



# Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program (CIP) Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2016

[www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm)

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## 2016 CIP Dates

### Skill Building (Limit:16)

Sept 10-11: Madison

### Orientation

Oct 1-2: Madison

### Committee to Improve Interpreting & Translating Spring Meeting

Oct 21: Madison

### Written Testing

Oct 28: Madison

### Oral Testing

Nov 29-30: Madison

## Related Links

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.matianet.org](http://www.matianet.org)

Upper Midwest Translators & Interpreters (UMTIA)  
[www.umtia.cloverpad.com](http://www.umtia.cloverpad.com)

## Responding to Subpoenas

In the past few years, the CIP has received increased reports from interpreters saying they had been subpoenaed to testify in court. Different reasons exist as to why an attorney might subpoena an interpreter to testify. In one situation, the interpreter had interpreted for the police during an arrest while in another example, the interpreter had prepared a translation and transcript of a police interrogation conducted in Spanish. While receiving a valid subpoena can be reason for anxiety, you cannot ignore it. You should respond professionally and prepare to appear in court.



In an article written by Carla Mathers (SC:L, JD) published in RID's "Views" Vol. 21, Issue 8, Aug/Sept. 2004, she discusses the main reason why an interpreter may be subpoenaed. Other than expert witnesses who testify because of their specialized training and knowledge about a particular subject area or field of study, the primary reason any other individual is asked to testify is because of his/her personal knowledge of the event in question. Atty. Mathers writes that in the context of an interpreted session, neither the non-English speaker nor the English-speaker has personal knowledge of what the other person said except for what the interpreter conveys. The personal knowledge an interpreter possesses goes to the accuracy and completeness of the interpretation which can be supported by an inquiry into the interpreter's qualifications and skills to do the job. Once an attorney lays the foundation that the interpretation between the two parties was accurate, the non-English speaker and the English-speaker can testify about their side of the story.

One particular rule of the Code of Ethics to remember is the requirement to maintain confidentiality. Wisconsin SCR 63.05 says, "Interpreters shall protect the confidentiality of all privileged and other confidential information." This rule usually applies when an interpreter is interpreting between attorney and client. An interpreter cannot testify about information learned during such an interaction because that communication is privileged, unless the client waives the privilege. If you receive a subpoena and are not clear about its purpose, you should first contact the attorney to ask why you are being subpoenaed and the nature of the information being sought. Assuming you are being called to authenticate the accuracy of an interpretation you provided at an earlier event, you can prepare several ways. Bring to court a current résumé outlining your credentials, education, and experience along with proof of compliance with continuing education requirements if applicable. Make sure to bring enough copies for the court and both sides. If notes were taken during the interpreted session in question, you should review those notes to refresh your memory. It is possible you don't remember many details and reviewing notes (if available) should help. If you work for an agency, you should alert the agency that you received a subpoena as

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Wisconsin RID  
[www.wisrid.org](http://www.wisrid.org)

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

National Center for  
State Courts  
[www.ncsc.org](http://www.ncsc.org)

## 2016 Annual Conferences

Jul 28-31: RID Reg III  
Louisville, KY

Nov 2-5: ATA  
San Francisco, CA

## Blogs, Newsletters & Other Tidbits

NAJIT  
[najit.org/blog/](http://najit.org/blog/)

The Interpreter  
Diaries  
<http://theinterpreterdiaries.com/>

Intersect  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)

The ATA's Chronicle  
[www.atanet.org/chronicle](http://www.atanet.org/chronicle)

NAJIT's Proteus  
[www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php](http://www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php)

Interpreters USA  
[www.interpretersusa.org](http://www.interpretersusa.org)

## Interpreter Forms & Resources

Forms  
[www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/form.s.htm](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/form.s.htm)

Team Interpreting  
[www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/docs/inhandbook.pdf](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/docs/inhandbook.pdf)

well. Finally, while often not necessary, if you are worried about the purpose of the subpoena, you are always free to consult an attorney to obtain legal advice to protect yourself.

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## Meet Liping Zhao – Certified Mandarin Chinese Interpreter



Ms. Liping Zhao is a professional English-to-Chinese interpreter in the Greater Chicago Area. She is also the first and only certified Mandarin Chinese court interpreter credentialed by the Wisconsin Director of State Courts. She actively serves as a contract simultaneous interpreter with U.S. Department of State and has interpreted at various high-level government, NGO and business conferences. Starting out locally in Chicago, she now has expanded her services nationally and internationally. Ms.

Zhao was professionally trained in the field of foreign language studies and is able to achieve effective communication despite language and cultural barriers in challenging situations.

She received her BA and MA in English and a MBA degree. Ms. Zhao has 10 years of corporate finance experience. She is a seasoned financial interpreter, serving major Chinese financial exchanges and institutions with their professional and technical training programs across the US and in China. Ms. Zhao also volunteers as a simultaneous interpreter at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, IL. She makes her home in the northwest suburbs of Chicago.

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## MATI Elects New Board

by Christina Green

The Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI) held its elections in May and will now welcome some new faces to the Board! Our President, Christina Green will be installing Elizabeth Colón, from Chicago, as the new President, as well as five new directors: Amanda Bickel, Thaís Passos Fonseca, Kristy Brown Lust, Ghada Shakir, and Marina Ilari, all of them from Wisconsin. The installation of the new board will take place on August 6 in Milwaukee. The place and time will be announced at [www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org). Please join us in person to welcome the new board members. MATI's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will take place in Chicago on September 10, 2016. The keynote speaker will be Marian Greenfield, Past President of ATA and former Manager of Translation Services at JP Morgan. Her presentation, *Ramping Up your Freelance Business*, will provide tips and will discuss the importance of positioning yourself in the market, making smart investments to boost your efficiency, how to maintain good client relationships, and more. More information will be posted on our website, at [matiata.org](http://matiata.org). This is a great opportunity to get continuing education credits and to network with other colleagues from the Midwest. We hope to see you there.

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## REMINDER: Continuing Education Compliance

Current interpreters who are listed on the Director of State Courts' Roster who were certified or listed between 2004 and 2014 will be required to complete their credits and submit a Continuing Education Requirement Compliance Form **by April 1, 2017 to the CIP**. For a list of courses approved for credit, see this link: [https://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/docs/cecreditssummary\\_1416.pdf](https://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/docs/cecreditssummary_1416.pdf)