



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COURT INTERPRETERS
ADVISORY PANEL

www.courts.ca.gov/ciap.htm
ciap@jud.ca.gov

INTERPRETER LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

March 29, 2022

12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Zoom for Government Webinar

Advisory Body Members Present:	Hon. Teresa Magno (Subcommittee Chair), Mr. Mark Crossley, Ms. Jennifer De La Cruz, Mr. Hany Farag, Mr. Tam “Tyler” Nguyen, Ms. Carol Palacio
Advisory Body Members Absent:	None
Others Present:	Ms. Jacquie Ring, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Claudia Ortega, Ms. Cynthia Miranda, and other Judicial Council staff

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and took roll call.

Approval of Minutes

The subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes of the November 19, 2021, meeting of the Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEM 1)

Item 1

New Requirements for American Sign Language (ASL) Court Interpreters

The Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee received a presentation from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) regarding ASL interpreter certifications, currently issued by other entities, that could be accepted by the Judicial Council and required before a new ASL interpreter can interpret for the California court system.

Presenter/Facilitator: Ms. Jacquie Ring, Principal Consultant,
Language Access Services Section, NCSC

Discussion: NCSC provided a PowerPoint presentation (included in meeting materials) on ASL interpreter certifications currently issued by other entities as well as three

possible certification models that could be accepted by the Judicial Council. The presentation included findings from focus group meetings with national and state ASL stakeholders. The subcommittee had additional questions that will be addressed at a future meeting. The Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee will review the findings before submitting recommendations to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel for its review.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

DRAFT



Follow-up Review of American Sign Language (ASL) Court Interpreter Requirements and Qualifications

September 2022

NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS



Project Overview



Goal: *To provide research and findings on requirements for ASL court interpreters, including the use of existing testing instruments, as well as non-testing options, such as training and portfolio requirements, that may be considered by the Judicial Council for use in California to qualify ASL court interpreters.*



Project Overview



Project tasks:

- Conduct national research
- Facilitate interviews and focus groups with language access programs and ASL experts
- Present findings to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel and its Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee



Presentation Overview



Follow-up Tasks (from March presentation):

- Provide additional information on ASL Generalist Exams
- Provide additional information on SC:L and BEI Court Interpreter Exam
- Provide additional administration information on BEI Court Interpreter Exam
- Provide information on legal continuing education for court interpreters



ASL Generalist Examinations



ASL Interpretation Exams (Non-Court Specific):

- RID Exams – Generalist Certification
- BEI General Performance Exam (Texas)
- Center for Assessment of Sign Language Interpreters, LLC (CASLI) Generalist Exams (formerly RID)
- National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Exams (no longer administered)

National Center for State Courts, September 2022



ASL Generalist Examinations



Common Exam Components – Generalist Exams:

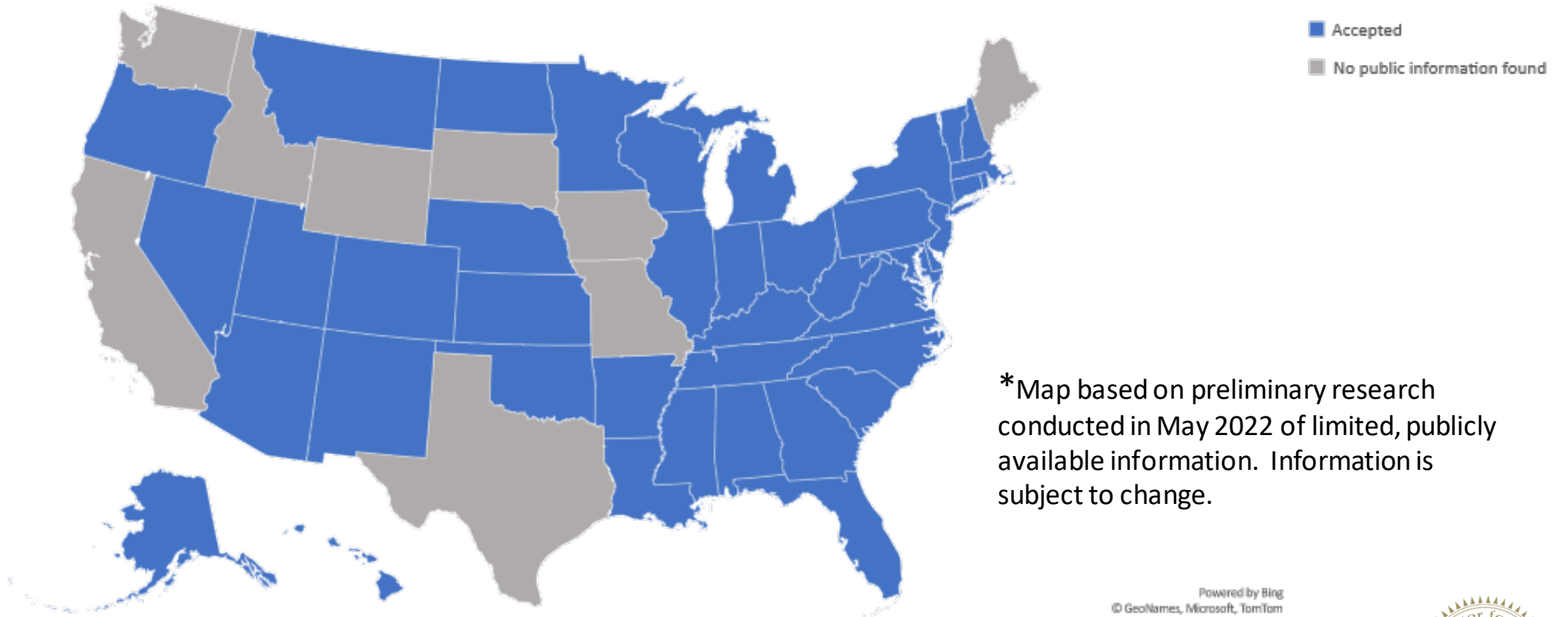
- Demonstration of interpreting skills between ASL and spoken English
- Performance-based
- Not focused on legal terminology/legal scenarios
- Multiple levels (prior and current)



