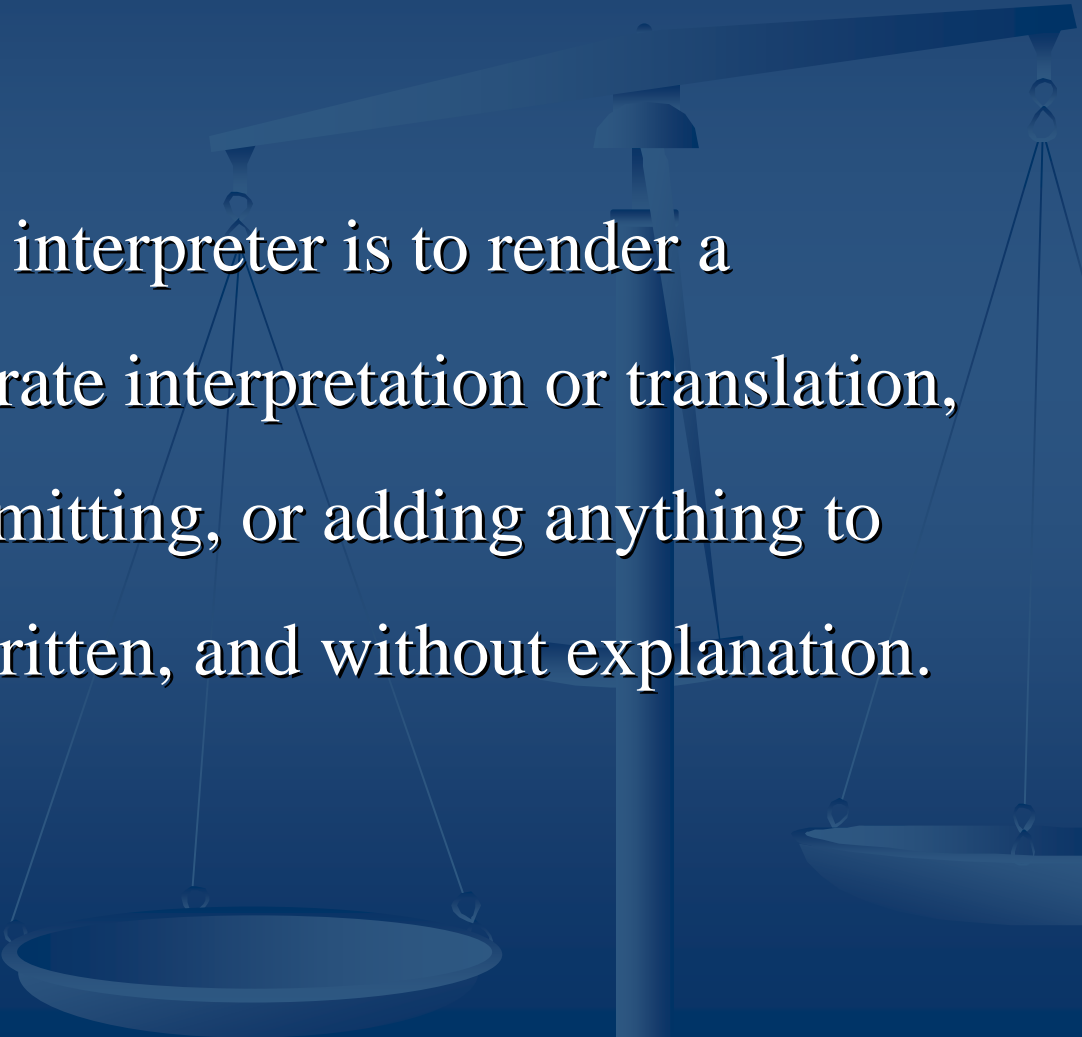
How Many People Pass the Tests?

