



Judicial Council of California
Advisory Committee on Providing
Access & Fairness

courts.ca.gov/accessfairnesscomm.htm
lap@jud.ca.gov

Request for ADA accommodations
should be made at least three business days
before the meeting and directed to:
JCCAccessCoordinator@jud.ca.gov

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS
LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF OPEN ELECTRONIC MEETING
WITH CLOSED SESSION**

Open to the public unless indicated as closed (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 10.75(c), (d), and (e)(1))

THIS MEETING IS BEING CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC MEANS

OPEN PORTION OF THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Date: February 2, 2026
Time: 12:15 – 1:15 p.m.
Public Access: <https://jcc.granicus.com/player/event/5163>

Meeting materials for open portions of the meeting will be posted on the advisory body webpage on the California Courts website at least three business days before the meeting.

Members of the public seeking to make an audio recording of the open meeting portion of the meeting must submit a written request at least two business days before the meeting. Requests can be emailed to lap@jud.ca.gov.

Agenda items are numbered for identification purposes only and will not necessarily be considered in the indicated order.

I. OPEN MEETING (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(c)(1))

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Approve minutes of October 7, 2025, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness Language Access Subcommittee meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(k))

This meeting will be conducted by electronic means. As such, the public may make comments in writing, in person, or remotely.

Written Comment

In accordance with California Rules of Court, rule 10.75(k)(1), written comments pertaining to any agenda item of a regularly noticed open meeting can be submitted up to one complete

business day before the meeting. For this specific meeting, comments should be emailed to lap@jud.ca.gov. Only written comments received by January 30, 2026, 12:15 p.m., will be provided to advisory body members prior to the start of the meeting.

Remote Public Comment

Members of the public requesting to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting must provide the speaker's name, the name of the organization that the speaker represents if any, and the agenda item that the public comment will address. Requests to make a remote public comment must be received by 12:15 p.m., January 30, 2026, via email to lap@jud.ca.gov. The chair will establish speaking limits at the beginning of the public comment session. While the advisory body welcomes and encourages public comment, time may not permit all persons requesting to speak to be heard at this meeting.

III. INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Info 1

Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Presenter: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair; Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three

Info 2

Review 2026 Language Access Projects

The subcommittee will review the status of its 2026 Annual Agenda projects.

Presenter: Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Senior Analyst, Language Access Implementation (LAI)

Info 3

Closing the Gap: Practical Steps to Improve Indigenous Language Access in California Courts

The subcommittee will receive a presentation on the growing need for Indigenous language interpreters in the courts, the unique language access challenges Indigenous families face in legal settings, and how courts can better support Indigenous language speakers.

Presenter: Ms. Lorena Pike, MA, Court Interpreter

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn to Closed Session

V. CLOSED SESSION (CAL. RULES OF COURT, RULE 10.75(D)(10))

Item 1

Revisions to Appointing and Working with Court Interpreters Bench Card

Presenter: Ms. Diana Glick, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Adjourn Closed Session



Judicial Council of California

Advisory Committee on Providing
Access & Fairness

<https://courts.ca.gov/advisory-body/advisory-committee-providing-access-and-fairness>

lap@jud.ca.gov

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING

October 7, 2025

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Advisory Body Members Present: Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Chair, Hon. Amy Guerra, Ms. Shirley Luo, Ms. Julie Paik, Ms. Katy Van Sant, and Hon. Julie Weng-Gutierrez

Advisory Body Members Absent: Ms. Fariba Saroosh

Others Present: Ms. Angela De Leon, Mr. Douglas Denton, Ms. Diana Glick, Ms. Tatjana Gruner, Ms. Eunice Lee, Mr. Russell McGregor, Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth, Ms. Aggie Wong, Ms. Charina Zalzos

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 17, 2025, Advisory Body meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Info 1: Update from PAF Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Justice Rodriguez shared updates on several language access initiatives, including:

The Language Access Services staff continues to work with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct video remote interpreting (VRI) webinars to support courts in their ongoing efforts to leverage technology to help meet their interpretation needs. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, six interactive, live training webinars were conducted for spoken language and American Sign Language (ASL) court interpreters. Additionally, Alameda and Yolo Superior Courts presented a webinar on VRI in traffic cases, and Los Angeles and Ventura Superior Courts presented a webinar on innovative uses of VRI. The NCSC also developed two (2) online modules and a guide for judicial officers on preparing for and managing VRI court events. All recorded webinars and the judicial officer VRI modules are available on the Judicial Resources Network (JRN) VRI Resources page, which is an intranet website for courts only.

He also shared the California Court Interpreter Workforce Pilot Program received over 1,000 for Cohort 2, which will commence on January 1, 2026. There are 123 participants from 16 courts.

Lastly, Justice Rodriguez shared on November 18, at the 2025 Beyond the Bench conference in Los Angeles, he will provide the introduction and opening remarks for a session presented by certified Spanish court interpreter Lorena Pike titled, “Coming Together for Language Justice: A Spanish Court Interpreter’s Perspective on Serving Indigenous Families in California Courts,” Beyond the Bench is a statewide, multi-day conference composed of educational workshops that highlight strategies to enhance equal access to justice.

Info 2: Review 2025 and Potential 2026 Language Access Projects

The subcommittee reviewed the status of its 2025 language access projects and discussed potential language access projects for the 2026 Annual Agenda of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness.

