



CHOOSE A CAREER THAT PUTS YOUR SECOND LANGUAGE FIRST!

Become A Court Interpreter
For The Superior Court, County of Los Angeles

Tagalog
한국어



Español
Tiếng Việt
中文

Now Accepting Applications!

Full and part-time

BECOMING A COURT INTERPRETER

1

Determine if your language is a ***certified*** or ***registered*** language.

Certified languages:

American Sign Language, Arabic, Armenian (Eastern), Armenian (Western), Cantonese, Farsi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Mandarin, Portuguese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

All other languages are considered registered languages.

2

To become a ***certified*** California Court Interpreter, you must:

- Pass the *bilingual interpreting exam*
- Pass the *written exam*
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a certified interpreter
- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within your first two-year compliance period

To become a ***registered*** California Court Interpreter, you must:

- Pass the *English oral proficiency exam*
- Pass the *written exam*
- Pass the *oral proficiency exam in the non-English language*
- Take the on-line course “Interpreter Orientation: Working in the California Courts”
- Submit an application to the Judicial Council to become a registered interpreter
- Attend a Judicial Council Code of Ethics Workshop within your first two-year compliance period

3

Apply to work as a Court Interpreter for The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles @ www.lacourt.org. Submit your application online!

TESTING INFORMATION

EXAM TYPE	REQUIRED FOR	TIMES OFFERED	COST
Written Exam	Certified, Registered	Year-round, by appointment	\$128
English Oral Proficiency Exam	Registered	Year-round, by appointment	\$164
Non-English Oral Proficiency Exam	Registered	Year-round, by appointment	\$164
Bilingual Interpreting Exam	Certified	Twice a year	\$332

All exams are administered by Prometric, which offers multiple testing sites.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Is it necessary to have a degree to be a court interpreter?

Although there are no minimum requirements to take the state exams, candidates are encouraged to take additional language classes and training in the modes of interpretation. Although not required, there are several colleges and universities throughout the state that offer introductory courses and certificate programs in interpretation.

Is special training recommended to become a court interpreter?

Yes. Specialized training is recommended. The level of expertise required for this profession is greater than the fluency level required for everyday bilingual conversation. The interpreter must be able to handle a wide array of terminology that may be presented in court, ranging from specialized legal and technical terminology to street slang and idioms. Most people do not have full command of all registers of both English and the foreign language required for court interpreting and need specialized training to acquire it.

For languages with no formal training available, the following self-study techniques are suggested: (1) expand your vocabulary, (2) develop your own glossaries, and (3) develop and practice interpreting techniques.

Suggested skills enhancing exercises are available to help you develop in the three modes of interpreting: (1) consecutive interpretation, (2) simultaneous interpretation, and (3) sight translation. These self-study techniques are also recommended even if formal training is available. You may discover more about self-study options at www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm.

What is the job market like for court interpreters?

The demand in Los Angeles County for certified and registered court interpreters is growing. With more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages, The Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles serves one of the most diverse populations in the world. It is estimated that 56.8% of the county population speaks a language other than English at home.

Is U.S. citizenship required to be employed as a court interpreter?

U.S. citizenship is not required to work for the courts, however a court interpreter must be able to prove that he or she can work legally in the United States (possess a valid permanent resident card, or work permit issued by the USCIS authorities).

ONLINE RESOURCES

California Judicial Branch: www.courts.ca.gov

Court Interpreters Program: www.courts.ca.gov/programs-interpreters.htm

Includes information and videos on: Overview of Career in Court Interpreting, Getting Started in Court Interpreting, Training Resources, Self-Study Exercises, Exam Preparation, What to Expect on Test Day, Exam Fees, Suggested Reading, Exam Registration, Interpreter Training Programs, FAQs, etc...

Los Angeles Superior Court: www.lacourt.org

Los Angeles Superior Court Jobs Page: www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lasc

CONTACTS

Questions about becoming a certified/registered Court Interpreter:

California Judicial Branch – Court Interpreters Program

CourtInterpreters@jud.ca.gov

Questions about employment with The Superior Court, County of Los Angeles:

Superior Court, County of Los Angeles – Recruitment & Staffing

mpenate@lacourt.org

1-213-633-0377

In a state where over 200 languages are spoken, there is a great need for qualified court interpreters. You will have the opportunity to experience California's cultural diversity firsthand and be part of a select group of specially trained professionals who have merged their language skills and ideals of public service into a rewarding career of court interpreting.