

March 25, 2024

Hello! Daylight Savings Time really threw me for a loop this year but now I'm enjoying the extra hours of light in the evening. I hope you made it through that first week okay and are also reaping the benefits. I'm pleased to announce that in honor of Interpreter Appreciation Day, the Language Access Program will be offering our interpreter partners a free training and CEUs! You will find more info and the registration link below. And finally, a Happy Ramadan to all our Muslim colleagues!



Upcoming state holidays:

- April 26th Arbor Day

Stop by and say hello Thanks to everyone who makes it a point to come and find me or send me a text when I am on site at the courthouses – I love hearing your stories and watching you in action!

- April 10th Lancaster County Courthouse
- April 16th Douglas County Courthouse
- April 25th Sarpy County Courthouse

Interpreter Appreciation Day

As a token of appreciation for all that you do for Nebraska's courts and probation offices, please plan on joining us for *A Legal Encounter A to Z: A Guide to Professionalism*. It's free to you, worth 1.5CEUs and you can do it from the comfort of your home! The training will be on Wednesday, May 1st from 6:30pm-8pm. Can't make it that day? Still register and you'll get access to the recording and the CEUs for 1 month. Register [HERE](#).

Interpreter Certification Pathway

- 4 individuals passed the written exam in March and will now begin shadowing in preparation for the oral exam.
- 6 individuals are registered to take the Oral Exam in April.
- 19 individuals so far will attend May's Orientation.
- Review calendar below for your remaining 2024 opportunities.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Orientation	X			X		
Written Exam		X			X	
Oral Exam						X
Skills Building			X			

Interpreting in front of the Supreme Court

On Wednesday March 6th, our colleague Vladimir Bazan (Certified Spanish) recently had the opportunity to interpret at the Capitol in front of the Supreme Court! Most interpreters will not be able to have this experience, so take it from Vlad when he says, "Interpreting in front of the Nebraska Supreme Court was a great opportunity to show the highest Court in the State the important and unique service that interpreters provide. It was a challenging experience because the acoustics and set up in the courtroom

are not necessarily interpreter friendly, but it was my first time interpreting there, and I would gladly do it again.”



Professional Resources

I don't know about you, but I could spend all my days in training! Our profession is the best, I love learning, and they all sound so fascinating! Here's some more for you to check out:

- [Foundations of ASL Court Interpreting](#)
- [Interpreting in Criminal Jury Trials](#)
- [TransInterpreting](#)
- [NAJIT Proteus Winter 2023-24](#)

Recognitions It feels good to be recognized, doesn't it? Make sure that you're also giving that gift to someone (court staff, probation staff, Language Access staff, interpreting colleagues) by emailing me and telling me who you want to recognize!

- ✚ **Kari Corkle** celebrated her 3-year work anniversary with Language Access on February 1st!
- ✚ **Amiel Armijo** successfully passed her probationary period February 28th!
- ✚ God bless you and your staff. Thank you so much. - *Linda K. Smith, Clerk Magistrate Hitchcock County Court*
- ✚ I appreciate the valuable service Interpreters provide to the courts. – *Judge Hutton, Sarpy County Court*
- ✚ Shadowing is going great! They are having some great experiences. **Irma Watt** has been having some good conversations with them. – *Angie Monterroso, UNK Professor*
- ✚ Yes! You (**Joseph Jok**) were present, and can I say how much I appreciate you always being 5-10 minutes early and being amenable to the attorney using your services to speak with their clients before Court. Thank you.” – *Melisa Tonniges, Courtroom Clerk, Certified Electronic Reporter*

- ✚ **Estella Abuelsheikh** was so flexible and helpful when a defendant was being difficult when it came time to present themselves before the Judge. She worked around her schedule and was available. – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ This morning, we had **Stacey Con** as an interpreter. Everything went smoothly, she interpreted for most part of the morning. She came in early and stayed until we made sure everyone who needed an interpreter had been helped. – *Maria Reutlinger Bailiff from Dawson County District Court*
- ✚ **Ben Hammar** was great! - *Christina Woodside, District 5 Probation*
- ✚ **Irma Watt** has been so flexible when it comes to traveling to surrounding counties and helping with trials. – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you to our team, **Kari Corkle** for covering District 9 in my absence and graciously allowing me to forward my phone. **Adrian Hinojosa** for covering Districts 7 & 8 in my absence and **Olivia Brockman** for covering District 10. I appreciate you all so much!! – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you so much for coordinating the (Rhoselanni Jenkins & **Rosemarie Johnson**) to appear via Google Meet. They were awesome. They were on time and were very helpful when working through the technology issues. - *Amanda Vodvarka, Bailiff Douglas County District Court*
- ✚ Everything went really well with **Habtom Telke**. - *Cindy Johnson, Dawson County Court*
- ✚ Just wanted to send you both (**Kelly Varguez** and **Adrian Hinojosa**) a BIG thank you again!! You guys are awesome, and I appreciate all you do for us! - *Taylor Schneider Bailiff Douglas County District Court*
- ✚ Just letting you know that the hearing yesterday with **Ms. Poonam Magar** went very well! - *Kylee Chadwick, Cheyenne County Court*
- ✚ It has been very good. **Tara Trindle** speaks clearly and projects her voice very well so that it will be picked for the record. Overall, very pleased! - *Amber Rothe, Lancaster Juvenile Court*
- ✚ Congrats to the **Language Access Operations Team** for the customer service award. - *Cheryl Waples, Jordan Flynn, Kristin Woods, Lynn Albin, Nicole Lawson, and Roxann Thompson*

Did you know?

- Many non-English languages have no concept of a spelling bee because the spelling rules in those languages are too regular for good spelling to be impressive.
- The language spoken in Wakanda is Xhosa, an official language of South Africa and Zimbabwe and John Kani who played King T'Chaka is a native speaker of that language.
- When writing in Hanunó'o, right-handed and left-handed people often write texts that are mirror images of each other, both in letter orientation and writing direction.

Questions? Comments? Reach out to me!