For 2025 Annual Agenda projects:

1. Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7, fiscal year 2025-26: On July 18, the council approved the recommendations and proposed allocations to fund 17 courts with language signage and technology related initiatives. Staff executed intra-branch agreements (IBAs) to the 17 awarded courts. The awarded courts will need to complete their projects, including items purchased, by June 30, 2027. Staff will work on an overview of language access projects for cycles 1 – 5 for inclusion in the next council report.
2. Develop Training for Court Staff on Appropriate Use of Machine Translation Tools: The training resources, which include educational modules, tip sheet and multilingual explainer videos as well as the materials and recording from the June 11, 2025, training meeting with the pilot courts developed for court staff, are now available to the pilot courts via a SharePoint site. The Sharepoint site is a dedicated page for the Voice-to-Text machine translation app. and the pilot courts have access to the site.

For 2026, the subcommittee reviewed two potential projects for the PAF Annual Agenda:

1. Develop a directory of VRI interpreters in high demand emerging languages that can assist court staff and litigants: The 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study shows that emerging languages like Hindi and indigenous languages from Mexico and Guatemala are on the rise and now on the list of the 30 most interpreted languages. This reflects the evolving linguistic diversity in our state and underscores the need for development of expanded testing, training resources and relay interpreting to address changing linguistic needs and to support indigenous communities. Developing a VRI directory of interpreters for high demand, emerging languages will enhance access to justice and reduce costs and delays. As part of the project, training needs for interpreters will be assessed. In terms of timeline, this project will be completed by December 2026.
2. Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 8, fiscal year 2026-2027: Similar to previous cycles, the staff will coordinate with PAF, Information Technology Advisory Committee, and Technology Committee to disburse the \$2.35 million to trial courts for signage and technology initiatives. The Cycle 8, which covers fiscal year 2026-2027, will launch in

Spring 2026. Trial courts will be able to apply for Cycle 8 grant funding through a joint application process with other technology-related grants.

Staff shared at its October 16 meeting, the PAF will review and vote to approve the draft annual agenda containing proposed projects for 2026.

Info 3: 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study

Language Access Services staff provided a presentation on the *2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study*, which was approved by the council on July 18, 2025. Government Code section 68563 requires the council to conduct a study of language and interpreter use every five years and to report its findings to the Governor and the Legislature. The study, which covered fiscal year 2020-2021 through fiscal year 2023-2024, highlighted interpreter demand trends, changes in language needs, and efforts to ensure consistent access to justice for limited-English-proficient, deaf, and hard of hearing court users in California. Data was collected from all 58 superior courts, either via the Court Interpreter Data Collection System or a manual reporting template.

Staff shared some highlights from the study, including: 2.5 million interpretations recorded during the study period, with a statewide decline of 45% compared to the numbers in the previous study due to the reduction in case filings during the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person interpretations continue to be the most prevalent method used by courts statewide at 93% over the study period. Remote and telephonic interpreting methods peaked during the pandemic and continue to provide a flexible alternative for addressing interpretation needs.

The study showed there are 1,856 interpreters on the Judicial Council's Master List of certified or registered court interpreters, covering 114 spoken languages, as well as ASL. The pool of interpreters is reaching the age of retirement, with 32% of interpreters are over the age of 65. The top interpreted languages in the study are already designated by the council as certified languages: Spanish, Mandarin, Vietnamese, ASL, Punjabi, Cantonese, Arabic, Korean, Russian, Eastern Armenian, Farsi, Tagalog, and Portuguese. Spanish accounted for 88% of all interpretations. Staff indicated the languages with the most growth in limited English proficient (LEP) speakers are Portuguese, Arabic, Persian (which includes Farsi and Dari). Languages such as Khmer, German, and Japanese saw significant declines in LEP speakers. One of the most notable trends in the study is the continued rise of Indigenous languages in California courts. Seven of the top 30 interpreted languages statewide are now Indigenous languages. Mam, Mixteco de Guerrero, and Kanjobal are new to the list since the last study.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved by the advisory body on enter date.

Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness

Annual Agenda¹—2026

Approved by the Executive and Planning Committee: November 18, 2025

I. COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Cochair:	Hon. Victor A. Rodriguez, Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Three Hon. Kevin C. Brazile, Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Lead Staff:	Ms. Cristina Resendiz-Johnson, Attorney, Center for Families, Children & the Courts

Advisory Body's Charge/Membership:

[Rule 10.55](#) of the California Rules of Court states the charge of the Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness (PAF), which is to make recommendations for improving access to the judicial system, fairness in the state courts, diversity in the judicial branch, and court services for self-represented parties. The committee also makes recommendations to the Center for Judicial Education and Resources (CJER) Advisory Committee, regarding proposals for the education and training of judicial officers and court staff.

[Rule 10.55\(c\)](#) sets forth the membership composition of the committee. PAF currently has 27 members. The current committee [roster](#) is available on the committee's webpage.

Subgroups of the Advisory Body²:

1. Language Access Subcommittee: Advise and present recommendations to PAF regarding the Language Access Plan (LAP) and its overarching goal of ensuring access to justice for all court users, especially court users with limited English proficiency. As appropriate, make recommendations to PAF in the areas of technology, education, and translation, as well as recommendations on legislative and rule of court proposals to enhance language access services throughout the judicial branch.
2. Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee: Review and receive updates on legislation and proposals from Judicial Council Governmental Affairs, Legal Services, and other offices in the areas of access and fairness affecting the judicial branch. (*New*, the previous Ad Hoc working group was approved on the 2021 Annual Agenda.)

