

Oral Proficiency Exams (OPE)

On March 5, 2013, California began scheduling registered interpreter candidates to take Oral Proficiency Exams in English and each interpreter's non-English language. These exams are developed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and administered by our test administrator, Prometric. Read on to learn more about the efforts of the Court Interpreters Program (CIP) to bring qualified interpreters into the California courts.

Attracting Talent to the Profession

CIP conducted its "Introduction to the Profession of California Court Interpreting" workshop at:

- + The Monterey Institute for International Studies, in February 2012;
- + The California Healthcare Interpreting Association conference, held last March in Berkeley;
- + Interpret America's annual conference, held last June in Monterey; and
- + The annual American Translators Association conference, in partnership with the Northern California Translators Association, held last October in San Diego.

CIP has a new video for prospective court interpreters about working in the courts. This *Day in the Life of a California Court Interpreter* video was filmed on location at the Contra Costa Superior Court.

Training and Professional Development

Changing the way we prepare interpreters for working in the courts:

- + All newly certified and registered interpreters will now complete the online course, "Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts," before being added to the Judicial Council's Master List. This interactive course was developed with participation from seasoned and new interpreters as well as court administrators and judicial officers. Information on signing up for the course is provided as part of the enrollment packet given to candidates who pass their qualification exams.
- + The online course is also available as a free Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education (CIMCE) course for all interpreters, once per each two-year compliance period. To enroll for CIMCE credit, e-mail cimce@jud.ca.gov.
- + Interpreters still must take a live ethics workshop during their first two year compliance period. Information on upcoming workshops can be found on our website under "Resources for Current Interpreters."

- **OPEs** are now available in more than 70 languages, including English. Registered interpreter candidates must now take an OPE in English and their non-English languages.
- **OPEs** consist of a telephonic interview with a certified and trained interviewer and are taken in a proctored test environment.
- **OPEs** assess a candidate's functional ability in a specific language. A level of Advanced High is required to become a registered interpreter.
- Certified candidates are not currently required to take an **OPE**, but may wish to do so as part of their self-assessment for preparedness for a career in court interpreting.

An Update on Outreach, Training, and Testing California Court Interpreters Program

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Upcoming Interpreter Exams

- ✦ On-demand scheduling of the Written Exam and the Oral Proficiency Exams is open on Prometric's website.
- ✦ The next Bilingual Interpreting Exams will be administered in late June 2013. Registration will close in May. For more information, visit: www.prometric.com/California.

American Sign Language (ASL) in the Courts

Last April, CIP was invited to participate in a national panel on collaboration between state court administrators and ASL during its first ever pilot of ASL Video Remote Interpreting and its then-draft Recommended Guidelines on the use of VRI in ASL. The Court Interpreters Advisory Panel has now finalized the *Recommended Guidelines for Video Remote Interpreting for ASL Interpreted Events*.

- There is a new dedicated e-mail address for both CIMCE providers and interpreters. Please use cimce@jud.ca.gov when asking questions or seeking information about continuing education.
- Please keep your contact information, including your e-mail address, up to date so you do not miss important communications from the Court Interpreters Program. Update forms are available on our website at: <http://courts.ca.gov/documents/combo.pdf>.
- Courts and other employers may require candidates to take an OPE when filling bilingual staff or volunteer posts and, depending on the work needing to be done, may accept various proficiency levels.

Who Is Passing the Bilingual Interpreting Exam?

- ✦ 72% apply interpreting skills in their work or as a primary function of their jobs
- ✦ 96% have completed college coursework, an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree
- ✦ 91% have completed coursework, a certificate program, a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree in interpretation.

2,026

Bilingual Interpreting Exams

3,032

Written Exams

Exam Pass Rates

Candidates must pass the written exam prior to sitting for an oral exam.

Data not limited to unique test takers.

Data provided by Prometric, Inc.

just the facts: July 2010–2012

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