



COURT INTERPRETERS ADVISORY PANEL

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

December 13, 2023
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Virtual

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Brian L. McCabe (Chair), Mr. Hector Gonzalez, Jr. (Vice-Chair), Ms. Angie Birchfield, Ms. Jennifer De La Cruz, Mr. Hany Farag, Ms. Shirley Luo, Ms. Mary Ma, Mr. José Navarrete, Mr. Tam “Tyler” T. Nguyen, Ms. Anabel Z. Romero, Hon. Maurice Sanchez

Advisory Body Members Absent: Mr. Mark Crossley, Ms. Amelia Loera, Ms. M. Luisa McEwen, Hon. Michael P. Pulos

Others Present: Hon. Jaqueline Jackson (Liaison), Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Claudia Ortega, Mr. Ray Mata

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 August 3, 2023, Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) meeting.

Public Comment

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

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Item 1

Draft 2024 CIAP Annual Agenda (Discussion Item)

Action: Ms. Claudia Ortega and Mr. Mata walked the committee through a draft of its 2024 Annual Agenda. The members made no changes to the draft annual agenda.

Item 2

Recommendations Regarding Passage and Credentialing Options (Action Required)

Action: The committee considered a report to CIAP that proposed the following recommendations:

1. Make no change at this time to the current testing requirement that candidates must pass the Bilingual Interpreting Examination (BIE) with a score of 70% or higher in each of the four examination sections in one sitting.

2. Consider implementing key elements of the annual agenda project by adding a specific project that directs Language Access Services staff to explore the potential costs, benefits, drawbacks, and operational feasibility of allowing BIE candidates to carryover their passing scores on individual sections of the BIE for two years.

Members asked questions about the testing process and suggested that staff create a recruitment pipeline for the future carryover candidates. The voting members of CIAP unanimously voted to approve the report.

Item 3

Recommendations Regarding Designation of Languages (Action Required)

Action: As a follow-up to findings in the *2020 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*, the committee reviewed a report to CIAP that proposed the following recommendations:

1. Change the certified status designation of Japanese and Armenian (Western) to registered status due to low interpreting language usage, low testing demand, and the testing program not having examinations to administer for the 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. Change the certified status designation for Khmer to registered status due to low interpreting language usage, low testing demand, and the testing program not being able to administer the examination for this language since 2019 due to insufficient rater availability. Interpreters who are currently certified in California in Khmer would retain their certified status for as long as they remain in good standing with the Judicial Council.
3. Continue monitoring the language usage of Hindi (registered), Hmong (registered), and Portuguese (certified). At this time, the recommendation is to keep the designation status of these languages the same.

The members had no questions concerning the recommendations. The voting members of CIAP unanimously voted to approve the report recommendations to circulate for public comment.

A D J O U R N M E N T

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES PROGRAM
Report to the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
(Action Item)

Title: Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters

Date: March 20, 2024

From: Douglas G. Denton, Principal Manager, Language Access Services,
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Executive Summary

The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel (CIAP) has had a project on its 2023 and 2024 Annual Agendas to consider recommendations to modify the annual court interpreter renewal and compliance cycle (hereafter “compliance cycle”) to be more efficient, clear to interpreters, and in alignment with operational improvements. This project also entails CIAP considering recommended updates to the *Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters* (hereafter “compliance requirements”) so that it incorporates modifications to the compliance process. This report sets forth recommendations to achieve these objectives.

Recommendations

1. Staff recommend that several changes be made to the *Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters*. Those recommended changes are summarized in this report.
2. Once staff receives guidance from CIAP on the proposed changes, staff will update the *Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters* and present the revised document to CIAP for review and approval.

Previous Council Action

The *Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters* (Link A) were last revised in 2020. The Judicial Council previously delegated authority to the Administrative Director to approve changes to the compliance requirements once they were developed and approved by CIAP. The webpage regarding the annual court interpreter renewal and compliance cycle is available at Link B.

Background

The council’s responsibilities over court interpreters in California are set forth in California Government Code sections 68560–68566 (Link C). In accordance with section 68562, all

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certified and registered spoken language interpreters are required to meet continuing education and certification renewal requirements established by the council. Specifically:

The Judicial Council shall adopt standards and requirements for interpreter proficiency, continuing education, certification renewal, and discipline. The Judicial Council shall adopt standards of professional conduct for court interpreters.
(Gov. Code, § 68562(d).)