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.

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. Racial Justice Subcommittee: Gather information on branch wide efforts in racial justice and bias, work with stakeholders in promoting those activities, and consider recommendations on racial justice within the branch for the committee. (*New*, the previous Ad Hoc working group was approved on the 2021 Annual Agenda.)

Advisory Body and Subgroup Meetings Planned for 2026³

- Regular bi-monthly videoconference meetings on third Thursdays, 12:15–1:15 p.m., beginning February 2026.

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

³ Refer to section IV. 2 (Meeting frequency) of the [*Operating Standards for Judicial Council Advisory Bodies*](#) for governance of 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

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: Develop a Video Remote Interpreting Directory of Interpreters in High Demand Emerging Languages (New/Implementation Project)						Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:														
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<p>Project Summary: The PAF Language Access Subcommittee will work with Judicial Council staff from the Leadership Support Services' (LSS) Language Access Services Program to develop a directory of video remote interpreting (VRI) interpreters in high-demand emerging languages who can assist court staff and litigants. The 2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study indicated that emerging languages like Hindi and Latin American indigenous languages, including Mam and Mixteco de Guerrero, are on the rise and now on the list of the 30 most interpreted languages. A directory of VRI interpreters for high-demand, emerging languages, including relay interpreters who can assist litigants remotely, will enhance access to justice and reduce costs and delays. As part of the project, training needs for interpreters will be assessed.</p>														
<p>Status/Timeline: December 2026.</p>														
<p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Staff resources in Language Access Services (LSS).</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: Court stakeholders (e.g., court interpreter coordinators and court Language Access Representatives).</p>														
<p>AC Collaboration: PAF Language Access Subcommittee.</p>														
2.	Project Title: Requests for Accommodations by Persons with Disabilities: Amend California Rule of Court, Rule 1.100 and Revise Forms MC-410 and MC-410-INFO (New/Implementation Project)						Priority: 1c							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:														
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#	New or One-Time Projects
	<p>Project Summary: PAF will consider recommending amendments to rule 1.100 and revisions to forms MC-410 and MC-410-INFO to address inconsistent deadlines for disability accommodation requests in the California Rules of Court and the accommodations specified in Section 54.8 of the Civil Code, which governs requests for assistive listening devices and computer-aided transcription systems. The proposed changes to the rule and forms are based on feedback received by the committee indicating that the inconsistent deadlines for different types of accommodations can lead to confusion for court users attempting to make timely requests.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: A proposal to revise forms MC-410, MC-410-INFO, and amend rule 1.100 would circulate in the spring 2026 cycle with an expected effective date of January 1, 2027.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC staff.</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: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: PAF Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee.</p>

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities													
1.	Project Title: Diversity in The Branch (<i>Implementation Project</i>)						Priority: 1							
Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:														
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Project Summary: PAF will do the following:														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue to update the Pathways to Judicial Diversity toolkit based on feedback received from users. Conduct presentations and continue the rollout of the toolkit statewide in collaboration with justice partners, provided sufficient resources are available. b. Continue to serve as a subject matter resource with justice partners and stakeholders on initiatives for increasing diversity in the judicial branch. c. Continue to collaborate with CJER staff on improving and expanding educational resources in areas under PAF's purview and expertise related to diversity, inclusion, and fairness. d. Work on implementation of the recommendations from the 2021 Judicial Diversity Summit approved by the Judicial Council on December 2, 2022. On March 3, 2023, the Executive and Planning Committee referred the following recommendations to PAF and its Judicial Council staff for consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summit recommendation 1, <i>Increase Education and Resources on Judicial Appointments and Elections Process</i>. ii. Summit recommendation 3, <i>Strengthen Efforts to Mentor Judicial Officers on the Bench as a Crucial Component of Their Continued Professional Development and Advancement</i>; and iii. Summit recommendation 4, <i>Strengthen and Coordinate Judicial Outreach to Connect with Diverse Younger Generations</i>. e. Plan the 2026 Judicial Diversity Summit with our justice partners, including the California Lawyers Association. 														
<p>This task was included in the committee's prior Annual Agenda, item e. was updated to include new details.</p>														
Status/Timeline: Ongoing.														
Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, IT, Governmental Affairs, and CJER staff														
<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if this project may result in an allocation or distribution of funds to the courts.														
Internal/External Stakeholders: California Judges Association, California Lawyers Association, and California ChangeLawyers.														
AC Collaboration: Executive and Planning Committee, Legislation Committee, CJER Advisory Committee, and Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee (TCPJAC).														

