

November 27, 2024



As we celebrate this season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to recognize the incredible work you do every day. Your skillful interpretation bridges linguistic divides, ensuring justice is accessible to all, no matter their language. Your dedication, professionalism, and commitment to upholding fairness in our courts and probation offices make an immeasurable difference in the lives of those you serve. Whether working in the courtroom/probation office, remotely, or behind the scenes, your efforts create understanding and uphold the principles of equity and justice. This Thanksgiving, I am deeply thankful for you. Thank you for your perseverance, expertise, and passion for your vital role. Wishing you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful Thanksgiving filled with warmth, gratitude, and connection.

➡ **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 7th of the month, Finance will ensure payment by the 27th instead of the 20th. This is expected to run through 12/31/24.

Upcoming State Holidays The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed for business in observance of the following holidays:

- December 25th Christmas

Inclement Weather Plan Interpreters are to text the **appropriate member** of the Ops Team as soon as they know they won't be able to make an interpreting commitment:

- Adrian Hinojosa 402-250-0041
- Olivia Brockman 402-580-3842
- Kari Corkle 402-440-9989
- Amiel Armijo 308-833-0594

If the conditions are such that you need to travel up the day before or can't make it safely back home after an interpreting assignment, please work with the Ops Team to have the AOCB reserve a hotel room for you. Keeping you safe is important to me!

Investiture of Chief Justice Funke

On Friday, November 22nd, the new Chief Justice was sworn in and donned his judicial robe in the Rotunda of the State Capitol. You can read about the event [HERE](#) and even watch the whole ceremony!



Make sure to keep your eyes peeled for our very own ASL interpreter **Kelly Brakenhoff** who interpreted for the whole ceremony. She brought a lot of experience to this event having previously interpreted for proclamations and in the legislature. She even got a few shout outs. Kelly Brakenhoff thank you so much for your work yesterday. Your experience and

confidence (particularly in your standing location) was reassuring. Interesting story — I was walking the back of the room letting staff know where they could find open seats. I got to Mary from IT, she said she didn't want to move because she had the best view of the interpreter. Either she is a friend or is learning! - *Janet Bancroft, NE Judicial Branch Public Information Officer*

Professional Resources

- 50% off De La Mora [self-paced courses](#) in the month of November. Use promo code **GOBBLEUP50**
- [University of Arizona National Center for Interpretation](#)
- Some of our Ops Team and interpreting partners gathered for a picture at the NATI 2024 Conference held at the College of St. Mary in September. It was one of the best conferences that NATI has put on and I encourage everyone to attend. The picture below was taken after my *Role of interpreters in the Nebraska Judicial Branch* presentation and it was so enriched by having so many interpreters attend and speak about their personal experiences.
 - L-R Dale Taylor, Amiel Armijo, Kathleen Valle, Adrian Hinojosa, Claudio Huang, Raul Escobar, and Erick Saavedra



Recognitions

- ✚ **Mai Nguyen and Ben Hammar** do a great job of numbering their remote email confirmations making reviewing and processing their Interpreter Statements a breeze! - *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Program Director*
- ✚ Hello, **Adrian**, thank you for the work you and your team do helping us with interpreting in court. I just wanted to let you know we had **Tara Trindle** recently as an Arabic interpreter. She did an excellent job. Please relay our thanks to Ms. Trindle. – *Judge Matney, Dakota County Court*
- ✚ Thank you, Perla Alarcon-Flory, for your follow up emails once you complete a Zoom hearing. I value your support. - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ Thank you so much!! **Irma** was fantastic when helping contact a probationer to confirm details of their appointment. - *Lisa Moss, District 10 Probation Officer*

- ✚ I know you all are always on the “go, go, go” for me, **Irma Watt, Vladimir Bazan, Maria Reutlinger, Shelly Hodges, Stacey Con, Dale Taylor, Sixta Sass, Norma Olivas, Martha Brester, Maria Easterday, Tamni Sundling, Abubakar Ibrahim, Juana Diego, Raul Escobar, and Alex Perez**. I just want to thank you for all you do!! Never a dull moment and always a pleasure working with you. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator*

- ✚ Yes, **Anila Mayhew** was present on 11/20/24 and was fantastic! Thank you! - *Dedra Little, Bailiff Lancaster County District Court*

- ✚ Thank you **Adrian Hinojosa** for setting up the new equipment and for the training! - *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*

- ✚ Judge Wheelock’s weeklong trial was extended until Monday of the following week. Q’anjobal interpreters **Sixta Sass** and **Victor Lopez Diego** rearranged their personnel and professional lives to be available. Please know how much I appreciate being able to count on you two! – *Kathleen Valle, Language Access Director*

Translated Documents Reminder

It’s always the best-case scenario to have a translated document that the LEP can read for themselves. In the event the LEP is not literate, then the lawyer/judge/appropriate person would need to review the document with them and the interpreter would interpret. It is not appropriate for the interpreter to review a document with the LEP as that moves them out of their interpreter role.

Zoom link

Have you ever been sent a calendar invite that contains a Zoom link but then can’t find it when you need to log on? **Pro Tip:** Once you accept the calendar invite, it populates on your calendar and the email will go into your deleted box. Go to your calendar, open up the invite, and click Join Meeting.

Let me know what questions you have, otherwise you’ll hear from me again in December.