Each year, all active certified and registered spoken-language court interpreters are required to pay an annual renewal fee of \$100 to the council. In addition, they are required to complete their continuing education and professional assignments every two years after enrolling with the Court Interpreters Program (CIP) unit. Specifically, interpreters must attest to completing 30 CIP approved Court Interpreter Continuing Education (CIMCE) hours and 40 professional assignments.

The current compliance cycle currently spans ten months (mid-September through mid-July of the following year). The first deadline to pay the annual fee and attest to completion of their continuing education and professional assignments requirements (for those with this requirement due that year) is the last day of December. The second deadline to do the same and to pay a \$50 late fee is the last day of February the following year. Interpreters who do not meet this deadline are “suspended”, which means they are removed from the council's Master List of Certified Court and Registered Court Interpreters. The third deadline to do the same, pay the \$50 late fee, and pay a \$250 reinstatement fee is the last day of June.

Under the current requirements, interpreters who do not meet the June deadline will have their credential revoked. When an interpreter's credentialed status is revoked, the interpreter remains off of the Master List of Certified and Registered Court Interpreters and may not be employed as a certified or registered interpreter by the trial courts. If the interpreter wishes to be reinstated, the interpreter must retake and pass all the examinations required for their credential and re-enroll with CIP.

Proposed Changes

Staff recommends the following updates to the *Compliance Requirements for Certified Court and Registered Interpreters* to streamline the annual renewal and compliance process:

1. Starting in 2025, shorten the compliance cycle to 5 months in the same calendar year (July 1 to November 30).
2. Remove all late periods for payment or attestation. There will be no late periods and interpreters who are late will be suspended on a long-term basis.
3. Replace the current policy that requires permanent revocation of an interpreter's credential when the interpreter remains out of compliance with a long-term suspension

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policy that enables the interpreter to come back into compliance later without having to retake all the required interpreter examinations. The interpreter would have to pay a reinstatement fee of \$250 and pay the \$100 annual renewal fee to be reinstated.

4. Convey that interpreters may make their annual renewal payments and attest to completion of their continuing education and professional assignments requirements online through the Court Interpreter Data Collection System's (CIDCS) Interpreter Portal.
5. Include a requirement that interpreters who have been credentialed for more than two years must take a newly developed online ethics refresher training for interpreters along with other ethics courses that the council develops and determines should be required in the future.
6. Replace "instructor-led instruction" with "live instructor-led instruction" and define "live instructor-led instruction" as providing a forum that allows for live interaction between participants and faculty during the course.
7. Change the current requirement that interpreters can receive credit for a minimum of fifteen (15) hours of (live) instructor-led approved CIMCE educational activities to a minimum of ten (10) hours of live instructor-led approved CIMCE educational activities.
8. Change the current requirement that interpreters can receive credit for a maximum of fifteen (15) hours of non-instructor-led approved CIMCE educational activities to a maximum of twenty (20) hours of non-instructor-led approved CIMCE educational activities.
9. Change the requirement that an educational activity be at least one hour in duration to at least thirty minutes.
10. Allow for CIP's approval of "finish at your own pace" types of training.

Analysis/Rationale

The rationale behind these recommendations is to simplify and modernize the compliance process, update the requirements where needed, and adapt to trends in online training. The compliance cycle starting in September and ending in June of the following year has led to significant confusion and frustration for interpreters, courts, and staff. If approved, these recommendations will reduce confusion amongst interpreters and reduce the instances in which they miss deadlines and incur fees due to this confusion. The changes will also reduce interpreters' frustration with a lengthy and outdated compliance cycle. The proposals will also allow revoked interpreters (some only revoked for not making the required payments) to be reinstated much more easily and without the need to retake examinations. The recommendations also enable CIP to significantly streamline its administration of the compliance cycle.

Policy Implications

If approved, these recommendations would address issues related to the compliance cycle's timeline, revocation policies, and continuing education requirements, with the goal of enhancing

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the overall experience of interpreters and aligning with emerging technology and educational trends.

Alternatives Considered

CIAP could recommend no change to the current compliance cycle and requirements. This could result in inefficiency, continued confusion, risk of non-compliance, administrative burdens, and a loss of qualified professionals, ultimately impacting the quality and accessibility of interpreter services.

