

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Annual Agenda¹—2025

Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: December 5, 2024

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair:	Hon. Brian L. McCabe, Judge, Superior Court of Merced County
Lead Staff:	Mr. Ray Mata, Analyst, Court Interpreters Program, Center for Families, Children & the Courts
Committee's Charge/Membership: <p>Rule 10.51 of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP), which is to: Assist the council in performing its duties under Government Code sections 68560 through 68566 and to promote access to spoken-language interpreters and interpreters for deaf and hearing-impaired persons, the advisory panel is charged with making recommendations to the council on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Interpreter use and need for interpreters in court proceedings; and(2) Certification, registration, renewal of certification and registration, testing, recruiting, training, continuing education, and professional conduct of interpreters. <p>Rule 10.51(b) sets forth the additional duties of the panel that are: Reviewing and making recommendations to the council on the findings of the study of language and interpreter use and need for interpreters in court proceedings that is conducted by the Judicial Council every five years under Government Code section 68563.</p> <p>Rule 10.51(c) sets forth the following membership composition of the committee. CIAP currently has 14 members, which consists of 11 advisory panel members (voting) and 4 advisors (nonvoting) appointed by the Chief Justice to assist the advisory panel. A majority of the members must be court interpreters. The advisory panel must include the specified numbers of members from the following categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Four certified or registered court interpreters working as employees in trial courts, one from each of the four regions established by Government Code section 71807. For purposes of the appointment of members under this rule, the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, is considered part of Region 1 as specified in section 71807, and the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, is considered part of Region 2 as specified in section 71807;	

¹ The annual agenda outlines the work a committee will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and the Judicial Council staff resources.

- (2) Two interpreters certified or registered in a language other than Spanish, each working either in a trial court as an independent contractor or in an educational institution;
- (3) One appellate court justice
- (4) Two trial court judges; and
- (5) Two court administrators, including at least one trial court executive officer.

The current committee [roster](#) is available on the committee’s web page.

Subgroups of the Advisory Committee²:

1. Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee – Provides review and recommendations on interpreter professional development, as well as adherence to professional standards and compliance requirements.
2. Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee – Works on specific projects related to language access and interpreting services, including recommendations from the [Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts](#) that relate to court interpreters. As appropriate, these projects are undertaken in collaboration with the Language Access Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

Meetings Planned for 2025³ (Advisory body and all subgroups listed above.)

CIAP – Videoconferences as needed.

Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee – Videoconferences as needed.

Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee – Videoconferences as needed.

Check here if in-person meeting is approved by the internal committee oversight chair.

²For the definition of “subcommittee” see Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.30(c); “working group” see rule 10.70, “workstream,” see rule 10.53(c); and “education curriculum committee,” see rule 10.50(c)(6).

³ Refer to section IV. 2. of the [Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies](#) for governance on in-person meetings.

Note: Because of the current budget and staffing constraints, advisory body chairs and staff must first consider meeting remotely. The chair of the Executive and Planning Committee is suspending advisory body in-person meetings for the 2024–2025 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek final approval from the advisory body’s internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2024, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS⁴

#	New or One-Time Projects	
1.	Project Title: Assembly Bill 1032: Workforce Study on Court Interpreters (New)	Priority⁵ 1
	Strategic Plan Goal⁶ IV	
<p>Project Summary: Assembly Bill 1032 (Stats. 2023, Ch. 556) was approved by the Governor in October 2023. The legislation amended Government Code sections 71800–71829, also known as the Trial Court Interpreter Employment and Labor Relations Act (Interpreter Act), which will take effect on January 1, 2025. The Interpreter Act establishes procedures governing the employment and compensation of certified, registered, and provisionally qualified trial court interpreters and court interpreters pro tempore (intermittent temporary court employees) employed by the courts. The new Government Code section 71900 of AB 1032 requires the Judicial Council to conduct a court interpreter workforce study by January 1, 2026, and provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding court interpreter availability and the future court interpreter workforce. It further requires that the council work in collaboration with key stakeholder groups on the study, including labor organizations representing court employees and independent contractors.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Fall 2025; workforce study will be presented to the Judicial Council for approval in November 2025 before submission to the Legislature by January 1, 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Judicial Council Language Access Services will develop the workforce study with assistance from a consultant. The estimated one-time cost of \$250,000 for a consultant will be funded under the Court Interpreters Program consultant budget for fiscal year (FY) 2024–25. Staff will work with Judicial Council Governmental Affairs and Human Resources staff on study development and completion.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p>		

⁴ All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda. If a project implements policy or is a program, identify it as implementation or a program in the project description and attach the Judicial Council authorization/assignment or prior approved Annual Agenda to this Annual Agenda.

