

December 22, 2023

We're almost to the end of 2023 and are wrapping the year up with a bang! As we approach the holiday season, I hope you take the time to rest and rejuvenate, surrounded by family and friends. Your well-deserved break is an opportunity to reflect on your accomplishments, recharge for the challenges ahead, and return in the new year with renewed energy.

**Upcoming state holidays:** For your convenience, I have attached a list of the 2024 State holidays. Please mark these on your calendar now! Looking to this month and next, the Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed for business in observance of the following holidays:

- December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas
- January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day
- January 15<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Stop by and say hello:** You can usually find me in my office at the State Capitol in Lincoln where you're always welcome! Just please let me know if you're going to stop by so I can make sure I'm not in a meeting – I would hate to miss you! Here are some other locations you can find me in the month of January:

- January 10<sup>th</sup> Lancaster County Courthouse
- January 16<sup>th</sup> Douglas County Courthouse until 2pm
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Sarpy County Courthouse

#### **Douglas County Adopt-A-Family**

Douglas County interpreters partnered with the Heartland Workers Center to adopt 2 families this holiday season! The parents received \$40 gift cards and the children each received new clothing and a toy. Thank you to all who participated for your generosity, to **Pamela Duncan** and **Tara Trindle** for dropping the toys off, and to **Adrian Hinojosa** for spearheading the drive!

**Email addresses:** Nebraska Judicial Branch's migration from @nebraska.gov to @nejudicial.gov and Microsoft 365 is complete. All Language Access employees have migrated and updated emails are below. Automatic forwarding will be in place through March 31, 2024.

- [Amiel.Armijo@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Amiel.Armijo@nejudicial.gov)
- [Olivia.Brockman@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Olivia.Brockman@nejudicial.gov)
- [Kari.Corkle@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Kari.Corkle@nejudicial.gov)
- [Adrian.Hinojosa@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Adrian.Hinojosa@nejudicial.gov)
- [Kathleen.Valle@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Valle@nejudicial.gov)

**Interpreter Certification Pathway:** Orientation, written, and oral exam dates have been approved for 2024! These 3 steps along with provisional certification, study aides, skill building, a lending library, and Continuing Education Units now make up what we've termed the [Interpreter Certification Pathway](#). The comprehensive pathway seeks to address the process in its entirety with the goal of increasing the number and language diversity of certified and provisionally certified interpreters. All interpreters are encouraged to follow the pathway as we work towards our shared commitment of excellence in language services within the legal system. Please plan on attending one of the following Zoom sessions to learn more and ask questions!

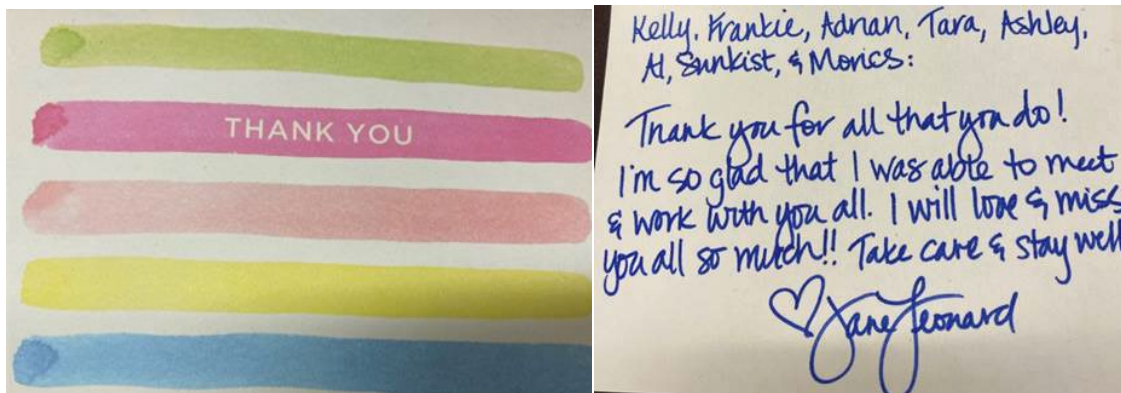
- Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 12:15pm-12:45pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> 4pm-4:30pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Professional Resources:

- [Offices of the US Attorneys, US Department of Justice Legal Terms Glossary](#)
- [Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreters](#) Scroll all the way down to the bottom to subscribe to the mailing lists for alerts and updates.

### Recognitions: Spotlighting some of our great Language Access employees and interpreters!

- **Raul Escobar** did a great job interpreting for the always difficult FAFSI! He interpreted completely and accurately and was a great cultural ambassador! – *Brandi Klaassen, 3J Probation Officer*
- **Myhanh Che** for ensuring the accuracy of the Vietnamese form titles! – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Program Director*
- **Stacey Con** does a great job! - *Nichole Lawson, District Court Bailiff*
- **Raul Escobar, Belkin Gonzalez, and Kelly Varguez** for covering Ops Team staff members during their recent vacations. – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Program Director*
- **Irma Watt** did an excellent job handling a complicated subject (Man in NE wants to marry a woman in Spain and needs proper paperwork). I was pretty impressed! - *Amy Wilson, AOC Administrative Assistant*
- I was notified yesterday that an entry of plea was scheduled for today at 12:30pm and found out this morning that it is actually at 10:30am. **Kiki Kouete** moved his schedule around to accommodate the original request of 12:30pm and then again to accommodate the 10:30am request with almost no notice. He is truly dedicated! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- On November 7<sup>th</sup> we needed five languages in our small county within a one-hour time frame – we used Quiche (Sixta Sass), Spanish (Raul Escobar), Somali (?), Arabic (Tara Trindle), and Mam (Bertilda Mendoza) and it actually all went really well! Thank you for all that you do for us here – we appreciate you! - *Ellen Faltys, Colfax County Clerk Magistrate*
- **Kari Corkle and Adrian Hinojosa** for figuring out International Zoom hearings. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- I want to recognize all the interpreters that helped with translations including **Juan Perez, Constanza Meier, Belkin Gonzalez, Vladimir Bazan, and Raul Escobar** (he did 5 letters on his Lancaster Block). Thank you! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- **Kari Corkle** always comes through at the last minute for us! – *Nichole Lawson, District Court Bailiff*
- Russian Interpreter **Victoria Wells'** willingness to help fellow interpreter Nick Nersesian cover hearings by zoom when he was covering another hearing in-person was a great display of teamwork! - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*





**Remote Confirmation Update:**

There has been success but also challenges when requesting court and probation staff provide confirmation of services provided. As with any protocol change it takes time for the implementation to become a smooth process and it will take all of us working together! Here’s what I am going to do and what I am asking you to do. We will get there!

Kathleen will:

- Recognize the courts and probation who are doing a great job.
- Contact the courts and probation who are struggling with this to see how Language Access can support them as they implement the new protocol.

How interpreters can help:

- Email the requester with something like, *“Can you please confirm I interpreter for LOCATION on DATE from START TIME to END TIME?”* They can then easily respond.
- If you have sent the email and followed up but are still not receiving a response, please forward me (not the Ops Team) the emails so that I can address it.

**Did you know?**

A deaf Maryland couple made history earlier this year by making it to the planet's highest point, and now they are setting their sights on other peaks. [Read the story!](#)

If you have questions on any of this content, please feel free to reach out to me. Otherwise, we’ll talk next month!

**2024 State Holidays**

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| January 1   | New Year's Day             |
| January 15  | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| February 19 | Presidents' Day            |
| April 26    | Arbor Day                  |

May 27

Memorial Day

June 19

Juneteenth

July 4

Independence Day

September 2

Labor Day

October 14

Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 28 - 29

Thanksgiving and Day Following

December 25

Christmas Day