



Judicial Council of California
Court Interpreters Advisory Panel

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COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

April 29, 2025
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Virtual

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Brian L. McCabe (Chair), Hon. Maurice Sanchez. (Vice-Chair), Ms. Angie Birchfield, Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Mr. Mark Crossley, Mr. Hany Farag, Mr. Bryan Kritzeck, Ms. Jennifer De La Cruz, Ms. M. Luisa McEwen, Ms. Mary Ma, Luisa Mc-Ewan, Mr. José Navarrete, Hon. Michael P. Pulos, Ms. Anabel Romero, Ms. Shirley Luo

Advisory Body Members Absent: Hon. Jaqueline Jackson (Liaison)

Others Present: Mr. Ray Mata, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Angela De Leon, Mrs. Julie Walton, Ms. Eunice Lee, Ms. Aggie Wong

OPEN MEETING

Call to Order and Roll Call

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

Approval of Minutes

The advisory body reviewed and approved as submitted the minutes of the February 1, 2025, open Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) meeting.

Public Comment

The public did not relay any public comment prior to the meeting.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Interpreter Training Update

Mrs. Julie Walton gave an informational presentation on educational resources and training initiatives for aspiring and credentialed court interpreters, including webinars, skill-building programs, and new 2025 learning modules.

Participants discussed the importance of incorporating experienced interpreters into mentorship and training opportunities, with suggestions that such service could be recognized with continuing education credits.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 2-2)

Item 1

2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study

Mrs. Eunice Lee and Aggie Wong gave CIAP a presentation for approval on a draft council report on the 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study, which is due to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2025.

Participants asked whether interpreter usage statistics account only for court-provided interpreters or also for those brought by parties. Additional questions focused on language breakdowns by interpreter employment status and certification, clarification on session types such as “night court,” and how data on non-certified or non-registered interpreter use is tracked.

Action: By unanimous decision the voting members of CIAP approved the report to go to council at its July 18th meeting.

A D J O U R N M E N T

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

Approved by the advisory body on X/XX/XXXX.

Judicial Council Report: Sponsoring Legislation to Amend Evidence Code § 754

Russell McGregor, Senior Analyst
Language Access Implementation Unit

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel Meeting
August 27, 2025



The Proposed Amendments

| | |
|--------|--|
| Modify | § 754(f): to allow courts, for good cause, to appoint non-court certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters who possess a generalist ASL credential and satisfy training and portfolio requirements approved by the Judicial Council |
| Update | § 754(o): formalize the Judicial Council's responsibility to maintain a roster of qualified interpreters |
| Revise | § 754: Pronoun language within statute to be gender-neutral |

Previous Actions

February 2025: CIAP approved moving proposal to Governmental Affairs



April 2025: Legislation Committee approved for Invitation to Comment (ITC) from April 11 to May 23



Summer 2025: Staff reviewed public comments and drafted report for CIAP review

Public Comments - Highlights



Clarify definition of “non-complex” and reappointment process



Questions on rule updates, due diligence search, and independent contractor payment policies