⁵ For non-rules and forms projects, select priority level 1 (must be done) or 2 (should be done). For rules and forms proposals, select one of the following priority levels: 1(a) Urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law; 1(b) Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms; 1(c) Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public; or 1(d) Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. *For each priority level 1 proposal, the advisory body must provide a specific reason why it should be done this year and how it fits within the identified category.* 2(a) Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law; 2(b) Responsive to identified concerns or problems; or 2(c) Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives. *If an advisory committee is interested in pursuing any Priority Level 2 proposals, please include justification as to why the proposal should be approved at this time.*

⁶ Indicate which goal number of The Strategic Plan for California’s Judicial Branch the project most closely aligns.

#	New or One-Time Projects
	<p><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> Trial courts, interpreters, interpreter labor organizations, and interpreter education entities.</p> <p><i>AC Collaboration:</i> Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness and its, Language Access Subcommittee and Court Executives Advisory Committee.</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
1.	Project Title: 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study	Priority 1
Strategic Plan Goal I, II, IV		
<p>Project Summary: Pursuant to Government Code section 68563, develop the legislatively mandated <i>Language Need and Interpreter Use Study</i>. This five-year study will be due to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the current statewide landscape concerning the need and use of interpreting services in California’s trial courts; • Evaluate trends and compare to previous studies; • Develop sound recommendations for the council’s consideration; • Assist the strategic expansion of interpreters into needed areas; and • Continue to address the shortage of court interpreters in key languages. <p>Status/Timeline: The Language Access Implementation unit will develop this study and prepare the report in 2024. The unit will provide CIAP with project status updates throughout 2024. The study is due to the Governor and to the Legislature no later than July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: There is no fiscal impact associated with this project. Resources are: Governmental Affairs, Court Interpreters Program, and the Language Access Implementation staff.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, the superior courts, the Governor, and the Legislature.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee.</p>		
2.	Project Title: Certification of Persons with American Sign Language (ASL) Generalist Credentials to Perform Work in the Courts and ASL Guidelines	Priority 1
Strategic Plan Goal I, II, IV		
<p>Project Summary: As directed in the November 2023 council report, <i>Language Access Plan: New Requirements for American Sign Language Court Interpreters</i>, CIAP will (1) develop a proposal for the council to certify persons with ASL generalist credentials to perform work in the courts, (2) revise the <i>Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons (Guidelines)</i>, and (3) develop a recommendation for a process for approving ASL court interpreter certification programs that is more responsive to the current interpreter marketplace and testing and certification landscape.</p>		

