



Congratulations to Mandarin interpreter Yunzhe “Leslie” Shi for achieving Registered status!! This is a significant accomplishment with a lot of dedication and effort going into reaching this milestone. We are all so proud of you Leslie!

### **Temporary delay in Interpreter Statement processing**

Due to staffing changes in Finance, there will be a 1-week delay in Statement processing. This means that for Interpreter Statements submitted by the 7<sup>th</sup> of the month, Finance will ensure payment by the 27<sup>th</sup> instead of the 20<sup>th</sup>. This is expected to run through 12/31/24.

**Upcoming State Holidays** September 2<sup>nd</sup> Labor Day

#### **Kathleen at the courthouses**

- September 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> – Douglas County
- September 9<sup>th</sup> – Scotts Bluff County
- September 18<sup>th</sup> – Lancaster County
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Sarpy County

#### **A unique interpreting experience**

Several protection orders were filed in Platte DC within the same linguistically diverse family. One member of the family requires ASL interpreters, and the others require Spanish interpreters. There were 5 cases that took over a day total to hear. Per the Court, they were appreciative of the fantastic job the interpreters did especially since all the parties were pro se which tends to add another level of complexity. These cases were more difficult than most and they were grateful to have such a high level of professionalism from the interpreters.

Spanish interpreters Raul Escobar, Kelly Varguez, and Irma Watt were present in the courtroom while ASL interpreters Thomas Beyer and Katrina Watton appeared via Zoom. The interpreters cite the equipment in the courtroom having good sound quality which allowed them to render interpretations without straining or delay. Although the ASL interpreters appeared remotely, they were able to team on Zoom seamlessly. Judge Bergevin was also recognized by the interpreters of being very cognizant of their presence and doing an excellent job of making sure the parties were not talking over each other. All interpreters expressed what a pleasure it was to work with their same language and other language colleagues for this unique experience!

#### **Interpreter Certification Pathway**

Click [HERE](#) to check out the updated written exam and oral exam study materials on the Interpreter Certification Pathway webpage! If you are planning on taking the written exam in September, I need to receive the completed registration packet by Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup> otherwise I hope to see you taking it in 2025. Dates will be announced soon via email.

Written Exam and Study Aides			
<p>Passing the written exam is the second step to becoming a certified or provisionally certified interpreter. The written exam consists of 135 multiple choice questions and measures knowledge of the English language, court related terms and usage, and ethics and professional conduct. A score of at least 80% (108 correct answers) on the written exam is needed to proceed to the next step of the Interpreter Certification Pathway. In 2024, the written exam will be offered in-person three times in Omaha, Lincoln, and a city in western Nebraska. <a href="#">Apply to take the written exam</a></p>			
General Language Proficiency	Points	Court Related Terms	Points
Sentence completion	9	Sentence completion	36
Synonyms in context	8	Court related questions	10
Synonyms	21	Sequence	4
Antonyms	12	Professional responsibility and ethics	2
Idioms	25	Scenarios	8

To set current and aspiring interpreters up for success to pass the written exam, a variety of study aides have been developed:

- [Court Interpreter Written Examination: Overview](#)
- [De La Mora Orientation Resource](#) - provided after completing the Orientation survey
- [Mock Court Interpreter Written Exam](#)
- [NY Written Test of English Language Proficiency and Legal Terminology](#)
- [Quizlet](#)
- [Resource Guide for Court Interpreters](#)

Oral Certification Exam and Study Aides		
<p>Passing the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Oral Exam is the third and final step to becoming a certified interpreter. The oral exam measures language knowledge and fluency and the ability to successfully render meaning from target to source language in simultaneous and consecutive interpretation and sight translation. In 2024, the oral exam will be offered in-person two times in Omaha and Lincoln. Apply to take the <a href="#">Oral Exam and Background Check</a>. The NCSC Oral Exam is currently available in 18 languages:</p>		
Amharic	Arabic	Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian
Cantonese	Filipino (Tagalog)	French
Haitian Creole	Hmong	Khmer
Korean	Mandarin	Polish
Portuguese	Russian	Somali
Spanish	Turkish	Vietnamese

**For languages that NCSC has not developed an oral exam for, please explore the Provisional Certification tab.**

To set current and aspiring interpreters up for success to pass the oral exam, a variety of study aides have been developed:

- [Common Oral Interpreting Exam Performance Deficiencies](#)
- [Court Interpreter Oral Examination: Overview](#)
- [De La Mora Orientation Resource](#) - provided after completing the Orientation survey
- [NCSC Court Interpreter Practice Materials](#)
- [Resource Guide for Court Interpreters](#)
- [Skill Building course](#) - 2025 dates coming soon!