ASL Generalist Examinations



Recognition of RID Generalist Certifications for Credentialing



*Map based on preliminary research conducted in May 2022 of limited, publicly available information. Information is subject to change.

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National Center for State Courts, September 2022



ASL Court Interpretation Exams



ASL Court Interpretation Exams:

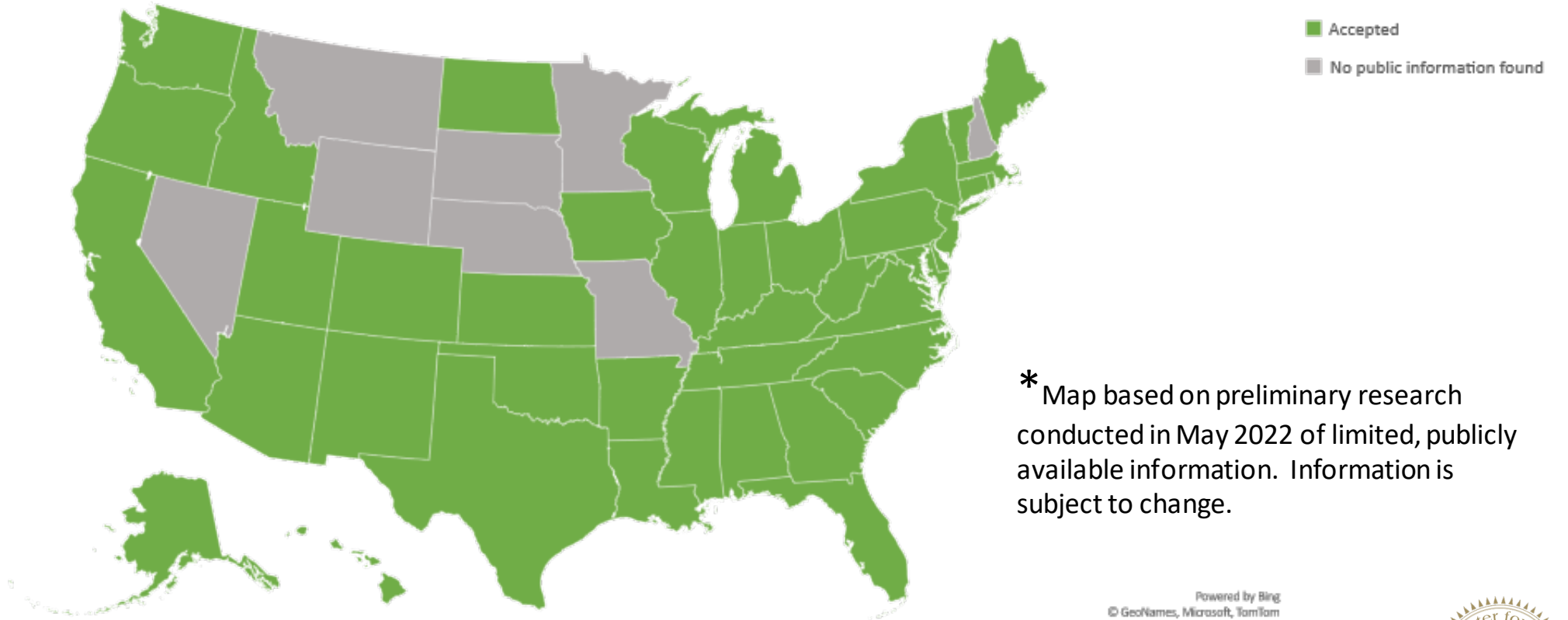
- **Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L)** – national ASL court interpreter exam developed and maintained by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) until January 1, 2016 – no longer offered
- **The Texas Board of Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) Court Interpreter Certification Exam** – Texas court interpreter ASL exam currently administered in Texas



