

Arizona Supreme Court  
Court Interpreters Funding Committee Meeting  
March 19, 2003  
Superior Court in Maricopa County  
Cholla Room, Juvenile Court Facility  
1810 South Lewis Drive  
Mesa, Arizona

In Attendance:

Judge Silvia Arellano  
Kathy Barrett  
Judge Margarita Bernal by telephone  
Judge Fran Cota  
Jayson Meline  
Marian Yim by telephone  
Donna Whitman by telephone  
Mark Stodola for Judge Arkfeld  
Ted Wilson

Welcome and introductions

Judge Arellano opened the meeting and introduced individuals who were in attendance. Marian Yim, Judge Bernal and Donna Whitman participated by telephone. Mark Stodola, Deputy Administrator at the Tempe Municipal Court attended on behalf of Judge Arkfeld. Judge Arellano indicated that she might not be available for the entire meeting because of a pending hearing.

The minutes of the February 28, 2003 meeting were approved.

Ted Wilson reported that Judge Arellano was unavailable for the March 12th meeting of the Arizona Judicial Council and that Marian Yim was scheduled to make a presentation of this committee's activities. However, the AJC agenda was running about 2 hours behind so it was decided to remove this item from the agenda. The consensus was to request that this committee's report be provided at the next AJC meeting. The date of the next AJC meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2003.

Ted Wilson and Donna Whitman reported on their meeting with Robert Joe Lee, Supervisor of the Court Interpreting, Legal Translating and Bilingual Services Section for the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts and Wanda Romberger, Manager, Court Interpreter Services in the research division of the National Center for State Courts. The meeting was to allow Donna and Ted to get information that might benefit this committee in developing court interpreter funding. Robert and Wanda relayed experiences from Florida and New Jersey. Both states initially funded their interpreter programs through state general revenues with some portion of the total expenses paid by interpreters for training and testing. They also provided information about other states

that have primarily used general funds for interpreter programs but said that a couple of states have been successful in getting grants. One example is the state of Wisconsin's ability to secure a grant through the Office of Refugee Services, Department of Workforce Development.

#### Action Items:

In light of the generally limited availability of grant funds, the committee discussed the idea of separating the three general areas of funding needs. Rather than look for a grant source for entire program the committee feels that by separating grant needs into the areas of 1) curriculum development and training; 2) testing, to include securing tests and administering them; and 3) interpreter certification administration, will allow a gradual approach to implementing an interpreter program, with a greater potential for success. It should be easier to get funds in these smaller increments since organizations that are in a position to fund the aggregate program have not been uncovered in research to date.

Training Sources. Jason Meline reported that he had done a nation-wide community college search of interpreter classes. He indicated that most schools offer interpreter classes through extended learning and most usually award a certification of completion. He will provide material on curricula that he was able to obtain. He also mentioned that the interpreter programs offered at UC Davis, UC San Francisco and UC Riverside are slowly dying because of lack of students. The belief is that the market for interpreters in California is becoming saturated.

Donna Whitman reported that Dr. Gonzalez is working on an interpreter component as part of the for the University's general curriculum. Donna also reported that the Arizona Court Interpreters Association is willing to help local schools with curriculum development.

#### Grant Proposal Discussion

The committee discussed the three separate funding areas. As mentioned earlier these are: 1) training, 2) testing, and 3) certification program administration. They also reviewed various funding sources including SJI grants, and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety

The committee agreed to start the process of developing and submitting a grant request to the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. The funds, if approved with be used for curriculum development and training

Jayson and Donna will start to work on an interpreter workshop curriculum. This curriculum will include material on interpreter case law, ethics, courtroom protocol and due process.

The next meeting was tentatively set for Monday, April 21, 2003. Meeting adjourned.