

The seal of the California Judicial Council is faintly visible in the background. It features a central figure holding a scale and a sword, surrounded by the text "JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA".

**Report to the  
Judicial Council:  
California's Language  
Access Plan**

October 25, 2013

# Objectives

- Discuss LEP need
- How we arrived at the need to develop a Language Access Plan (LAP) for CA
- Discuss inclusive process for CA's LAP
- Wrap-up / Questions and Answers



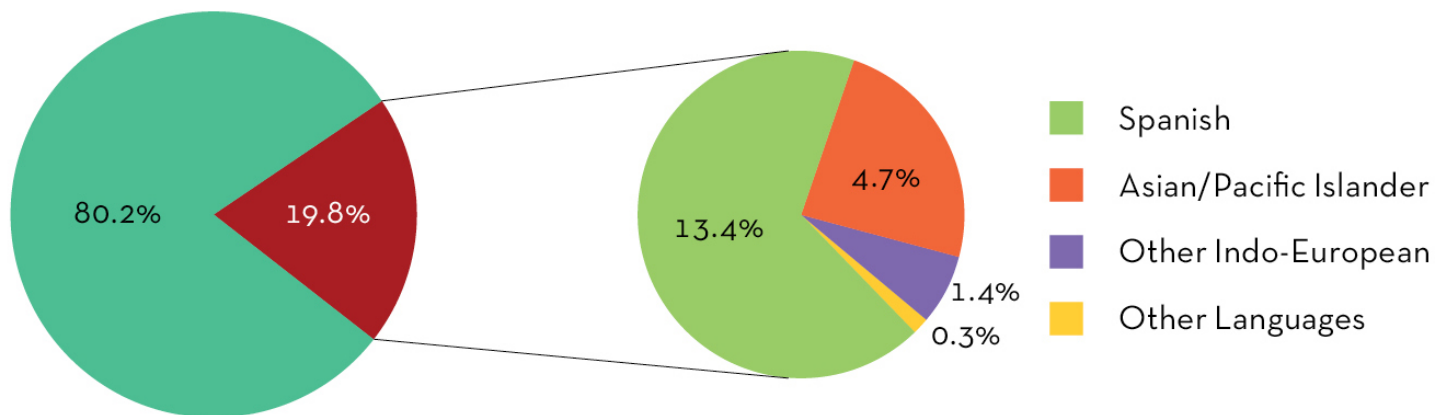
# CA's LEP Need

- 7 million LEP court users (roughly 20% of Californians)
- 40% speak language other than English at home
- Over 200 languages and dialects



# LEP in California

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY IN CALIFORNIA  
19.8% (n=6,792,119) speak English less than very well