### Lancaster CC remote confirmation requests

Lancaster CC has tapped 2 new individuals to provide you with remote appearance confirmations. Instead of emailing Kelsey Andrews and William Calhoon, you will need to email Angie Meyer ([angie.meyer@nejudicial.gov](mailto:angie.meyer@nejudicial.gov)) AND William Calhoon ([william.calhoon@nejudicial.gov](mailto:william.calhoon@nejudicial.gov)). Be sure to include the case number, name, and date of the hearing you need the confirmation for when you reach out to them.

### NOMINATIONS OPEN: 2024 Distinguished Judge Awards

The *Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community* and *Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System* awards were established to publicly recognize members of the judiciary for projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the vision of justice within our communities. These awards are designed to recognize any type of project or activity that has a positive impact on the administration of justice, is effective in addressing public needs and enhancing public trust and confidence in the justice system and will benefit present and future users of the Nebraska court system.

- The *Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community* award is given to a trial court judge who has distinguished himself or herself through performance of service to the community on a volunteer or professional level. [Form attached.]
- The *Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System* award is given to a trial court judge who has distinguished himself or herself through contribution to the improvement of the judicial system, service as a trial judge, or promotion of judicial efficiency. [Form attached.]

Previous award recipients can be found on the Judicial Branch website [Distinguished Judge Awards](#) page. All Judicial Branch employees, members of the Nebraska bar, and the public may submit nominations. PLEASE RETURN NOMINATIONS by September 6, 2024, to [amy.prenda@nejudicial.gov](mailto:amy.prenda@nejudicial.gov)

### Professional Resources

- The Nebraska Association for Translators and Interpreters (NATI) is thrilled to provide scholarship opportunities for our 25th Annual Conference happening September 27th & 28th, 2024. Interested parties can access the Google Form Application via this link: <https://forms.gle/zGnWWjiVrcrHCVwEA> Please remember 3 reference letters must accompany the application and can be sent to: [scholarshipsnati@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipsnati@gmail.com)
- Kathleen's will provide three sessions at the NATI Conference:

- The Role of interpreters in the Nebraska Judicial Branch
- Ethics and Confidentiality in Court Interpretation
- Training and Certification for Court Interpreters

## **Recognitions**

- ✚ A few months back, I shadowed at Douglas. This month, I have had the opportunity to shadow at Sarpy. It has been helpful to become familiar with the environment, the order in which things happen and of course legal terms. I got to meet and watch **Cristina Kropf** and **Sunkist Judson** interpreting. They were kind and open to offering tips as far as parking, where to stand/sit in the courtroom and different expectations of judges. A shout out to **Adrian Hinojosa** and **Olivia Brockman** who have been welcoming and encouraging. They gifted me copies of arraignments, rights advisory, translated affidavit and interpreter oath. They both showed off their personal library, from which I took note of some recommendations. So, thank you for taking the time! – *An aspiring interpreter partner*
- ✚ Chuukese interpreter **Marcus Dipwek** handled a last-minute arraignment, plea, and sentencing hearing in Douglas County Court on Monday, July 22, 2024. After the hearing, the defendant's wife expressed her gratitude, stating that she was able to hear and understand the interpretation clearly. "The interpreter did a very good job; we really appreciate him being here today." – *Adrian Hinojosa, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ I believe they have finished the hearing. But seriously you guys (**Adrian Hinojosa** and **Kari Corkle**) are amazing! Thank you! A huge thank you for making this work!! - *Michelle L. Wilkins Dodge County, Juvenile Records Clerk*
- ✚ Mr. **Schergin** appeared today for our hearing via zoom. Thank you and he was very helpful. - *Sharmin Gonzales, Clerk Magistrate, Buffalo County Court.*
- ✚ It was Friday afternoon, and I received a call from Wayne District Court that there was a language mix up for a trial that Monday morning. If it wasn't for **Frédérique Sevet-Collier** and **Etornam "Kiki" Kouete**, I don't know what I would've done!! Thank you for helping me on such short notice!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ **Yoyo Kim** did a great job, very professional! - *Joan Hansen, Clerk Magistrate and Clerk of District Court, Deuel County*
- ✚ **Nick Nersesian**, you were extremely helpful in every aspect and we could not have done this hearing without your very professional help... I look forward to working with you in the future. - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County*
- ✚ **Perla Alarcon-Flory** is GOOD! - *Maria Reutlinger, District Court Bailiff, Dawson County*
- ✚ **Keak Kierkok** took the time to explain a request I received that was un-googleable. I know how busy you are, and I appreciate you taking the time to help me! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✦ **Vladimir Bazan** always keeps up with the huge amount of last-minute calendar changes. No matter how many places he is needed at the same time, he manages to cover them all with impressive speed and without making anyone feel rushed. - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✦ With the challenges this morning **Vladimir Bazan** does such a wonderful job. - *Tina DeVoe, Clerk of District Court, Keith County*
- ✦ Thank you, **Frederique Sevet-Collier**, for your willingness to work with the court's schedules in Sarpy County. I appreciate your quick responses to hearing requests! - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*