

June 23, 2025

I hope you all find these monthly communications helpful for your work here with the Nebraska Judicial Branch. If there is a topic you would like me to address or a recognition for an interpreting partner or Branch employee, please contact me at [Kathleen.valle@nejudicial.gov](mailto:Kathleen.valle@nejudicial.gov) Thank you!

**Upcoming State Holidays** The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed on Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Be safe out there!

### **Best practices for mediators working with interpreters**

As professional interpreters, your insights are invaluable in helping mediators work more effectively in multilingual settings. Please [email me](#) what you think mediators should understand about your role, challenges you face, or ways they can better support accurate and respectful communication. Your perspective will help strengthen collaboration and improve outcomes for everyone involved. I will incorporate your feedback into my October presentation. Thank you!

### **First Annual Interpreter Conference**

The Nebraska Judicial Branch Language Access Program (LAP) hosted its first-ever Interpreter Conference on Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Boys Town National Headquarters in Omaha. This milestone event marked a natural progression in LAP's commitment to supporting and engaging interpreter partners through professional development, collaboration, and strategic planning. To ensure a rich and relevant experience, conference presenters were drawn from within the Nebraska Judicial Branch. Their combined expertise and practical insights provided valuable guidance to interpreters navigating both the day-to-day realities of court and probation interpretation as well as long-term professional growth. A total of 44 interpreters participated in the conference, attending either in person or virtually. The agenda featured a range of timely and impactful topics, including judicial resources, the role of district court referees, technology, secondary trauma, mediation, and trials. The conference served as both a learning opportunity and a reaffirmation of LAP's ongoing partnership with the interpreter community.



#### **Watch recorded presentations here!**

[Welcome & Judicial Resources](#)

[Courts & Probation](#)

[Child Support/DC Referees](#)

[Zoom tutorial](#)

[The Cost of Bearing Witness](#)

[Interpreter Protocol in Mediation](#)

[Trials](#)



### **Interpreter Certification Pathway**

- Last [Orientation](#) of the year will be held August 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>
- [Written Exam](#) September 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>
- [Oral Exam](#) October 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

- To answer questions about the Interpreter Certification Pathway, join one of these 30-minute Zoom informational sessions:
  - Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
  - Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

### Interpreter Statements

Please write legibly on Interpreter Statements to ensure timely and accurate payment. Illegible handwriting can delay processing, create errors, and place an extra burden on the staff who review and approve these forms. Clear writing helps us get you paid faster and keeps the workflow smooth for everyone.

### Lending Libraries

Lending libraries are being established in each of our four Language Access Program offices—Douglas County, Hall County, Lancaster County, and Sarpy County—to support the professional development of our interpreter partners on their journey to certification or provisional certification. Please speak to a member of the Ops Team to check out the following items:

- ACEBO *The Interpreter's Edge, Generic Edition*
- ACEBO *Edge 21: Spanish/English Bundle*

These training resources are widely used and highly regarded in the field of court interpretation. Each bundle covers all three modes of interpreting used in court—sight translation, consecutive interpretation, and simultaneous interpretation—which are also tested in the NCSC court interpretation certification exam. Together, the books and accompanying USB flash drives provide a complete set of materials for interpreters to practice and refine their skills.

### Professional Resources

- [For the Record: Presenting yourself and issues to the court effectively](#) for ASL interpreters!
- [Court Interpreting: Overview & Challenges for Arabic Interpreters](#)
- [Ch 28 of the revised Nebraska Statutes](#) this is a great resource for defining crimes!
- The Language Access Program is assisting with the facilitation of Augustin De La Mora's attendance at the NATI Conference on September 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Recognitions

 **Stacey Con** was wonderful. Thank you!- *Kristin Ceballos, District Court Bailiff, Lancaster County*

- ✚ We have appreciated **Ben Hammar** so very much! He does a phenomenal job interpreting in our courtroom. Thank you for sending him our way the last couple of times we have needed an interpreter. - *Kathy Woodmancy, Clerk Magistrate, Perkins County Court*
- ✚ Thanks for attending Probation Skills Day and representing us so well, **Kari Corkle**! – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Director*
- ✚ **Kiki Kouete** was awesome! - *Dedra Little, District Court Bailiff, Lancaster County*
- ✚ Kudos to **Salim Merza**! He stayed late to help with a case we did not realize needed a Kurdish interpreter. He is always willing to help with last-minute things and we appreciate him. - *Angie Neuberger, Juvenile Court Bailiff, Lancaster County*
- ✚ **Amiel Armijo** recently took over District 6 to help balance the workload. I am amazed at her growth in only 2 years and can't wait to see how much more she grows as a Coordinator! – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Director*
- ✚ **Mr. Ben Hammar** did appear. He was great! - *Joan Hansen, Clerk Magistrate, Deuel County Court*
- ✚ **Dr. Rekha Gupta** provided excellent interpreter services for both traffic trials this afternoon. Thank you so much to you and Dr. Gupta for the help! - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*
- ✚ **Nick Nersesian**, thank you for your prompt responses to requests, your professionalism is appreciated. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Manuel Olivo** was logged in to the zoom meeting shortly before 2pm and graciously stayed with us until approximately 3:20pm. Thank you so much for the excellent service, as always. – *Heather Williams, Special Populations Officer, District 9 Probation*
- ✚ **Maria Reutlinger** provided excellent interpretation for this case and we thank her for her help in getting this resolved today. - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*
- ✚ **Mr. Ben Hammar** was great! - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*
- ✚ **Palwasha Samadi** was wonderful! - *Kristin Ceballos, Bailiff, Lancaster County District Court*
- ✚ Judge Yardley was super impressed with **Miss Gulie Khalaf**! She was on time, introduced herself, very professional and kind. She had no issues keeping up either. So PLEASE send her back for more hearings! 😊 - *Kelsey Andrews, Judicial Assistant, Lancaster County Court*
- ✚ **Kari Corkle** had a Herculean task in rescheduling interpreters for Thursday the 12th when Seward County had tech issues taking their Zoom offline, and on short notice, she moved my whole schedule around in a way that met Seward's needs and made things easy for me. She also sent me pleadings for each of my cases that day. Thank you, Kari! - *Ben Hammar, Registered Spanish Interpreter*

Did you know?

- Every 2 weeks, another language or dialect goes extinct.
- There are over 231 completely extinct languages, and 2,400 of the world's languages are considered to be in danger of dying out.
- The Bible is the most widely translated book available in 2,454 different languages. Pinocchio is a close second. But the world's most translated author is Agatha Christie.