

Roster of Certified Interpreters In Puerto Rico

You may obtain a list of all certified interpreters in Puerto Rico online.

⇒ Go to U.S. District Court for District of Puerto Rico homepage:

<http://www.prd.uscourts.gov/usdcpr/home.aspx>

⇒ On the left, in the section "For Attorneys", click on:

Certified Interpreters

⇒ On the page titled Certified Interpreters, click on:

"local roster of certified and otherwise qualified interpreters"



Postings for Official Court Interpreter positions throughout the U.S. may be found at:

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>



Prepared by the Clerk's Office, Interpreters Section,
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Interpreting and Translating for the U.S. Courts



Prepared by the Clerk's Office, Interpreters Section,
U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico



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What is an Interpreter?

An **interpreter** is a person with special skills and knowledge to transfer spoken messages from one language into another. In the case of sign-language interpreters, the message is transferred from spoken to sign language, and vice-versa. Interpreters are the essential link between people who do not speak the same language, so they can communicate and understand each other. Interpreters are different from translators, even though what they do is also a form of translation.



Interpreters require oral skills whereas translators require written skills to transfer messages from one language to another

Translators transfer written messages from one language into another. They do not need to speak a language in order to translate to or from that language.

Interpreters can work in a host of different environments. Those who work in legal proceedings, both in and out of court, are known as **court** or **judiciary interpreters**. Those who work with schools, social services and other community-oriented organizations are known as **community interpreters**. Those who work with international organizations, or at multinational meetings and conferences, are known as **conference interpreters**. Some of these interpreters can also work as **escorts** for international visitors, or **seminar interpreters** for small-scale international events. Each one of these work environments has its own requirements and rules for the interpreter's performance. The most demanding of all is **judiciary interpreting**.

What does a Judiciary Interpreter do?

Judiciary interpreter must be highly competent in three basic skills: simultaneous interpreting, consecutive interpreting, and sight translation. They must also be knowledgeable about legal systems and procedures, legal and other technical

terminologies, slang, and general vocabulary in their two working languages. Judiciary interpreters must abide by a very strict Code of Ethics, because of the delicate and often confidential nature of the information they must relay.

What is simultaneous interpreting?

Simultaneous interpreting requires the ability to listen and speak at the same time. While the interpreter hears a person speak in one language, he or she is transforming that message into another language, with just a few seconds lag. In judiciary settings, this mode is used most often during trials and hearings in which the defendant does not speak English.

What is consecutive interpreting?

During consecutive interpreting, the interpreter waits for one speaker to complete a thought, and then conveys that through in another language. This process generally requires that the interpreter take turns with the two persons who do not speak the same language, and requires special memory skills. In a judiciary setting it is used for questions-and-answers, such as witness testimony, or interviews.

What is sight translation?

When a foreign-language document is presented in court, the interpreter may be called upon to convey in English what that foreign document says. Likewise, English-language documents may have to be translated to non-English speakers in the language they understand. During sight-translation the interpreter translates the written document as he or she "reads" it out loud.



Judiciary interpreters come from all sorts of backgrounds. The best undergraduate studies to become an interpreter, however, are foreign language and literature.

Frequently asked questions about judiciary interpreting as a profession, and working with the federal courts system, can be found at:

Federal Court Interpreter Program
http://www.uscourts.gov/interpretprog/interp_prog.htm
Interpreters - Southern District of New York
<http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/interp.htm>

How do I become a federally-Certified Interpreter?

Interpreting services in federal district courts are regulated by the Court Interpreters Act (28 U.S.C. 1827 et seq.), enacted by Congress in 1979 and amended in 1988. To work as an English-Spanish judiciary interpreter in U.S. District Courts, candidates must pass a certification exam given by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, through the National Center for State Courts. Information about the federal certification exam can be obtained from:

National Center for State Courts

Federal Court Interpreters Certification Examination Program
http://www.ncsconline.org/d_research/fcice_exam/index.htm

You can also visit the following web sites to get more information about training and education:

National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT)

www.najit.org

University of Charleston, South Carolina Graduate Program in Bilingual Legal Interpreting

<http://www.cofc.edu/~legalint/>

The National Center for Interpretation Testing, Research and Policy

<http://nci.arizona.edu>

If you are already certified and are interested in working as a contract interpreter for the District of Puerto Rico, please contact us at the telephone number, e-mail address or fax provided below.

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