

# Maryland Interpreter



*The Maryland Court Interpreter Program is committed to providing the Maryland Judiciary with highly qualified and trained interpreters to ensure equal access to justice for all limited English proficiency individuals who seek it.*

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## Maryland Court Interpreter Program 2011

The Maryland Court Interpreter Program has had yet another productive and busy year. Below are some of the initiatives we have accomplished in 2011:

- ◇ We administered two introductory court interpreter workshops attended by 90 candidates.
- ◇ The following new languages were added to the Court Interpreter Registry: Burmese, Sinhalese, Pidgin English, Nepali, and Marathi.
- ◇ Sixty eight "eligible" interpreters in various languages were added to the Court Interpreter Registry in 2011.
- ◇ Interpreter certification exams were administered in Spanish, French, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Russian. Several interpreters became certified in Spanish, French, Haitian-Creole, Mandarin, and Russian.
- ◇ We conducted the following skills building workshops: Note-Taking for Court Interpreters, Skills Building for Spanish Interpreters, and Certification Exam Preparation Workshop (language neutral).
- ◇ In an effort to keep up-to-date with current issues in the field of legal translation and interpretation, the Court Interpreter Program staff attended the 52nd Annual ATA Conference in Boston in October, 2011.
- ◇ Program staff conducted several presentations at Circuit Court bench meetings in all eight circuits. The purpose of the presentation was to provide judges with information on the court interpreter profession and how to work effectively with court interpreters.

## News and Announcements

### *Spring 2012 Workshops and Testing Dates*

- 1-Day Introductory Workshop - March 10, 2012
- Written Exam (language neutral) - April 14, 2012
- Language Proficiency Interviews - April 24 - 27, 2012
- Two-day Orientation Workshop - May 18 and 19, 2012

Visit our site at [www.mdcourts.gov/interpreter/](http://www.mdcourts.gov/interpreter/) for more information and application

## What's in a Voice?

Although not the most essential interpreting tool, the interpreter's voice is a subtle factor that can affect the listener's perception of the speaker's statements and demeanor. A good interpreter makes an effort to interpret loudly and clearly to ensure his or her voice projects. An excellent interpreter, in addition to speaking clearly, will also convey the subtleties of the speaker's tone and inflection. Quite frequently, parties in the courtroom become irritated, uncertain, sad, aggressive, or timid. These feelings are expressed

through their words, body language, and voice. According to research, voice is responsible for conveying 38% of the meaning of a message. Often, it is the voice that gives away the speaker's true state of mind. The court interpreter should pay special attention to the speaker's voice and try to preserve the speaker's tone when interpreting. The interpreter should be careful to avoid the perception of mimicking or impersonating the speaker. The interpreter's ability to convey the tone of voice is especially important when interpreting at the

witness stand when emotions often run high. An otherwise skillful interpreter risks leaving a bad impression on the court if his or her voice is dull, flat, and lacks energy. If the same interpreter makes an effort to speak loudly but sounds like a robot, he or she hasn't taken into consideration the speaker's emotional undertone or demeanor. Thus, the interpreter focuses all attention on one aspect of communication and, as a result, the overall quality of the interpretation is undermined. Your voice is a powerful tool and you should use it to your advantage.

## What a Court Interpreter Should Do If...

We continue our series of articles about various situations interpreters encounter when interpreting in the court. In the previous issue, we asked you to provide responses on how you, as a court interpreter, would handle the following situation:

*You completed your assignment in the courtroom, signed out with the court staff, and were leaving the building. Outside the courthouse, you were approached by the witness for whom you were interpreting earlier in the courtroom. She was an old lady who looked very nervous and lost. Her attorney was no longer with her. It was a hot day outside. The witness indicated she was not feeling well and politely*

*inquired if you could give her a ride in your car to the nearest metro station. What do you do?*

Congratulations to **Lourdes Cordero**, who had the best answer:

*"I would find courthouse staff or police to help her out and leave."*

It is important for court interpreters to remain neutral in the courtroom or outside the courtroom. However, in case of an emergency, when someone is in need of assistance, court interpreters should act accordingly and try their best to assist without compromising the Canons of the Code of Conduct and Ethics for Court Interpreters.

Thank you all for submitting

your responses. The following happened to one of our interpreters during a routine court hearing, which usually does not involve difficult terminology. He wasn't sure how to proceed and asked our office for advice.