- Federal
 - About 4% - 5%
- State tests
 - Between 10% - 20%
 - Varies with state and when measurement is taken

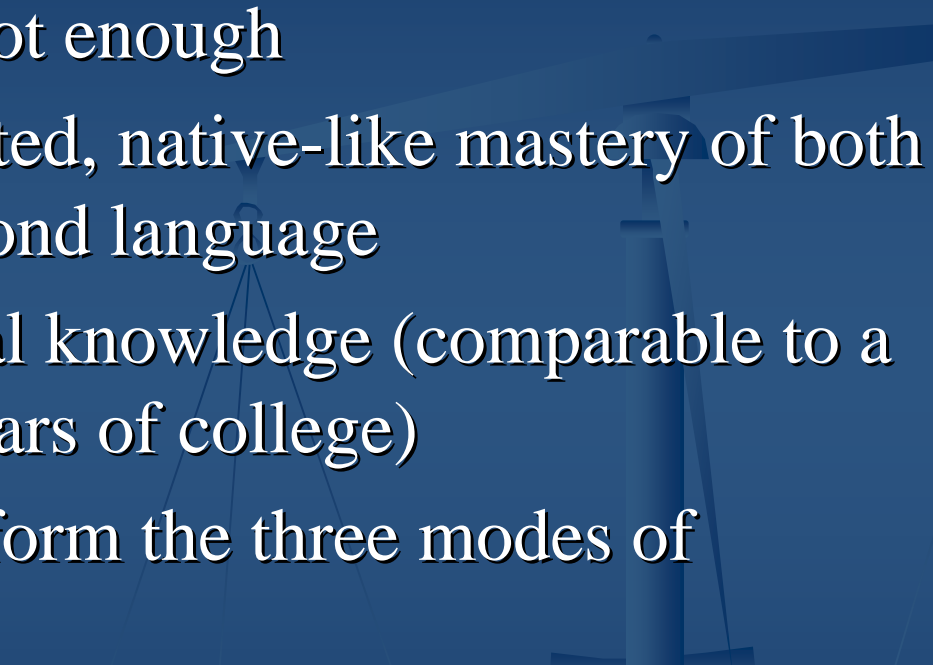


Role of the Court Interpreter

The role of a court interpreter is to render a complete and accurate interpretation or translation, without altering, omitting, or adding anything to what is stated or written, and without explanation.

