

June 18, 2026

Our new fiscal year begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. What that means to us here in Language Access: June Interpreter Statements are **due by July 5<sup>th</sup>** and interpreters will be **paid by July 25<sup>th</sup>**. July dates of service will be considered **late on the 61<sup>st</sup> day**. Thank you for doing your part to streamline workflow, strengthen administrative consistency, and provide the structure required to meet both statutory payment timelines and operational expectations.

### Upcoming State Holidays

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Juneteenth Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>
- Independence Day Friday July 3<sup>rd</sup>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interpreter Conference recorded sessions

- Certificates will be emailed to all attendees by June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't received yours by the end of the month, please contact Kathleen.
- Session recordings can be accessed by clicking on the links below.
  - [Fluent in Justice](#)
  - [Advancing Justice Through Language Access: A Statistical Overview](#)
  - [Leading with Service. Removing Barriers. Promoting Trust. Ensuring Procedural Fairness.](#)
  - [Language Access Meets the Official Record](#)
  - [Hearing Health](#)
  - [What Happens Next? Probation's Role in the Nebraska Judicial Branch](#)
  - [Building Resilience: Self-Care for the Court Professional](#)
  - [Video Remote Interpreting: Click, Connect, Interpret](#)
- The conference will be featured in the Court News section of an upcoming edition of the Nebraska State Bar magazine!



### 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>.

## 🌈 Interpreter Oral Exam Update 🌈

As the Language Access Program continues to strive for greatness, I am beyond pleased to share the results of April's Oral Exams. These outcomes represent significant progress in strengthening Nebraska's interpreter workforce and expanding language access resources across the state. Each newly credentialed interpreter expands our ability to provide meaningful access to justice for court and probation users, and I am excited about the momentum we are building!

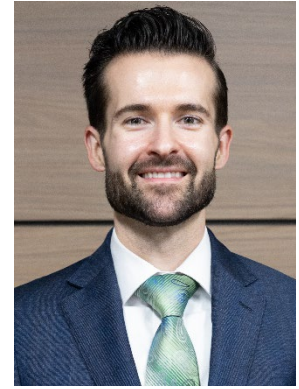
Please make sure to introduce yourself to your new colleagues when you meet and congratulate them all on their achievements! Not only does it take a village to raise a child, but it takes a supportive professional environment along with personal dedication to realize the greatness that we aspire to – be part of it!



Ben Hammar  
Spanish  
Certified



Tara Trindle  
Arabic  
Registered



Caleb Corbin  
Spanish  
Registered



Ana Paghiligan-Wall  
Tagalog  
Registered on 1<sup>st</sup> try



Rocío Pastor  
Spanish  
Registered on 1<sup>st</sup> try



Perla Vasquez Caldera  
Spanish  
Registered on 1<sup>st</sup> try

## Probation Acronyms

A big thank you to Bev Hoagland, Chief Probation Officer District #3J, for following up on her offer during our interpreter conference to provide Language Access with a glossary of acronyms. The 15-page guide is attached to this email. Please feel free to save and refer to it before probation assignments and read it in your downtime. Any feedback we can pass along to Bev on how the guide helped you carry out your professional duties would be most welcome!

## Professional Resources

- [2026 NATI Conference: Human Voice, Digital World: Where Human Expertise Meets Artificial Intelligence](#)  
Proposals due by June 30, 2026.
- [NAJIT New Resource: Team Interpreting and Equal Access to Justice](#)
- [Interpreting Witness Testimony \(Spanish only\)](#) June 27, 2026.
- American Bar Association [Civil Rights and Social Justice Section](#) articles, events, and webinars
- Saturday 7/11, 9 AM- 12 PM (PDT) [Navigating Challenges in Depositions](#)
- Saturday 7/18, 9 AM- 12 PM (PDT) [Interactive Court Ethics Review](#)
- Saturday 7/25, 9 AM- 12 PM (PDT) [Suing in Small Claims and Being Sued](#)

