

Meeting Date	Language Access Committee	
January 29, 2016	Executive Dining Room	
<b>Members Present</b>		<b>Member Excused</b>
Judge Romney		
Judge Chon		
Megan Haney		
Amine El Fajri		
Jenny Andrus		
Miguel Medina		
Maureen Magagna		
Mary Kaye Dixon		
Gabriela Grostic		
Randall McUne		
Michelle Draper		
<b>Staff:</b> Alison Adams-Perlac, Rosa P. Oakes		
<b>Guests:</b>		
Topic: Approve minutes of November 13, 2015		
<p>Randall McUne clarified that on the topic to “Reconsider Denial of Interpreter Application” the charges against the interpreter candidate would not be eligible for expungement for 10 years. However, for purposes of allowing the candidate to reapply to become an interpreter the committee would accept the time frame as if the charges qualified for expungement after 4 years (similar to a standard class B misdemeanor). There was no further discussion. Mr. McCune moved to approve the minutes as amended; Ms. Grostic seconded the motion.</p>		
Motion: Passed unanimously		
Topic: Language Access Report		By Alison Adams-Perlac
<p>Ms. Adams-Perlac reviewed the latest Language Access Report which was presented to the Judicial Council. She mentioned that while most of the data relative to interpreter usage and cost remained fairly constant from previous years, there were districts where cost increased and others where there was a decrease. Ms. Adams-Perlac explained the potential reasons why these were impacted in the way they were. She also reported on the consistent use of credentialed interpreters in the languages in which they were available. An intern majoring in statistics at the university sorted the data based on information gleaned from FINET, CORIS, and CARE. The data for Justice Courts could not be reported at this time due to the unreliability of the information posted to CORIS. More training for justice court clerks is essential.</p>		
Topic: Interpreter Issues		By Rosa P Oakes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ms. Oakes reported that in recent months the courts have seen an increase in the need for rare language interpreters in cases involving grave charges. The AOC has resorted to locating and bringing out-of-state interpreters to Utah which becomes rather expensive. Given the testing and training fees for locals to participate in the process of receiving a credential, many rare language speakers are unwilling to pursue it. Therefore, Ray Wahl has authorized the waiver of fees for these candidates.</li> <li>2) A potential Tongan interpreter has completed all but one of the requirements for</li> </ol>		

receiving the Registered credential. The candidate has taken the English Written Test three times in the last year and has failed to receive the minimum score of 80%. This person received 79% and requested a review from the committee. Committee members discussed the possibility of test anxiety and suggested that the candidate submit to the oral proficiency interview (OPI) in English.

- 3) Likewise, a potential Arabic interpreter has completed most of the requirements to receive the Approved credential; however, this person has not passed the English Written Test. The candidate has taken the test two times in the last year and has not received a score near the minimum 80%; however, the candidate feels that an exception could be made given his recent graduation from the University of Utah with a Masters in Mechanical Engineering. Committee members suggested that the candidate submit to the OPI in English.
- 4) The Russian certified interpreter notified that she would not maintain her certification after this year given that the minimum fees the courts pay for interpreting do not compete with her full-time work as a programmer. The Committee agreed that it would be in the court's best interest to allow some negotiating in the hourly fees to preserve the only certified interpreter in the Russian language in the state. Ms. Oakes stated that Ray Wahl was aware of the situation and also approved.

Ms. Grostic moved to recommend to Ray Wahl that the Program Coordinator have the authority to work out cost effective solutions to exceed the hourly rate when an interpreter speaks a rare language and/or when the only other option is to call on out-of-state interpreters. Megan Haney seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Policy on Interpreters for Deaf Jurors

By Alison Adams-Perlac

Ms. Adams-Perlac stated that Rule 3-306 does not include information on dealing with jurors needing interpreters. She wished to discuss how requests for these are made procedurally. Clarifying that spoken language interpreters are not provided for jurors in that there is a requirement that they speak and understand English; Ms. Perlac talked about developing some language to address this in the rule. The idea that deaf jurors should have the opportunity to request accommodations when responding to a jury summons, if they do not already, was well received. Ms. Adams-Perlac stated that she would research this further and return to the next meeting with more information and potential language to include in the rule.

Topic: Interpreter Microphone Issues

By Rosa P Oakes

Ms. Oakes reported that she is seeking equipment that will capture the foreign language interpretation during preliminary hearings and trials. The purpose is to have a clear recording in case of appeal or formal complaints regarding an interpreter's performance. The discussion generated some ideas and it was resolved that Ms. Oakes would meet with Jymn Edwards (IT) to discuss equipment compatibility with court sound system.

Megan Haney moved to adjourn the meeting; Miguel Medina seconded. Motion passed.

Future meetings:  
June 10, 2016