

July 16, 2026

*New this month! Probation administration asks that interpreting be noted by both district and county on the Interpreter Statements for tracking purposes. The attached Probation Offices spreadsheet will make this easy! Use info in columns A & B to fill out your Statement. Info in columns C, D, and E does not go on your Statement, but helps you determine the correct office. Please reach out to me if you have any questions!*

### **Upcoming State Holidays**

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Labor Day, Monday September 7th

### **Blocking your phone number**

As discussed at our interpreter conference, when interpreting by phone, it's always best practice for Nebraska Judicial Branch staff to conference in the LEP. However, there may be times when the interpreter is asked to do this. If this occurs, it's important to block or hide your phone number from the LEP so they don't have your number. Here are instructions on how to do this for [iPhone](#) and [Android](#). Doing this helps to protect you from future difficult/unethical situations!

### **District 5**

To support the Language Access Program, Olivia Brockman will temporarily be responsible for coordinating District 5 interpreting requests. District 5 includes Boone, Butler, Colfax, Hamilton, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Polk, Saunders, Seward and York. This temporary assignment runs through July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Hearing Screening (*Worth 0.25 Professional Responsibility CEUs*)**

If you have concerns about your hearing, you are invited to receive a free hearing screening through Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTRNH).

How to schedule a screening:

- Call (531) 355-5605 and make an appointment with Natalie Mason, Speech-Language Pathologist.
- Make sure to mention that you are a Nebraska Judicial Branch interpreter.
- Go to the BTRNH clinic near Downtown Omaha, where your free hearing screening will take place.

Boys Town National Research Hospital (East Campus)  
425 North 30th Street  
Omaha, NE 68131

The hearing screening itself takes less than five minutes. It is a very simple task. You will put on headphones, and the test administrator will direct you to raise your hand whenever you hear a tone. While this is not an in-depth hearing evaluation, BTRNH can provide you with referral information for more complete audiology testing after your appointment, if needed.

Additionally, if you do not pass your hearing screening, you will be invited for a follow-up visit to receive a full, no-cost hearing evaluation, completed by an audiologist, by signing up for BTRNH's Research Volunteer Recruitment Registry.

### **Interpreter Ceremonies**

Ben Hammar Certification Ceremony:

- Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 12pm
- In person: Lancaster County Courthouse, courtroom #24
- Livestream: <https://nejudicial-gov.zoom.us/j/95802970987>

Sunkist Judson Provisional Certification Ceremony:

- Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm
- In person: Douglas County Courthouse, courtroom #330
- Livestream: [https://youtube.com/live/Wj5ph4crj\\_A?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/Wj5ph4crj_A?feature=share)

### **NOMINATIONS OPEN: 2026 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.]

Previous award recipients can be found on the Judicial Branch website [Distinguished Judge Awards](#) page. All Judicial Branch employees, members of the Nebraska bar, and the public may submit nominations.

PLEASE RETURN NOMINATIONS by August 28, 2026, to:

Amy E. Prenda, Deputy Administrator for Court Services  
Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation  
PO Box 98910  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8910  
[amy.prenda@nejudicial.gov](mailto:amy.prenda@nejudicial.gov)

### **NCDHH 3Cs: Coffee, Conversation, Culture**

Join NCDHH on Tuesday, July 21 for 3Cs: Coffee, Conversation, Culture. Held quarterly across Nebraska, 3Cs provides a welcoming space for Deaf, DeafBlind, Hard of Hearing, and hearing community members to connect over coffee, practice ASL, build relationships, and enjoy meaningful conversation. Whether you've attended before or are joining us for the first time, everyone is welcome.

Locations:

- Omaha, Stories Coffee Company, 11432 Davenport St., 8:00–10:00 AM (*Join Kathleen and Amiel at this one!*)
- Kearney, Barista's Daily Grind South, 1502 2nd Ave, 9:00–11:00 AM
- Lincoln, Scooter's Coffee, 6811 O St., 9:00–11:00 AM (*Join Kari at this one!*)
- Scottsbluff/Gering, Emporium Express, 1650 10th St., Gering, NE 69341, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM (MST)

### **Professional Resources**

- [Becoming an Arabic Court Interpreter](#): The first edition of a guide for Arabic court interpreters.
- A drug emoji resource from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA): [Emoji Drug Code – Decoded](#)
- [Decoding Arabic Idioms, Slang, and Discourse Markers in Legal Interpretation](#)
- [The Unspeakable: Interpreting Profanity, Insults, Slurs, and Sacred Language in Court](#)
- NCI's Fall Webinar Schedule (*please refer to attached Excel spreadsheet*)

## Recognitions

-  **Monica Silva, Raul Escobar and Ben Hammar** all worked together to cover a crazy day for me that was loaded with constant adds and reassignments. Thank you all so much! I would have been lost without you three today. Your positive, professional attitudes did not go unnoticed in courtrooms across the state. - *Kari Corkle, Language Access Coordinator*
-  **Wai Linn** always does a fantastic job with their statements. They are neatly typed in with all the correct information. Supporting documents are submitted in order and are always thorough with enough information on them to decipher them easily. – *Robin Baer, AOCP Administrative Assistant*
-  Thank you, **Sunkist Judson**, for your dedication and working with the courts calendar to cover hearings in Sarpy County on behalf of Judge Hutton. – *Olivia Brockman, Language Access Interpreter coordinator*
-  I would like to recognize, **Vladimir Bazan**, for always being willing to help and for consistently accommodating schedule and assignment changes. Your flexibility, professionalism, and positive attitude make a real difference, especially when unexpected situations arise. Thank you!! – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator.*
-  **Arthur Trexler**, thank you for your dedication and adaptability to navigate a complex situation. Even when faced with a particularly challenging defendant, your professionalism reflects the highest standards of interpreting. – *Amiel Armijo, Justice Language Access Coordinator.*