*You arrived for your court assignment at the courthouse and realized that you left your electronic dictionary at home. You are not worried about it since you consider yourself an experienced interpreter who rarely needs to look up a word in the dictionary. Several minutes into the hearing, you encounter a word that you never heard before. What do you do?*

Please send your responses to: [Ksenia.Boitsova@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Ksenia.Boitsova@mdcourts.gov)

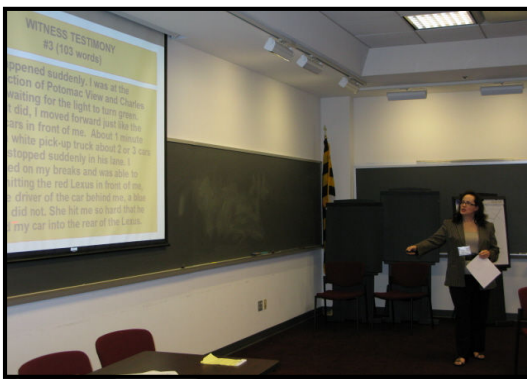
## Workshops and Examinations



*Court Interpreter Written Exam, October 22, 2011*



*Group Practice during the Note-Taking Workshop, 2011*



*Above: Presentation on court procedures by Court Interpreter Specialist Lorena Sevilla Somoza during the 2-day Orientation for new interpreters, 2011*



*Instructor James Plunkett of the DC Superior Court chatting with a student, Note-Taking Workshop 2011*



*Left: Certified Russian interpreter Dina Hennessey leads the study of the Casey Anthony trial, 2011*

## Read this Newsletter and..

*...you will receive a tuition waiver to attend any of the upcoming Maryland Court Interpreter Program workshops of your choice. Here is what you need to do in order to win. You will need to count how many times the word “interpreter” appears in this issue. The first person who will respond with the correct the number will receive a tuition waiver for one class. Enjoy reading the Newsletter and don’t forget to count the word “interpreter”. Send your responses to [Debra.Kaminski@mdcourts.gov](mailto:Debra.Kaminski@mdcourts.gov)*

## New “Certified” and “Eligible” Interpreters in 2011

The Court Interpreter Program would like to welcome new “Certified” and “Eligible” interpreters who became listed on the Court Interpreter Registry in 2011:

### Certified Interpreters:

<b>Suzanne Alvarez Przygoda</b> - Spanish	<b>Laura Granada-Valencia</b> - Spanish
<b>Andrea Grynberg</b> - Spanish	<b>Steven Lagutin</b> - Russian
<b>Maria McFadden</b> - Spanish	

### Eligible Interpreters (*in alphabetical order*):

<b>Balcha, Brook</b> - Amharic	<b>Kim, Sihui</b> - Korean, Japanese
<b>Beltran, Eduardo</b> - Spanish	<b>Legesse, Selamawit</b> - Amharic
<b>Benningfield, Llomil</b> - Spanish	<b>Li, Xiaoyan</b> - Mandarin
<b>Bilchik, Leslie</b> - Spanish	<b>Medina, Maria</b> - Spanish
<b>Burke, Elisa</b> - Spanish	<b>Mohammed, Ehab</b> - Arabic
<b>Chaudhry, Halim</b> - Punjabi, Urdu	<b>Ndri, Florence</b> - French
<b>Chauvin, Gabriela</b> - Spanish	<b>Nicolaidis, Maria</b> - Greek
<b>Clauser, Lorena</b> - Spanish	<b>Nuynt, Kyaw</b> - Burmese
<b>Edmondson, Souad</b> - Arabic	<b>Oli, Demeksa</b> - Amharic
<b>Feldman, Antonia</b> - Spanish	<b>Park, Hoe Son</b> - Korean
<b>Foroughi, Djamshid</b> - Farsi	<b>Pell-Stockman, Maria</b> - Spanish
<b>Fredin, Susana</b> - Spanish	<b>Rai, Ammar</b> - Punjabi, Urdu
<b>Galinsky, Edward</b> - Russian	<b>Santini, Bianca</b> - Portuguese
<b>Ganhewa, Asoka</b> - Sinhalese	<b>Thomas, Kaitlin</b> - Spanish
<b>Gebre-Ab, Goitom</b> - Amharic	<b>Zhang, Lingyi</b> - Mandarin
<b>Gnahoui-David, Constantine</b> - French	
<b>Gonzalez, Xiomara</b> - Spanish	
<b>Guo, Jia</b> - Mandarin	
<b>Ignacio, Emilia</b> - Spanish	
<b>Hernandez, Guillermo</b> - Spanish	
<b>Kawasaki, Tania</b> - Korean, Laotian	
<b>Martinez, Norberto</b> - Spanish	

#### Newsletter

**Maryland Court Interpreter Program  
Administrative Office of the Courts**

Please write to:

Ksenia Boitsova

Court Interpreter Program

Administrator

*The Maryland Interpreter*

Maryland Court Interpreter Program

2001-D Commerce Park Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone: 410-260-3569

Fax: 410-260-3570

You can find our newsletter at: