



# JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

COURT INTERPRETERS  
ADVISORY PANEL

[www.courts.ca.gov/ciap.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/ciap.htm)  
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## COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL

### MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

September 1, 2020

12:15 -1:15 p.m.

Teleconference/ WebEx

**Advisory Body Members Present:** Hon. Brian L. McCabe, Chair, Mr. Hector Gonzalez, Vice-Chair, Hon. Teresa P. Magno, Ms. Regina Coronado, Ms. Jennifer Dela Cruz, Mr. Hany Farag, Ms. Sharmen Gragirena Lewis, Ms. Carol Palacio, Ms. Mary Ann Ramirez, Mr. Chris Ruhl, Ms. Tara Potterveld, Hon. Ann C. Moorman (Liaison)

**Advisory Body Members Absent:** Mr. Gurinder Aujla, Ms. Claritza Callaci, Dr. Cindy Van Schooten (Liaison)

**Judicial Council Staff Present:** Mr. Don Will, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Claudia Ortega, Ms. Irene Balajadia, Ms. Debbie Chong, Mr. Matthew Clark, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Danielle McCurry, Ms. Edith Reyes, Ms. Cynthia Miranda, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Ms. Valeria DaSilva-Sasser, Ms. Sonia Sierra Wolf

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#### OPEN MEETING (CAL RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75 (C) (1))

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#### I. Roll Call and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and reminded members that the audio portion of the meeting will be recorded, and the WebEx presentation will also be preserved.

Following roll call, the vice-chair informed members that Ms. Claritza Callaci, who was unable to join the meeting, will no longer be on CIAP when her terms ends in September 2020. Her six years on CIAP, representing interpreters from Region 1 and as a member of the Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee, was acknowledged.

A motion was made to approve Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) June 10, 2020 meeting minutes; the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved and will be posted on CIAP's public webpage.

#### II. Staffing Updates

Ms. Claudia Ortega, Supervising Analyst of the Court Interpreters Program (CIP), introduced two new staff members to CIP: Eunice Lee, Analyst, and Cynthia Miranda, Senior Analyst. Ms. Lee's main focus will be on developing education programs for current interpreters, working with providers and reviewing submissions for continuing education courses for interpreters, reviewing the current ethics workshop, and overseeing the credential review procedures.

Ms. Miranda, who previously worked in the council's Public Affairs office, will oversee interpreter outreach and recruitment, develop strategies for effective communication, and review marketing efforts that can widen the scope of potential interpreting candidates.

It was also announced that Ms. Sonia Sierra Wolf, who served as lead staff to CIAP and the Professional Standards and Ethics Committee, will be retiring effective September 11, 2020.

The chairs welcomed the new staff additions to CIP and expressed their thanks and appreciation for Ms. Wolf's dedication to CIP and CIAP.

### III. 2020 Annual Agenda Update

The chair provided an update regarding the request made by the council's internal advisory committee that CIAP as well as all advisory committees re-evaluate their annual agendas projects in light of the COVID-19 pandemic for any non-priority projects that should be deferred. The decision was made by the Chairs that the review of Rule of Court 10.51, to assess CIAP's membership categories and possible changes to the composition of CIAP membership, should be deferred. The project will be re-visited again in 2021.

### IV. Interpreter Testing Program

Currently, all interpreter testing has been suspended due to the safety concerns and challenges presented by COVID-19. CIP will be exploring with Prometric, the current test administrator, options to safely resume testing in 2021.

**V. Language Access Contract with the National Center for State Courts:** CIP staff reported that the council's Language Access Services Program has a contract with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to consult, research, and provide recommendations on the following two projects related to court interpreters:

- 1. Near Passer Training:** This project will provide training for court interpreter candidates who have taken the Bilingual Interpreting Exam (BIE) and have near passing scores. The training is part of a larger effort to increase the number of certified court interpreters in California. The trainings are anticipated to commence by July 2021 utilizing a virtual distance learning format.
- 2. Provide Recommendations on the Testing Program:** NCSC will conduct a study to assist the CIAP with assessing the performance of the interpreter credentialing exams and will develop recommendations for future consideration by the Judicial Council to improve its interpreter testing program. Recommendations will consider the Key Objectives of the CIAP's 2020 Annual Agenda, including exploring options to support the overall objective of increasing the pool of qualified interpreters.

Following the presentation, the chair asked Judge Teresa Magno to provide a brief update on the recent meeting of the Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee. The subcommittee is working on Language Access Plan Recommendation 75, to develop a policy/rule addressing a LEP court user's request of a waiver of the services of an interpreter. A presentation will be made to CIAP on the subcommittee's progress at a future meeting.

## **VI. Social Media Launch**

Staff presented a preview of the Facebook and LinkedIn court interpreter pages that are currently in development. The main objectives are to:

- Create a long standing and needed presence and voice on social media;
- Assist courts with the recruitment and hiring of interpreters;
- Increase the number of candidates taking the interpreting exams;
- Create a community of trust and engagement;
- Promote proactive and ongoing dialogue among key stakeholders; and,
- Share relevant events, training opportunities and latest news and items of interest.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The next CIAP meeting is anticipated to be scheduled for late November or early December and will be a review of the proposed 2021 Annual Agenda.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on November 16, 2020.