

INTERPRETER COMMISSION
Conference Call
MEETING SUMMARY
October 19, 2007

Members Present: Justice Susan Owens, Leticia Camacho, Emma Garkavi, Ann Macfarlane, Frank Maiocco, Judge Ron Mamiya, Steve Muzik, and Virginia Rockwood

Members Absent: Jeff Hall, Lourdes Portello Salazar, and Judge Dennis Yule

AOC Staff: Paula Odegaard, Karina Pugachenok, and Chris Ruhl

AOC Staff Absent: Tina Williamson

GENERAL BUSINESS

Welcome

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

Meeting Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and **passed** to approve the September 14, 2007, meeting minutes.

Future Commission Meetings

The Significant Dates schedule was reviewed. Chris noted that the next six-to-12 months will be a push for the Interpreter Program. Chris would like to continue to meet every two months. Members would like to have four scheduled in-person meetings with the option for additional conference calls if needed. Members agreed to meet on the following dates and times:

January 25, 2008	Conference Call	12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
March 14, 2008	Puget Sound Skill Center	11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
June 20, 2008	Seattle Municipal Court	12:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
September 12, 2008	AOC SeaTac Kilroy	1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Membership

Appointment of a public member to succeed Ann McFarlane was discussed. Nominations and letters of interest should be directed to Chris Ruhl. Mafe Rajul is interested in becoming a member. Chris will post the announcement to the Website and send a notification to the ListServs. Applications will be reviewed by the Commission at its November 30 meeting. November 21, 2007, will be the deadline for applications.

Members discussed the possibility of appointing an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter representative to the Commission. Such an addition would require an amendment of GR 11.1(c). Members agreed that creation of an ASL liaison would be a better route. A liaison would attend Commission meetings and keep the lines of communication open.

Motion: A motion was made, seconded, and **passed** to ask the Washington State Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (WSRID) to nominate one of their members as liaison to the Interpreter Commission.

Ann Macfarlane agreed to facilitate communication with WSRID and appointment of an ASL interpreter liaison.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Issues Committee

Steve Muzik noted the committee has not met.

Discipline Committee

Nothing to report.

Judicial Education and Court Manager Education Committee

Tina and Karina staffed the Interpreter Resource Table at the Fall Judicial Conference in Vancouver, Washington. Chris reported on recent, current, and future interpreter-related presentations at judicial and court manager conferences and training sessions.

Steve expressed appreciation to AOC for the presentations. Chris commented that Tina did a good job on the Resource Table—she has a good sense for visuals and graphics.

INTERPRETER COMMISSION/PATTERN FORMS COMMITTEE

Karina reported that the pattern form languages that need translation are being identified. Chris noted that there is money set aside from the LAP funding for forms translation, and that he has given the go-ahead for translation of vulnerable adult pattern forms. The list of other forms to be translated has yet to be finalized depending on the cost of translating the vulnerable adult forms.

It was noted that forms translation can be very expensive; in addition, forms change often, and that can also add to the expense. Merrie Gough sends the updated translated forms to judges. A member noted that it is difficult to distribute updated forms to all parties. Whose job is it to make sure forms are

updated in the courtrooms? Ron suggested adding a “revised date” on the bottom of each form.

A suggestion was also made to circulate to trial court administrators a list of which forms will be translated into which languages. This may help trial court staff avoid the cost of having local interpreters translate those forms.

TESTING and TRAINING

Chris reported that 71 people took the oral exam. Results of the exam will be announced at the next meeting if AOC receives them by then.

Leticia Camacho asked how the courts and public are notified when interpreters become newly certified or registered. Chris stated that if there is not currently a process in place for such notification, then AOC will create one. He will discuss with Tina and report to the Commission at the next meeting.

AOC INTERPRETER PROGRAM

Interpreter Coordinator Search

Chris reported that the Senior Court Program Analyst – Interpreter Coordinator job opening closes November 16.

Interpreter Funding and LEP/LAP Update

Karina reported that three more interpreter funding applications have been received. The deadline for the funding application is October 31. There will be an internal committee at AOC to review the LAP applications.

Reciprocity

Discussions of reciprocity and strategic planning were tabled until the November 30 Commission meeting.

Khmer Exam

Members discussed the Khmer test. It was noted that:

1. Ron Mamiya reported that there are two ways to develop (i.e., pay for) a certification test: (a) The Consortium believes it is a priority test and should be developed; or (b) One or more member states agree to pay for it. For Khmer, (b) appears to be the only option.
2. It was agreed that AOC should send a notice to Consortium states asking who would be willing to partner with Washington in developing a Khmer test. The cost to develop the abbreviated test is around \$10,000.
3. Karina briefly reviewed the difference between an abbreviated and a full test. The full test cost is \$25,000. The abbreviated test would cost \$10,000. California has an existing test, but use of it is controversial

because it is not a Consortium test. Ron noted that there are one or two states that are interested in developing a Khmer test.

Chris will have Tina send an e-mail to the Consortium inquiring about other states' interest in partnering with Washington to create the Khmer exam.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for November 30, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the AOC SeaTac Kilroy Office.