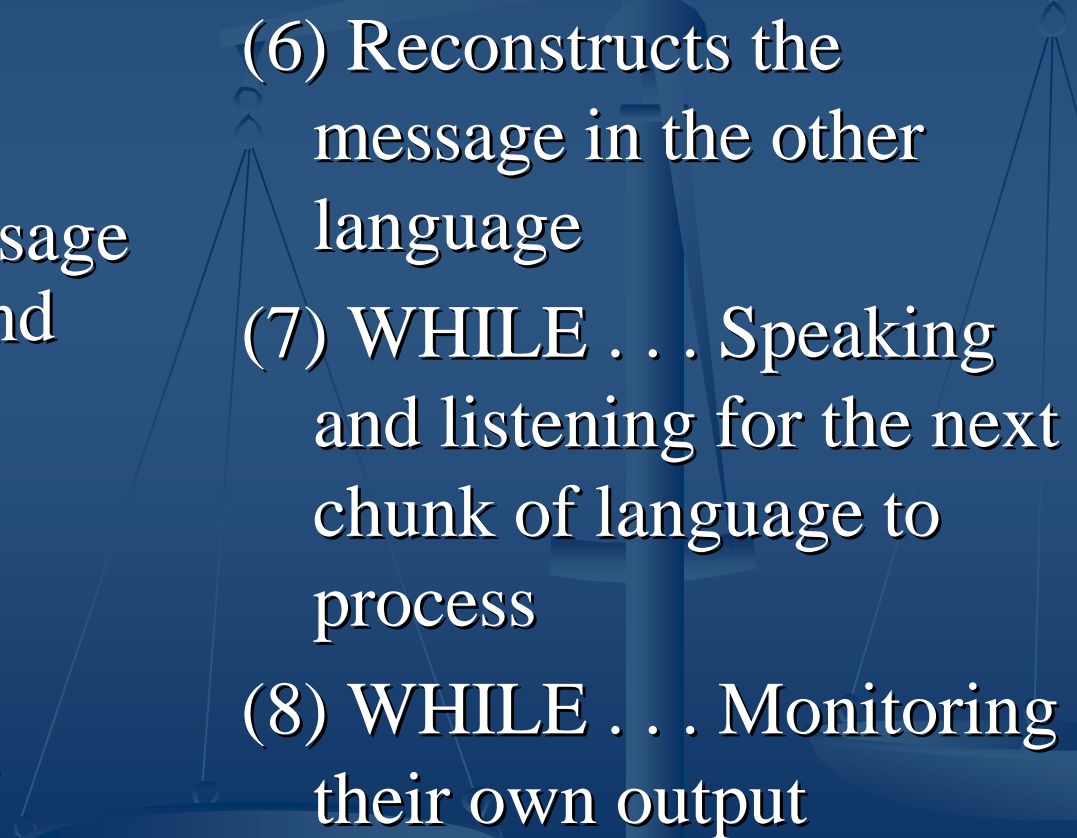


Level of Expertise Required

- ◆ Being bilingual is not enough
 - ◆ Must possess educated, native-like mastery of both English and the second language
 - ◆ Must display general knowledge (comparable to a minimum of two years of college)
 - ◆ Must be able to perform the three modes of interpreting
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Cognitive and Motor Skills

An interpreter . . .