Implementation needs, training, outreach, system updates

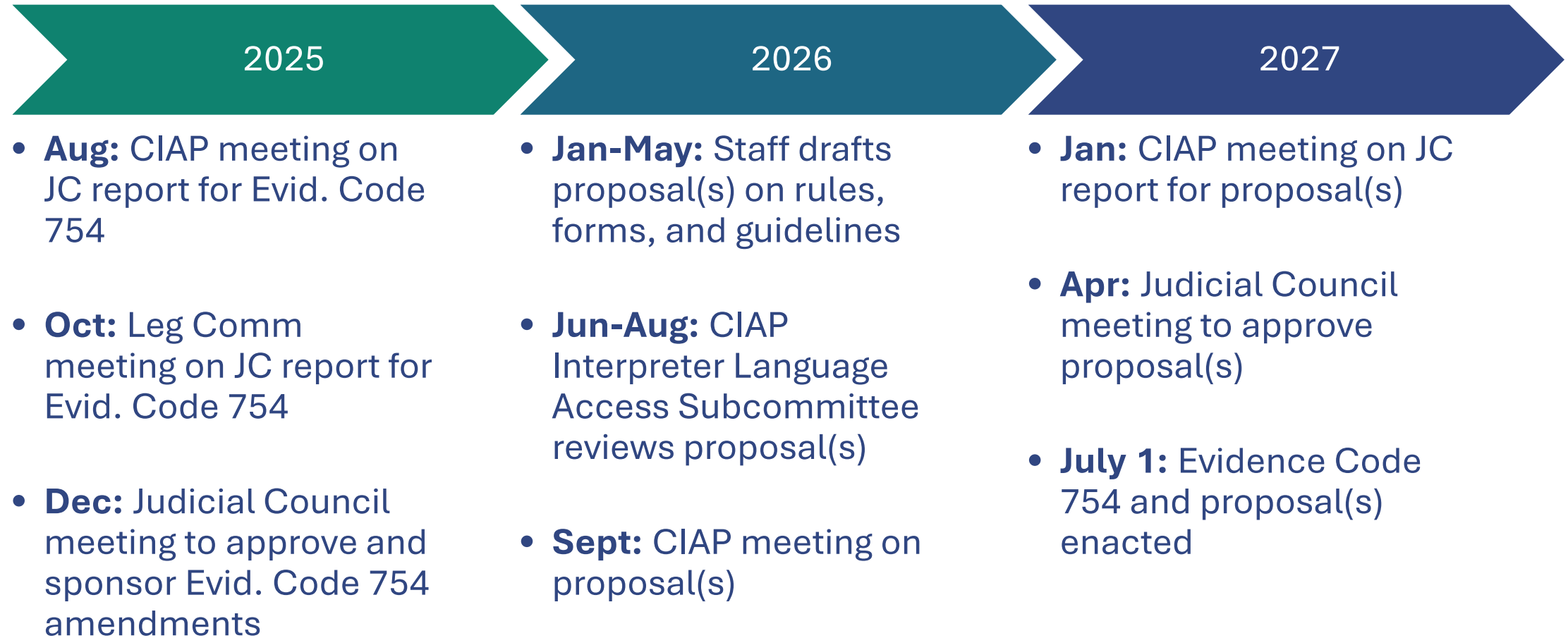


Potential cost savings for large courts



Effective date moved to July 1, 2027

Evidence Code § 754 Timeline



CIAP Action Requested

- Approve recommendations in Judicial Council report to amend Evid. Code § 754
 - If approved, Governmental Affairs will submit the report to the Legislation Committee for consideration in October 2025
 - If Legislation Committee approves in October, staff will submit report to council for review and approval at its December 2025 meeting



Judicial Council of California

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REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Item No.: **TBA**

For business meeting on December 12, 2025

Title

Judicial Council–Sponsored Legislation:
Appointment of Non-Court Certified ASL
Interpreters with Generalist Credentials

Report Type

Action Required

Effective Date

December 12, 2025

Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected

Evid. Code, § 754

Date of Report

July 31, 2025

Recommended by

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
Hon. Brian L. McCabe, Chair
Hon. Maurice Sanchez, Vice-Chair

Contact

Russell McGregor, 916-643-6988
russell.mcgregor@jud.ca.gov

Executive Summary

To address the limited availability of certified American Sign Language (ASL) court interpreters, the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the Judicial Council sponsor legislation to amend Evidence Code section 754. The proposed amendments would authorize courts to appoint non-court certified ASL interpreters according to good cause and qualification procedures adopted by the Judicial Council. This recommendation responds to a long-standing ASL interpreter shortage following the discontinuation of court certification programs and will allow the Judicial Council to develop a structured qualification pathway to ensure language access for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals when certified ASL court interpreters are unavailable. The proposal also includes revisions to modernize statutory language and clarify the Judicial Council's role in maintaining a roster of qualified interpreters.

Recommendation

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel recommends that the Judicial Council sponsor legislation, effective July 1, 2027, to amend Evidence Code section 754 to:

1. Modify section 754(f) to allow courts, for good cause, to appoint non-court certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters who possess a generalist ASL credential and

satisfy training, education, and experience requirements approved by the Judicial Council;

2. Clarify the Judicial Council’s responsibility under section 754(o) to maintain a current roster of qualified interpreters certified pursuant to section 754(f), strengthening statewide coordination, and enabling courts to efficiently identify and appoint qualified interpreters; and
3. Revise statutory language to be gender-neutral, aligning with broader efforts in California to modernize and ensure inclusivity in state laws.

The proposed amendments to Evidence Code section 754 are attached at pages 7–9.

Relevant Previous Council Action

Evidence Code section 754(h)(1) states: “Before July 1, 1992, the Judicial Council shall conduct a study to establish the guidelines pursuant to which it shall determine which testing organizations, agencies, or educational institutions will be approved to administer tests for certification of court interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.” The council first adopted these guidelines on February 21, 1992, and subsequently approved two certification entities in 1998: the California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf (CCASD) and the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).¹ CCASD discontinued its testing program in 2006, and RID ceased its Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) program on January 1, 2016, when its board imposed a moratorium on the credential.²

Although the Judicial Council continues to recognize existing SC:L holders for inclusion on the Master List of Certified and Registered Court Interpreters, no new SC:L credentials have been awarded since 2016.³ By 2023, only 39 certified ASL court interpreters remained on the Master List, an insufficient number to meet the growing demand for ASL interpretation services in California courts.

To address this issue, the *2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study* recommended that the Judicial Council explore and develop a new credentialing process for ASL court interpreters.⁴ In

¹ The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. (<https://rid.org/>) is a leading organization of best practices and professional development for ASL interpreting services. Its mission is to establish national standards of quality for ASL interpreters and transliterators.

² More information on the moratorium is available at <https://rid.org/about/certifications-under-moratorium/>.

³ The Master List is an online database maintained by the Judicial Council’s Language Access Services Program. It allows courts, attorneys, and members of the public to search for certified, registered, and enrolled court interpreters who are in good standing with the Judicial Council. See <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/court-interpreters-resources/search-interpreter>.

⁴ See *2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study* (March 2020), <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-07/2020-language-need-and-interpreter-use-study-report-to-the-legislature.pdf>.

response, the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) initiated research into alternative qualification models, including recognition of out-of-state certification programs and tiered pathways for ASL generalist credential holders.

