

# Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program Newsletter

April 15, 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## First Newsletter Launched

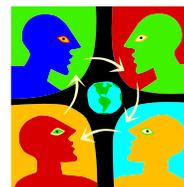
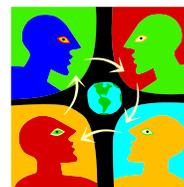
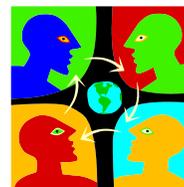
The Court Interpreter Program (CIP) is pleased to bring you its first newsletter aimed at keeping court interpreters informed on developments within the program, new innovations within the interpreting and translating professions, issues arising in the legal realm that may be relevant to interpreters and educational opportunities being offered locally, nationally and internationally.

Electronic distribution of the newsletter will occur in the Fall and Spring to all interpreters who have maintained e-mail contact with our program. The newsletter will also be posted on our court's public website.

Interpreters are encouraged to contribute information for future editions of the newsletter. Consider writing a book review, discussing a new trend in the field in which you have developed expertise, or sharing information on a relevant training from which others may benefit.

We hope this newsletter will serve as a vehicle for fostering professionalism throughout the interpreting community by sharing resources and information.

We thank interpreters for the valuable services provided to the court system to ensure equal access for all.



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### Members of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the WI Courts

- Hon. Ralph Ramirez, Chair
- Hon. Phil Chavez
- Hon. James Daley
- Hon. John Damon
- Hon. Paul Van Grunsven
- Rep. Donna Seidel
- Ct. Commissioner Ann Sayles
- Heather Pantoga
- John Powell
- Sheila Reiff
- Jacqueline Thachenkary
- Tamesia Sosa
- Melissa Wallace

The committee serves the Director of State Courts office by setting policy and procedural guidance on interpreting and translation issues throughout the Wisconsin court system.

## 2012 Interpreter Conference Planning Underway

Mark your calendars for November 3!

The CIP plans to host a statewide interpreter conference in Madison.

Sixty-one individuals responded to a survey indicating the need for more local affordable

continuing education opportunities.

Respondents identified the need for additional training on criminal terminology; specialized terminology such as forensic DNA analysis, ballistics, sexual assault and domestic violence

dynamics, and drugs; glossary-building techniques; idioms; consecutive; and simultaneous modes. The conference will be open to interpreters of all languages at all skill levels. Funding is being sought from various sources.

## Related Organizations

National Association of  
Judiciary Interpreters and  
Translators (NAJIT)  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

American Translators  
Association (ATA)  
[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

Registry of Interpreters for  
the Deaf (RID)  
[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

Midwest Association of  
Interpreters and Translators  
(MATI)  
[www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org)

Upper Midwest Translators  
and Interpreters Association  
(UMTIA)  
[www.umtia.cloverpad.org](http://www.umtia.cloverpad.org)

InterpretAmerica  
[www.interpretamerica.net](http://www.interpretamerica.net)

Cross Cultural  
Communications  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)

Critical Link International  
[www.criticallink.org](http://www.criticallink.org)



## Online Interpreter Training Opportunities

de la Mora Interpreter  
Training  
[www.interpreter-training.com/index.html](http://www.interpreter-training.com/index.html)

Interpreter Education  
Online  
[www.site.interpretereducationonline.com/](http://www.site.interpretereducationonline.com/)

New Mexico Center for  
Language Access  
(NMCLA)  
[www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/](http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/)

## Meet Melissa Wallace: Interpreter Representative

My name is Melissa Wallace, and I am a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Modern Languages at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse, a certified Spanish court interpreter in the state of Wisconsin since 2005, and a co-founder of the Viterbo University Certificate in Community Interpreting. While the hat I wear as a trainer/educator is an important part of my professional life, I strive constantly to stay in touch with the policy, pedagogy and practice of court interpreting by keeping up to date on

scholarship, carrying out research on performance and assessment in court interpreter certification testing, attending and speaking at regional, national and international conferences (most recently in New York, Trieste, and Barcelona), participating in professional organizations, attending Committee meetings, and of course, by interpreting in Wisconsin courts. Some of my research will be forthcoming in a Peter Lang edited volume in a chapter entitled “Rethinking Bifurcated Testing Models in the Court



Interpreter Certification Process.” As a stakeholder in the court interpreting profession, I have appreciated the opportunity to engage in policy discussions with the Committee to Improve Translation and Interpreting in Wisconsin Courts, and hope to continue to be of service to Wisconsin court interpreters.

## US High Court Interprets Interpretation

The US Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of Kouichi Taniguchi vs. Kan Pacific Saipan, LTD on February 21, 2012.

In 2008, Mr. Taniguchi, a Japanese citizen, sued a hotel in Saipan (a US Territory) for negligence when he fell through a wooden deck two years prior. The hotel won and Mr. Taniguchi lost. A provision under US law allows for the winner to collect interpretation

costs. The hotel sent Mr. Taniguchi a bill for \$5,517.20. However, of that amount \$5,257.20 was for *translation* of medical records, not interpreter services.

Mt. Taniguchi’s lawyers argued that interpretation costs do not include translation costs. They lost in Federal Appeals court so brought their case to the US

Supreme Court. During oral arguments, the justices kept returning to the literal interpretation of “interpretation” as oral renderings. Justice Antonin Scalia noted that translations of literary pieces like “War and Peace” may credit the translator with words such as “John Smith, trans.” but never “John Smith, int.” A decision is expected by July.

## Freelance Court Interpreter Handbook Now Available

A handbook for freelance court interpreters in Wisconsin is now available on our website.

