

Meeting Date	Court Interpreter Committee	
March 22, 2013	Judicial Council Room	
Members Present	Member Excused	
Judge Vernice Trease - Chair	Dinorah Padro	
Randall McUne	Wendell Roberts	
Judge Rick Romney		
Jennifer Andrus		
Evangelina Burrows		
Ghulam Hasnain		
Greg Johnson		
Maureen Magagna		
Miguel Medina		
Jennifer Storrer		
Staff: Tim Shea, Rosa Oakes		
Guests: Luther Gaylord, Israel Gonzalez, Judge Frederic Oddone		
Topic: Approve minutes of January 25, 2013		
Discussion: The minutes were approved.		
Motion: Jennifer Storrer moved to pass the minutes, as changed. Evangelina Burrows seconded the motion.		
Vote: Yes	Motion: Passed	
Topic: Strategic Plan		By Tim Shea
<p>Tim Shea discussed the work product (draft outline) of the strategic plan that was distributed to the committee. Mr. Shea explained that once the plan is approved it will be delivered to the Judicial Council. Rosa Oakes explained that some of the tasks listed have already been implemented. Judge Vernice Trease stated she would like to identify and obtain information up front about defendant's and/or parties interpreter needs so that the needs can be met as soon as possible. The process is difficult because sometimes the interpreter needs are not known until the defendant's first appearance with the judge.</p> <p>Ghulam Hashain said that interpreting is not always about the use of a language. Mr. Hashain explained that there are a variety of different cultures within the same basic dialect, that cultural awareness is crucial in some languages where there are enemies that speak the same language. One possibility is to have the interpreters be able to contact their schedulers and letting them know a clear line of communication cannot be made. Ms. Oakes stated that the Third District Court has a full-time interpreter coordinator, which is Evangelia Burrows. She said that this is a benefit for the Third District but other districts don't have this so it's more difficult to find a replacement if needed. Ms. Oakes stated it is also the responsibility of the defendant to participate, through the interpreter, on his or her own case.</p> <p>Judge Trease said the Diversity Group might be a good resource to start our outreach efforts.</p> <p>Ms. Burrows stated when the clerks put the need for an interpreter in CORIS, she</p>		

receives a notice and is able to immediately initiate assistance. Ms. Oakes stated that the website also has information on initiating contact. Judge Trease stated she receives requests from attorneys, sometimes during a hearing, therefore she contacts Ms. Burrows.

The committee discussed the need to have e-filing set up to indicate when an interpreter is needed. Mr. Shea discussed what steps an interpreter could take before attending a hearing, such as reviewing the case file.

Mr. Shea expressed the need to encourage interpreters to always continue to improve their skills.

Mr. Shea stated that sometimes clerks and probation officers who are bi-lingual participate in a discussion that may extend beyond their qualifications. Mr. Shea said when there is a need for a certified interpreter, they should be contacted.

Mr. Shea stated there are interpreters who can be contacted by phone, although it is typically not as effective as face-to-face contact.

Mr. Shea stated he is hoping for a grant from the State Justice Institute to help develop better record keeping.

Even though judge's do not necessarily speak the language, they do look at things such as body language or other cues in evaluating performance. Ms. Oakes stated she is going to attend an interpreter conference that will specifically discuss with each state interpreter evaluations.

Topic: Rule 3-306

By Tim Shea

Mr. Shea suggested changing the committee name to "Language Access in the Courts." Mr. Shea stated the national focus is changing from the person in the courtroom to being able to access the court system. Mr. Shea gave an example from "a hearing impaired person" to "a person with a hearing impairment." Mr. Shea stated the rule does not separate out a registered versus approved interpreter.

Mr. Shea discussed in depth about whether the costs could be imposed on the person needing an interpreter and if so, how would collection of the costs proceed.

A proposed copy of Rule 3-306 was distributed and reviewed by the committee. Changes were made. Mr. Shea will email the corrected copy to the committee.

Mr. Shea discussed the need to pay the price set for an out-of-state interpreter. Their fees are usually not negotiable and must be paid.

Topic: Meeting adjourned

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is May 17, 2013.