In November 2023, the Judicial Council approved the Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) as a certifying entity for California ASL court interpreters for a period of four years, beginning January 1, 2024.⁵ At that time, the council also directed CIAP to continue exploring the feasibility of qualifying ASL generalist interpreters to interpret in court settings.

On February 21, 2025, the council approved revised *Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons* and an accompanying application form.⁶ The revisions will modernize the application process for program certification, support the recognition of additional ASL court interpreter testing entities as they become available, and maintain rigorous certification standards while expanding the pool of qualified interpreters. Approved entities, such as the Texas BEI, will need to reapply every four years under the revised *Guidelines*.

In 2024, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) conducted research on the feasibility of certifying ASL generalist interpreters for court work, including a review of practices followed by other states.⁷ Based on NCSC's findings, staff worked with CIAP to develop recommendations, including the Judicial Council sponsor legislation amending Evidence Code section 754. These amendments would allow, for good cause, the appointment of non-court certified ASL interpreters with a generalist ASL credential, provided they satisfy training, education, and experience requirements approved by the Judicial Council.

Analysis/Rationale

Evidence Code section 754 currently limits courts to appointing only ASL interpreters who hold a Judicial Council-approved court certification. Historically, two organizations provided this certification: the CCASD, which discontinued testing in 2006, and the RID, which offered SC:L until placing it under moratorium in 2016. Since 2016, no new ASL court interpreter certifications have been issued in California, contributing to a persistent interpreter shortage.

Although the Judicial Council approved the Texas BEI as a certifying entity in 2023, allowing reciprocity for qualified interpreters and resulting in a modest increase in the number of certified ASL court interpreters, the statewide supply remains insufficient. As of June 2025, only 50

⁵ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Language Access Plan: New Requirements for American Sign Language Court Interpreters* (Oct. 27, 2023), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12443593&GUID=86D50238-F331-4F4E-BBA7-A91D30995599>

⁶ Judicial Council of Cal., Advisory Com. Rep., *Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons* (Feb. 21, 2025), <https://jcc.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=13703631&GUID=53B28EFC-71FB-44C2-A44B-FF5515F94994>

⁷ See CIAP meeting materials for February 27, 2025 (see PDF, page 18) https://courts.ca.gov/system/files/file/ciap_20250224_materials.pdf

certified ASL interpreters are listed on the Judicial Council’s Master List. ASL remains the fourth most requested language in California courts, and demand continues to outpace the availability of interpreters.⁸

This proposal would amend Evidence Code section 754 to authorize courts, for good cause, to appoint ASL interpreters who are not certified by a Judicial Council-approved entity but who satisfy requirements to be adopted by the Judicial Council. Once implemented, the process to qualify non-court certified interpreters will help courts address interpreter shortages while ensuring interpreter quality. This statutory amendment will help the courts meet the access needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing court users when court certified ASL court interpreters are not available.

Policy implications

The proposed amendments to Evidence Code section 754 represent a measured shift in long-standing policy by allowing, for good cause, the appointment of ASL interpreters who are not certified by a Judicial Council-approved entity but who hold a generalist credential and meet minimum standards set by the Judicial Council. These interpreters would be authorized to interpret in specified, non-complex settings, when a court has good cause to appoint and there is no court certified interpreter available.

By referencing the existing framework for provisional qualification of spoken language interpreters under Government Code section 68561(c) (Link A) and California Rule of Court, rule 2.893 (Link B), the proposed amendment promotes consistency in how courts manage interpreter shortages while addressing the unique challenges of ASL access. It also ensures that appointments occur under defined standards and judicial oversight, helping courts respond to ongoing interpreter shortages without compromising the integrity of proceedings.

During the comment period, one policy issue was raised regarding the potential interpretation of “court-mandated programs.” Specifically, there was concern that this category could inadvertently include court-connected alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings. To address this, CIAP will need to provide clear criteria during implementation to guide interpreter assignments and ensure that generalist interpreters are used only in appropriate, non-complex settings.

Comments

This proposal was circulated for public comment from April 11 to May 23, 2025. Four comments were received: from the Orange County Bar Association, the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, the Superior Court of Orange County, and the Superior Court of San Diego County.

⁸ See *2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study* (June 2025), <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/system/files/2025-07/2025%20Language%20Need%20and%20Interpreter%20Use%20Study.pdf>.

All four commenters either agreed with the proposal or provided feedback without stating a formal position. Several emphasized the proposal's potential to alleviate persistent ASL interpreter shortages and acknowledged the need for further implementation planning through rules, forms, and policies.

The Orange County Bar Association agreed with the proposal and recommended that any future rulemaking account for the limited availability of certification exams for ASL interpreters when determining procedures for reappointment. The Bar also expressed concern that labeling "court-mandated programs" as non-complex could unintentionally include court-connected ADR proceedings. The CIAP acknowledged both points and will consider them during the development of future qualification procedures and interpreter assignment criteria.

The Superior Court of Los Angeles County agreed with the proposal and noted the potential for long-term cost savings through an expanded interpreter pool. The court also outlined anticipated implementation steps, including staff training, informational outreach to interpreters, and updates to case management systems. It estimated a two-month implementation period and stated the proposal would benefit large urban courts with ongoing interpreter shortages.

