

# **COURT INTERPRETER COMMISSION**

## ***Conference Call -- January 25, 2008***

---

**Members Present:** Justice Susan Owens, Leticia Camacho, Emma Garkavi, Jeff Hall, Frank Maiocco, Mike McElroy, Judge Ron Mamiya, Steve Muzik, Theresa Smith, Virginia Rockwood, and Judge Dennis Yule

**Members Absent:** Lourdes Portello Salazar

**AOC Staff:** Karina Pugachenok, Chris Ruhl and Tina Williamson

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and **passed** to approve the November 30, 2007 meeting minutes.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

#### **Issues Committee**

The Issues Committee reported the following:

- 1) A letter was received by a certified interpreter requesting continuing education requirements be waived for persons over 60 years of age.  
**Committees Decision: No**
- 2) A letter was received by a certified interpreter requesting that her graduate studies be considered as continuing education credit OR that her certification be put on "administrative hold."  
**Committees Decision: No**

#### **Discipline Committee**

Nothing to report.

#### **Judicial and Court Manager Education Committee**

##### ***Judicial College (January 2008)***

Judge James Docter, Mindy Baade and Chris Ruhl are scheduled to present on interpreter best practices at the Judicial College in Tacoma.

##### ***DMCJA Spring Conference (June 1-4, 2008)***

A plenary session (1½ hour) on interpreter best practices has been scheduled for the 2008 DMCJA conference in Chelan.

### ***Fall Conference (October 2008)***

The interpreter program is hopeful that they will be granted session time at the 2008 Fall Conference. An education proposal is currently being put together and will be submitted to the AOC Education Services for consideration.

### **Interpreter Commission/Pattern Forms Committee**

Leticia will have an update for the next Commission meeting in March.

### **TESTING and TRAINING**

#### **Certified Category**

Results of the 2007 Oral Exam:

- Arabic : 3 candidates (0 passed)
- Cantonese: 1 candidate (failed)
- Korean: 6 candidates (0 passed)
- Laotian: 1 candidate (failed)
- Mandarin: 3 candidates (0 passed)
- Russian: 7 candidates (1 passed)
- Spanish: 44 candidates (3 passed)
- Vietnamese: 6 candidates (0 passed)

With the passing rate so low, members wanted to know if there is anything we could be doing differently to help people pass the exam. Judge Mamiya suggested we take a look at the written exam and see how it can be a better screening tool for who is really qualified to take the oral exam. Chris noted that this would be a priority for the new program manager.

#### **Registered Category**

Nothing new to report.

### **AOC INTERPRETER PROGRAM**

#### **Interpreter Coordinator Search**

Chris reported that Katrin Johnson from Minnesota would join us on February 29. An official announcement will go out after January 31.

#### **Reciprocity**

AOC staff met by conference call with Oregon staff to discuss reciprocity. The conference call was very successful and confirmed that this is what Washington needs to do. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and **passed** to approve reciprocity with Oregon, subject to procedures approved by the Commission. Commission members are to forward their suggestions to AOC staff, who will then prepare a proposal to present at the next Commission meeting in March. In addition, AOC staff will check with Oregon regarding their continuing education requirements.

### **Interpreter Funding**

The Committee met by phone with a group of courts selected as initial implementation sites for FY08-09 funding. This was an opportunity for these courts to ask specific questions related to the funding.

Steve noted that he has received about 40 emails from interpreters stating that they will not work for the one-hour minimum that Snohomish County is planning to implement. Jeff stated that there is no way to know if the market will bear this concept, it is really just a wait and see.

### **LAP Funding and Compliance**

Karina reported that she has received 17 applications. The requests total \$620,000, but only \$168,000 is eligible for funding. She noted that 99 courts and 4 county clerks have completed their LAP plans.

### **Interpreter/LAP Legislation**

Jeff, Chris and Mellani McAleenan (AOC) met with Representative Lantz on HB 2176. Representative Lantz agreed that she would present the full bill to the legislature, not just a partial. This will help set the stage for next year.

### **State Justice Institute Grant**

The Interpreter Program has been tentatively awarded a 2008 State Justice Institute (SJI) Technical Assistance Grant to begin cataloguing interpreter "best practices" among the courts and implementing the strategic plan developed in July. Chris reported that John Martin would be on board in late February, early March, to begin work with the Commission.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Bench Card**

Chris distributed a "model" bench card to Commission members. Judge Mamiya expressed some concern with the structure of the questions. Teresa felt that the makeup of the questions should be decided by someone in that field, she did not feel that a judge should make that determination. Justice Owens suggested we table this discussion until the next meeting and in the meantime forward your suggestions to Chris.

### **Website**

Steve reminded AOC staff to continue to put the minutes on the website.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Commission is Friday, March 14, at the Puget Sound Skills Center in Burien. This will be an opportunity for Commission members to share experiences and interact with students. Forty-five minutes will be devoted to WITS outreach.