




GETTING CERTIFIED

AS A JUDICIARY INTERPRETER

CREDENTIALS FOR JUDICIARY INTERPRETERS

Judiciary interpreters in the continental United States and in Puerto Rico can obtain several credentials through **criterion-referenced performance examinations**:

- Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination (Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts)
 - State Court Interpreter Certification by the Consortium for Language Access in the Courts (State-level certification in 40 states)
 - Court Interpreter and Translator Certification Program (National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators)
 - American Sign Language Certification by the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)
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AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION (RID)

<http://www.rid.org>

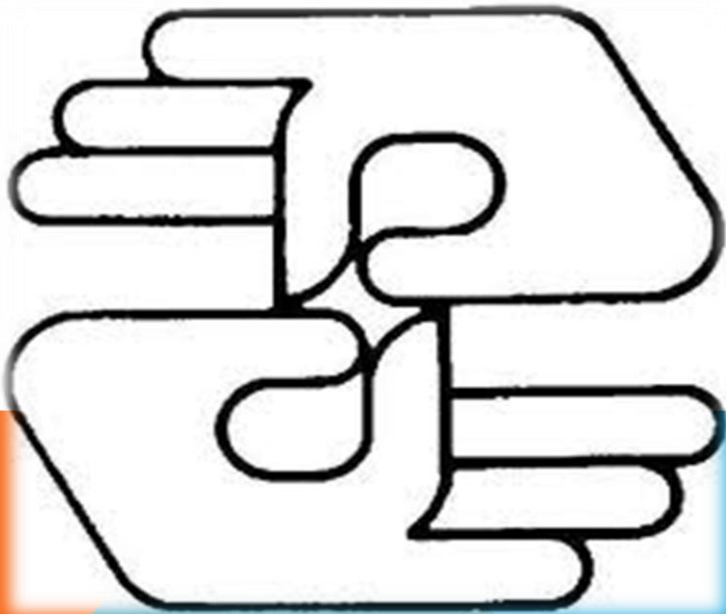
education ■ standards ■ excellence

RID

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

All private and public entities recognize RID's National Interpreter Certification (NIC) as a valid credential for American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

RID also offers a **Specialist Certificate: Legal**

“Holders of this specialist certification have demonstrated specialized knowledge of legal settings and greater familiarity with language used in the legal system.”



COURT INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NAJIT)

<http://www.najit.org/certification/NJITCE.php>



COURT INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NAJIT)



The National Judiciary Interpreter and Translator Certification Examination (NJITCE) is the only nationwide certification exam developed exclusively by judiciary interpreters and translators, with the psychometric expertise of Measurement Incorporated.

COURT INTERPRETER AND TRANSLATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NAJIT)

It created a uniform standard for interpreters and translators working in a wide variety of legal settings, both civil and penal, throughout the United States.

It is the first exam that tests both *interpreting* and *translation* skills in a legal context.



CONSORTIUM CERTIFICATION

http://www.ncsconline.org/D_Research/CourtInterp/CICourtConsort.html



CONSORTIUM CERTIFICATION

The Consortium for State Court Interpreter Certification had 40 member states as of June 2009.



Certification by the Consortium includes the following languages:

- Arabic
- Cantonese
- Chuukese
- French
- Haitian Creole
- Hmong
- Ilocano
- Korean
- Laotian
- Mandarin
- Marshallese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Somali
- Spanish
- Turkish
- Vietnamese

CONSORTIUM CERTIFICATION

Certification by the Consortium is recognized by state courts within the Consortium.

Most federal courts recognize Consortium Certification for languages other than *Spanish*, *Haitian Creole* or *Navajo*.



FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

<http://www.ncsc.org/fcice>



FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

The most prestigious and coveted credential for judiciary interpreters is the FEDERAL CERTIFICATION.

This credential is recognized in every court of the United States and Puerto Rico as the standard for competent performance by judiciary interpreters.



FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION



The **Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination** (FCICE) is administered by the **National Center for State Courts**, under a contract with the **Administrative Office of the United States Courts** (AOUSC).

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION



At this time the FCICE is offered in **English** and **Spanish** only, although interpreters have been certified in **Navajo** and **Haitian Creole** in the past.

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

The federal certification exam consists of two parts, one WRITTEN and one ORAL.