The Superior Court of Orange County did not indicate a position but submitted detailed feedback and questions about rule alignment, cost implications, and implementation logistics. The court asked whether California Rule of Court, rule 2.893, would be revised, whether current due diligence requirements would remain, and how interpreter payment policies would apply. It also projected an implementation timeline of three to six months, noting expected needs for staff training and system modifications. The CIAP anticipates addressing these operational details during the rulemaking and policy development process, should the legislation proceed.

The Superior Court of San Diego County agreed with the proposal and stated that it appears workable for courts of all sizes. The court did not expect significant cost savings but identified internal training and procedural updates as key implementation steps, estimating a two-month lead time.

No changes were made to the proposed statutory language in response to the comments. Feedback regarding interpreter qualifications, assignment criteria, and administrative procedures will be considered in the development of implementing rules and policies.

A chart with the full text of the comments and CIAP's responses is attached at pages 10-15.

Alternatives considered

Several alternatives were considered to address the shortage of certified ASL court interpreters, but each presented significant challenges. One option is to wait for RID to reinstate its SC:L credential, but there is no clear timeline for its return. Even if it is reinstated, rebuilding the interpreter pipeline may take years.

While approving additional ASL court interpreter certifying entities could help address the interpreter shortage, the Texas BEI remains the only ASL court interpreter certification currently available in the U.S. No other ASL court interpreter certification programs currently exist outside of Texas. Additionally, obtaining BEI certification requires out-of-state travel, testing fees, and other costs, making it less accessible for many prospective interpreters in California.

Establishing a California-specific ASL court interpreter certification was also considered, but this approach is not a viable option as it would require extraordinary time, funding, staffing, and infrastructure to develop, administer, and maintain.

The proposed amendment to Evidence Code section 754 provides the most immediate and cost-effective solution by allowing courts for good cause to appoint non-court certified ASL interpreters with a generalist credential who satisfy requirements approved by the Judicial Council. This approach complements rather than replaces Texas BEI reciprocity, ensuring courts have multiple pathways to expand interpreter access without unnecessary delays or excessive costs. The amendment expands interpreter access while maintaining Judicial Council oversight.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

The proposed amendments to Evidence Code section 754 are expected to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Judicial Council and trial courts, with costs primarily limited to administrative tasks such as developing related rules, forms, and guidelines; updating interpreter rosters; and conducting an informational webinar for the courts. CIAP will need to work with Judicial Council staff to develop the training, education, and experience requirements and to identify the matters that are appropriate for interpretation by an ASL generalist. These costs will be absorbed through existing resources within the Judicial Council's Language Access Services Program in the Center for Families, Children & the Courts. Operationally, courts may experience an initial adjustment period as they integrate non-court certified ASL interpreters with generalist credentials into non-complex functions, but this is expected to be manageable with appropriate training. Expanding the ASL interpreter pool may reduce costs from interpreter shortages while creating a pathway for more certified ASL court interpreters, ensuring long-term sustainability and enhanced access to justice for deaf and hard of hearing court users.

Attachments and Links

1. Cal. Evid. Code § 754, at pages 7-9
2. Chart of comments, at pages 10-15
3. Link A: Gov. Code, § 68561,
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?chapter=2.&lawCode=GOV&title=8.&article=4
4. Link B: California Rule of Court, rule 2.893,
https://courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index/two/rule2_893

Section 754 of the Evidence Code would be amended, effective July 1, 2027, to read:

1 **§ 754**

2
3 (a) As used in this section, “individual who is deaf or hard of hearing” means an
4 individual with a hearing loss so great as to prevent ~~his or her~~ their understanding of
5 language spoken in a normal tone, but does not include an individual who is hard of
6 hearing provided with, and able to fully participate in the proceedings through the use of,
7 an assistive listening system or computer-aided transcription equipment provided
8 pursuant to Section 54.8 of the Civil Code.

9
10 (b) In a civil or criminal action, including an action involving a traffic or other infraction,
11 a small claims court proceeding, a juvenile court proceeding, a family court proceeding
12 or service, or a proceeding to determine the mental competency of a person, in a court-
13 ordered or court-provided alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and
14 arbitration, or in an administrative hearing, where a party or witness is an individual who
15 is deaf or hard of hearing and the individual who is deaf or hard of hearing is present and
16 participating, the proceeding shall be interpreted in a language that the individual who is
17 deaf or hard of hearing understands by a qualified interpreter appointed by the court or
18 other appointing authority, or as agreed upon.

19
20 (c) For purposes of this section, “appointing authority” means a court, department, board,
21 commission, agency, licensing or legislative body, or other body for proceedings
22 requiring a qualified interpreter.

23
24 (d) For purposes of this section, “interpreter” includes an oral interpreter, a sign language
25 interpreter, or a deaf-blind interpreter, depending upon the needs of the individual who is
26 deaf or hard of hearing.

27
28 (e) For purposes of this section, “intermediary interpreter” means an individual who is
29 deaf or hard of hearing, or a hearing individual who is able to assist in providing an
30 accurate interpretation between spoken English and sign language or between variants of
31 sign language or between American Sign Language and other foreign languages by acting
32 as an intermediary between the individual who is deaf or hard of hearing and the
33 qualified interpreter.