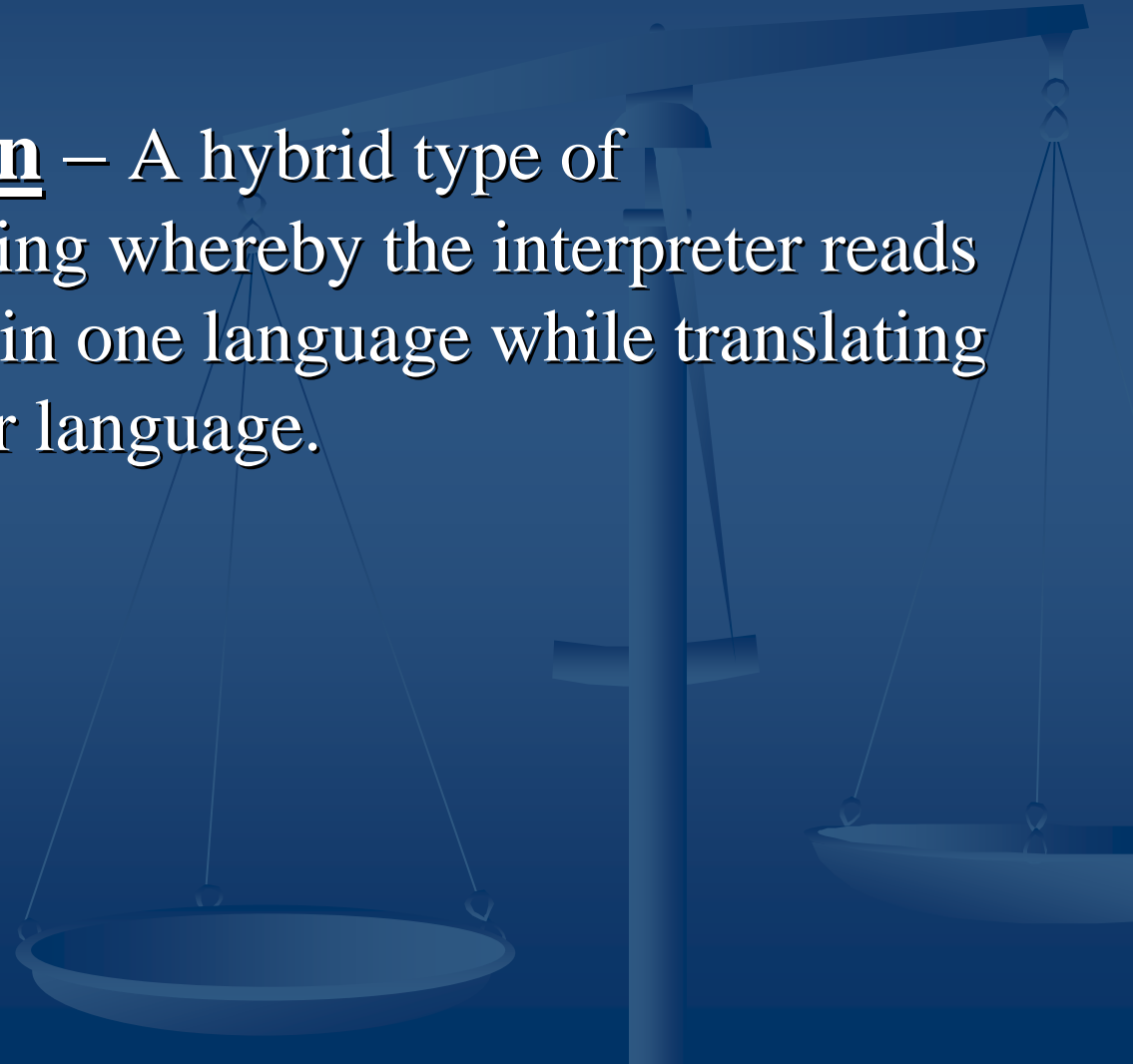
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- (1) Listens
 - (2) Comprehends
 - (3) Abstracts the message from the words and word order
 - (4) Stores ideas
 - (5) Searches for the conceptual and semantic matches
 - (6) Reconstructs the message in the other language
 - (7) WHILE . . . Speaking and listening for the next chunk of language to process
 - (8) WHILE . . . Monitoring their own output

