

April 16, 2025

The people have spoken! *Please save the date for our 1st annual Interpreter Conference to be held Saturday, June 14th from 9am - 4pm on the BoysTown Campus (14100 Crawford St. Boys Town NE, 68010).* The conference will be live streamed, and lunch will be provided. More details to follow. Thank you to everyone who filled out the conference survey!



Please join us in congratulating Salim Merza (Arabic, Kurdish) on obtaining his Doctor of Education from Doane College!

الفنمعة

Upcoming State Holidays The Nebraska Judicial Branch will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of Memorial Day.

Assistive Listening Technology in Nebraska Courtrooms

Assistive listening technology is designed to enhance speech understanding for individuals with hearing loss, especially in noisy environments, by transmitting sound directly to the listener's ear, bypassing background noise. The Nebraska Judicial Branch partnered with local courts to install infrared assistive listening systems in courtrooms over a two-year period. An infrared system (IR) is ideal in situations where multiple users may be present. It is also more compatible with preserving the historic spaces within our courthouses, since the sound is transmitted via light waves instead of requiring installation of a physical system underneath the floor or in the walls, as would be necessary with an induction loop system. The IR system was also selected for security reasons—because IR transmissions cannot go through walls, this is a more secure option for any sensitive proceedings within the courtrooms. IR systems and devices have been installed in 207 courtrooms including the appellate courtrooms at the Nebraska State Capitol. Only 4 counties- Arthur, Banner, Hooker, and Loup- did not install IR due to those courthouses being rarely, if ever, used.

Shaylene Smith, a local attorney in Crete, shared her story about congenital hearing loss and her experiences with past and current assistive listening options for the now-retired Chief Justice's Summer Tour in August, and in an [educational video](#). Her story highlights how far this technology has come, and what a significant benefit these newly installed systems will be for all judges, attorneys, jurors, court users, and guests in courtrooms across Nebraska.

Interpreter Certification Pathway

- 40% of the individuals who sat for the written exam in March passed- which is one of our higher group pass rates! Once individuals pass the written exam, they are eligible to shadow through our program so when you see new faces, please welcome them! We are all responsible for creating a positive work environment.

- Skill Building will be held on June 19th & 20th via Zoom. This is a language neutral training that prepares certification candidates for the Oral Exam and provisional certification candidates for interpreting in the face paced court and probation settings. [Register](#) today! Individuals must have already attended Orientation.
- Do you interpret for a language that there isn't an oral exam for? If so, you need to be on the path to Provisional Certification! Read what is needed [§ 6-708 Provisionally certified court interpreter requirements](#) and plan on attending one of the following informational meetings:
 - Wednesday, April 23rd at 10am [Join Zoom Meeting](#)
 - Friday, May 2nd at 12pm [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Professional Resources

- [Nebraska Judicial Branch initiatives highlighted in domestic violence awareness series](#)
- [The 2025 NIMDZI 100](#) The size and state of the language services industry including the ranking of the 100 largest language service providers
- [NAJIT Conference](#) to be held June 6th-8th in Indianapolis, IN
- [Interpretrain Free Simultaneous Interpreting Lab: Human Trafficking \(English- Spanish\)](#)
- [This](#) free interpreter oral exam training introduces a fun and effective technique designed to calm your nerves and elevate your delivery during the oral exam.

Recognitions

- ✚ Thank you, **Cristina Kropf**, for supporting and mentoring new Interpreters. - *Olivia Brockman, Language Access Interpreter Coordinator*
- ✚ Judge Schuchman of the Douglas County Juvenile Court said **Bertilda Martin Mam** was amazing! - *Mary Vlcek, Judge Schuchman's Bailiff*
- ✚ **Daniel Leong** is always willing to squeeze in last-minute requests. Thank you! - *Kari Corkle, Justice Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Judge told me to let you know **Estella Abdulsheik** is great! She is doing wonderful- *Sarah Wiebold, Bailiff, Lancaster County Juvenile Court*
- ✚ **Nick Nersesian** was here and did a great job 😊 - *Lisa Farringer, Judicial Assistant, Lancaster County Court*
- ✚ **Ben Hammar** is one of the best interpreters I've ever encountered. He is very literal, which helps my clients understand. - *Lisa Lozano, Esq. via Sarah Wiebold, Bailiff, Lancaster County Juvenile Court*
- ✚ We had **Palwasha Samadi** as the Pashto interpreter today via ZOOM. She was excellent. Please commend Ms. Samadi for a job well done. Thank you. - *Judge Matney, Dakota County Judge*
- ✚ **Daniel Leong** does an excellent job! - *Christian Reese-Newquist, Probation Officer, District 3*
- ✚ **Ms. Tamni Sundling** interpreted for us today via ZOOM for a defendant whose primary language was Laotian. She did an excellent job and was very nice to work with throughout the proceedings. Please commend Ms. Sundling for a job well done. - *Judge Matney, Dakota County Judge*

Did you know?

Did you know that an estimated 80,000 English words are of French origin? I would like to be a Juilletiste! If you don't what that means, read [this](#) article and you will! 😊