34
35 (f) For purposes of this section, “qualified interpreter” means an interpreter who has been
36 certified as competent to interpret court proceedings by a testing organization, agency, or
37 educational institution approved by the Judicial Council as qualified to administer tests to
38 court interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. A court may for good
39 cause appoint a non-court certified ASL interpreter who satisfies requirements approved
40 by the Judicial Council. The court shall follow the good cause and qualification
41 procedures and guidelines adopted by the Judicial Council.

1 (g) If the appointed interpreter is not familiar with the use of particular signs by the
2 individual who is deaf or hard of hearing or ~~his or her~~ their particular variant of sign
3 language, the court or other appointing authority shall, in consultation with the individual
4 who is deaf or hard of hearing or ~~his or her~~ their representative, appoint an intermediary
5 interpreter.
6

7 (h) (1) Before July 1, 1992, the Judicial Council shall conduct a study to establish the
8 guidelines pursuant to which it shall determine which testing organizations, agencies, or
9 educational institutions will be approved to administer tests for certification of court
10 interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. It is the intent of the
11 Legislature that the study obtain the widest possible input from the public, including, but
12 not limited to, educational institutions, the judiciary, linguists, members of the State Bar
13 of California, court interpreters, members of professional interpreting organizations, and
14 members of the deaf and hard of hearing communities. After obtaining public comment
15 and completing its study, the Judicial Council shall publish these guidelines. By January
16 1, 1997, the Judicial Council shall approve one or more entities to administer testing for
17 court interpreters for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Testing entities may
18 include educational institutions, testing organizations, joint powers agencies, or public
19 agencies.
20

21 (2) Commencing ~~July 1, 1997,~~ July 1, 2027, court interpreters for individuals who are
22 deaf or hard of hearing shall meet the qualifications specified in subdivision (f).
23

24 (i) Persons appointed to serve as interpreters under this section shall be paid, in addition
25 to actual travel costs, the prevailing rate paid to persons employed by the court to provide
26 other interpreter services unless such service is considered to be a part of the person's
27 regular duties as an employee of the state, county, or other political subdivision of the
28 state. Except as provided in subdivision (j), payment of the interpreter's fee shall be a
29 charge against the court. Payment of the interpreter's fee in administrative proceedings
30 shall be a charge against the appointing board or authority.
31

32 (j) Whenever a peace officer or any other person having a law enforcement or
33 prosecutorial function in a criminal or quasi-criminal investigation or non-court
34 proceeding questions or otherwise interviews an alleged victim or witness who
35 demonstrates or alleges deafness or hearing loss, a good faith effort to secure the services
36 of an interpreter shall be made without any unnecessary delay, unless either the
37 individual who is deaf or hard of hearing affirmatively indicates that he or she does not
38 need or cannot use an interpreter, or an interpreter is not otherwise required by Title II of
39 the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and federal
40 regulations adopted thereunder. Payment of the interpreter's fee shall be a charge against
41 the county, or other political subdivision of the state, in which the action is pending.
42

1 (k) A statement, written or oral, made by an individual who the court finds is deaf or hard
2 of hearing in reply to a question of a peace officer, or any other person having a law
3 enforcement or prosecutorial function in a criminal or quasi-criminal investigation or
4 proceeding, shall not be used against that individual who is deaf or hard of hearing unless
5 the question was accurately interpreted and the statement was made knowingly,
6 voluntarily, and intelligently and was accurately interpreted, or the court finds that either
7 the individual could not have used an interpreter or an interpreter was not otherwise
8 required by Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law
9 101-336) and federal regulations adopted thereunder and that the statement was made
10 knowingly, voluntarily, and intelligently.

11
12 (l) In obtaining services of an interpreter for purposes of subdivision (j) or (k), priority
13 shall be given to first obtaining a qualified interpreter.

14
15 (m) Subdivisions (j) and (k) shall not be deemed to supersede the requirement of
16 subdivision (b) for use of a qualified interpreter for an individual who is deaf or hard of
17 hearing participating as a party or witness in a trial or hearing.

18
19 (n) In an action or proceeding in which an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing is a
20 participant, the appointing authority shall not commence the action or proceeding until
21 the appointed interpreter is in full view of and spatially situated to assure proper
22 communication with the participating individual who is deaf or hard of hearing.

23
24 (o) ~~Each superior court~~ The Judicial Council shall maintain a current roster of qualified
25 interpreters certified pursuant to subdivision (f).

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|----|--|----------|---|--|
| 1. | Orange County Bar Association by Mei Tsang, President. | A | The proposal indicates that the provisional qualification process for ASL interpreters would be "similar" to that for spoken language court interpreters. It is likely then, that court rules promulgated for ASL might also be similar to those for spoken language. Currently, California Rule of Court, Rule 2.893 addresses the appointment of spoken language court interpreters, including provisionally qualified interpreters. Rule 2.893(e)(2)(C) sets forth procedures and requirements where a provisionally qualified spoken language interpreter seeks a third or subsequent qualification period. As the proposal notes, currently the Texas BEI is the only ASL court interpreter certification available in the United States. In light of this and despite the "good cause" provision of Rule 2.893(e)(2)(D), for purposes of efficiency and practicality, it is suggested that a court rule addressing the procedures and requirements for a provisionally qualified ASL interpreter seeking re-appointment be modified from those for a spoken language interpreter to reflect the difficulties in sitting for a relevant qualifying exam. | <p>CIAP thanks the Orange County Bar Association for its comment.</p> <p>The committee appreciates the concern regarding the reappointment of non-court certified ASL interpreters and the unique challenges posed by the limited availability of certification exams. If the Judicial Council approves sponsoring the proposed amendment to Evidence Code section 754, this issue will be considered in the development of future rules to ensure any reappointment process is appropriately tailored for ASL interpreters.</p> |