Three Modes of Interpreting

- ◆ Simultaneous Interpreting - Rendering an interpretation continuously at the same time someone is speaking.
- ◆ Consecutive Interpreting - Rendering statements made in a source language into statements in the target language intermittently after a pause between each completed statement in the source language.

Three Modes of Interpreting (continued)

- ◆ **Sight Translation** – A hybrid type of interpreting/translating whereby the interpreter reads a document written in one language while translating it orally into another language.



What About Going From One Language to Another?

- Too many challenges to cover them all
- Jargon
- Sentence length and construction
- Technical terms
- Profanity and slang



Legalese & Elliptical Language

“To violate a defendant” - (8 syllables)

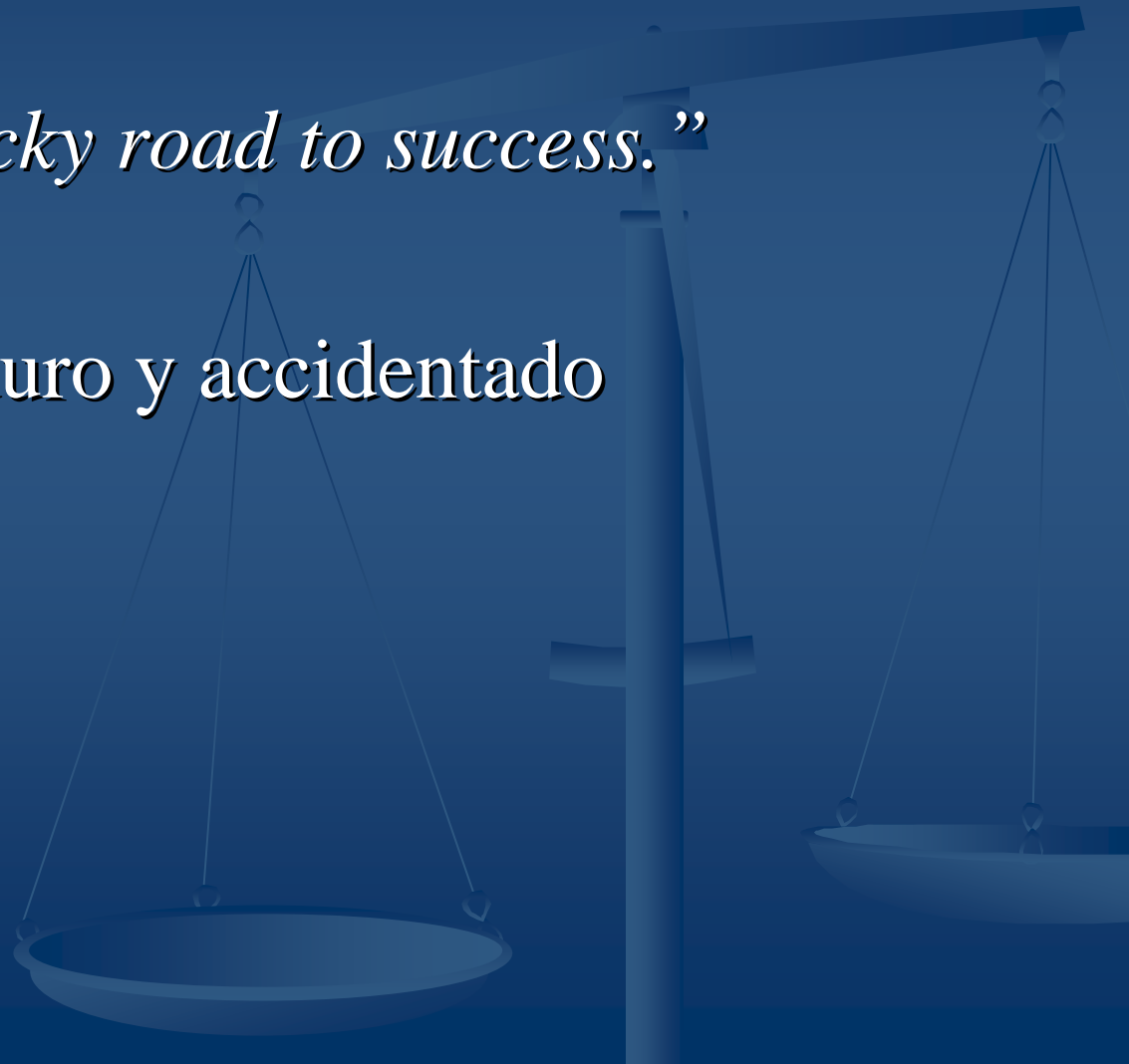
Correct Spanish - “Acusar de una infracción a un acusado bajo libertad condicional.” (24 syllables)

Verbatim Spanish (incorrect) - “Violar a un acusado”
(rape a defendant)

Noun and Adjective Position

“The long, hard rocky road to success.”

“El camino largo, duro y accidentado
Hacia el éxito.”



Passive – Active Voice

“Golpearon a la puerta.”

Incorrect

“They knocked at the door.”

Correct

“There was a knock at the door.”

False Cognates

Offense: 1) Ofensa= insult

DELITO

Complaint: 1) Queja= As in “to complain about..”

DENUNCIA

Discovery: 1) Descubrimiento=As in “Columbus discovered America”

INTERCAMBIO DE PRUEBAS

Abbreviations

He had a DUI, DWP and a PV back in 2001.

En 2002 se le imputaron cargos de manejar bajo la influencia, manejar sin privilegios y quebrantamiento de la libertad condicional.

Dialects and Regionalisms

- “Chupa” means pacifier in Venezuela, but this same word means hangover in Argentina.
- “Guagua” means child in Chile, but this same word means pickup truck in Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

Idioms

- Raining cats and dogs
- A piece of cake
- Take it with a grain of salt
- Down the hatch