ASL Court Interpretation Exams



Recognition of RID SC:L for Credentialing



* Map based on preliminary research conducted in May 2022 of limited, publicly available information. Information is subject to change.

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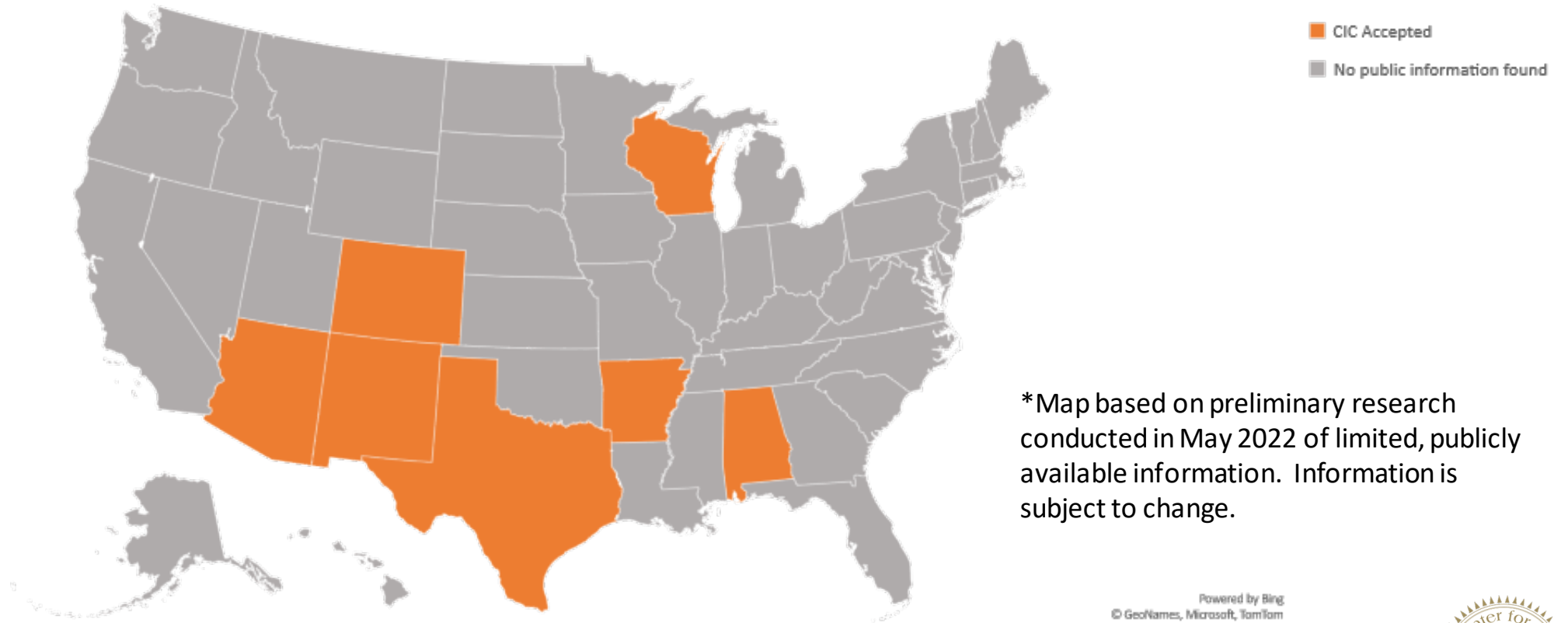
National Center for State Courts, September 2022



ASL Court Interpretation Exams



Recognition of the Texas BEI Court Interpreter Certification Exam



*Map based on preliminary research conducted in May 2022 of limited, publicly available information. Information is subject to change.