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|----|---|----------|---|---|
| | | | <p>The proposal states that, once provisionally qualified, ASL generalist interpreters would "assist in non-complex matters, such as self-help centers, court-mandated programs, and emergency proceedings," while certified ASL court interpreters would "remain available for complex courtroom proceedings." While it is understood that details need to be addressed before the contemplated legislation takes effect, what is of concern is characterizing as "non-complex," all court-mandated programs as this would seem to sweep-in court-connected ADR proceedings. This would include, for example, court-ordered mediation or judicial arbitration. Should the impact or terms of settlement in a mediation or the question and answer in an arbitration be relayed inaccurately to a hard-of-hearing party, the impact on their claim is as severe as a loss at trial - it being presumed trial would be considered a "complex" matter. Accordingly, it is suggested that "court-mandated programs" be refined and court-connected ADR proceedings expressly considered "complex" matters requiring the services of a certified ASL court interpreter.</p> | <p>The committee also acknowledges the concern regarding the characterization of "court-mandated programs" as non-complex matters. If the Judicial Council approves sponsoring the proposal, the development of implementing rules and policies will include further guidance on appropriate assignments for ASL generalist interpreters. The suggestion to treat court-connected ADR proceedings as complex matters requiring certified ASL court interpreters will be taken into account during that process.</p> |
| 2. | Superior Court of Los Angeles County by Stephanie Kuo | A | <p>The following comments are representative of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, and do not represent or promote the viewpoint of any particular judicial officer or</p> | |

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|--|-----------|----------|---|---|
| | | | <p>employee.</p> <p>In response to the Judicial Council of California’s ITC, “Judicial Council–Sponsored Legislation: Appointment of Non-Court Certified American Sign Language Interpreters With Generalist Credentials,” the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (Court), agrees with the proposal and its ability to appropriately address its stated purpose.</p> <p>There is a potential to realize cost savings if there is a way to increase the ASL interpreter pool and reduce the shortage of interpreters that may be utilized for court service, including juror ADA accommodations.</p> <p>To implement the proposal, the Court would need to train judicial officers, courtroom staff, and staff who oversee interpreter assignments on the new provisional qualification process for ASL interpreters. Also, information would be provided to ASL interpreters hired to work at the Court. If there are forms adopted for this process, there will be case management system updates to allow for the filing of these forms. Two months would be required to implement the proposal.</p> | <p>CIAP thanks the Superior Court of Los Angeles County for its comment. The committee appreciates the court’s support for the proposal and its recognition of the potential to expand interpreter access and help address ongoing shortages.</p> |

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|----|--|----------|--|--|
| | | | The proposal would work well for courts of different sizes, especially large urban courts who experience daily shortages of ASL interpreters. | |
| 3. | Superior Court of Orange County Language Access Services Management by Janay Marks, Operations Analyst | NI | <p>Responses to Request for Specific Comment</p> <p>Question: Will CRC Rule 2.893 be revised to reflect these changes? We need clarification as to whether or not due diligent efforts are required before hiring a PQ ASL interpreter. Additionally, the Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters published by the JCC on July 1, 2021 (section E) requires the court to make reasonable effort to contact a minimum of three independent contractor interpreters before hiring provisional qualified interpreters for costs exceeding normal rates. Will this requirement remain?</p> <p>Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify.</p> <p>There is a potential cost savings in travel costs if hiring a local (in-state) PQ ASL interpreter versus paying the cost of travel for a certified interpreter, possibly from out of state. However, many courts have video remote interpretation (VRI) capabilities, and this could negate those costs. Additionally, potential cost savings may result from having a more robust pool of PQ</p> | <p>CIAP thanks the Superior Court of Orange County for its comment.</p> <p>If the Judicial Council approves sponsoring the proposed statutory amendment, CIAP anticipates working with Judicial Council staff to consider necessary updates to California Rules of Court, including rule 2.893, as part of the broader implementation process. As part of the rulemaking process, CIAP will review the requirement to conduct a diligent search before appointing a non-court certified ASL interpreter. Staff will also consult with the Court Executives Advisory Committee to determine whether any changes to the Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters are necessary.</p> <p>The court's observations regarding potential cost savings, training needs, case management updates, and implementation timelines are helpful. These operational insights will inform future rule and policy development. CIAP anticipates a collaborative implementation process that takes</p> |

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|--|-----------|----------|--|--|
| | | | <p>ASL interpreters, particularly if PQ ASL interpreters are included under the Payment Policies for Independent Contractor Interpreters for non-certified interpreters, which took effect on July 1, 2021. This will allow for compensation based on those policies rather than the prevailing rates paid to persons employed by the court to provide interpreter services.</p> <p>What would the implementation requirements be for courts—for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), or modifying case management systems?</p> <p>Training would be needed for LAS coordinators, maintaining PQ status, documenting due diligence of hiring efforts, and reviewing new forms. Workload would increase if there is a requirement imposed to contact a certain number of cert before moving on to a PQ ASL interpreter. CMS would also need to be updated to reflect docket codes for appearances of PQ ASL interpreters, including any findings that may need to be stated on the record.</p> <p>About how much time do courts anticipate needing for implementation?</p> | <p>these factors into account, should the proposed legislation move forward.</p> |

