



Judicial Council of California

COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

July 30, 2026

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

Virtual

Members Present: Hon. Maurice Sanchez. (Chair), Ms. Anabel Romero (Vice-Chair), Mr. Hany Farag, Mr. José Navarrete, Ms. Anabel Romero, Hon. Tamara Hall, Ms. Jennifer De La Cruz, Ms. Angie Birchfield, Ms. Stephanie Cameron, Ms. Bonnie Faye Gibson-Brydon, Ms. Shirley Luo

Members Absent: Hon. Michael P. Pulos, Ms. Mary Ma, Mr. Bryan Kritzeck

Others Present: Mr. Ray Mata, Ms. Angela De Leon, Mr. Douglas Denton, Mr. Juan Palamares

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 advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the June 24, 2026, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 1)

Item 1

Carryover of Bilingual Interpreting Examination Scores (Action Required)

Mr. Douglas Denton, Principal Manager, Language Access Services Program, gave a presentation on potential changes to the court interpreter certification process. Topics included a proposed two-year carryover score policy that would allow candidates to pass individual portions of the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) across separate exam administrations to meet credentialing requirements; a one-time retroactive application of the policy tied to direct court employment; and potential candidate orientation for all candidates and language proficiency screening requirements prior to eligibility for the certification examination.

One member inquired about the potential implementation of this practice by Language Access Services and expressed concern that the proposed policy change could affect the competency standards currently expected of court interpreters. Other members expressed support for the proposal, noting that it could provide an immediate return on investment by allowing candidates

to retain demonstrated competencies and offering the fastest pathway toward successfully passing the BIE.

Action: By a vote of 5–1, the voting members of CIAP approved the draft report for submission to the Judicial Council.

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 enter date.

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel DRAFT Annual Agenda—2027

Approved by Executive and Planning Committee: December 1, 2026

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Chair: Hon. Tamara E. Hall, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Lead Staff: Mr. Ray Mata, Analyst, Court Interpreters Program, Leadership Support Services

Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:

[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:

- (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.

[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.

[Rule 10.51\(c\)](#) sets forth the following membership composition of the committee. CIAP currently has 13 members, which consists of 9 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:

- (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;
- (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 webpage.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body:

1. **Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee** – Works with Judicial Council staff to review and provide recommendations on projects related to interpreter professional development, professional standards, ethics, and compliance requirements.
2. **Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee** – Works with Judicial Council staff to review and provide recommendations on specific projects aimed at improving language access and interpreting services. 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 2027:

- CIAP – 9 teleconferences (no in-person meetings are anticipated)

Specific subcommittee meeting dates are to be determined. Meeting occurrences are estimates for 2027 and may be subject to change.

- Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee – 2 teleconferences.
- Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee – 2 teleconferences

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

II. COMMITTEE PROJECTS

Priority Levels and Branch Goals Key

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. [Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion](#)
- II. [Independence and Accountability](#)
- III. [Modernization of Management and Administration](#)
- IV. [Quality of Justice and Service to the Public](#)
- V. [Education for Branchwide Professional Excellence](#)
- VI. [Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence](#)
- VII. [Adequate, Stable, and Predictable Funding for a Fully Functioning Branch](#)

New or One-Time Projects

1. **Project Title:** Revise Compliance Requirements for California Certified and Registered Court Interpreters – Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☒	IV. Quality ☒	V. Education ☒	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☐
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Project Summary: CIAP will consider recommendations to revise the [Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters](#) to establish reasonable time limits and requirements for interpreters who hold an inactive or suspended credential status, or who request waivers of compliance requirements. Proposed revisions may include establishing a maximum period for inactive status; requiring an assessment for interpreters seeking to return to active status after more than two compliance cycles (four years) of inactivity; limiting the number or frequency of waivers that may be granted for fees, Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education (CIMCE), or professional interpreting assignments; and establishing a maximum period an interpreter may remain in suspended status.

Status/Timeline: Court Interpreters Program (CIP) staff will develop recommendations that the committee will consider in 2027. Under a delegation of authority, if approved, the recommendations will be presented to the Administrative Director for her consideration later that year. An informational report summarizing the changes will be presented to the council by December 2027.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Expenses associated with this project are funded by the Court Interpreters Program budget, as available.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, justice partners, trial courts including judicial officers and language access court personnel, and the public.