#	Ongoing Projects and Activities													
2.	Project Title: Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 8 (Implementation Project)						Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>II Independence <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>III Modernization <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>							I Access <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	II Independence <input type="checkbox"/>	III Modernization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IV Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V Education <input type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<p>Project Summary: In coordination with the PAF Language Access Subcommittee, the Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC), and the Technology Committee (JCTC), LSS's Language Access Services Program will disburse on an annual basis \$2.35 million from the 2018 Budget Act as grants to trial courts for language access signage and technology initiatives. The grant program was approved by the council in September 2019. For fiscal year 2026–27, the grant cycle (Cycle 8) will commence in spring 2026. Council staff will continue to develop annual reports on the grant program.</p> <p>This grant project was approved on PAF's 2020 Annual Agenda and will result in recommendations to the Judicial Council.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: Staff resources from Language Access Services (LSS), Information Technology, and Branch Accounting and Procurement; ongoing funding from 2018 Budget Act.</p> <p><input checked="" 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: Trial courts and public, including limited-English-Proficient (LEP), deaf, or hard of hearing court users.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: PAF Language Access Subcommittee, ITAC, and JCTC.</p>													
3.	Project Title: Racial Justice Subcommittee (Implementation Project)						Priority: 1							
	Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals: <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <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"/>
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities														
	<p>Project Summary: PAF will continue to review and provide updates regarding the branch's efforts to address racial bias and promote fairness. The new subcommittee (formerly the Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group), will gather information on branch wide efforts for racial justice, collaborate with stakeholders to promote these initiatives, and make recommendations to PAF on ways to address racial bias within the branch.</p> <p>PAF's subcommittee will also continue to maintain and promote both the Racial Justice webpages on the California Courts website and racial justice education and resources for judicial officers and court personnel. The Racial Justice webpages offer the public information on branch wide initiatives to address bias in the courts, promote judicial diversity, and improve access for court users with limited English proficiency. The educational and training resources assist courts with advancing racial equity and fairness. These will be regularly updated to reflect ongoing developments in the areas of racial justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Updates include a webinar to orient court staff to these resources and provide strategies for the implementation of tools to promote racial justice in their everyday work. This project was approved on the committee's 2021 annual agenda.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, CJER, Criminal Justice Services (CJS), and IT staff.</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: California Judges Association, California Lawyers Association, and California ChangeLawyers.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: Executive and Planning Committee, Legislation Committee, CJER Advisory Committee, and TCPJAC.</p>														
4.	<p>Project Title: Develop Standard of Judicial Administration and Rules and Forms Revisions to Implement Assembly Bill 1899 (Stats. 2024, Ch. 812) (Juror Questionnaires) (<i>Implementation Project</i>) Priority: 1a</p> <p>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>I Access</th> <th>II Independence</th> <th>III Modernization</th> <th>IV Quality</th> <th>V Education</th> <th>VI Infrastructure</th> <th>VII Funding</th> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Project Summary: Assembly Bill 1899 states, “(e) The Judicial Council shall adopt a standard of judicial administration to ensure that juror identification and any juror questionnaire is inclusive, including allowing a juror the ability to express their gender identity or gender expression, if applicable.” To comply with AB 1899, PAF will recommend revisions to rules and forms, as appropriate, circulate the proposal for public comment, and address any public comments received.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: An Invitation to Comment circulated in the winter 2025 cycle with an anticipated effective date of July 1, 2026.</p>	I Access	II Independence	III Modernization	IV Quality	V Education	VI Infrastructure	VII Funding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities							
	<p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC and Legal Services staff.</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: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: PAF Legislation and Proposals Subcommittee, Criminal Law Advisory Committee (CLAC), Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee (CSCAC).</p>							
5.	<p>Project Title: Collaborate and Provide Subject Matter Expertise (<i>Implementation Project</i>) Priority: 2</p> <p>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>Project Summary: PAF will serve as lead/subject matter resource for issues under the committee's charge to avoid duplication of efforts and contribute to the development of recommendations for council action.</p> <p>PAF will continue to provide education and technical assistance to the court self-help centers; make recommendations to the Judicial Council, as needed, regarding reports to the legislature on self-help services, requests for funding for self-help, and updates to the Guidelines for the Operation of Self-Help Centers in California Trial Courts as provided by California Rules of Court, rule 10.960 (e).</p> <p>PAF will continue collaborations with the Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC), CLAC, and other relevant Judicial Council advisory bodies and staff on recommendations to improve access and fairness in traffic court. These collaborations started in 2017 when the Rules Committee chair directed PAF to collaborate with TAC and CLAC on recommendations to improve access and fairness in traffic court. This resulted in liaison relationships between the three committees as well as successful collaborations on several rules and forms, including the "Ability to Pay" rules and forms which went into effect in April 2018. PAF will continue to collaborate with and provide subject-matter expertise to CLAC and TAC as appropriate.</p> <p>PAF will also continue to provide technical assistance to the JusticeCorps program on evaluation of members' career paths and promote the program's efforts to enhance civics education.</p> <p>Post-Pandemic Initiatives – Outreach on Remote Services including the SRL portal and explore partnerships with community-based organizations to assist with remote proceedings. This task was included in the committee's prior Annual Agenda.</p>	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VI Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/>	VII Funding <input type="checkbox"/>
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#	Ongoing Projects and Activities							
	<p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC, Governmental Affairs, IT, and CJS staff.</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: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: This item may include collaboration with various Judicial Council advisory bodies, including, but not limited to: Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, TCPJAC, CEAC, CJCAC, TAC, CLAC, CSCAC, ITAC; and Judicial Branch Ethics, and Fairness Curriculum Committee.</p>							
6.	<p>Project Title: Improving Access and Fairness through Technology (<i>Implementation Project</i>) Priority: 2</p> <p>Supported Strategic Plan Branch Goals:</p> <table> <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> <p>Project Summary: PAF will continue coordinating with Judicial Council IT staff on the development of the online California Courts Self-Help Guide (See The Critical Role of the State Judiciary in Increasing Access for Self-Represented Litigants: Self-Help Access 360) and coordinate with IT staff on development of a new reporting portal to assist courts in complying with Civil Code section 54.8 regarding assistive listening devices and CART services. PAF will also discuss and explore with ITAC other intersections between access, fairness, and technology and explore how to encourage the use of technologies that benefit court users with disabilities. This project does not result in recommendations to the Judicial Council and was approved on the committee's 2016 annual agenda.</p> <p>Status/Timeline: Ongoing.</p> <p>Fiscal Impact/Staff Resources: CFCC and IT staff.</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: None.</p> <p>AC Collaboration: ITAC.</p>	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"/>
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III. LIST OF 2025 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#	Project Highlights and Achievements
1.	Develop Training for Court Staff on Appropriate Use of Machine Translation Tools: The National Center for State Courts, under contract with the Judicial Council's Language Access Services, worked in collaboration with council staff in Language Access Services and Information Technology to develop training resources for court staff on the appropriate use of the California Courts Translator application, which uses voice-to-text technology to enable communication between court staff and limited-English-proficient court users. The resources developed include: six training modules and a tip sheet to assist court staff with using the application, as well as multilingual explainer videos for court users. The developed resources are available to the courts on the California Courts Translator SharePoint site. Status: Completed.
2.	Implementation of Superior Court Lactation Accommodation Procedure (Sen. Bill 949 Stats. 2024, Ch. 159) in All Court Proceedings: Effective July 1, 2026, SB 949 requires superior courts to grant court users who are participating in court proceedings a reasonable amount of break time to express milk for their infant children. To implement the new law, the committee circulated a proposal for comment in Spring 2025 that included one new rule of court and one new optional form, which was approved by the Judicial Council on October 24, 2025 meeting. Status: Completed.
3.	Language Access Signage and Technology Grants, Cycle 7: The cycle 7 grants for FY 2025–26 launched in February 2025. On July 18, 2025, the council approved funding to 17 courts for language access signage and technology projects. Status: Ongoing.
4.	Collaborate and Provide Subject Matter Expertise: Staff continued to provide weekly statewide training to Self-Help Center staff on a wide variety of subject matter including family law updates, form changes, and remote proceedings' customer service. Status: Ongoing.
5.	Ad Hoc Racial Justice Working Group: A Racial Justice landing page was launched on the public courts.ca.gov site detailing the Judicial Council's Access, Fairness, Diversity, and Inclusion initiatives. Status: Updates to and presentations of racial justice education and resources will be ongoing.