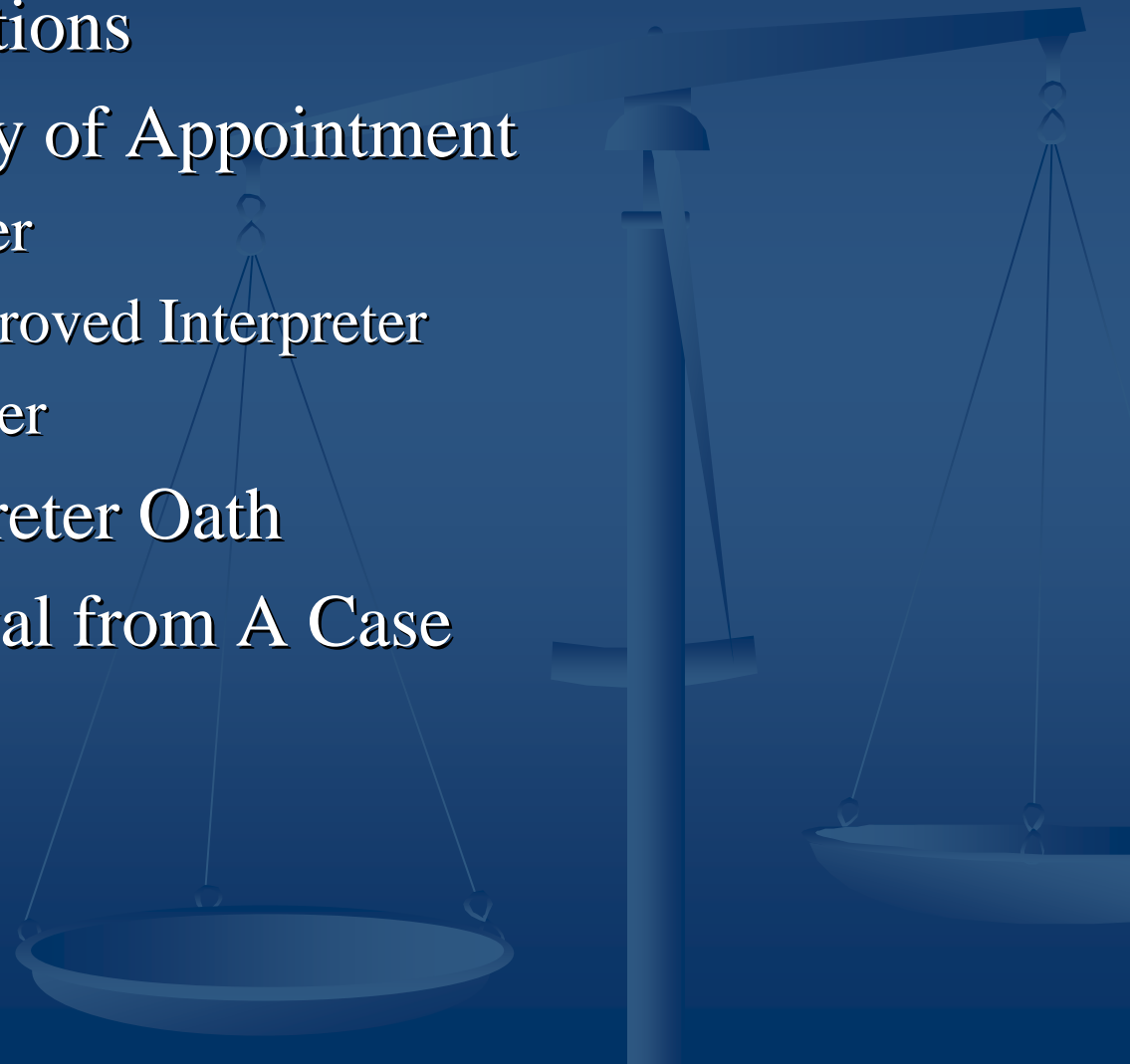
Code of Professional Responsibility in the Judiciary