Fiscal and Operational Impacts

There is no anticipated fiscal impact for the trial courts. There will be a minimal operational impact on them if they are tracking the continuing education and professional assignments due dates of their interpreter employees. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the council. However, CIP staff will need to dedicate time and employee resources to implementing the approved recommendations, including making necessary changes to CIDCS.

Attachments and Links

1. Link A: <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/sites/default/files/partners/default/2023-11/CIP-Compliance-Requirements.pdf>
2. Link B: <https://languageaccess.courts.ca.gov/court-interpreters-resources/current-court-interpreters/annual-renewal-compliance-and-continuing>
3. Link C: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=8.&part=&chapter=2.&article=4.](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=8.&part=&chapter=2.&article=4)

Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel
(CIAP)

April 23, 2024



CIAP Subcommittees

- Interpreter Language Access Subcommittee (ILAS)
 - American Sign Language (ASL) work
- Professional Standards & Ethics Subcommittee (PS&E)
 - Revise Ethics Manual

PS&E Project on 2024 Annual Agenda

Update the *Professional Standards and Ethics for California Court Interpreters Manual* to:

- Streamline its content and reorganize it into four modules
- Align its content with a redesigned live ethics training that is required for new interpreters and a new online ethics refresher training for more experienced interpreters
- Address video remote interpreting and conduct on social media
- Shorten and optimize the manual for reading online
- Make it easier for interpreters to understand

The Current Ethics Manual

- Last updated in 2013
- Lengthy (61 pages)
- Formatted for printing out
- Does not address current interpreting practices, evolving technology, remote and hybrid courtroom environments, video remote interpreting, and contemporary ethical issues



Research by Staff

- Reviewed other states' manuals, guidelines, or requirements
- Reviewed manual's existing content and format
- Identified needed improvements

Recommended Changes for PS&E to Review

A significantly condensed version

Four modules on:

- Ethics and Professional Standards for Interpreters
- Ethical Challenges for Remote Interpreting
- Interpreter Conduct on Social Media
- Interpreter Ethics Resources from Other States

Before and After (TBD)

Document	Before	After
Ethics Manual and Standards for Professional Conduct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 pages • Information for Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration and Evidence Code pasted in as appendices • Intended as printed course materials • Courtroom specific content • In person interpreting only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 pages • Link to Rules of Court, Standards of Judicial Administration and Evidence Code • Quick reference guide for after Ethics course taken to be read online • Include interpreting in different environments • Include links to Interpreter Education Portal and Compliance Guidelines, as well as NCSC Model Ethics Code
Ethical Challenges for Remote Interpreting	N/A	6 pages
Interpreter Conduct on Social Media	N/A	3 pages
Interpreter Ethics Resources from other States	N/A	2 pages

Next Steps

Professional Standards and Ethics Subcommittee meets in May to review draft modules

If needed, the subcommittee meets again in June to finalize draft modules for CIAP's review

CIAP reviews and approves draft modules later this year

Contacts

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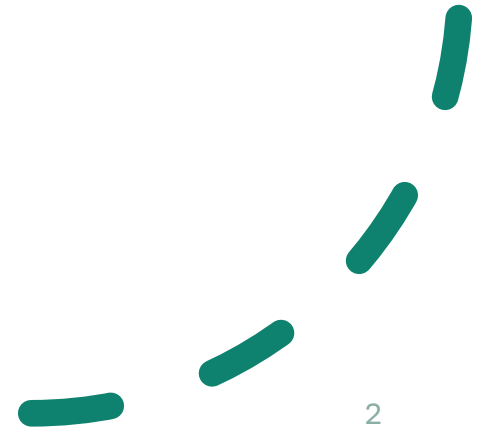
California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program

Court Interpreters Advisory Panel Meeting

April 23, 2024

California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program

The pilot program is intended to increase the number of court interpreter employees in the courts



CA Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot



2023 Budget allocated \$6.8 million for workforce pilot, which will run 2024-29



Up to 10 participants per court, per year (Los Angeles must be one of the courts)



Program will reimburse participants for their training and exam costs (up to 3 exams)

CA Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot



Participating courts agree to hire successful pilot participants after exam passage



Pilot participants must agree up front to work for court for at least three years



Pilot is different than current Los Angeles training program for court staff to become court interpreters or court reporters

California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program

Priority will be
given to

Near Passers (for Certified)

