**GR 11**

**~~Court Interpreters~~ Interpreting and Language Access**

The use of qualified interpreters is authorized in judicial proceedings involving hearing impaired or non-English-speaking individuals and courts are authorized to provide vital information necessary to access judicial proceedings in languages other than English.

**GR 11.1**

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ~~INTERPRETER COMMISSION~~ INTERPRETER AND LANGUAGE ACCESS COMMISSION**

**(a) Purpose and Scope**. This rule establishes the Interpreter and Language Access Commission (Commission) and prescribes the conditions of its activities. This rule does not modify or duplicate the statutory process directing the Court Interpreter Program as it is administered by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) (chapter 2.43 RCW). The ~~Interpreter~~ Commission will develop policies for the Interpreter Program and the Program Policy Manual, published on the Washington Court's website at www.courts.wa.gov, which shall constitute the official version of policies governing the Court Interpreter Program. The Commission shall establish and promulgate guidelines on interpreting, translation, and language access matters affecting individuals who are Limited English-proficient or who use a signed language.

**(b) Jurisdiction and Powers**. Every interpreter serving in a legal proceeding must comply with GR 11.2, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Judiciary Interpreters, and is subject to the rules and regulations specified in the Court Interpreter Disciplinary Policy Manual. The Commission shall establish ~~three~~ four committees to fulfill ongoing functions related to language access issues, discipline, and judicial/court administration education. Each committee shall consist of at least three Commission members and one member shall be identified as the chair.

(1) The Issues Committee is assigned issues, complaints, and/or requests from or about interpreters and interpreting for review and response. If the situation cannot be resolved at the Issues Committee level, the matter will be submitted by written referral to the Disciplinary Committee.

~~(2)~~ The Issues Committee will also address issues, complaints, and/or requests regarding access to interpreter services in the courts and may communicate with individual courts in an effort to assist in complying with language access directives required by law.

~~(3)~~ (2) The Disciplinary Committee may sanction any interpreter serving in a legal proceeding for a violation of GR 11.2, the Code of Professional Responsibility for Judiciary Interpreters, and has the authority to decertify or deny credentials to interpreters based on the disciplinary procedures for: (a) violations of continuing education/court hour requirements, (b) failure to comply with Code of Professional Responsibility for Judiciary Interpreters (GR 11.2) or professional standards, or (c) violations of law that may interfere with their duties as an interpreter in a legal proceeding. The Disciplinary Committee will decide on appeal any issues submitted by the Issues Committee.

~~(4)~~ (3) The Judicial and Court Administration Education Committee shall provide ongoing opportunities for training and resources to judicial officers, court administrators, and court staff related to court interpretation improvement.

(4) The Translation Committee shall provide guidelines to courts on matters involving written documents of a legal nature or which is related to accessing the court through textual means, whether digital or otherwise.

(c) Establishment. The Supreme Court shall appoint no more than ~~15~~ 20 members to the ~~Interpreter~~ Commission and shall designate the chair and co-chair of the Commission. The Commission shall include representatives from the following areas of expertise: judicial officers from the appellate and each trial court level (3), spoken language interpreter (2), sign language interpreter (1), certified deaf interpreter representative (1), court administrator (1), attorney (1), public member (2), representative from ethnic organization (1), an AOC representative (1), deaf community representative (1), translator or translation services representative (1) who shall hold a certified interpreting credential from the AOC and be a practicing professional translator, and other representatives as need. The term for a member of the Commission shall be three years. Members are eligible to serve a subsequent 3-year term. Members shall serve on at least one committee and committees may be supplemented by ad hoc professionals as designated by the chair. Ad hoc members may not serve as the chair of a committee.

(d)-(g) [Unchanged.]