### 🎉 Provisional Certification- A First in Language Access Program History! 🎉












The Nebraska Judicial Branch Language Access Program is excited to celebrate Sunkist Judson for achieving Provisional Certification as a Karen interpreter. This is a *history-making milestone* as Sunkist is the first interpreter partner ever in LAP history to achieve Provisional Certification! After more than a decade of dedicated service to Nebraska courts and probation, he completed all requirements, including passing the written exam and demonstrating superior Karen language proficiency through a nationally recognized Oral Proficiency Interview. Because no state court certification exam exists for Karen, Provisional Certification recognizes interpreters who meet rigorous Supreme Court standards for education, experience, and exceptional language skill. Sunkist's achievement is a celebration of perseverance, professionalism, and the growing strength of Nebraska's Language Access Program in expanding access to justice for all communities. 🎉



### Recognitions

- ✚ We appreciate you **Interpreters!** Thank you for attending our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interpreter Conference!! – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter coordinator*
- ✚ Thank you, **Adrian Hinojosa, Amiel Armijo, Kari Corkle & Kathleen Valle** for all the hard work on organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interpreter Conference!!– *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter coordinator*
- ✚ I wanted to let you know I have received so many comments from my judges regarding **Kari Corkle**. All of us here in Lincoln County think she is wonderful and at times a miracle worker on getting us interpreters at short notice. By Kari doing such a wonderful job it makes the court system run smoother for us and we appreciate her so much!! - *Annette Shafer, Lincoln County Court CM*
- ✚ **Mai Nguyen** was amazing to work with! I'm so thankful for her work. - *Officer Adrianna Pham, Lancaster Juvenile Probation*
- ✚ **Daniel Leong** was amazing. Prompt, friendly, no hiccups! - *Kristin Ceballos, Bailiff, Lancaster District Court*
- ✚ I am writing to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the outstanding services provided by your department during our recent jury trial in the District Court of Seward County. This was my first ever jury trial that required an interpreter. The legal process can be complex and stressful under any circumstance. From our first communication with the Language Access Coordinator, to the multiple interpreters assigned to our two-day jury trial case, everyone involved demonstrated the highest level of professionalism and linguistic expertise. Please extend my personal thanks to **Kari Corkle, Vladimir Bazan, Manuel Olivo and Raul Escobar**. Their dedication, patience, and composure did not go unnoticed. This is a big reflection of the standards of excellence you uphold

in your department. My office is incredibly grateful to you and your entire team. Thank you for your VITAL contribution to our legal system!- *Sheila M. Lueders, Seward Clerk of the District Court*

-  I would like to recognize **Sunkist Judson** for always being ready to help. Whether it's covering Probation or assisting other counties, he consistently steps up whenever needed. His flexibility and dedication are greatly appreciated. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Al Villarreal** is consistently on time, available, and willing to cover wherever he is needed. His reliability and team-player attitude make him someone we can always count on. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Ashley Villanueva Enriquez** is always welcoming everyone with a friendly, professional smile. She consistently goes the extra mile to ensure both County and Juvenile assignments are completed successfully. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  A special thank you to **Kathy Rocco** for her outstanding support as our ASL interpreter. She is always professional, willing to accept last-minute assignments, and ready to help whether the assignment is in person or remote. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  Congratulations to **Vladimir Bazan & Manuel Olivo** for their exceptional work during the Douglas County District Court criminal trial this week. We received nothing but outstanding comments from the attorneys involved. Excellent work! - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Keak Kierkok** continues to demonstrate what it means to be a true team player. As our Nuer interpreter, he is always professional, punctual, and willing to accept last-minute assignments by phone, video, or in person. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  It is always a pleasure working with **Tara Trindle**. Her professionalism, exceptional interpreting skills, and willingness to help make her an invaluable member of our team. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  I want to recognize **Carmen Novoa** for consistently going above and beyond. She is always looking for ways to better serve our courts while helping our Language Access Program be recognized for excellence. She is an outstanding teammate and professional. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  We appreciate **Abukar Madimba's** professionalism and positive attitude. As a Somali, Swahili and Mai Mai interpreter, he is always ready to help and is a dependable member of our team. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Martha Brester's** professionalism, punctuality, and dependability never go unnoticed. We appreciate her continued commitment to serving our courts. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
-  **Monica Silva** is always ready to help with a positive attitude and a welcoming smile. Her professionalism and kindness leave a lasting impression on everyone she serves. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*



We would also like to recognize **Katrina Watton** for her professionalism and dedication. As an ASL interpreter, she is always willing to accept last-minute assignments and is consistently happy to help. Her positive attitude and commitment to serving others are truly appreciated. - *Adrian Hinojosa Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*