Bilingual Court Clerks/Staff

Provisionally Qualified
Interpreters

ASL Interpreters

Interpreters for registered
language(s) if court has need



California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program

- Courts will be extensively involved in candidate selection and monitoring
- Candidates will have to submit six-month progress reports
- If candidates don't pass in two years, they can apply for the next cohort

California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program – Next Steps

01

Council must approve recommended allocation methodology in May

02

Courts may apply to participate in Spring 2024, for first cohort

03

Pilot participants will be able to apply in July 2024, for first cohort

California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program – Considerations for Courts

01

Decide whether you want your court to participate

02

Identify languages court may need for positions and how many positions

03

Start to identify candidates you think would be successful in program

Questions

Please direct questions regarding the California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program to LAP@jud.ca.gov

[Language Access Services](#)



California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program, 2024



Introduction

California is currently experiencing a shortage of credentialed court interpreters in the state's most frequently interpreted languages. To address this issue, the 2023 Budget Act created the California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program and dedicated \$6.8 million for the pilot. The pilot's objective is to increase the number of applicants eligible for employment with the courts as credentialed court interpreters. The pilot will meet this objective by providing training recommendations and reimbursement of participants' training costs and up to three examination fees so they can pass the required interpreter certification exams during the pilot. In return, pilot participants must agree up front to work in the California courts for at least three years after they successfully pass all required exams and enroll with the Judicial Council as a court interpreter. The pilot will be administered by the Judicial Council's Language Access Services Program in the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, with input and collaboration from participating courts, court Language Access Representatives, the employee organization representing court interpreter employees, trade associations representing independent court interpreters, and the Court Interpreters Advisory Panel.

Program Description

Pending council approval, the pilot program will begin in May 2024, and run through June 30, 2029. Participants who successfully complete pilot program requirements, pass all required exams, and enroll with the Judicial Council will be eligible for employment with the court.

The pilot program will provide recommendations to participants for training and will reimburse participants for training expenses and up to three exam fees. The reimbursement maximum will allow an average of 100 pilot participants per year to be reimbursed an average of \$8,000 per year in training and examination costs (actual amounts will depend on the number of pilot participants chosen each year). The program will reimburse expenses for the following:

- Costs of training and coursework
- Up to three interpreting exam fees per applicant during the pilot program

In addition to reimbursement for training and exam fees, the program will provide an offer of employment with participating courts, subject to available funding and open positions.

Initially, the program will include Los Angeles Superior Court and at least three other superior courts to be determined. All superior courts will be invited to apply. Up to ten applicants will be selected per court, per year, during the pilot. The emphasis of the program will be on certified spoken languages or American Sign Language for which there is the greatest demand for interpreters. However, other languages will be considered based on demonstrated court need.

All applicants must pass a background check prior to participating in the pilot, and again upon completion of the program, prior to receiving an employment offer from a participating court. Continued participation in the program is contingent upon individuals demonstrating active and continuing progress toward obtaining certification.

Pilot program participants must agree up front to commit to a study plan and work in the courts for at least three years after they successfully pass all required exams and enroll with the Judicial Council. Participants must remain employed with the court for a minimum of three years to avoid having to pay back costs. The court may waive, at its discretion, repayment of costs of training and exam fees if a participant leaves court employment prior to the end of three years due to a significant personal hardship, or other similar reason.

Program Participants

The pilot courts are to be Los Angeles Superior Court and at least three other superior courts. Applications from interested courts will be reviewed by council staff and prioritized as follows:

- Designated major languages (top four for the county) and number of interpreter vacancies/interpreters needed.
- Other certified languages not included in the four major designated languages for the county and number of interpreter vacancies/interpreters needed.
- Registered languages based on demonstrated court need and number of interpreter vacancies/interpreters needed.
- Regional and court size considerations to ensure statewide participation.
- Court awareness of promising interpreter candidates that will be recommended by the court for participation in the pilot.

Once languages and courts are established, pilot participants may apply and be selected based on their likelihood of completing the program, passing all required exams, and the needs of the participating courts. Courts will be actively involved in the pilot participant selection process.

