

# COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**March 4, 2022**

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

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**Present:** Judge Don Taylor; Ms. Laurie Allen; Mr. Juan Carlos Cordova; Mr. Alfred Gonzalez; Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman; Judge Anna Huberman; Ms. Kathy Schaben; Ms. Shifa Alkhatib; Ms. Xiomara Smith

**Telephonic:** None

**Absent/Excused:** Judge Catherine Woods; Judge Danielle Viola.

**Presenters/Guests:** None

**Administrative Office of the Courts:** Ms. Catherine Clarich, Mr. David Svoboda, Mr. Craig Washburn, Ms. Kelly Gray

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## I. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The March 4, 2022 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee was called to order by the Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, at 12:01 p.m. The Chair made statements on the loss of Judge Rosa Mroz, a founding member of the committee and a sitting member of the judicial branch. The Chair introduced and welcomed new members Xiomara Smith and Shifa Alkhatib to the Committee. The Chair asked for Committee member roll call and introductions of staff.

### B. Approval of the November 19, 2021 Minutes

The draft minutes from the November 19, 2021 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee were presented for approval. The Chair called for any omissions or corrections to the minutes; there were none.

- Motion was made by Kathy Schaben to approve the November 19, 2021 minutes of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee. Seconded by Laurie Allen. Motion passed unanimously.

## **II. REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **A. ACICP Update**

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as AOC Language Access Coordinator, presented updates on the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program. A full course of exams was administered since the last meeting of the committee. The Pima Community College (PCC) exams were administered in December. This sitting has the highest pass rate of the PCC administrations.

The winter administration of the English written exam and Oral proficiency interviews (OPIs) were held in January of 2022. This sitting of the written exam reflected a lower pass rate than is standard for this examination, although the staff pass rate was higher than the average. The prep seminar for these exams was held in December of 2021. The pass rate of those who took the prep seminar exceeded the overall pass rate for this administration. Performance on the OPIs was much higher than the average for this administration.

The Oral Court Interpreter exam was administered in November 2021 and results were reported to candidates in February 2022. There were many candidates that cancelled or did not appear for their exams this administration. The pass rate has levelled out in recent administrations and currently sits slightly below the national average. The prep seminar for this exam was held in September of 2021. Benefits of continuing the seminar are evident as participants perform better on the oral exam than those who do not attend the seminars; however interest is waning. Future prep seminars might be more single modal based.

Future dates for the upcoming exams and seminars were presented to the committee. ACICP staff will be presenting workshops as part of the Arizona Courts Association conference. Superior Court for Maricopa County has raised concerns about staffing levels for OPI administration and may require assistance with proctoring in future offerings. The members of the committee continued to support OPIs being held in court settings. Staff will work with other courts to help in administering future sittings of the OPI to reduce reliance on the Maricopa Superior Court.

### **B. Pipeline Actions Workgroup**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as workgroup staff, presented the updates from the Interpreter Pipeline Action Workgroup. The workgroup held a meeting on March 3, 2022. PCC and ACICP have agreed to continue their partnership. A new agreement is being drafted for this purpose.

The Academies at South Mountain are developing a program for non-attorney careers in the legal field, which includes court interpreters. The school is developing an interpreter curriculum for its Spanish-speaking students.

The University of Arizona Bachelors program has contacted ACICP to discuss options for improving student preparation for credentialing and court interpreting. The National Center for State Courts is interested in creating modules for a possible national curriculum developed here in Arizona. Staff is exploring funding for this work through NCSC and the State Justice Institute (SJI).

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS) held its virtual career fair for its graduate level program. Arizona Courts were represented through the AOC, with local courts' current interpreter recruitments shared with participating students. This program is renowned for its production of high-quality interpreters. Internship programs with the school was a focus point to drive employment of these interpreters. Maricopa County has received authorization to restart their interpreter internship program. This has also provided the courts in Arizona with access to posting their open recruitments with the Career Services at MIIS.

Motion was made by Jude Anna Huberman to support pursuing grant funding from SJI in partnership with National Center for State Courts and the University of Arizona for curriculum development for court interpreters. The motion was seconded by Juan Pablo Guzman. The motion passed without opposition.

### **C. Continuing Education Requirements**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as staff to the Credentialing Streamlining Workgroup, updated the committee on the codification and implementation of the proposal for continuing education requirements for court interpreters. A draft of the purposed code has been circulated among the workgroup as well as professional associations. Professional associations had very positive feedback on the proposed code section. The proposal will then be presented to the relevant standing committees of the Supreme Court.

### **D. 2022 Court Interpreter Coordinator Summit**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as Committee staff presented on the upcoming Summit. This event has been held annually over the last 10 years and may be able to move back to an in-person format this year depending on the state of the global health emergency. The summit is currently scheduled in mid-October.

Motion to establish a Summit Planning Workgroup with Hon. Juan Pablo Guzman as chair of the workgroup was made Kathy Schaben. The motion was seconded by Juan Carlos Cordova. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **III. CALL TO PUBLIC**

#### **A. Good of the Order/Call to the Public**

A call to the public for any comments. No response was made to the call.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **A. Adjourn**

- Judge Taylor, as Chair of the Committee, adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

### **V. NEXT COMMITTEE DATE**

August 12, 2022  
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting