OJD/CLAS Ethics Webinar

Why are We Even Here?

Building up accuracy standards for judiciary interpreters

Presenter:
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NCJIT-S, USCCI, TxMLCI

Date: Thursday, August 11th

Time: 5:30—7:30 PDT

Location: Webex Webinar

Cost: $50.00

Continuing Education Credits:
Oregon—2 Ethics; see online registration for more details

Register Online

During this language-neutral interactive presentation we will look at some of the research-based taxonomies of interpreting errors as well as interpreting quality and see how those may apply to the work of interpreters both in and out of court. Participants will be invited to share their own experiences in order to develop a common understanding of accuracy when functional equivalents are needed while interpreting between asymmetrical legal systems. We will also explore how the ethical mandate for accuracy is linked to the LEP litigants' right to due process in criminal matters and civil rights-based language access laws in civil matters.

Learning Objectives: At the end of the session attendees will:

- Be familiar with some of the research conducted in the U.S. and Europe on interpreting accuracy and the quality of an interpreter's rendition.

- Be able to recognize and define how accuracy standards need to accommodate contextual factors that include the speaker, the listener, and the external circumstances of the interpreting event, as well as the interpreting modes required in each.

- Have an understanding of the skills needed to provide their best interpretation in every setting in order to comply with their ethical obligations towards their end users.

- Be able to recognize the legal framework for the judiciary interpreter's accuracy mandate in the professional code of ethics.

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Janis Palma is an English-Spanish interpreter and translator with over 40 years of experience. She became federally certified as a judiciary interpreter in 1981, became certified by NAJIT as an interpreter and translator in 2004, and is licensed by the State of Texas as a Master Court Interpreter as of 2017. She holds a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin in Spanish with a major in Latin American Literature and a minor in Art History, and an M.A. from the *Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto y el Caribe* in San Juan, with a combined major in Puerto Rican History and Literature. She started to volunteer for NAJIT in 1983, has been a NAJIT Life Member since 2006, a Board Member since 2020 and was elected Chair of the Board in 2021. She has also been teaching and training judiciary interpreters since 1986 and has presented papers at professional conference and published extensively on subjects related to judiciary interpreting. Ms. Palma has worked as an independent contractor for private attorneys, government agencies, state and federal courts, and worked as a staff interpreter for the U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico for 15 years, from where she retired in 2017. She now lives in San Antonio, Texas where she spends most of her time with her daughter, two grandchildren, and learning how to grow vegetables in her backyard.