ITC SP24-09

Court Interpreters: Guidelines for Approval of Certification Programs for Interpreters for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons

All comments are verbatim unless indicated by an asterisk (*).

| | Commenter | Position | Comment | Committee Response |
|----|--|----------|---|---|
| | | | Between three to six months. | |
| 4. | Superior Court of San Diego County by Mike Roddy, Executive Officer | A | <p>Q: Does the proposal appropriately address the stated purpose? A: Yes.</p> <p>Q: Would the proposal provide cost savings? If so, please quantify. A: No.</p> <p>Q: What would the implementation requirements be for courts for example, training staff (please identify position and expected hours of training), revising processes and procedures (please describe), changing docket codes in case management systems, or modifying case management systems? A: Updating internal procedures and training staff.</p> <p>Q: About how much time do courts anticipate needing for implementation? A: At least two months from the proposed implementation date.</p> <p>Q: How well would this proposal work in courts of different sizes? A: It appears the proposal would work for courts of all sizes.</p> | CIAP thanks the Superior Court of San Diego County for its comment. The committee appreciates the court's support for the proposal and its feedback on implementation and applicability across court sizes. |

Court Interpreter Advisory Panel
Annual Agenda¹—2026
Approved by Executive & Planning Committee]: December XX, 2025

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

| | |
|---|---|
| Chair: | Hon. Maurice Sanchez, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Three |
| Lead Staff: | Mr. Ray Mata, Analyst, Court Interpreters Program, Center for Families, Children & the Courts |
| Advisory Body'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:</p> <p>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, | |

¹ The Annual Agenda outlines the work an advisory body will focus on in the coming year or cycle and identifies areas of collaboration with other advisory bodies and Judicial Council staff resources.

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;

- (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 Body²:

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.

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

- 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.

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

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) 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 extending the suspension of advisory body in-person meetings for the 2025–2026 annual agenda cycle. If an in-person meeting is needed, the responsible Judicial Council office head must seek approval from their advisory body's internal oversight committee chair. Please see the prioritization memo dated July 1, 2025, for additional details.

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Please review the following instructions, key, and project guide before drafting your committee projects. All proposed projects for the year must be included on the Annual Agenda.

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key:

Refer to the following key for populating your project priority levels and branch goals. 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. 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.

| Priority Levels for Non-Rules/Forms | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Must be done |
| 2 | Should be done |
| Priority Levels for Rules/Forms Proposals | |
| 1a (Legal Compliance) | Proposal urgently needed to conform to or accurately reflect the law. |
| 1b (Council Directive) | Council has directed the committee to consider new or amended rules and forms. |
| 1c (Urgent Remedial Action) | Change is urgently needed to remedy a problem that is causing significant cost or inconvenience to the courts or the public. |
| 1d (Financial/ Legal Risk Mitigation) | Proposal is otherwise urgent and necessary, such as a proposal that would mitigate exposure to immediate or severe financial or legal risk. |
| 2a (Useful Changes in Law) | Useful, but not necessary, to implement changes in law. |
| 2b (Responsive to Concerns) | Responsive to identified concerns or problems. |
| 2c (Helpful Advancing Branch Goals) | Helpful in otherwise advancing Judicial Council goals and objectives. |

| Judicial Branch Strategic Plan–Branch Goals | |
|---|---|
| I. | <u>Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion</u> |
| II. | <u>Independence and Accountability</u> |
| III. | <u>Modernization of Management and Administration</u> |
| IV. | <u>Quality of Justice and Service to the Public</u> |
| V. | <u>Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence</u> |
| VI. | <u>Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence</u> |
| VII. | <u>Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch</u> |

| # | New or One-Time Projects | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. | Project Title: Amend Credential Review Procedures to Include Skills Assessment Process – Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee | Priority: 1 | | | | | | | |
| Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: Select the branch goal(s) of the Judicial Branch Strategic Plan that the project most closely aligns with. | | | | | | | | | |
| <table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II Independence <input type="checkbox"/> | III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/> | IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V Education <input type="checkbox"/> | VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> | VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II Independence <input type="checkbox"/> | III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/> | IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V Education <input type="checkbox"/> | VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> | VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <p>Project Summary: The current <i>California Court Interpreter Credential Review Procedures</i>, which address the handling of interpreter complaints, have not been updated since their adoption by the Judicial Council effective January 1, 2020. In 2025, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) completed the development of a skills assessment process to evaluate an interpreter's performance when a skills-based complaint has been filed against an interpreter. The diagnostic process was developed by NCSC working with experienced court interpreters and testing psychometricians and was also successfully tested by NCSC using actual interpreters as test subjects for practice. The next step is to seek input from court executive officers for feedback and amend the <i>Credential Review Procedures</i> and to formally incorporate the skills assessment process in the procedures prior to implementation. The proposed amendments will allow the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) to also make updates that will be informed by the variety of complaints that the Court Interpreters Program (CIP) has received to date.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Court Interpreters Program staff have initiated the development of proposed updates to the <i>Credential Review Procedures</i>. The proposed revisions are expected to be presented to the committee for review in spring 2026, followed by a period for public comment. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Judicial Council for consideration in fall 2026.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Any expenses associated with updating the <i>Credential Review Procedures</i> will be entirely funded by the Judicial Council's CIP, which is a unit within the Language Access Services program.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. <i>Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.</i></p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Judicial Council Legal Services and Human Resources offices. Interpreter community, judicial officers, court executive officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee</p> | | | | | | | | | |

