

Court Application for Translation (CAT)

Orange County Superior Court

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Core Needs Drive Innovation

- Serve diverse population
- Top languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, Farsi
- Vendor translation service
 - Educational materials
 - Video scripts
- Limited Interpreter Resources
 - Hearing related interpretation
 - Dependency report translation



The CAT Solution

- Web application powered by a Large Language Model (LLM)
- Translation for top two languages:
 - Spanish
 - Vietnamese
- Training CAT
 - Glossaries- **Judicial Council of California, American Translators Association (ATA) Certified Translators, and Court Certified Interpreters**
 - Various Spanish and Vietnamese notices and forms

Implementation Approach

- Proof of Concept (POC) approved May 2024
- Phased approach:
 - Phase 1: Educational Materials and Video Scripts
 - Phase 2: Juvenile Reports
 - Phase 3: Other court documents
- October 2024 -July 2025
 - Completed quality check (QC) of translated documents

Phase 1.0: Quality Check- BLEU Metric

Under the Azure platform, BLEU score:

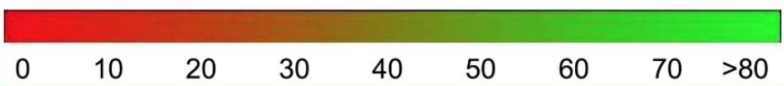
BiLingual Evaluation Understudy (BLEU) Scores

Outcomes:

- Spanish - 66.21
- Vietnamese - 63.71

BLEU Score	Interpretation
< 10	Almost useless
10 - 19	Hard to get the gist
20 - 29	The gist is clear, but has significant grammatical errors
30 - 40	Understandable to good translations
40 - 50	High quality translations
50 - 60	Very high quality, adequate, and fluent translations
> 60	Quality often better than human

The following color gradient can be used as a general scale [interpretation of the BLEU score](#):



Phase 1.1: Overview Metric

Rouge (BLEU-Equivalent):

LLM Metric

Human-in-the-loop
Metric



**Translation
Score**

Phase 1.1: Quality Check – LLM Metric

400 translated items evaluated by a Large Language Model (LLM), using official JCC translations reference standard.

Translations assigned score 1 to 5:

Score	Definition
5	Perfect or equivalent match to reference (same meaning, style, and formality)
4	Very close to reference (minor differences)
3	Good overall quality (some differences, but generally equivalent)
2	Weak match (significant differences in style, terminology, or accuracy)
1	Very poor quality (major errors, different meaning, or much lower quality)

Outcome: For Spanish, the LLM achieved an average score of 3.85, and Azure scored a 3.58.

Phase 1.1: “Human-In-The-Loop” Quality Check


Certified ATA Spanish translator blind comparison between the LLM and Azure’s translation model. Translation scored on a 1–5 scale noted below:


Score	Definition
5	Fluent and Natural
4	Mostly Fluent
3	Understandable but Non-Native
2	Hard to Follow
1	Incoherent

Outcome: Based on a paired statistical test, LLM rated higher than Azure.

- Mean LLM score: 3.75 ± 0.97
- Mean Azure score: 2.80 ± 1.16
- Mean difference: 0.95

Translation Request Form





Disclaimer

The Orange County Superior Court offers translation services through the Court Application for Translation (CAT), a machine translation application. Translation services are available for English-Spanish and English-Vietnamese language pairs. Any staff member, party, or attorney of record who requests translation of text or documents through CAT does so at their own risk. Any discrepancies or differences arising from the translation of content from English into another language are not binding and have no legal effect for compliance, enforcement, or any other purpose. Machine Translation is not recommended for the following: evidentiary and/or supporting documents for a court case, official documents such as court orders issued by the Court to be used in any other countries, documents for which an official translation is to be presented to a Judicial Officer during court hearings or trials, official correspondence from the Court to any other foreign/non-English speaking government agency.

All Fields Required *

<input type="text" value="Date of Request*"/> 9/3/2025	<input type="text" value="Case Type*"/> Juvenile Dependency
<input type="text" value="Due Date*"/> 9/3/2025	<input type="text" value="Type of Document*"/> Detention Report (JV)
<input type="text" value="Requesting Party*"/> Other	<input type="text" value="Number of Pages*"/> 11-20
<input type="text" value="Justice Center*"/> CJC	<input type="text" value="Target Audience*"/> Party
<input type="text" value="Translation Engine*"/> LLM Translation	<input type="text" value="Target Language*"/> Spanish

This content contains sensitive information.

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TRANSLATE

Sample Translation

How to Submit a Copy Request Script (Civil)

Slide 1
Welcome to How do I submit a copy request? Presented by Records and Exhibits Management of Orange County Superior Court.

Slide 2
This video will provide you with steps on how to:

- Request copies of documents
- Request certified copies of documents
- Review a previous copy purchase order

This online service is for Family Law and Civil cases only.

Slide 3
To get started, you will need:

- your case number
- payment information
- and have access to the court's website - occourts.org

Slide 4
On the Court's website, you will see an option labeled "Online Case Access". Click on this and you will be directed to a case access page.

Select the appropriate case type for your documents, by clicking "Access Now." Please note, if you do not select the correct case type, the Search on the next screen will not be able to find your case. Please review the Civil Case Access screen information disclaimer and select 'Accept Terms' to proceed.

Cómo presentar una solicitud de copia (Civil)


Diapositiva 1
Bienvenido a ¿Cómo puedo presentar una solicitud de copia? Presentado por el Departamento de Expedientes y Elementos Probatorios del Tribunal Superior del Condado de Orange.

Diapositiva 2
Este video le proporcionará pasos sobre cómo hacerlo.
Solicitar copias de documentos
Solicitar copias certificadas de documentos
Revisar una orden de compra anterior de copias
Este servicio en línea es solo para casos de derecho de familia y civil.

Diapositiva 3
Para comenzar, usted necesitará:
número de caso
información de pago
y tener acceso al sitio web del tribunal - occourts.org

Diapositiva 4
En el sitio web del tribunal, verá una opción etiquetada como "Acceso en línea a casos". Haga clic en esta y será dirigido a una página de acceso a casos.

Seleccione el tipo de caso apropiado para sus documentos haciendo clic en "Acceder ahora". Tenga en cuenta que si no selecciona el tipo de caso correcto, la búsqueda en la siguiente pantalla no podrá encontrar su caso. Por favor, revise la información de la pantalla de acceso a casos civiles y seleccione "Aceptar términos" para continuar.



Phase 1 Translations

Brochures

Public Information

Video Scripts

Phase 1 Status

Educational Materials

Lesson Learned:

- Constant training/refining of the application
- Grammatical fixes
- Loss of Context
- Enhancing performance for longer documents


Phase 2 – Juvenile Dependency Reports

Workflow

- Lengthy reports (75+ pages)
- Site translated- hours of interpreter time

Approach:

- April 2025 received approval to proceed
- Legal issues to be addressed
 - Disclaimer language
 - Retaining translated copy
- Developed stakeholder communication plan



**Phase 2 –
Implementation**

Development:

- Trained CAT with sample reports
- BLEU Metric and Translation QC

Initial pilot plan:

- Mid-September
- 1 courtroom
- Detention report only
- Stakeholder presentation

**Crisis Brings
Opportunity**

Interpreter Crisis

Implemented August 21, 2025



All dependency courtrooms

All reports

<h1>Phase 2 Status</h1>	<h2>Lessons learned:</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Page Limitation•Capacity Limit•Critical Testing•Staff training
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Phase 3 – Other Court Documents

 Translation- from language to English	 Opportunities
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QUESTIONS? **THANK YOU**