Informational Presentation: *Closing the Gap: Practical Steps to Improve Indigenous Language Access in California Courts*

Presented by Lorena Pike, MA, Court interpreter

Why Indigenous languages matter • Common misconceptions • Guidance for courts



Session Objectives

- Why Indigenous Languages matter?
- Common Misconceptions
- Legal and Social Consequences
- Implementing Culturally Responsive Practices

Why Indigenous Languages Matter



- Cultural Preservation: Language is central to cultural survival and identity
- Systemic Invisibility: Often misclassified as Spanish speakers, erasing distinct identities
- Access Barriers:
 - Many unaware they have a right to interpretation in their native language
 - Many face significant barriers accessing legal aid due to language exclusion, fear of institutions, and lack of trained interpreters in their native languages

Sources: Indigenous Farmworker Study (IFS), California Institute for Rural Studies | Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) | UCLA Labor Center Reports on Indigenous Labor Migration



Why Indigenous Languages Matter

- Languages Represented: Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui, Mam, K'iche', Q'anjob'al
- Geographic Concentration: Concentrated in Central Valley, Central Coast, and urban centers across California
 - Key Regions: Fresno, Madera, Tulare, Monterey, Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco

Sources: Indigenous Farmworker Study (IFS), California Institute for Rural Studies | Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) | UCLA Labor Center Reports on Indigenous Labor Migration



All Latine People Speak Spanish

- Overlooks rich linguistic diversity within Latine communities
- Indigenous populations speak distinct languages: Mixteco, Zapoteco, Mam, K'iche'
- **Critical Distinction:** These are **languages**, not dialects
- Using "dialect" minimizes complexity and undermines linguistic rights
- Language misidentification leads to:
 - Denial of interpretation services
 - Court errors and miscommunication
 - Loss of trust in the justice system

Abstract Concepts and Legal Interpretation Challenges



- Many Indigenous languages do not have one-to-one equivalents for Western legal concepts
- Interpretation often involves explaining abstract ideas using metaphor, context, or culturally appropriate frames

How Meaning Transforms: A Legal Example

Spanish: "Juez" (Judge)

Formal definition: Person with authority to judge

Mixteco concept: "Ra tiso va'a" = "The one who resolves the problem"

Emphasizes community problem-solving over judicial authority

Indigenous interpretation requires cultural reframing, not word-for-word translation



Why Not Just Use Spanish?

- Spanish court interpreters are ethically prohibited from glossing, paraphrasing, or altering the register of speech. They must maintain the tone, level, and intent of the original speaker. This means they cannot simplify or explain terms unless instructed through proper legal procedure.
- Using Spanish legal terms with Indigenous speakers assumes shared understanding and linguistic access, which often do not exist.
- This can:
 - Lead to miscommunication or confusion
 - Violate due process by masking the court user's lack of comprehension
 - Undermine trust and cultural safety in the courtroom
- Glossing ensures communication that is meaningful and respectful of linguistic and cultural differences.