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
	<p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of a tiered approach to certify persons with ASL generalist credentials to perform work in the courts. • Develop a more modernized approval process for ASL court interpreter certification programs. <p>Status/Timeline: A consultant from the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has been secured to assist with developing an implementation proposal for ASL generalist credentials by January 2025. Separately, staff has updated the <i>Guidelines</i> and developed a more modernized approval process for ASL court interpreter certification programs. Following CIAP approval, the revised <i>Guidelines</i> will circulate for public comment and will be presented to the council in 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: The estimated one-time cost of \$200,000 for a consultant will be funded under the Court Interpreters Program consultant budget for FY 2023–24, to conduct national-level research on accepted ASL generalist credentials and tiered approaches. Implementation options will be proposed to CIAP for consideration. Resources include the Court Interpreters Program and the Language Access Implementation Unit and additional staff time as needed from Legal Services and Human Resources.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community (including ASL interpreters), judicial officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Consultation with the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness as needed.</p>	
3.	<p>Project Title: Interpreting Skills Assessment Process– Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee</p>	<p>Priority 1</p>
<p>Project Summary: To further support implementation of the California Court Interpreter Credential Review Procedures, consider a proposed process to assess an interpreter’s ability to interpret if a complaint alleging gross incompetence is lodged against the interpreter, and if following review and investigation, the complaint is deemed to have merit. This project originated with Recommendation #64 of the Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts (LAP) and Government Code section 68564(g), which states that the Judicial Council shall establish a “...procedure for Judicial Council and local court review of each court interpreter's skills and for reporting to the certification entity the results of the review.”</p>		<p>Strategic Plan Goal IV</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
	<p>Key Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and recommend a process that strengthens the Judicial Council’s ability to assess an interpreter’s interpreting abilities in a fair and thorough manner when the subject of a valid complaint concerning interpreting ability. <p>Status/Timeline: Court Interpreters Program staff are working under a contract with the National Center for State Courts to develop a skills assessment process for the committee’s consideration in 2024. Work on this project will likely carry over into 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Any expenses associated with this project will be entirely funded under the Court Interpreters Program budget. <input type="checkbox"/> This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, judicial officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	
4.	<p>Project Title: Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters – Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee</p>	<p>Priority 2</p> <p>Strategic Plan Goal V</p>
	<p>Project Summary: Consider recommended updates to The Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters Manual, which informs interpreters of their professional and ethical responsibilities. The manual was last updated in 2013.</p> <p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the manual to align with current interpreting practices, evolving technology, remote and hybrid courtroom environments, video remote interpreting, and contemporary ethical issues such as conduct on social media. Increase interpreters’ accessibility and engagement with the manual by adding scenarios that illustrate ethical considerations. Align the content with a redesigned live ethics training that is required for new interpreters and a new online ethics refresher training for more experienced interpreters. <p>Status/Timeline: Court Interpreters Program staff has developed proposed updates to the ethics document. It is anticipated that revisions will be presented to the committee for consideration in fall 2024 and then be circulated for public comment. The revised ethics document will be presented to the council in 2025.</p>	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities	
	<p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Any expenses associated with updating the manual and the electronic dissemination of the updated version will be entirely funded by the Court Interpreters Program.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, judicial officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: None.</p>	
5.	Project Title: Carryover of Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) Scores	Priority 2
	<p>Strategic Plan Goal I, II, IV</p> <p>Project Summary: After consideration of the findings from NCSC research on court interpreter test administration and credentialing options from other states, Language Access Services (LAS) staff will draft and propose recommendations for CIAP regarding the feasibility of allowing interpreter candidates to carry over passing scores of 70 percent or higher on two or more exam sections of the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) from one administration to another within a two-year period. Several states allow this practice to ensure that interpreter candidates stay in the testing pipeline and provide them with two years to pass all four sections of the exam. Candidates failing to pass all four sections of the BIE within this timeframe must restart the process by retaking all sections. Key considerations for CIAP include determining whether LAS staff can implement the carryover practice already established by other states. LAS staff will develop recommendations, including an assessment of potential costs, benefits, drawbacks, and operational feasibility.</p> <p>Key Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the current testing requirements for attaining certified court interpreter status. • Explore the feasibility of allowing candidates to carry over passing scores on two or more exam sections of the BIE from one administration to another within a two-year period. • Evaluate the potential costs, benefits, drawbacks, and operational feasibility associated with adopting this practice which is already implemented in other states to expand their interpreter credentialing pool. <p>Status/Timeline: December 2025.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Resources: Any expenses associated with this project will be entirely funded under the Court Interpreters Program budget.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>This project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. We will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure their review of relevant materials.</i></p>	

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities
	<p><i>Internal/External Stakeholders:</i> Interpreter community, judicial officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public.</p> <p><i>AC Collaboration:</i> None.</p>

III. LIST OF 2024 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	<p>Implementation of Assembly Bill 1032 Court interpreters – In September 2024, CIAP recommended that the council, effective January 1, 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend California Rules of Court, rule 2.893 to incorporate new statutory limits on the appointment of noncertified and nonregistered interpreters, clarify the current processes by drawing a clear distinction in the rule between provisional and temporary appointments, and include a definition and new section dedicated to the issue of relay interpreters. 2. Revise forms INT-100-INFO, INT-110, INT-120, and INT-140 to align their content with changes to the rule of court and further clarify and streamline the process of appointing noncertified and nonregistered interpreters. <p>The council approved these recommendations at its September 2024 business meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Designation of Certain Languages as Certified and Registered – In August 2024, CIAP approved a draft report that recommended that the council, effective January 1, 2025:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change the certified status designation of Armenian (Western), Japanese, and Khmer (Cambodian) to registered status due to low interpreting language usage, low testing demand, and the testing program not having examinations or sufficient raters to administer for certified status. Interpreters who are currently certified in California in these languages would retain their certified status for as long as they remain in good standing with the council. 2. Continue monitoring the language usage of Hmong (registered) and Portuguese (certified). At this time, the recommendation is to keep the designation status of these languages the same. <p>The council approved these recommendations at its November 2024 business meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters – In August 2024, CIAP approved changes to the Annual Court Interpreter Renewal and Compliance requirements. The major changes are to change the annual compliance cycle from 9.5 months over two calendar years to 5 months within the same calendar year, and to remove the automatic revocation and retesting requirements for interpreters who are out of compliance at the end of the cycle. Instead, interpreters who are out of compliance will be placed on permanent suspension and able to come back into good standing upon request. These changes make the compliance process simpler and will help retain interpreters. Following approval by the Administrative Director in October 2024, under a delegation from the council, an informational report will be prepared for the council at its February 2025 business meeting.</p>