

COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 8, 2025

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

Virtual Meeting

Present: Judge Don Taylor; Shifa Alkhatib; Laurie Allen; Elizabeth Carmona Zimmer; Ruth Cruz; Hon. Juan Pablo Guzman; Estevan Beltran (proxy for Juan Carlos Cordova); Kathy Schaben; Sarha Beltran (proxy for Judge Catherine Woods).

Telephonic: None.

Absent/Excused: Judge Joshua Rogers; Judge Jennifer Hernandez Sama.

Presenters/Guests: None.

Administrative Office of the Courts: Michael Marting; Kelly Gray; David Svoboda

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The August 2025 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee was called to order by the Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, at 12:00 p.m.

B. Approval of the March 2025 Minutes

The draft minutes from the March 7, 2025, 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 the Kathy Schaben to approve the March 7, 2025, minutes of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee. Seconded by Honorable Juan Pablo Guzman. Motion passed unanimously.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. DOJ Memo Re: Implementation of EO 14224

Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, presented the recent memo from DOJ regarding the implementation of Executive Order 14224.

It is apparent the Department of Justice will not be enforcing language access requirements of Title VI as has been done in the past. However, the order does not appear to alter what courts are required to do. Title VI remains the law.

David Svoboda, Court Access and Statistics Unit Manager, discussed the potential impact of EO 14224 regarding the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP).

Going forward, the messaging to the courts about language access compliance may need to be modified considering the order. Courts will also need to monitor the impact of changes to how disparate impact claims are handled going forward. Ultimately, the courts will comply with the law.

B. ACICP Updates

David Svoboda, Court Access and Statistics Unit Manager, presented updates on the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP).

For the July 2025 sitting of the English Written Exam, 48 tests were administered and for the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), 31 tests were administered. The results are still pending for both exams, but Mr. Svoboda will report on this administration in the next meeting.

For the Spring April 2025 sitting of the Oral Exam, 24 exams administered. Ten (10) testers were staff with three (3) earning a Tier 3 credential. The overall pass rate was 58.3% (14 of the 24 administered) and eleven (11) new credentials were earned: eight (8) Tier 3 and three (3) Tier 2. 27.3% of those who earned new credentials earned in April 2025 attended the prep seminar. The overall pass rate for prep class attendees was 75%

A total of 762 credentials have been issued to date to a total of 529 individuals.

Lastly, the database of approved providers and activities to assist administering interpreter CEU requirements is in production. While there is still some testing to resolve, the database provides a web-based directory of

approved courses and vendors, plus the functionality for vendors and interpreters to apply for accreditation. Work continues on the development of functionality for multiple candidate credentials, site/account security features, and appearance enhancements for the Interpreter Registry.

C. Interpreter Education Workgroup Update

David Svoboda, Court Access and Statistics Unit Manager, reviewed the various trainings organized for interpreters as the Interpreter Education Workgroup chair, Judith Costello, was unable to attend the meeting.

The workgroup met last in May 2025, to discuss the current development of live trainings, as well as planning new trainings to develop. Work continues on the finalization of the automotive terminology live training. Moreover, development will soon start on a basic terminology course for interpreters and a course on vicarious trauma. Finally, the workgroup expects to start development on an advanced ethics training for court interpreters in the coming months.

The AOC has begun work converting the recorded trainings developed by the workgroup from the previous year into computer-based trainings. The existing recordings will be housed in the Supreme Court's online learning management system, TraCorp, and will contain knowledge checks to engage with interpreters. Work is expected to start in the coming months on the trainings currently developed and will continue for any future trainings.

D. 2025 Summit Planning Workgroup Update

Elizabeth Carmona Zimmer, Chair of the Summit Planning Workgroup, presented updates on the 2025 Summit.

The workgroup met a total of two (2) times to discuss Summit logistics and agenda. The members of the workgroup decided it was important to host a full-day Summit and that it be held in-person locally. The theme for the 2025 Summit will be *Language Access: Reinforcing Solutions and Consistency for the Future*, which will focus on increasing awareness in existing tools and the Strategic Agenda goals of promoting uniformity in the provision of language services.

The keynote address will be given by Judge Anna Huberman of the Country Meadows Justice Court, and former Presiding Justice of the Peace for the Maricopa County Justice Courts, and a federally certified interpreter. The plenary sessions will include AI-assisted translations in courts presented by Nora Sanchez of Orange County Superior Court, ACICP updates presented by

David Svoboda, and service delivery models for forms assistance presented by Judith Costello of Flagstaff Municipal Court. The workgroup is still preparing a speaker for the final plenary session on remote interpreting and managing resistance from the bench, and an alternative final plenary session on language access tools to be presented by AOC was developed as backup.

Additionally, there will be the four (4) following breakout sessions: interpreter obligations versus non-judicial staff expectations facilitated by Judge Villa, ASL issues facilitated by Cameo Hunsaker, LAP challenges facilitated by Grant Weitzel, and uniformity and consistency of services facilitated by Ramiro Alviar.

- Motion was made by Laurie Allen to approve the agenda for the 2025 Court Interpreter Coordinator Summit. Seconded by Shifa Alkhatib. Motion passed unanimously.

E. CEUs: Database of Approved Providers & Activities

Kelly Gray, Project Specialist III, gave an in-depth demonstration of the functionality of the database of approved providers and activities.

Pursuant to [ACJA § 7-301](#), interpreters credentialed by ACICP are required to complete 20 hours of approved continuing education, with 2 hours being specific to court interpreter ethics.

The intention of the database of approved providers and activities is to be a multifaceted tool for more than credentialed interpreters. Training providers can request accreditation for their listed activities, interpreters can request accreditation for the courses they take, and pre-approved activities and providers will be publicly available in the database. Moreover, the database search function allows users to find activities based on subject areas, delivery format, provider name, and courses that satisfy ethics requirements. Finally, the database will automate the accreditation request process and the publication of approved providers and activities, which is expected to result in considerable time savings for staff and more immediate availability of accreditation information for interpreters.

In the coming months, the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program will make an official announcement to both providers and interpreters that the database is in production and is available for use. Instructions will be sent out on how to both navigate the site, how to register as a provider, and how to submit accreditation requests.

III. CALL TO PUBLIC/GOOD OF THE ORDER

A. Call to the Public

A call was made to the public for any comments. There were none.

B. Good of the Order

A call was made for the Good of the Order. There were no comments.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

V. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

November 14, 2025

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

Virtual Meeting