INTERPRETER COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
November 30, 2007

Members Present: Justice Susan Owens, Leticia Camacho, Emma Garkavi, Jeff Hall, Ann Macfarlane, Frank Maiocco, Judge Ron Mamiya, Steve Muzik *(phone)*, Theresa Smith, and Virginia Rockwood

Members Absent: Lourdes Portello Salazar and Judge Dennis Yule

AOC Staff: Chris Ruhl and Tina Williamson

GENERAL BUSINESS

Welcome
Justice Owens called the meeting to order and members introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes
The October 19, 2007 meeting minutes were reviewed and corrections made. A motion was made, seconded, and **passed** to approve the minutes.

Selection of New Public Member/Appointment
On a unanimous vote, the Commission recommended the appointment of Mike McElroy, King County Prosecutor's Office, to replace Anne Macfarlane who leaves her position at the end of the year. AOC staff will prepare an appointment letter for Mike and thank you letters to the other applicants.

In addition, the Commission invited Theresa Smith of the Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WSRID) to attend future meetings as American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter Liaison, since the scope of the Interpreter Program, through available state funding, is beginning to incorporate ASL interpretation.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Issues Committee
Nothing to report at this time.

Discipline Committee
Nothing to report at this time.

Judicial and Court Manager Education Committee

Youth Court Conference (Washington, Alaska and Idaho)
Emma reported that the conference was attended by 150 high school students and that the presentations were fantastic.

Judicial College (January 2008)
Judge James Docter, Judge Judy Jasprica, Mindy Baade (certified interpreter) and Butch Chapin (AOC) are currently working on the structure of a 1½-hour session that will incorporate interpreter related issues. The session will include a presentation by Chris Ruhl (AOC) on LEP/State funding.

Puget Sound Skills Center (March 2008)
Ann will check to see about having lunch with the students. Ron suggested a short presentation by Commission members sharing personal views.

DMCJA Spring Conference (June 2008)
The Education Committee (Emma, Frank, Virginia) will review a proposal for an education session at the DMCJA Spring Conference; AOC will distribute the proposal and materials to the Committee. The Committee will meet by conference call to discuss the proposal, which will include Butch Chapin of the AOC Judicial Education section.

INTERPRETER COMMISSION/PATTERN FORMS COMMITTEE

The joint Interpreter Commission/Pattern Forms Committee has met a couple of times to determine which forms will be translated into which languages using Justice in Jeopardy monies. While the Committee still has to prioritize much of its work, the Commission was advised that the new Vulnerable Adult Forms are currently being translated into Spanish. A more substantial report will be provided at the Commission's January 25, 2008 conference call, including discussion of the protocol for forms and the languages to be translated.

TESTING and TRAINING

Certified Category
Tina reported the following update on the 2007 Oral Exam:

- Korean: 6 candidates (0 passed)
- Russian: 7 candidates (1 passed)

The results for the other seven languages have not been received yet.

Registered Category
Tina reported the following update on Oral Proficiency Interviews:

- Czech: 2 candidates (2 passed)
- Polish: 3 candidates (3 passed)
- Romanian: 2 candidates (1 passed, 1 results pending)
- Tagolog: 2 candidates (2 passed)
- Thai: 1 candidate (1 passed)

- Italian: 1 candidate (results pending)

AOC INTERPRETER PROGRAM

Interpreter Coordinator Search
Chris reported that there were 13 applicants and of those 13, nine met the minimum qualifications. Four of the applicants were selected for an interview, but two withdrew. A second interview is being conducted at the Temple of Justice next week.

Interpreter Funding and LEP/LAP Update
Chris and a small AOC committee plan to review and evaluate the 18 Interpreter Funding Applications (14 represented multiple court collaborations) during the week of December 3. Chris' goal is to notify successful courts by December 14. Given some of the statistical data resulting from the AOC's survey earlier this year, Chris expects one of the higher weighted criteria in the evaluation will be the extent to which funding will encourage greater use of available, certified interpreters.

Judge's Benchbook
Judge Mamiya commented on the need for a judge's benchbook that sets the standard for using court interpreters. Jeff suggested that the Judicial Reference Guide be revised (including use of ASL interpreters) and elevated to a benchbook. AOC staff will research what this would involve for staffing and resources. In the meantime, Tina will e-mail the Consortium listserv to request benchbook models from other member states. She will forward the results to Judge Mamiya, who has offered to work on the first phase of this project.

Commissioner Rockwood suggested we create and distribute a one page, laminated sheet (similar to a bench card) to judges that includes the following: Interpreter's Oath, Canons, Code of Conduct.

Reciprocity
The Commission approved AOC staff to research and evaluate the Oregon Certified Interpreter program (Idaho will be evaluated later) to determine how closely Oregon interpreter certification matches certification in Washington. If a close enough match exists, the Commission may be interested in approving reciprocity with Oregon to permit certified Oregon interpreters to work in Washington. The results of AOC's research will be presented at either the January conference call or the Commission's next formal meeting in March. At this time, Washington is the only Consortium state that does not recognize some form of reciprocity with other Consortium states. Steve inquired about reciprocity with Canada. Ann stated that they only have certification for translation.

In addition, the Commission voted to recognize federal certification in Spanish interpreters in an effort to increase the available pool of interpreters. The Commission was also willing to recognize federal certification in other languages,

but federal certification is presently limited to Spanish, Haitian Creole, and Navajo.

Khmer Exam
Tina sent an e-mail to the Consortium listerv asking who would be willing to collaborate with Washington in developing a Khmer test. Only three states responded to the request (Minnesota, New Jersey, and Nebraska), noting that Khmer was not a priority language at this time. However, Minnesota noted that Massachusetts listed Khmer as their top priority language on the Professional Issues Survey that was done in 2006. It was noted that we may want to contact Massachusetts in the future and possibly use extra Court Services monies to help pay for the exam, especially if Massachusetts is interested.

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. Grant funding will be formalized once the 2008 Grant budget is finalized.

OTHER BUSINESS

GR 11.3 Telephonic Interpretation
There was some discussion about how GR 11.3 might be revised to permit other forms of offsite interpreting (video-conferencing, web-based conferencing, etc.).

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled as a conference call for Friday, January 25, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.