

August 17, 2026

With school starting, we're closing the book on summer and opening a new chapter! If you're like me, this time of year can bring a little nostalgia—and what better time to take a look back at all we accomplished? Check out the FY25 Year in Review PowerPoint and enjoy the highlights from that year. And stay tuned for the FY26 Year in Review in next month's communication!

Upcoming State Holidays

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Labor Day, Monday September 7th

2026 NSBA Judicial Performance Evaluations

<https://www.nebar.com/?pg=nsbafeaturednews&blAction=showEntry&blogEntry=148714>

2027 Interpreter Certification Pathway Dates Are Here!

We're excited to announce the 2027 Nebraska Judicial Branch Interpreter Certification Pathway dates! If you know someone who is bilingual, passionate about language access, and interested in becoming a court and probation interpreter, now is a great time to share this opportunity. The 2027 pathway includes Orientation, Written and Oral Examinations, and Skill-Building Workshops, with opportunities offered throughout the year. Help us spread the word and encourage qualified candidates in your community to take the next step toward becoming a Nebraska court and probation interpreter! View the full 2027 schedule and learn more: [Interpreter Certification Pathway | Nebraska Judicial Branch](#)

JUSTICE Update

By adding 8 sites in Lincoln, now there's even more locations where you can access JUSTICE to look up case info to prepare for assignments and locate supporting documentation for remote appearances. Locations include:

- Ainsworth Public Library
- Beatrice Public Library
- Broken Bow Public Library
- Columbus Public Library
- Creighton University Klutznick Law Library
- Gering Public Library
- Hastings Public Library
- Kearney Public Library
- Lincoln/Anderson Library
- Lincoln/Bennett Martin Library
- Lincoln/Bethany Library
- Lincoln/Eiseley Library
- Lincoln/Gere Library
- Lincoln/South Library
- Lincoln/Wal Library
- Lincoln/Williams
- McCook Public Library
- Norfolk Public Library
- Ogallala Kathleen Lute Public Library
- Papillion Public Library
- Seward Public Library
- UNL Marvin & Virgin Schmid Law Library
- York Kilgore Memorial Library

Lao and Thai speaking individuals

The Nebraska Judicial Branch is currently seeking Lao and/or Thai speakers to join our team of court and probation interpreters in anticipation of a retirement. If you or someone you know is fluent in Lao and/or Thai and is interested in

serving the Nebraska state courts and probation offices, we encourage them to participate in our Interpreter Certification Pathway. This is an opportunity to play a vital role in ensuring meaningful access to justice for individuals with limited English proficiency. If you know of a potential interpreter, please ask them to contact me at Kathleen.Valle@nejudicial.gov, or feel free to send me their contact information so I can reach out with more information about the certification process.

Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The Court has approved the mileage reimbursement rate increase from \$0.725 to \$0.76 per mile, retroactive to July 1, 2026. Use the updated [Interpreter Statement](#).

New Video Series Highlights Work of Nebraska Probation Officers

The complete [Day in the Life Series](#) is now available for viewing and follows 4 probation officers:

- Day 1- Angela Behrens- District 4A
- Day 2- Scott Lord- District 2
- Day 3- Landrum Fleming- District 10
- Day 4- Becky Hoaglund- District 11

Professional Resources

- [Court Interpreter Memory Training](#)
- Free English and Spanish Idioms with Language Equivalent [Interpretrain's English and Spanish Idioms with Language Equivalents | Rise 360](#)
- Free Court Interpreter Exam Training [Free Court Interpreter Oral Exam Training: Over 700 Legal Phrases](#)
- Free English-Spanish Court Term Glossary <https://interpretrain.com/blogs/news/court-interpreter-glossary-for-english-and-spanish>
- Saturday 8/22, 9 AM- 12 PM (PDT) [When Communication Hiccups Have Nothing to Do with Language](#)
- Saturday 8/29, 9 AM- 12 PM (PDT) [The Moscow, Idaho Murders: Anatomy of an Investigation](#)

Recognitions

-  **Barre Hassan** you are AMAZING and we could not do our jobs without you. - *Myndee Hagan, Clerk Magistrate, Dawson County Court*
-  **Basit Naeem** was very thorough, professional and polite. We really appreciate his availability to finish the trial on such short notice! - *Michele Woods, Clerk Magistrate, Kimball County Court*
-  **Raul Escobar** was tremendous!!! Thank you so much! - *Joan Hansen, Ex Officio, Deuel County and District Courts*
-  **Amiel Armijo**, thank you for covering for the team when we are absent. Your willingness to pick up extra counties so your coworkers can have time away is so greatly appreciated! Your ability to jump in and figure out what is going on in different areas is incredible. Your speed and efficiency are unmatched. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
-  Thank you, **Kari Corkle and Adrian Hinojosa**, for all your help on revising and reworking the Calendar to make sure we had interpreter coverage. I appreciate and value your input and help. – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter coordinator*
-  Thank you, **Manuel Olivo**, for being flexible and accommodating to cover hearings. I appreciate your prompt responses and positive attitude. – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter coordinator*
-  I am so thankful for **Kari Corkle and Raul Escobar** today. Just so you know, Raul does an amazing job. - *Chantell Fear, District Court Bailiff, Dawson County*

Supreme Court Set to Visit North Central Nebraska during 2026 Annual Summer Tour, August 10-12

A three-day trip totaling over 600 miles and 16 Nebraska courthouses was on the agenda as the Nebraska Supreme Court prepares to embark on this year's Summer Tour, being held August 10-12. Each year, the Supreme Court dedicates several days to traveling to courthouses statewide to meet with judicial branch staff, tour courtrooms, and learn about Judicial Branch initiatives. During the courthouse tours, the Chief Justice and fellow justices met with various county board members, lawyers, and community leaders to thank them for their dedication to their local courts and the judicial system.

The tour kicked off on Monday, August 10 in Merrick County, before proceeding to Howard and Sherman Counties. The first day concluded in Custer County, with a special proclamation ceremony in honor of Trial Court Week. Day two saw visits to Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Valley, Greeley, and Wheeler Counties. On the return leg of August 12, the Court visited Holt, Antelope, Boone, Nance, Polk, and Butler Counties.

Trial Court Services Week

Check out this narrated history of the Nebraska Judicial Branch- we really do have a great history!

<https://nejudicial.com/NebraskaJudicialHistory>

Did You Know?

August 14th was National Navajo Code Talkers Day. Navajo Code Talkers Day recognizes the extraordinary efforts of Navajo men who used Diné Bizaad (the Navajo language) to create a military code that was never broken, playing a pivotal role in the Pacific theater during World War II. The program began with 29 original Code Talkers at Camp Pendleton and eventually expanded to over 400 men. Their work involved transmitting coded messages by radio and telephone without printed manuals, memorizing all words and translations to maintain secrecy. The program remained classified until 1968. In recognition of their service, the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers received Congressional Gold Medals, while the remaining Code Talkers were awarded Congressional Silver Medals. In 1982, President Ronald Reagan officially proclaimed August 14 as National Navajo Code Talkers Day to honor their contributions and the broader role of Native American tribes in U.S. military history.