Language Discrimination

- When people are forced to proceed in a language they do not fully understand, they lose the ability to **participate meaningfully, be accurately understood, and express themselves with dignity**. If Indigenous-language interpretation is denied, access to justice becomes conditional—and fairness is compromised.
- **Violation of Human Rights**
Access to justice is a fundamental human right. Moving forward in the wrong language prevents full understanding and meaningful participation.
- **Inequality and Discrimination**
Imposing a dominant language in legal proceedings creates barriers that exclude Indigenous language users and reinforces linguistic discrimination.
- **Unequal Playing Field**
Communication gaps undermine a person's ability to explain themselves, respond accurately, and make informed decisions—creating unfair disadvantage.
- **Cultural Disconnection**
Language is tied to identity, culture, and trust. Being pressured to abandon one's first language can cause alienation and reduces the quality of communication.

Due Process Issues

Language Barriers

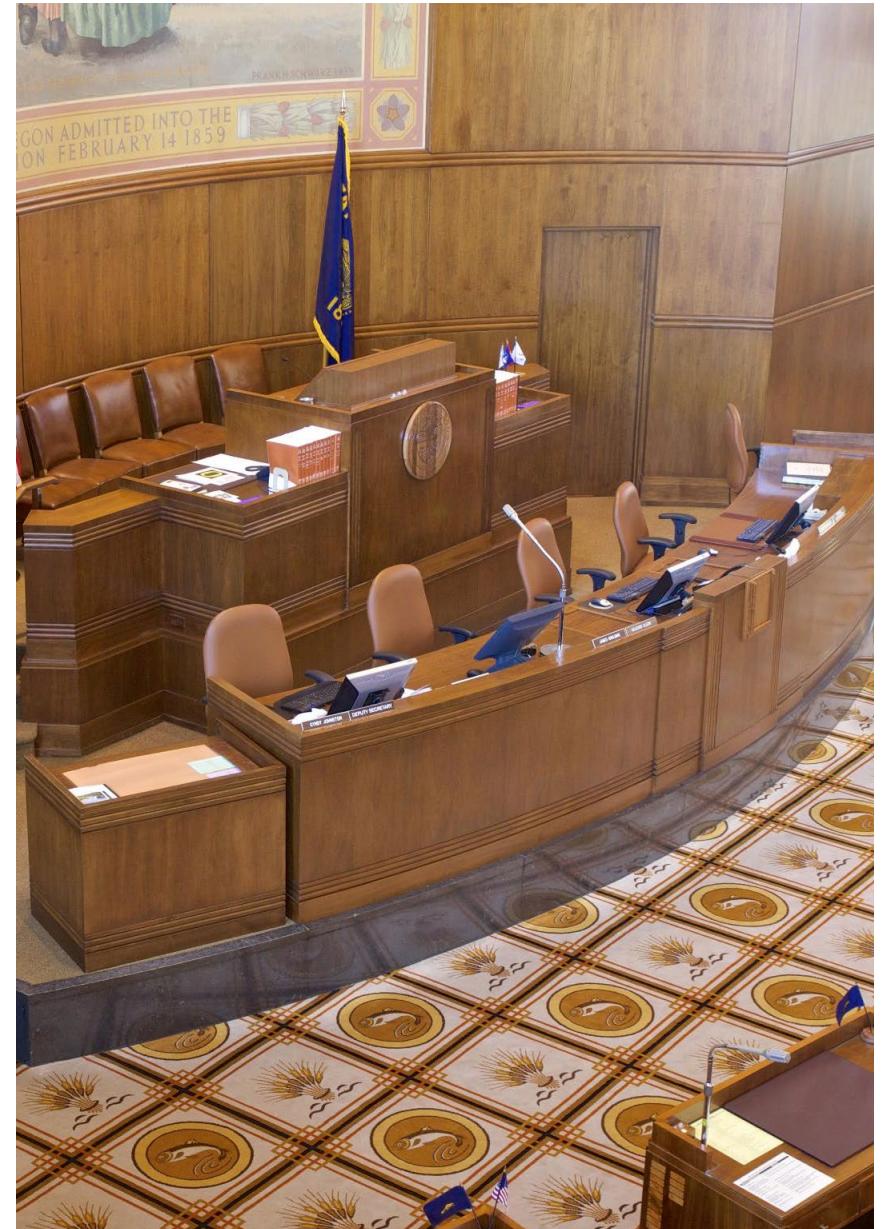
Language barriers significantly hinder effective communication in legal proceedings, impacting the rights of Indigenous families.

Fair Treatment in Court

Indigenous families often face challenges in receiving fair treatment in court due to these communication barriers.

Need for Reform

Addressing these issues is essential to ensure equitable treatment and protect the rights of Indigenous families in legal systems.



Culturally Responsive Practices

- **Engage Indigenous interpreters and community liaisons early in the process**
 - Partner with trusted organizations such
 - Engage interpreters during intake or scheduling to confirm language identification and relay logistics
- **Ask questions that identify language accurately**
 - Go beyond asking “Do you speak Spanish?” or “What language do you prefer?”
 - Instead, ask:
 - “What language do you speak at home with your family?”
 - “What is the name of your language in your community?”
 - “What is the name of your town or village?” (This can help identify the specific variant of an Indigenous language)
 - “Would you feel more comfortable speaking in your Indigenous language?”
- **Identifying Language Needs Early**
 - I Speak card, to self-identify language need when individual first contact the court system
 - If Indigenous language has no written system, create a video in the language that has most users
 - Modify intake forms to indicate if language interpreters are needed, tie it to the I Speak Card