The **written** portion tests the candidate's proficiency in English and Spanish.

The **oral** portion tests the candidate's competency in the 3 interpreting modes used in federal courts:
simultaneous, consecutive, and sight translation.

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION



The oral portion can only be taken after successful completion of the written portion.

Each part is offered on alternate years, so the entire certification process takes two years.

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

The federal certification does **not** test for **translations** skills.

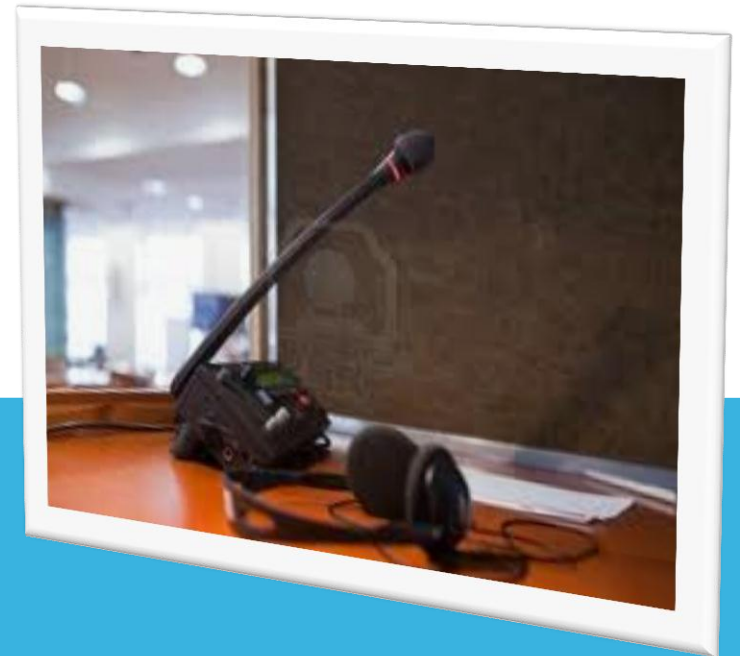


ata

TRANSLATION skills are tested by the
American Translators Association
(ATA) or NAJIT.

FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

Once certified, an interpreter is eligible to work in any federal court on a contract (freelance) basis, or as a staff interpreter when positions become available.



FEDERAL COURT INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION

CERTIFIED

Only those who pass the exam offered by the AO are considered “certified” interpreters in federal court.

All others fall within one of the Non-Certified categories.

NON-CERTIFIED

Non-certified interpreters can be:

- *Professionally Qualified*

or

- *Language Skilled*



PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED

- Professionally qualified interpreters must meet the criteria in one of the following:
 - ◆ Having passed the **U.S. Department of State** *conference or seminar* interpreter test in a language pair that includes English and the target language – other than Spanish, Navajo or Haitian Creole.

The U.S. Department of State's *escort* interpreter test is not accepted as qualifying.



PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED

Having passed the interpreter test of the **United Nations** in a language pair that includes English and the target language – other than Spanish, Navajo or Haitian Creole.



PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED

- ◆ Being a current member in good standing of:
 - (1) the *Association Internationale des Interprètes de Conférence* (AIIC); or
 - (2) *The American Association of Language Specialists* (TAALS).



PROFESSIONALLY QUALIFIED

For sign language interpreters, this category applies to someone who holds the Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID).



LANGUAGE SKILLED



This group includes all individuals not certified or professionally qualified, who, through a precisely structured voir dire process, can be deemed competent to handle simultaneous and/or consecutive interpretation and/or sight translation with sufficient language proficiency in both English and the target language.

CURRENT RATES IN U.S. DISTRICT COURTS

Certified & Professionally Qualified:

- Full Day: \$388
- Half Day: \$210
- Overtime: \$55/hr

Non-Certified/Language Skilled:

- Full Day: \$187
- Half Day: \$103
- Overtime: \$32/hr

Please see our other presentations about **interpreter services** in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.



- The Interpreting Profession
- Interpreters in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico
- Code of Ethics
- Training and Continuing Education for Judiciary Interpreters

AIDA M. DELGADO-COLÓN, USDJ - CHIEF JUDGE

FRANCES RÍOS-DE MORÁN, ESQ. – CLERK OF COURT

BECKY AGOSTINI – COURT SERVICES MANAGER



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Supervisory Interpreter
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