

September 29, 2026

Several of us attended the Nebraska Association of Translators and Interpreter's (NATI) annual conference over the weekend in Kearney, Nebraska. The sessions were top tier and of course it's always great to network with colleagues. Next year the NATI conference will be in Lincoln, so stay tuned for the dates! Likewise, [NAJIT 48th Annual Conference](#) will be held in Salt Lake City May 14 – 16, 2027. These are both great conferences to attend if you are able.

Upcoming State Holidays

The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed in observance of:

- Indigenous Peoples' Day and Columbus Day, Monday October 12th

Interpreter Certification Journey

I'm developing a short "Journey to Certification/Provisional Certification" video series as a recruitment and outreach initiative for the Language Access Program. The videos will be informal and story-driven, allowing the interpreter to speak candidly about the challenges, surprises, successes, and moments of uncertainty experienced along the way. The intent is not to portray certification as effortless. In fact, I believe that sharing the difficult parts of the journey will make the videos more relatable and compelling to prospective interpreters. [Here's our first installment!](#)

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.

Professional Resources

- [Evidentiary Concepts for ASL Legal Interpreters](#)
- NAJIT [Ethics Across Fields: A Comparative Analysis of the Code of Ethics in Healthcare, Legal, and Educational Settings](#)
- NAJIT [What Does "Understanding" Mean?](#)
- [2026 Arizona Translators & Interpreters Annual Conference](#) October 3, 2026
- [Stronger Together: How Freelancers Work, Grow, and Thrive in Partnership | MultiLingual](#)

Recognitions

-  Please extend our thanks to the interpreters (**Sunkist Judson, Mai Nguyen, Yadu Sapkota, Alex Perez, Raul Escobar, Barre Hassan, Palwasha Samadi, Juana Diego, and Tara Trindle**) that provided this critical feedback to our Equity Subcommittee. – *Judge Stevens, Douglas County Juvenile Court*
-  I just wanted you to know how amazing **Irma Watt** did today interpreting for 3 people at the same time, 2 on zoom and one in the courtroom. She set up a call with the 2 on zoom so they could hear her and had the equipment for the one in the courtroom. It was for a contested guardianship from a 3A case, that we were worried about everyone understanding and hearing what was happening. She did so good in taking control to make sure we had a clean record and parties understood. Just a shout out to Irma for being so awesome today. - *Tessa Price, Hall County Court Courtroom Clerk*
-  **Caleb & Tirzah Corbin** always do a great job with their monthly statements. They are easy to read and provide all the supporting documentation required from their assignments. All of this helps to process their statements faster. Thank you both for the hard work! – *Robin Baer, AOC Administrative Assistant*

-  Just for your information – our hearing at 11:00 today was seamless. **Ralene Cheng** was fabulous. – *Marci Gilbertson, Buffalo County District Court Bailiff*
-  **Palwasha Samadi** was awesome! - *Wendi Galvan, Assistant Probation Officer, District 11*
-  **Nadege Cherubin**, you are a pleasure to work with, thank you for your dedication to the profession. – *Olivia Brockman– Interpreter coordinator*
-  FYI: I just wanted to tell you that **Irma Watt** has been great. We have had several interpreters for my meetings with this client, and they have all been helpful, but Irma makes things flow very smoothly. Irma helps me feel like I am having a “normal” conversation with a client. I also appreciate her attention to detail. For example, today she noticed that there was something the client did not seem to understand. It allowed me to explain it further. Thank you! – *Ellen Eddy, Specialized Populations Probation Officer District 10*
-  I just wanted to say how awesome it has been having **Ben Hammar**! He has been a great help, and I really appreciate having him available for these sessions. - *Salli Streeter, CBI-SO Probation Officer, District 3A*
-  I was educated on the culture of Afghan people by **Palwasha Samadi**. She is a very nice individual. - *Scott Ripp, Probation Officer, District 11*
-  **Arthur Trexler** is a great interpreter! - *Angela Pofahl, Juvenile Court Bailiff, Lancaster County*
-  Just wanted to drop a word of appreciation to **Stacey Conn**. She interpreted this morning for us during arraignments and I had a surprise second defendant who needed someone to interpret. She handled it with such professionalism. - *Judge Fliam, County Court Seventh Judicial District*
-  Thank you, **Palwasha Samadi**, for your prompt responses and willingness to accommodate the court’s schedule. – *Olivia Brockman– Interpreter coordinator*
-  This turned out great! Thank you! I appreciate **your team** so very much!! - *Christina Werner, Forms Coordinator*

Snapshots from the Field – *new series alert!*

This is a series that will highlight the communities you serve in. Our first installation is from Monica Silva Gomez who traveled to Wilber which is the county seat of Saline County. They bill themselves as the Czech Capital of the USA and their street signs are bilingual!



Translations

If you find English typos in a document you were asked to translate, please advise the individual who gave it to you – i.e. Ops Team member or Kathleen. We have the opportunity to make forms better for EVERYONE!

Did You Know?

Can a county judge disregard the Order and Mandate from the district court, sitting as an appellate court, when the county judge disagrees with the specific directions and rulings of the district court? [Find out here!](#)