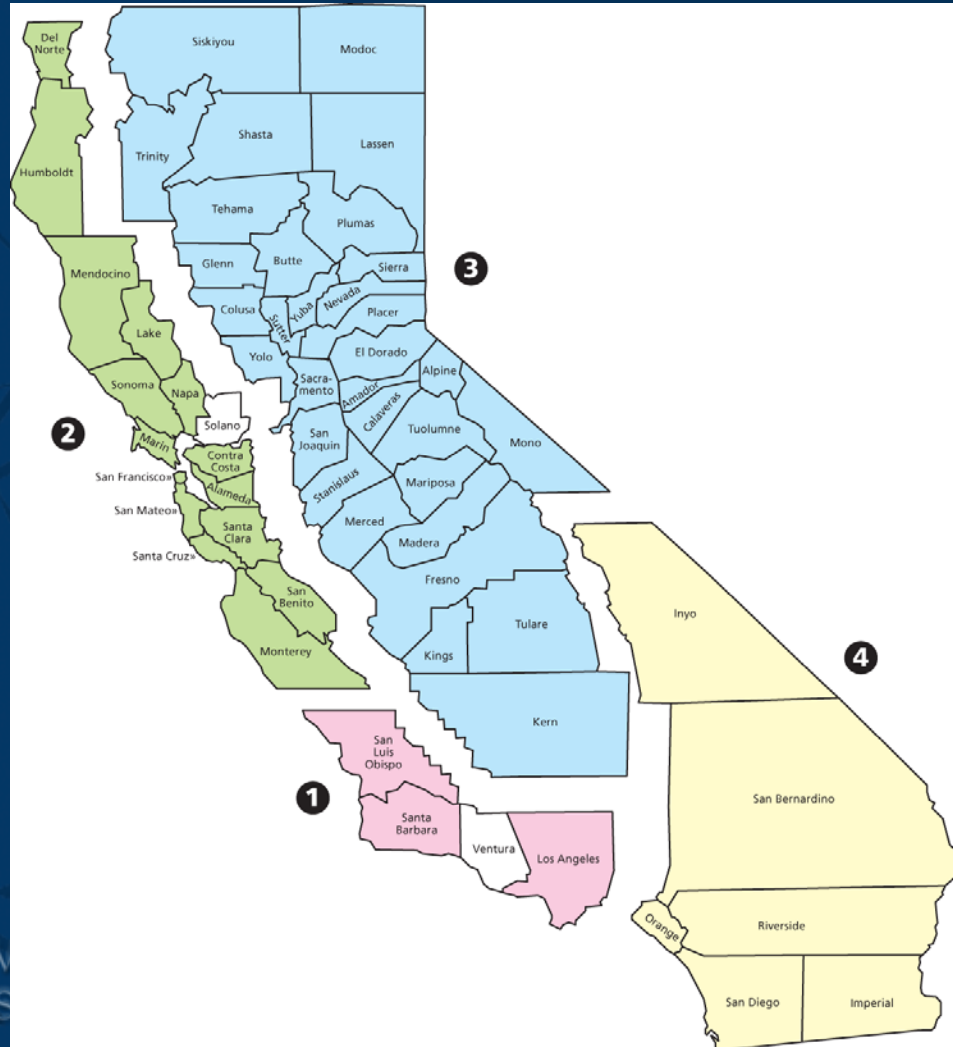
# Strategic Plan

- Provide all persons with equal access to courts
- Ensure court procedures are fair and understandable
- Respond to needs of court users from diverse cultural backgrounds





# Court Interpreter Regions



# California as leader

- Over 1,800 court interpreters
- Professional Standards and Ethics
- Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education (CIMCE)
- Guidelines (e.g., appropriate use of VRI for ASL-interpreted events)
- Online orientation for new court interpreters



# U.S. Dept. of Justice

- DOJ has provided guidance to state courts receiving federal funding
- Recent guidance: *CA can do more*





# October 2012 Summit

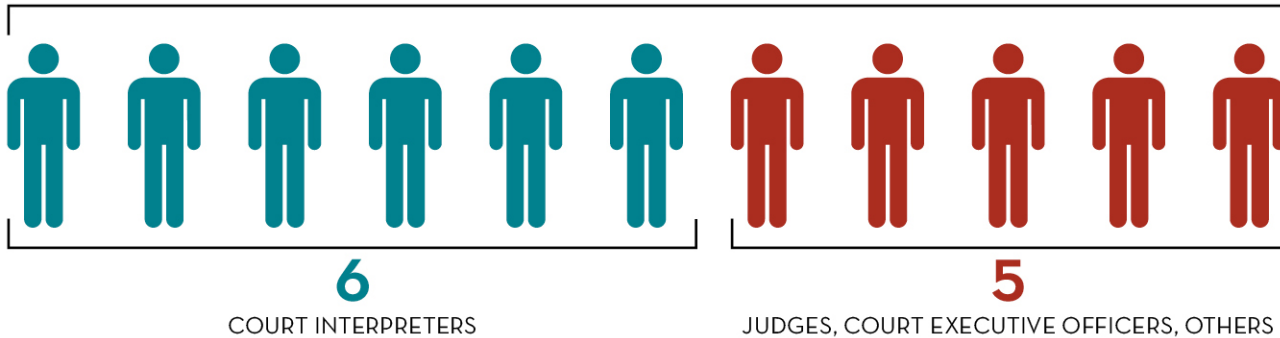
- NCSC “Call to Action” report highlights language access summit and LAP efforts across the country
- CA remains a leader



# CIAP

## COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL (CIAP)

11



The advisory panel consists of 11 members, a majority of whom must be court interpreters.  
(Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.51(c); Gov. Code § 68565(a).)



# CIP is now CLASP

- Court Language Access Support Program (CLASP)
- Unit has added responsibilities
- *New position for CA: Language Access Coordinator*



# California's LAP

- Joint Working Group:
  - Access and Fairness & CIAP
  - Includes:
    - Bench officers & court administrators
    - Court interpreters
    - Education representative



# Major goals of LAP

- Establish standards / guidelines
- Improve data collection
- Identify best practices
- Identify training needs, and
- Identify funding needs





# Inclusive Process

- Public hearings and comment:
  - Community organizations
  - Courts & justice system partners
- Informational item 6/14
- Adoption by council 12/14



# Gradual expansion

## EXPANDED ACCESS

### COURT PROCEEDINGS

#### Currently provided

- Interpreters for LEP criminal defendants, witnesses (civil and criminal), or parties who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Interpreters in a few types of civil cases

#### Potential expansion

- Interpreters in civil cases
- Technological solutions

2013

### THROUGHOUT THE COURTHOUSE

- Filing and clerk's offices
- Telephonic or video remote services
- Kiosks/self-help services
- Court-related activities like mediation or arbitration
- Multilingual signage

### ONLINE, IN MOST COMMONLY USED LANGUAGES

- Websites and web-based tools
- Judicial Council forms and instructions
- Audiovisual tools

2015-2020

LEP = Limited English Proficiency

# Discussion



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS