

July 17, 2025

Our new fiscal year officially kicked off on July 1, and what a start it's been! I think this month may set a record for the number of recognitions the team has received. It truly does my heart good to read all the wonderful things that come across my desk. These recognitions are a powerful testament not only to the incredible skill and dedication you bring every day, but also to the way we care for and support one another. Here's to continuing that momentum into the year ahead!

2025 Distinguished Judge Awards

The *Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community* and *Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System* awards were established to publicly recognize members of the judiciary for projects and exemplary accomplishments that enhance the vision of justice within our communities. These awards are designed to recognize any type of project or activity that has a positive impact on the administration of justice, is effective in addressing public needs and enhancing public trust and confidence in the justice system and will benefit present and future users of the Nebraska court system.

The *Distinguished Judge for Service to the Community* award is given to a trial court judge who has distinguished himself or herself through performance of service to the community on a volunteer or professional level. [Form attached.]

The *Distinguished Judge for Improvement of the Judicial System* award is given to a trial court judge who has distinguished himself or herself through contribution to the improvement of the judicial system, service as a trial judge, or promotion of judicial efficiency. [Form attached.]

Best practices for mediators working with interpreters

I only heard from 1 person! Please let me know your thoughts! As professional interpreters, your insights are invaluable in helping mediators work more effectively in multilingual settings. Please [email me](#) what you think mediators should understand about your role, challenges you face, or ways they can better support accurate and respectful communication. Your perspective will help strengthen collaboration and improve outcomes for everyone involved. I will incorporate your feedback into my October presentation. Thank you!

Contacting Language Access staff

When you need to reach out to the Language Access team, please contact only one staff member and give us time to respond before contacting someone else.

To help us manage our workload, please do not call us unless it's an urgent matter. We prefer that you text or email with questions or updates.

We appreciate your cooperation and your ongoing partnership!

Geographic Areas of Responsibility

Updated [map](#) which shows which Ops Team member is responsible for which counties.

Interpreter Certification Pathway

As a reminder, all interpreter partners need to be making progress every year on their journey to certification or provisional certification. What progress have you made? The calendar year is winding down, so here are some of your last opportunities:

- [Orientation](#) Thursday August 25th and Friday August 26th
- [Written Exam](#) September 19th (Dawson), 22nd (Sarpy), and 24th (Lancaster)
- [Oral Exam](#) October 20th (Lancaster) and 23rd (Sarpy)

To answer questions about the Interpreter Certification Pathway, join one of these 30-minute Zoom informational sessions:

- Wednesday, July 30th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, August 13th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, September 3rd at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, September 17th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, October 1st at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, October 15th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, November 5th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, November 19th at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
- Wednesday, December 3rd at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Lending Libraries

The lending libraries are up and running at offices in Douglas, Hall, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties! Contact a member of the Ops Team to check out the following items:

- ACEBO *The Interpreter's Edge, Generic Edition*
- ACEBO *Edge 21: Spanish/English Bundle*

Professional Resources

- [Foundations of ASL Court Interpreting](#)
- [English/Arabic Legal Glossary- California](#)
- [The Evolving Linguist Conference](#)
- [SCSI Nestor Wagner](#)- lecture and practice simultaneous recording at the end of lecture
- [NATI's Annual Conference: Bridging Languages with Excellence](#)
 - Augustin DeLaMora to present sessions on Simultaneous Interpretation and Ethics
 - Vladimir Bazan to present on Consecutive Interpretation
 - Other presenters of note:
 - Jeck Jerrard and Laura Garcia Heim, state and federally certified court interpreters
 - Ernest Niño Murcia state certified court and conference interpreter
 - Piet Koene, Professor of Spanish, Translation & Interpreting, state and federally certified court interpreter, and nationally certified medical interpreter
- FREE WEBINAR [Looking Forward: The Future of the Interpreting Profession](#)

Recognitions

- 🌟 **Yadu Sapkota's** statements are crisp and clean and the math is always accurate which makes the invoices easy and quick to process.- *Robin Baer, AOCP Administrative Assistant*
- 🌟 **Olivia Brockman** is a bright light in my day, always kind, friendly and responsive! - *Tricia A. Freeman Sarpy County Court Judge*

- ✚ Thank you, **Ashley Villanueva Enriquez**, for always being willing to go the extra mile. I truly appreciate your flexibility in covering last-minute schedule changes and your dedication in checking before leaving to ensure your services are no longer needed. Your commitment does not go unnoticed! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you, **Tara Trindle**, for your professionalism, you are a pleasure to work with... - *Olivia Brockman, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ I'd like to recognize **Amiel Armijo** for all her hard work and the incredible progress she's made in such a short time. I'm also very grateful to her for officially taking over District 6 last week. She's a great support and a true team player, always ready to lend a hand. Thanks to her, I can now fully focus on District 4. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Perla Alarcon-Flory** does a wonderful job! - *Cindy Carrigan, Clerk Magistrate*
- ✚ **Irma Watt** and **Maria Reutlinger**, thank you for assisting me in completing translations + proof-reading to better use our block times when mitigating was necessary. – *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Adrian, thank you for your **awesome team of interpreters**. - *Judge Brown, Douglas County Juvenile Court*
- ✚ Thank you, **Alex Perez** and **Caden Tait**, for always checking in with me when assignments are canceled to see if you can help in other counties. I also appreciate you keeping me informed of your availability for the upcoming weeks—it's incredibly helpful for scheduling. I truly appreciate your support and flexibility! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Al Villarreal**, thank you for your dedication to Douglas County and for always making us your top priority. Your availability and flexibility are truly appreciated. I'm grateful for all your support! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ I would like to recognize and thank **Sunkist Judson, Star Judson, Keak Kierkok, and Abukar Madimba** for their help in translating and recording the JV Probation TRACKS pamphlet. I truly appreciate your support and willingness to contribute to our program. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ We truly appreciate **all our interpreters**, thank you for everything you do! - *Mary Vlcek, Judge Schuchman's s Bailiff*
- ✚ I want to sincerely thank **Martha Brester** and **Carmen Novoa** for the outstanding work covering Midtown, North and South Probation. I truly appreciate your help with translations, your constant willingness to adapt to last-minute changes and challenges, and for always checking in with me during your free time to see if there are other assignments you can cover. Your support and dedication mean a great deal, thank you! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Franky MacGregor**, thank you so much for your help and support—even with very last-minute changes. Your flexibility and dedication help to keep our team running smoothly and ensure we provide the necessary services for our LEP individuals. I truly appreciate everything you do! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ **Manuel Olivo** is outstanding—always helpful, courteous, and punctual, and he shows up with a smile every time. We are truly grateful and happy to have him. - *Mary Vlcek Judge Schuchman's Bailiff*
- ✚ I want to recognize **Kelly Varguez** for her incredible willingness to step in and help—whether it's covering a hearing, responding to a last-minute call, or handling unexpected challenges. She's not

only a great interpreter but also a true team player. I'm especially grateful for her support in covering the office when I need to take time off. Thank you so much, Kelly. I might not say it often, but I truly appreciate you! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Coordinator*

✚ **Juana Diego** was present for a phone visit yesterday at 1pm. Always flexible! 😊 - *District 4A Alexis Cozad Specialized Probation Officer*

✚ **Kari Corkle** is an incredible support—any time I have a question or run into an issue, she's always available and ready to help. She's a great team player and an asset to our program. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

✚ **Sunkist Judson** provided interpretation services in both Karen and Burmese at the same hearing. He did great!! Judge Shearer said she wanted to sign for him twice to get double pay- lol. Does he like any treats or something? I really would like to treat him because he did so well and I'm sure it was annoying/difficult. - *Riley Barret, Judge Shearer's Bailiff*

✚ **Olivia Brockman** is not only an excellent interpreter but also a tremendous support to the team. She's always willing to help with questions about interpreting, translations, or scheduling whenever she can. Thank you, Oli, for all that you do! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

✚ Arabic interpreters **Tara Trindle** and **Amine El Fajri** did great work during our trial both are great interpreters, Tara is excellent! I just wanted to let you know she did an excellent job, and we appreciate them! - *Mike Bianchi defense attorney*

✚ I want to thank **all the interpreters** on our team for the incredible work you do. I know I don't say it often enough, but please know how much I truly appreciate you. From handling last-minute assignments to adapting to sudden schedule changes—your dedication does not go unnoticed. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your support! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*

✚ **Irma Watt** provided excellent interpretation services today for Sintia and me, 4PM until 4:47pm. - *Jennifer Uldrich, D10 Specialized Juvenile Probation Officer*

✚ **Sunkist Judson's** statements are always crisp and legible. All of his supporting documentation is in order and labeled/numbered appropriately. Through his efforts on the front end, the processing of his statements is extremely streamlined and fast ensuring he is paid on time. – *Robin Baer, AOC Administrative Assistant*

✚ **Manuel Olivo** is always striving to ensure his statements are accurate. Always willing to take feedback to improve for the next month. Manuel's statements have been spot on these last couple of months. They are easy to read, and his supporting documentation is clearly marked and numbered for efficiency. - *Robin Baer, AOC Administrative Assistant*

✚ I wanted to just give **Amiel Armijo** some major kudos. She always does such a great job but this morning I called her because I had 4 people in my office coming over from court and needed at least 2 Spanish interpreters immediately. Amiel was so patient and understanding, she never got frazzled or upset, she just calmly went through all of her options and got us what we needed. All in all, this is just how Amiel is. No matter how much we need, she always does everything she can to get it for us. I work in probation now but used to be a bailiff in county court and so I have seen the demand on interpreters from both probation and court and I cannot even begin to understand how she keeps it all on track and running so smoothly. And she makes it look so easy, even though I KNOW it is not. - *Denise A Bartolotta, Senior Secretary, District 9 Probation Office*

Did you know?

Language Access employees recently met with representative of the Nebraska Afghan Community Center. We learned there are approximately 7K-8K Afghans in Nebraska. Afghans refer to people and Afghani refers to currency!