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ASL Court Interpreter Exams



Exam Information	RID Specialist Certificate: Legal (Performance Exam)	BEI Court Interpreter Exam (Performance Exam)
Stated Purpose	Tested for the demonstrated specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used in the legal system	Test ensures that interpreters meet the minimum proficiency standards established by the BEI for successfully discharging the responsibilities of a state-certified interpreter
Testing Format	Performance, video recorded	Performance, video recorded

ASL Court Interpreter Exams



Exam Information	RID Specialist Certificate: Legal (Performance Exam)	BEI Court Interpreter Exam (Performance Exam)
Content Covered	Exam included 4 vignettes: (1) Miranda Warning, (2) Courtroom Scene, (3) Interpreter Qualification, and (4) Jury Instructions	Six sections: (1) Consecutive (spoken English to/from ASL), (2) Simultaneous (spoken English to ASL), (3) Simultaneous (spoken English to ASL), (4) Simultaneous (ASL to spoken English), (5) Consecutive (spoken English to/from ASL), (6) Sight Translation (written English to ASL)

ASL Court Interpreter Exams



Exam Information	RID Specialist Certificate: Legal (Performance Exam)	BEI Court Interpreter Exam (Performance Exam)
Length	75 minutes for warm-up, approximately 75 minutes for the test itself	Total: approximately 68 minutes (includes time for introductions, warm-ups, and instructions)

ASL Court Interpreter Exams



Exam Information	RID Specialist Certificate: Legal (Performance Exam)	BEI Court Interpreter Exam (Performance Exam)
Rating/Scoring	Candidate performance rated according to descriptors for each behavioral scale used for each test section. Examples include Syntax, Nonmanual Markers, Phrasing, Neutrality, Integrity of Message, Variation in Interpretation, Affect, Fluency, Recovery /Repair, Register, Mannerisms, etc.	Interpreting Proficiency is measured through scoring units, which are rated objectively according to a scoring dictionary. Delivery, Adaptability, and Pronunciation/Fluency are judged holistically using a three-point scale, where 1 = does not meet expectations; 2 = meets expectations; and 3 = exceeds expectations.

BEI Court Interpreter Exam



BEI Court Interpreter Exam Additional Information:

- Application Fee: \$50
- Court Interpreter Written Exam (pre-requisite): \$100
- Court Interpreter Performance Test: \$185



Continuing Education Requirements



SC:L CEU Requirements

- 80 contact hours with a minimum of 60 hours in professional studies
- 20 of the 60 hours in professional studies must be in legal interpreting topics
- Complete every four years

BEI CIC CEU Requirements

- Maintain 60 hours of interpreting-related topics for generalist credential
- 20 hours court-related topics; 20 hours ethics-related topics
- Complete every five years



Continuing Education Requirements



The screenshot shows the RID website's Continuing Education Center. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with a Facebook icon, 'Search Tools', 'Member Login', and 'Contact Us'. Below this is the RID logo and the text 'Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.' To the right is the logo for 'RID's Continuing Education Center', which features an open book with a colorful flower-like shape above it. A horizontal menu contains dropdown arrows for 'About RID', 'Membership', 'Certification', 'Professional Development', 'Ethics', 'Advocacy', and 'Events'. A banner image shows a group of people smiling. Below the banner, on the left, is a login form with fields for 'Username or Email' and 'Password', a 'Log In' button, and links for 'Forgot Password' and 'Home'. On the right, a large card titled 'Welcome to RID's Continuing Education Center!' contains the text 'Browse the Continuing Education Center portal to view our educational content.' and a 'LEARN MORE' button. The card's background image shows a stack of books, pencils, and orange paper scraps.

National Center for State Courts, September 2022



Snapshot of CA ASL Court Interpreters



- 55 ASL court interpreters on JCC Master List (as of August 2022)
- However, recent outreach by CIP determined that **only 31 are self-reported as active**:
 - 26 are active with SC:L
 - 5 are active with a formerly offered California credential
- 24 of the active interpreter respondents voluntarily shared their age, and 62.5% of those respondents (15 out of 24) are 63 or older



Next steps

- JCC staff will develop recommendations for CIAP review
- Recommendations may include:
 - Recognition of Texas BEI through reciprocity to expand pool
 - Development of an online court course for ASL interpreters
 - Further development towards recognition of persons with ASL generalist credentials to perform work in the courts, which may include specific training requirements



Questions?