I Speak Card



Amharic	አማርኛ ላንጻለሁ	Haitian Creole	Mwen pale Kreyòl Ayisyen	Portuguese (Brazil)	Eu falo português
Arabic	أَنَا أَنْجُدُ الْعَرَبِيَّةَ	Hebrew	אני מדברת בעברית	Portuguese (Portugal)	Falo português
Armenian (Eastern)	Ես Խոսում Եմ Արևելահայերեն	Hindi	मैं हिन्दी बोलता हूँ।	Punjabi	ਮੈਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਬੋਲਦਾ ਹਾਂ।
Armenian (Western)	Ես Արեւմտահայերեն Կը Խօսիմ	Hmong	Kuv hais lus Hmoob	Romanian	Vorbesc românește
Bengali	আমি বাংলা বলি	Hungarian	Beszélek magyarul	Russian	Я говорю по-русски
Bosnian	Govorim bosanski	Italian	Parlo italiano	Serbian	Govorim srpski jezik
Bulgarian	Говоря български	Japanese	私は日本語を話します	Slovak	Hovorím po slovensky
Burmese	ကျွန်ုင်က မြန်မာစားပြောတယ်။	Khmer (Cambodian)	ខ្ញុំនិយាយភាសាខ្មែរ	Spanish	Hablo español
Cantonese	我講廣東話	Korean	저는 한국어를 구사합니다	Swahili	Mimi nazungumza Kiswahili
Chaldean	አኋርያዊት	Lao	ຂໍ້ອຍເວົາພາສາລາວ	Swedish	Jag talar svenska
Croatian	Govorim hrvatski jezik	Lithuanian	Aš kalbu lietuviškai	Tagalog	Nagsasalita ako ng Tagalog
Czech	Mluvím česky	Mandarin	我讲普通话	Thai	ฉันพูดภาษาไทย
Dutch	Ik spreek Nederlands	Mien	Yie gorngv mienh waac	Triqui	Ñünj a'min nanj nì'ín
Farsi (Persian)	من فارسی صحبت میکنم	Mixteco	Yu'u ká'an-i tu'un ntá'vi	Turkish	Türkçe konuşabiliyorum
French	Je parle français	Mixteco alto	Maa-sa ka'an-sa sa'an ñuu savi	Ukrainian	Я розмовляю українською
German	Ich spreche Deutsch	Mixteco bajo	Yu'u ká'an-i tu'un ntá'vi ñuu níñu	Urdu	میں اردو بولتا/بولتی ہوں
Greek	Ομιλώ Ελληνικά	Norwegian	Jeg snakker norsk	Vietnamese	Tôi nói tiếng Việt
Gujarati	હું ગુજરાતી બોલું છું	Polish	Mówię po polsku	Yoruba	Mo gbó, mo sì le sò èdè Yorùbá

Culturally Responsive Practices

- **Collaborate with Legal Professionals**

- Create guidance and education that include
 - Allowing additional time for relay interpretation (if any)
 - Confirm understanding
 - Clarify interpreter roles early
 - Trust Spanish interpreter as the linguistic expert

- **Encourage coordination with interpreters**

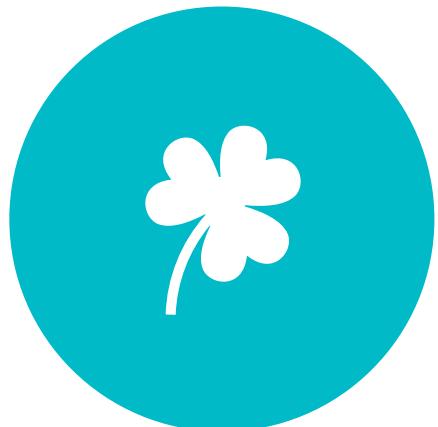
- Pre-hearing briefing
- Language match confirmation
- Team scheduling
- Post-hearing debrief
- Respect professional boundaries

- **Build Trust with Communities**

- Outreach strategies
- Using cultural liaisons



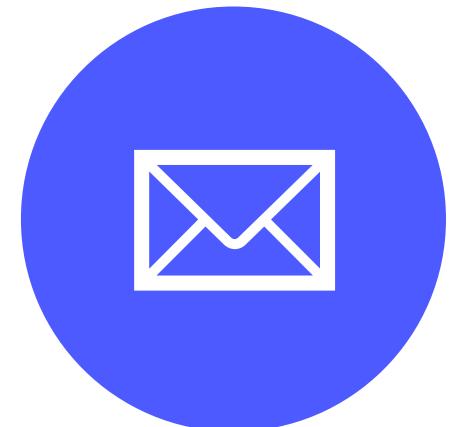
Thank you!



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Informational Presentation:

Closing the Gap: Practical Steps to Improve Indigenous Language Access in California Courts

Presented by Ms. Lorena Pike, Certified Spanish Court Interpreter

Handout

➤ Why Indigenous Language Users Matter

- California Demographics: Thousands of court users speak Indigenous languages from Mexico and Central America (e.g., Mixteco, Zapoteco, Mam, K'iche').
- Risk of Language Discrimination: Assuming Spanish suffices denies meaningful access and can violate due process.
- Code of Ethics: Spanish interpreters must disclose impediments to performance when the court user's first language is not Spanish.