- ◆ <http://www.isc.idaho.gov/intercod.htm>

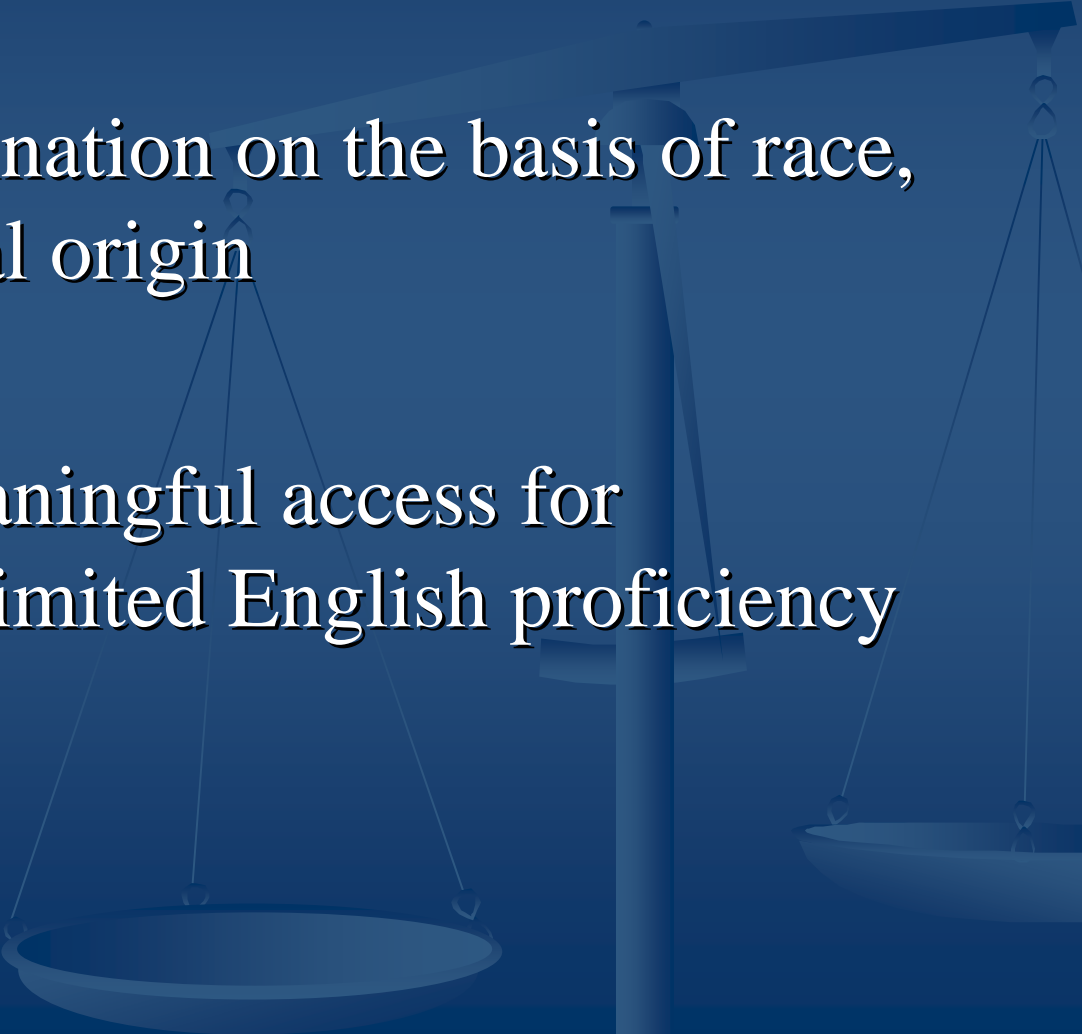


I.C.A.R. 52

- ◆ Section (b) - Definitions
- ◆ Section (d) - Priority of Appointment
 - (1) Certified Interpreter
 - (2) Conditionally Approved Interpreter
 - (3) Qualified Interpreter
- ◆ Section (e) – Interpreter Oath
- ◆ Section (f) - Removal from A Case



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

- Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin
 - Must provide meaningful access for individuals with limited English proficiency
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Best Practices



- ◆ Team interpreting in lengthy trials
- ◆ Appointing multiple interpreters
- ◆ Cluster cases requiring an interpreter
- ◆ Recess for interpreters after 30 minutes
- ◆ Telephonic interpreting
- ◆ “What Court Interpreters Would Tell You . . .”

Questions and Answers