| # | Ongoing Projects and Activities | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Project Title: Certification of Persons with American Sign Language (ASL) Generalist Credentials to Perform Work in the Courts – Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee | Priority: 1 | | | | | | | |
| Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">I <i>Access</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IV <i>Quality</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | | I <i>Access</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | IV <i>Quality</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I <i>Access</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II <i>Independence</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | III <i>Modernization</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | IV <i>Quality</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V <i>Education</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | VI <i>Infrastructure</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | VII <i>Funding</i> <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <p>Project Summary: In November 2023, the council directed CIAP to develop a proposal for the council to certify persons with ASL generalist credentials to perform work in the courts. In 2025, a necessary step was completed by CIAP to develop and circulate a proposed amendment to Evidence Code section 754, which would allow this practice and help expand the ASL interpreter pool. The proposed legislation is on track for council approval in December 2025 for sponsored legislation, which would amend the Evidence Code to permit ASL generalists who meet certain Judicial Council requirements to work in the courts and would be modeled after the process used for spoken language interpreters when a certified or registered interpreter is unavailable. If sponsored and adopted, the legislation would take effect on July 1, 2027. In 2026, CIAP will determine the necessary rules and form changes, appropriate court events or case matters for ASL generalists, and other training or portfolio requirements for ASL generalists, prior to legislation taking effect. Staff also anticipate developing a roster for courts of ASL generalist interpreters who have met the training and portfolio requirements and are available for work in the courts, which will streamline the appointment process.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: To prepare for this legislative change, CIAP will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Propose amendments to California Rules of Court, rules 2.892 and 2.893, and revise or develop any related forms. 2. Develop a proposal for Judicial Council consideration outlining the appropriate court events or case types, as well as qualifications, training, and other requirements for ASL generalists to work in the courts. <p>These reports will be developed for council by CIAP prior to implementation of the legislation on July 1, 2027, assuming the amendment to Evidence Code section 754 is sponsored and adopted by the Legislature.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Judicial Council Governmental Affairs. Interpreter community (including ASL interpreters), judicial officers, court executive 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> | | | | | | | | | |

| # | Ongoing Projects and Activities | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2. | Project Title: Develop Testing Strategies and Recommendations Based on AB 1032 Workforce Study | Priority: 1 | | | | | | | |
| | Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>V Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> | | I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II Independence <input type="checkbox"/> | III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/> | IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V Education <input type="checkbox"/> | VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> | VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | II Independence <input type="checkbox"/> | III Modernization <input type="checkbox"/> | IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | V Education <input type="checkbox"/> | VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> | VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | <p>Project Summary: Language Access Services (LAS) staff will work with CIAP to develop testing and certification strategies based on findings in the AB 1032 Workforce Study, which is due to the Legislature by January 1, 2026, to help expand the court interpreter workforce. For example, allowing interpreter candidates to carry over passing scores of 70% or higher on two or more sections of the four-part Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) for certified languages from one examination administration to another for up to two years. This policy would aim to support candidate retention and improve overall pass rates by allowing individuals to focus on the remaining sections. The Workforce Study will have other considerations regarding potential improvements to California's testing and certification process to help expand the interpreter pool, which CIAP will review and make recommendations for improvements to the council.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: December 2026</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Any expenses associated with this project will be entirely funded under the Court Interpreters Program budget.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.</p> <p>Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, judicial officers, court executive officers, justice partners, language access court personnel, and the public.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Court Executives Advisory Committee</p> | | | | | | | | |

III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

| # | Project Highlights and Achievements |
|----|---|
| 1. | Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters – At its February 2025 meeting, the council approved CIAP’s recommendation and adopted the revised <i>Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters</i> . |
| 2. | Interpreting Skills Assessment Process – Professional Standards and Ethics – In 2025, the NCSC completed the development of a skills assessment process to evaluate an interpreter’s performance when a skills-based complaint has been filed against an interpreter and presented it to CIAP for review and discussion. The next step is to amend the <i>Credential Review Procedures</i> to incorporate the skills assessment process prior to implementation. |
| 3. | 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study – In July 2025, the council received an informational presentation on the <i>2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study</i> , which was prepared by the Judicial Council’s Language Access Services Program and reviewed by CIAP. The five-year study is mandated and was submitted to the Governor and Legislature in June 2025, under Government Code section 68563. |
| 4. | Assembly Bill 1032: Workforce Study on Court Interpreters – CIAP anticipates that the court interpreter workforce study mandated under AB 1032 (2023) will be presented to council for approval in December 2025. The study will provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding court interpreter availability and the future court interpreter workforce and is due by January 1, 2026. |