➤ Common Misconceptions

- "Spanish is enough." → Many Indigenous speak little or no Spanish.
- "It's just a dialect." → Indigenous languages are independent languages, not dialects of Spanish.
- "Legal terms translate easily." → Many concepts require glosses, reflecting Indigenous worldviews.
- "All Mixteco (or Zapoteco) speakers can understand each other." → There are dozens of distinct variants. Courts need to check the variant through a *language match* conversation before assigning an interpreter.

➤ Culturally Responsive Practices

- Recognize oral traditions and community-centered communication styles.
- Understand that some concepts are expressed through stories, metaphors, or collective references rather than single legal terms.
- Acknowledge the role of culture in credibility assessments.

➤ Key Ethical Canons

(California Court Interpreter Code of Ethics; California Rules of Court, Rule 2.890)

- Accuracy & Completeness (Canon 1): Interpreters must render all messages faithfully without omission or addition.
- Impartiality (Canon 2): Interpreters must remain neutral, avoiding bias or role confusion.

- Impediments to Performance (Canon 10): Interpreters must disclose when they cannot perform due to language barriers, conflicts, or lack of preparation.

➤ Practical Guidance for Judges & Attorneys

1. Identify Language Early
 - Ask: “What language do you speak at home?” or use I Speak card.
 - Avoid defaulting to Spanish.
2. Work with Relay Interpreters
 - Spanish ↔ Indigenous ↔ English relay may be necessary.
 - Allow more time for accuracy in long hearings or testimony.
 - Keep in mind that not all Indigenous interpreters are trained to interpret in the simultaneous mode commonly used by Spanish court interpreters. Some may need to work primarily in the consecutive mode, which requires adjustments in courtroom pacing and questioning.
3. Respect Interpreter Ethics
 - Spanish interpreters cannot gloss, lower register, or explain.
 - Indigenous interpreters may use culturally responsive glosses for clarity.
4. Engage Community Liaisons (see Table 1)
 - Collaborate with Indigenous interpreter networks.
 - Involve advocates early to ensure continuity of services.

Table 1: Summary Table of Indigenous-Led Organizations in California

Organization	Purpose & Community Focus	Website
Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)	Central coast Indigenous migrant support (Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui)	mixteco.org
Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)	Oaxacan Indigenous cultural & labor support in rural CA	centrobinacional.org
Frente Indígena Oaxaqueño Binacional (FIOB)	Interpreters training and systemic advocacy for Indigenous Oaxacan migrants	fiob.online
Mujeres Unidas y Activas (MUA)	Immigrant women's leadership, advocacy in Bay Area, Latina/Indigenous led	mujeresunidas.net
Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim (Pixan Ixim)	Maya migrant legal, civic, and language access support with CA presence	pixanixim.org

Comunidades Indígenas en Liderazgo (CIELO)	Indigenous women-led org supporting Indigenous migrants in L.A.; language access, cultural preservation, advocacy	mycielo.org
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➤ Practical Guidance for Courts: Administrative Steps

Identify Language Early

- Incorporate language identification into intake and case management systems.
- Develop short orientation videos in the predominant Indigenous languages of the county (e.g., Mixteco, Mam, Zapoteco) to explain the right to an interpreter.
- Post visual language ID charts in courthouses, clerk's offices, and self-help centers.
- Use “language match” protocols: arrange an informal pre-hearing conversation between the litigant and interpreter to confirm dialect/variant.

Engage Community Liaisons

- Partner with community organizations, Indigenous advocacy groups, and cultural centers.
- Have the Language Access Representatives participate in Indigenous community events, fairs, and radio programs to share information about court access rights.
- Build trust by appointing community liaisons who can bridge communication between the court and Indigenous families.

Expand Outreach Channels

- Collaborate with local radio stations broadcasting in Indigenous languages.
- Use social media and messaging apps (WhatsApp, Facebook groups) popular among migrant communities to share rights information.
- Work with schools, churches, and health clinics where Indigenous families gather to distribute materials about interpreter rights.

Develop Training for Staff

- Train clerks, bailiffs, and self-help center bilingual staff on how to ask culturally sensitive language identification questions.
- Provide examples of common Indigenous languages in their region, so staff can recognize names beyond “Spanish.”
- Train staff on when to stop proceedings if the interpreter present is not fluent in the language needed.

Improve Interpreter Coordination

- Create regional rosters of Indigenous interpreters (including regional variants spoken) that can be shared among neighboring courts.

- Allow for remote interpretation options to expand availability in rural counties.
- Build protocols for relay interpretation so judges and attorneys know what to expect during longer proceedings.
- Provide preparation materials (case documents, motions, petitions) so interpreters can research specialized terminology.
- Maintain glossaries in Spanish and English and share them with interpreters who only work in Indigenous ↔ Spanish pairs.
- Schedule interpreter teams for longer matters (motions, contested hearings, preliminary hearings, trials, family mediations) to prevent fatigue and ensure accuracy.
- Verify that Indigenous interpreters understand courtroom protocols (in-person and remote). If not, provide training in advance to avoid delays or awkward moments during hearings.

Monitor and Evaluate

- Collect data on languages requested vs. languages provided to identify service gaps.
- Use this data to refine outreach, training, and interpreter recruitment.

➤ **Other Helpful Resources**

[Judicial Council of California Language Access Services](#)

[Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts](#)

[2025 Language Need and Interpreter Use Study](#)

I Speak Cards: [Letter-sized](#) | [Legal-sized](#)

Judicial Council Master List: [Search for an interpreter](#)