

# COURT INTERPRETER PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**June 29, 2018**

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

State Courts Building

1501 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Conference Room 230

**APPROVED**

**November 2, 2018**

---

**Present:** Judge Don Taylor; Ms. Margarita Bernal; Ms. Diane Culin; Judge Anna Huberman; Ms. Blanca Lucht (*proxy for Mr. Alfred Gonzalez*); Ms. Kathy Schaben; Judge Danielle Viola; Judge Catherine Woods.

**Telephonic:** Ms. Marty Torres (*proxy for Mr. Juan Pablo Guzman*).

**Absent/Excused:** Mr. Juan Carlos Cordova.

**Presenters/Guests:** Mr. Scott Loos.

**Administrative Office of the Courts:** Ms. Cathy Clarich; Ms. Kelly Gray; Mr. David Svoboda.

---

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

### **A. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The June 2018 meeting of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee was called to order by the Honorable Don Taylor, Chair, at 12:08 p.m. The Chair asked for Committee member roll call and introductions of staff and guests.

### **B. Approval of the February 2018 Minutes**

The draft minutes from the February 23, 2018 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 Ms. Margarita Bernal to approve the February 23, 2018 minutes of the Court Interpreter Program Advisory Committee. Seconded by Ms. Diane Culin. Motion passed unanimously.

## **II. REGULAR BUSINESS**

### **A. ACICP Update**

Mr. David Svoboda, in his role as the AOC Language Access Coordinator, provided an update on the Arizona Court Interpreter Credentialing Program (ACICP). The group discussed recent exam matters, statistical information, and the remainder of the 2018 exam calendar.

There are a few candidates who are making their fourth attempt on the English Written Exam in July 2018. Under Administrative Directive 2016-01, a candidate can take the same version of the exam only twice. As there are two (2) versions of the exam available, a candidate may only take the exam up to four (4) times in total. However, the National Center for State Courts is in the process of developing a third version of the exam, which will be available to candidates beginning in 2019 or 2020.

ACICP policy must be revised to accommodate this change, as well as to implement changes recommended by this body and address other administrative issues. ACICP policy changes will be brought to CIPAC for review and commentary in the coming months.

### **B. Oral Court Interpreter Exam Preparation Training Recap**

Ms. Kathy Schaben, in her role as a member of this committee, discussed the Oral Court Interpreter Exam Preparation Seminar in May 2018. The training was provided by Mr. Agustín Servin de la Mora of De La Mora Interpreter Training. In the training, participants practiced all modes of interpreting and received feedback from the trainer, who also reviewed interpreting theory, strategies for improving scores on the Oral Court Interpreter Exam, and provided additional resources for participants. The training was in-depth, unique, and valuable. This sentiment was also reflected in the results of the course evaluation by the participants.

- Ms. Diane Culin moved that this body support AOC conducting future trainings of this type twice per year (before each Oral Court Interpreter Exam session) and investigate available funding options. Seconded, and amended by, Ms. Kathy Schaben to include a letter from this body to Chief Justice Bales recommending future sessions of such training hosted by AOC. Ms. Culin accepted the amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

### **C. “Preference” Guidance Workgroup Update**

Ms. Kathy Schaben, in her role as a workgroup member, reviewed the progress of the A.O. 2016-02 Guidance Workgroup. The group met on May 18, 2018 (third meeting) and reviewed the draft document Mr. Svoboda created. The workgroup suggested edits to give more clear direction to courts on showing preference and honoring the spirit of the administrative order. She also reviewed a flowchart which was created to assist courts with showing preference.

It was suggested to add language to the flowchart to include out-of-state interpreters with certification equivalent to a Tier 3 or Tier 4, as well as an appendix which would define relevant terms. The workgroup intends to present a full draft document for review and recommendations in the November 2018 meeting of this body.

#### **D. Enforcement/Compliance with A.O. 2016-02**

Ms. Margarita Bernal, in her role as committee member, requested that this body discuss proactive options for approaching courts about enforcement of and compliance with A.O. 2016-02, including training, resources, reporting, and notice to courts.

