



Judicial Council of California

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROVIDING ACCESS AND FAIRNESS
LANGUAGE ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF OPEN MEETING**

February 2, 2026

12:15 - 1:15 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Ms. Fariba Soroosh

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 Minute

The advisory body reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 7, 2025, Advisory Committee on Providing Access and Fairness Language Access Subcommittee meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (ITEMS 1 – 3)

Info 1

Update from Language Access Subcommittee Chair

Justice Victor Rodriguez provided several language access updates, including his participation in the 2025 Beyond the Bench Conference in Los Angeles on November 18, 2025, where he and Ms. Lorena Pike presented “Coming Together for Language Justice: A Spanish Court Interpreter’s Perspective on Serving Indigenous Families in California Courts.” He shared on December 8, 2025, he and Judge Kevin Brazile provided a presentation to the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal Bias Prevention Committee on PAF’s role and access initiatives. They had an opportunity to hear from the committee about challenges that are unique to the appellate courts. At its December 12, 2025, meeting, the Judicial Council approved the *California Court Interpreter Workforce Study* for submission to the Legislature. The Workforce Study complies with Government Code section 71900, which requires the Judicial Council to conduct a workforce study and provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding court interpreter availability and the future court interpreter workforce by January 1, 2026. The Workforce Study

is available on the Language Access Services website, under “Studies and Reports.” Justice Rodriguez shared Language Access Services continues to work with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to develop video remote interpreting (VRI) resources and training to support courts in their ongoing efforts to leverage technology solutions to help meet their interpretation needs. One of the recent training sessions took place on January 21, 2026, and the session helped prepare court staff deliver VRI training to peers in their own courts.

Info 2

Review 2026 Language Access Projects

Ms. Elizabeth Tam-Helmuth provided a status update on the 2026 Language Access projects:

1. Develop a directory of Video Remote Interpreting interpreters in high-demand emerging languages that can assist court staff and litigants: Language Access Services staff met with Ms. Lorena Pike to discuss Indigenous led organizations and her perspective and experience with securing and working with court interpreters for Indigenous languages and other OTS (other than Spanish) languages. Staff is compiling a list of Indigenous-led, community focused organizations that work closely with Indigenous communities and interpreters. Staff plans to conduct research and collect court input to identify organizations and interpreter contacts to incorporate into the directory.

2. Language Access Signage & Technology Grant Program, Cycle 8: Cycle 8 of the S&T Grants, Fiscal Year 2026-2027, launched on January 14, 2026. On January 20, council’s Information Technology staff conducted a webinar to discuss judicial branch technology grants, including our S&T Grants, Cycle 8, funding priorities and program requirements. The deadline for applications is February 6, 2026. Following the 2/6 deadline, staff will review and process all applications submitted and will bring the draft report with recommendations and allocations for Cycle 8 to the three advisory committees for approval, prior to council approval in July 2026.

Info 3

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

Spanish Court Interpreter Ms. Lorena Pike discussed the unique language access challenges Indigenous families face in legal settings and how courts can better support Indigenous language speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50.

Approved by the advisory body on August 5, 2026.