Pilot participants will be given priority if they fall into one of the following categories:

Participant	Description
Near Passer	Individuals who are already in the process of becoming a certified language interpreter and who need additional support to pass the Bilingual Interpreting Exam (BIE).
Bilingual Court Staff or Equivalent	Bilingual court clerks or other bilingual staff, including provisionally qualified interpreters currently working in the courts, or other similarly skilled individuals, such as interpreters in other fields, aspiring to obtain a court interpreting credential

Participant	Description
American Sign Language (ASL)	ASL interpreters with generalist ASL credentials who wish to study and pass the Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) court interpreter certification, which is now accepted by the Judicial Council for work in the California courts.
Registered Language	Candidates seeking an interpreting credential for a registered spoken language that is designated in the pilot.

Prerequisites

- Applicants must pass a background check as part of the application process.
- Applicants must also have a high level of fluency in English and their target interpreting language to be considered for the program.
- Applicants who have already taken and passed the Written Exam must have enough remaining validity on their scores or they will have to retake the Written Exam as part of the pilot. Written Exam scores are valid for six years or four attempts at the BIE, whichever comes first.

Potential applicants will also be encouraged, but not required, to take the Oral Proficiency Exam (OPE) in English (if necessary) and their target interpreting language(s) for a self-assessment of their degree of fluency. Applicants for certified languages should bear in mind that a rating of “Advanced” or higher is required for a registered language interpreting credential. All pilot program participants are expected to continuously strive to improve their level of fluency in all working languages, as this is one of the critical success factors for a professional interpreter in any language. Applicants wanting to be a certified interpreter will not be reimbursed for OPE exam fees if it is taken for self-assessment of fluency.

Proposed Timeline

Participants will be grouped into cohorts. Each cohort will have two years to complete the required training and pass all required exams, except for the final cohort which will have 18 months. Applications for the program will be processed and reviewed beginning in July; each new cohort will begin in January. Participants who do not complete the program in two years may reapply, except for the final cohort of the pilot. Sample timeline below:

Activity	Timeframe (Cycle repeats for each cohort)
Court and language selection	April – June
Applications submitted and reviewed; Applicants notified	July – December
Program begins – Year 1/Year 2	January
First progress report due – Year 1/Year 2	June
Second progress report due – Year 1/Year 2	December
All training complete and all exams passed	No later than December of Year 2

Participants will be grouped into cohorts as follows:

Program Activities	Program Cycle - Timeline			
	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3	Cycle 4
Court and language selection	April to June 2024	April to June 2025	April to June 2026	April to June 2027
Candidates apply and are chosen	July to December 2024	July to December 2025	July to December 2026	July to December 2027
Candidate begins in pilot program	January 2025	January 2026	January 2027	January 2028
Progress reports	Due every six months	Due every six months	Due every six months	Due every six months
Candidates must pass all required examinations	No later than December 2026	No later than December 2027	No later than December 2028	No later than June 2029 (last cohort has 18 months)

Expectations of Pilot Participants

Pilot participants are expected to demonstrate consistent, measurable progress toward the goal of obtaining certification, and are expected to complete the pilot program in two years or less. Participants will be required to submit a progress report to the Judicial Council every six months detailing courses taken, self-directed activities outside of formal coursework, exams taken, exam scores, and a self-evaluation of their progress. Progress reports will be shared with the participating court. Participants who do not demonstrate consistent progress toward becoming certified (or registered) will be removed from the program. Participants who do not complete the program and obtain an interpreting credential in two years may reapply to be able to continue, except for the final cohort.

Participants are expected to work in the courts for at least three years after completing the pilot program, passing all required exams, and enrolling with the Judicial Council. Participants who leave court employment prior to three years, depending on the circumstances, may be asked to repay any monies received during the pilot for training and exam costs.

Expectations of Participating Courts

Participating courts will be expected to take an active role in supporting the program participants as they work toward becoming certified. This support may take different forms, to be determined by the court; for example, mentoring, shadowing other interpreters, on-the-job training, providing training or reading materials or suggestions for self-directed study, communicating to pilot program participants about training or volunteer opportunities, etc. Specific responsibilities

and expectations for court personnel during the pilot program will be shared, with their ongoing input and collaboration, as program processes and procedures are developed.