Since early 2016, the AOC has actively provided notice, training, and resources to the courts regarding interpreter credentialing. Staff regularly speaks to judges, court staff, administrators, and interpreter coordinators in a variety of venues including committee meetings, judicial conferences, training sessions hosted by the AOC, professional associations, and AOC-sponsored training specific to language access coordinators across the state courts. Additionally, each court in Arizona is required to submit a Language Access Plan (LAP) to the AOC and courts participate in an annual Personnel Survey, which details interpreter positions throughout the state. Both items are reviewed by the AOC Language Access Coordinator.

It was agreed that AOC remind judges and managers of the approaching deadline and compliance with the order through continued attendance at the venues listed above. Furthermore, there was consensus that AOC should monitor compliance with A.O. 2016-02 through the Operational Review process and Language Access Plan template changes.

#### **E. OPI Scores and the Oral Court Interpreter Exam**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as Language Access Coordinator, presented data collected by ACICP staff regarding the correlation between passing scores on the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and performance on the Oral Court Interpreter Exam. He requested that the group consider revisions to the OPI policy in the credentialing program.

Due to the small sample size of the statistical study, there was consensus that additional data was needed before a policy recommendation could be made. However, candidates earning the lowest passing score on the OPI should be provided notice about their prospects for passing the Oral Court Interpreter Exam.

## **F. Language Access in the Courtroom Training with Justice Gould**

Ms. Kathy Schaben, in her role as training faculty, briefed the group on the "Language Access in the Courtroom" training with Justice Gould. Justice Gould, Kathy Schaben and David Svoboda provided trainings to all levels of court staff in Coconino and Gila counties and will be presenting to Santa Cruz county in August 2018.

The training includes examples and recommendations for using interpreters in the courtroom, a demonstration of the interpreting modes, exercises, as well as a review of court interpreter ethics and theory. The faculty also meets with participants in small groups to discuss the issues they face related to Language Access. The local Bar will be invited to the next session and it was suggested that the training could be adapted to present to attorney associations, as well. The faculty is always open to invitations.

## **G. Pima Community College Collaboration**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as Language Access Coordinator, presented information about a possible collaboration between Pima Community College (PCC) and ACICP.

PCC offers a degree and certificate in interpreting and translation. The program director, Dr. Jeff Gabbitas, approached ACICP with the idea of including the interpreter credentialing testing in the PCC curriculum. This would be beneficial to both ACICP and PCC as it encourages participation in the credentialing process, reduces barriers to students who wish to become credentialed, and provides ACICP with a pipeline of candidates who are training to become professional interpreters.

The AOC Executive Office has granted approval to explore the collaboration. Some minor administrative changes to the program may be necessary.

- Ms. Margarita Bernal moved to continue to explore collaborating with Pima Community College to incorporate ACICP testing in PCC curriculum for their interpreting and translation certificate and degree. Judge Anna Huberman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

## **H. 2018 Court Interpreter Coordinator Summit**

Mr. Svoboda, in his role as Language Access Coordinator, reminded the Committee that the annual Court Interpreter Coordinator Summit will be in August 2018 this year and requested input from the group for possible meeting agenda items.

Mr. Svoboda provided the group with possible agenda items including updates on ACICP and CIPAC, A.O. 2016-02 deadlines and related ramifications, the PCC collaboration, and information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II. The group made additional suggestions, including inviting certain justice partners, breakout sessions where rural and urban court participants are paired together to brainstorm and discuss specific topics, the guidance on "Preference", and skills-based interpreter training. Also, suggestions for increased networking opportunities were made, as well as holding future Summits in locations other than Phoenix.

### **III. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **A. Article for the Arizona State Bar**

Ms. Margarita Bernal, Arizona State Bar Representative, requested that Judge Taylor write a short article for an Arizona State Bar publication on ACICP, the Committee, etc. She explained that the piece could be informational in nature and tone. Judge Taylor agreed to draft the article.

### **IV. CALL TO PUBLIC AND ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Chair asked the Committee if there were any other matters to discuss and made a call to the public. There were no responses.

#### **B. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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

November 2, 2018  
12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
State Courts Building, Conference Room 230  
1501 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007