The guidebook includes sections on the certification process, disciplinary process, character and fitness

requirements, ethical dilemmas, federal and state statutes and case law on interpreters as well as practical guidance on courtroom and assignment protocol.

This handbook was modified from a model guide the

Professional issues Committee of the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts developed in 2010.

## Meet Tamesia Sosa: Interpreter Representative



Tamesia Sosa began her career as a court interpreter in 2002 in Milwaukee County while completing graduate course work. She attained her MA in Translation with a specialization in Interpreting from the UW-Milwaukee in 2003. The following year, Ms.

Sosa formed part of the first group of Wisconsin Certified Court Interpreters. Since then, Ms. Sosa has interpreted for the courts, hospitals, and community organizations. Recently, she served a 3-year term as the Director of a Medical Interpreter Certificate Program at a local community college. Currently, Ms. Sosa is heavily involved in the field of education and develops interpreter training programs

and workshops for medical, court and community settings. She is a faculty member of the Wisconsin Court Interpreter Training Program and enjoys supporting newcomers to the field. Ms. Sosa is very passionate about the field of interpreting and interprets for the courts as often as she is able. Her current projects include developing online interpreting curriculum for colleges and universities both locally and internationally.

### 2012 Conferences

April 19-21 | 5th International Conference on Interpreting and Translation Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico

May 18-20 | NAJIT Cambridge, MA

June 4-22 | Agnes Haury Institute for Interpretation Tucson, AZ

June 15-16 | Interpret America 3<sup>rd</sup> North American Summit on Interpreting Washington, DC

Oct. 24-27 | ATA San Diego, CA

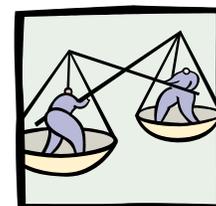
## Revised Disciplinary Policy for Interpreters

The Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Courts has reviewed and revised the disciplinary policy for interpreters. The Director of State Courts approved the policy which is

included in the CIP's Policies and Procedures. One of the criteria for being listed on the Roster of Interpreters is to be subject to discipline for any alleged ethical violations.

Interpreters play an important role in the court system so it is vital their integrity and performance is monitored.

To view the CIP Policies visit [www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm)



### Other Newsletters on Interpreting

*Proteus*  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)  
Quarterly newsletter about judiciary interpreters and translators

*Interpreter's Launch Pad*  
[www.interpretnaut.com](http://www.interpretnaut.com)  
Free monthly newsletter bringing resources, tips and a bit of fun to the lives of professional interpreters

*Intersect: A Newsletter about Language, Culture and Interpreting*  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)

## Roster Level Modifications: LOTS

In an effort to raise the standards of quality within the interpreting profession, the roster levels of interpreter candidates who interpret in Languages Other Than Spanish (LOTS) have undergone modifications. In the past, individuals were allowed to be listed on the roster as "Trainees" by virtue of having taken the written test only.

In 2011 and into 2012, the non-certified roster levels for interpreters of LOTS include "Provisional" and "Provisional-B" levels which reflect interpreters who have scored at requisite levels on the oral examination. In order to be listed on the roster now, interpreters must sit for the oral examination. The "Trainee" level will be phased out completely by the

end of 2012.

In addition, for those languages where no oral certification examination is available, an "Authorized" level was created. This level indicates an individual has obtained a "Superior" on an Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). For more detailed explanations, see the CIP's Policies (see link above)

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Court Interpreter Program  
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<http://wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm>

## Announcements

### 2012 CIP Training and Testing Schedule

Orientations: May 19-20: Milwaukee | Aug. 25-26: Wausau | Oct. 25-26: Madison  
Written Test: Apr 13: Appleton | Jun 15: Milwaukee | Sept 21: Wausau | Nov 16: Madison  
Oral Test: Jun 26-27 | Dec 4-5 (All locations in Madison)

Limited scholarships are available for speakers of certain languages. Please contact us to determine eligibility.

### Community Interpreting Certificate Program

Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI  
[www.viterbo.edu/interpret/](http://www.viterbo.edu/interpret/)

### Graduate Program in Translation

UWM, Milwaukee, WI  
[www4.uwm.edu/letsci/translation/](http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/translation/)



## Glossaries

Searchable Online Spanish-English Glossary  
[www.sdneyinterpreters.org/glossary.php](http://www.sdneyinterpreters.org/glossary.php)

Legal Glossaries: Arabic, Western Armenian, Hmong, Mien, Mong, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Urdu, Vietnamese  
[www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx](http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/general/legal-glossaries/legal-glossaries.aspx)

Legal Glossary: Somali and Mandarin  
[www.mncourts.gov/?page=461](http://www.mncourts.gov/?page=461)

## Spotlight on New Book for Interpreters

A new book entitled “The Language of Justice: Interpreting for Legal Services” is now available through Cross Cultural Communications.

This manual supports a three-day program for legal interpreting and offers unique guidance for legal interpreters about how to conduct themselves *outside* the courtroom.

This publication is aimed at community and court interpreters who perform legal interpreting in

community settings, with a special spotlight on attorney-client interviews and nonprofit legal services. It will also help interpreters who interpret for worker's comp and disability medical exams; School Board hearings; domestic violence intakes or interviews; torture and trauma legal services; immigration services; and many other areas of legal interpreting.

The four authors are national experts in the field who worked with a project coordinated by nonprofit

attorneys, law professors, directors at several community-based agencies, and two interpreter service coordinators. The publisher is a legal nonprofit service named Ayuda based in Washington, D.C.

For more information visit [www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)