Judicial Council Role in the Pilot

The Judicial Council will be responsible for overall administration of the program, management of budget, fee reimbursement, collection of monies owed by participants who leave the program or are asked to leave, etc. The Judicial Council will also provide a recommended training plan, as well as a list of resources. The training plan and resource list will be updated yearly and during the life of the pilot. The Judicial Council will receive, process and screen applications, and will assist courts as needed with selecting applicants. The Judicial Council will provide notifications to participants and program communications as necessary. The Judicial Council will also receive and evaluate progress reports from participants prior to issuing reimbursement for training and exam fees and will share these progress reports with participating courts.

Recommended Training & Exam Preparation

The knowledge and experience required to be a successful court interpreter comes from many sources. The Judicial Council has drafted a detailed training plan outline, with required and recommended courses and topics for formal training, as well as recommendations for self-directed, year-round study. Participants will be expected to continuously prepare and study and take training throughout the entire two-year program, even after they have taken exams while waiting for results. The list below is a representative sample of topics for study and exam preparation. The list is not intended to be exhaustive. The training plan outline for the pilot program will continually evolve and be refined with court and stakeholder input.

Required courses and topics include:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduction to Court Interpreting & Fundamentals of Legal Interpreting
<input type="checkbox"/>	California/U.S. Law for Court Interpreters (vocabulary building & court procedures) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Criminal & Civil Procedure ○ Family Law ○ Small Claims & Working with Self-Represented Litigants
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Terminology for Court Interpreters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Speaking, Presentation Skills & Diction for Interpreters
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduction to Simultaneous Interpreting for Legal Proceedings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arraignment Calendar ○ Interpreting at the Defense table
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sight Translation: Foreign Language to English & English to Foreign Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal Documents – birth certificate, coroner’s report, police report, deposition transcript ○ General Documents – sentencing letter, other documentary evidence (receipts, bills, bank statements, text messages, emails)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduction to Consecutive Interpreting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Witness Stand – Lay Witness

	○ Administrative Hearings & Depositions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consecutive Note Taking & Memory Building/Improvement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advanced Simultaneous Interpreting for Legal Proceedings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jury Instructions ○ Expert Witness Testimony – police, ballistics, forensics, pathologist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remote Interpreting: VRI, Technologies, Ethical Challenges
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interpreting Skills Building Training (aka “Near-Passer” Training) offered by Judicial Council

Recommended course topics include:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Interpreting Profession
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interpreting and Translating Organization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law and Court Procedures
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical Terminology for Interpreters

Recommended self-directed exam preparation activities:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Courtroom observation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer interpreting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading in all working languages to build vocabulary – specialized and general
<input type="checkbox"/>	Language immersion in target language (for non-native speakers)

Training courses and materials for interpreter study and exam preparation come from many sources as well. They can come from formal academic programs or from private companies. They can be delivered in person, via instructor led courses, online instructor led courses or self-study materials. More detailed references for training programs, self-study materials, etc. are provided in the training plan outline that will be provided to pilot participants.

Required Certification Exams for Spoken Language

Credential	Exams	Passing Score
Certified Language Interpreter	Written Exam	80%
	Bilingual Interpreting Exam in target language	70% in all four sections in one sitting
Registered Language Interpreter	Written Exam	80%
	OPE English	Advanced or higher
	OPE in target language	Advanced or higher

ASL Court Interpreters

Currently, California does not offer a certification exam for ASL court interpreters. However, effective January 1, 2024, the Judicial Council approved the Texas Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI) as an approved testing entity for American Sign Language (ASL) court interpreter certification. ASL interpreters who hold generalist credentials but do not yet hold the Texas BEI Court Interpreter Certification (CIC) and wish to be considered certified in California must study for the Texas BEI CIC and travel to Austin, Texas, at their own expense, to take the required examination(s). More information is provided in a [*Bulletin for Interpreters on the Texas ASL Court Interpreter Certification*](#).

Currently, the draft training plan outline contains recommendations for study and preparation for ASL court interpreters, as well as a list of resources, formal academic training, and degree programs to assist persons interested in taking and passing the Texas BEI court interpreter certification under the pilot.

Application Process

Language Access Services will develop an application for courts to apply for Cycle 1 in Spring 2024. Staff will also promote the pilot program at the bimonthly meetings of the Language Access Representatives to encourage applications from courts.

Once courts are chosen and languages identified for Cycle 1, application materials for interested interpreter candidates to apply to the pilot program will be posted to the [Language Access Services](#) web page in July 2024. Staff will also conduct outreach to ensure that potential interpreter candidates are aware of the pilot program and to encourage applications.