AC Collaboration: None.

2. ***Project Title:*** Review of Armenian Court Interpreter Credentialing and Testing – Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☒	IV. Quality ☒	V. Education ☒	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☐
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Project Summary: Because there are currently no available examinations for Eastern or Western Armenian, CIAP will review the current credentialing and testing framework for Eastern and Western Armenian court interpreters and consider whether modifications are appropriate to provide a more effective and accessible pathway for Armenian-speaking candidates to become credentialed court interpreters. The review will consider the historical designation of Armenian as a certified language, the subsequent distinction between Eastern and Western Armenian within the certification program, current testing practices, and available testing options that assess proficiency in Armenian, including whether Eastern and Western Armenian should be treated as a single language (Armenian) for credentialing and testing purposes moving forward.

Status/Timeline: CIP staff will develop recommendations that the committee will consider in 2027. If approved by CIAP, the recommendations will be presented to the council for their consideration by December 2027.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Expenses associated with this project are funded by the Court Interpreters Program budget, as available. . Potential modifications to the testing framework may reduce future costs associated with developing, administering, and maintaining separate language-specific certification examinations.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: Interpreter community, Armenian-speaking interpreters and candidates, justice partners, trial courts including judicial officers and language access court personnel, and the public.

AC Collaboration: CIAP Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee

Ongoing Projects and Activities

1. **Project Title:** American Sign Language (ASL) Generalist Interpreter Pilot Program – Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee

Priority: 1

Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:

I. Access ☒	II. Independence ☐	III. Modernization ☒	IV. Quality ☒	V. Education ☒	VI. Infrastructure ☐	VII. Funding ☐
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Project Summary: Following council approval of the pilot in October 2026 (TBD), the CIAP Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee will work with Judicial Council staff from Leadership Support Services (LSS) to launch and implement the ASL Generalist Interpreter Pilot Program, monitor its operation, and evaluate interpreter use and court user experiences. The pilot program will evaluate proposed ASL Generalist Interpreter Guidelines establishing qualification and training requirements, allowable court settings, and reporting and oversight requirements. The pilot is intended to expand language access, address the ongoing shortage of certified ASL court interpreters, support development of the ASL court interpreter workforce, and collect data to inform future policy decisions. The pilot is anticipated to operate in approximately 6 to 10 volunteer courts beginning in 2027.

Status/Timeline: The pilot will launch in 2027 and is anticipated to operate into 2028. Upon conclusion, a report from CIAP with findings and recommendations will be developed for the council by December 2028. The pilot may be extended if additional time is needed to collect sufficient data and evaluate outcomes.

Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: A qualified consultant to assist with pilot implementation; program and staff resources in LSS.

☐ Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts. *Advisory body staff will coordinate with Budget Services to ensure its review of relevant materials.*

Internal/External Stakeholders: Judicial Council Governmental Affairs. ASL interpreters, deaf and hard of hearing court users, and the trial courts.

AC Collaboration: CIAP Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee.

III. LIST OF 2026 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project Highlights and Achievements

1. **Develop Testing Strategies and Recommendations Based on Assembly Bill 1032: Workforce Study on Court Interpreters** – At its October 2026 meeting, the Judicial Council approved (TBD) CIAP’s recommendation to allow interpreter candidates to carry over passing scores of 70 percent or higher on individual sections of the Bilingual Interpreting Examination for certified spoken languages for up to two years, with a one-time retroactive application for eligible candidates.
2. **Certification of Persons with American Sign Language (ASL) Generalist Credentials to Perform Work in the Courts** – At its October 2026 meeting, the Judicial Council approved (TBD) CIAP’s recommendation to launch a pilot program in 2027 to evaluate the limited use of qualified ASL Generalist Interpreters in California courts.
3. **Amend Credential Review Procedures to Include Skills Assessment Process** – Following public comment, CIAP anticipates presenting its recommendation and the revised *California Court Interpreter Credential Review Procedures* to the Judicial Council for consideration and approval at its December 2026 meeting. https://courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/courts/default/2024-12/cip_crprocedures.pdf