



# Court Interpreters

Maine's state courts will provide all LEP individuals who are parties or witnesses in any type of court case with an interpreter at the State's expense.



Winter 2014

## Events

November 2013  
Judicial Branch welcomes 3 NEW Court Interpreters in Aroostook County:

Diane Gramlich, Janice Jackson & Wayne Harvey



January 2014  
Court Interpreter Recognition Ceremony with the Supreme Judicial Court

May 2014  
Court Interpreter Written Examination

UPCOMING  
Bangor & Portland  
Trainings on Interpreter Ethics and Domestic Violence in the Courts, funded by the OVW

## Maine's First Court Interpreter Recognition Ceremony

In April of 2013, the Maine Judicial Branch began to offer the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Oral Certification Examination for spoken-language court interpreters. We were very impressed by the dedication of many individuals who began the rigorous undertaking of studying for this national certification examination.

On January 14, 2014, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court held a ceremony in Portland to honor two Spanish language interpreters who passed the NCSC Court Interpreter certification exams. In addition, the Supreme Court honored more than thirty spoken-language and American Sign Language interpreters who have been providing service to the Maine State Court for five or more years.

This event was broadcast via live video streaming, to enable remote attendance for interpreters who were otherwise unable to attend. The Judiciary was very welcoming and all those able to attend were appreciative of this formal recognition of their services to the Courts, and of the important role that interpreters have for those accessing justice.



## A Family Affair

Nationally certified Court Interpreter Luis Garcia, MD and his mother, Court Interpreter Gladys Garcia, display their certificates. The Garcias have each been providing Spanish-language interpreting services to the Maine State Courts for over five years.



**Become a Court Interpreter**

**Free Informational Session**  
How to Become a Court Interpreter in Maine

Wednesday, September 26, 2012  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Maine Judicial Branch  
400 York Street, Portland

To register, email: [ahoward@mainecourtinterpreters.com](mailto:ahoward@mainecourtinterpreters.com) or call (207) 633-9962 by September 24.

The Court Interpreter Program is a non-profit organization. It will be official on October 17, 2012.

Maine Judicial Branch is seeking interpreters who are proficient in various languages, ranging from ARABIC to KHMER, ACHOLI to SOMALI from the diverse group of professionals who are court interpreters.

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.**

Starting pay for court interpreters is \$35 per hour.

To learn about Maine Court Interpreter Program, visit <http://www.courts.maine.gov/>



## Court Interpreter Qualification Process

The State of Maine is home to 52 spoken-language Court Interpreters representing 24 languages and 15 countries of origin.

The State of Maine Judicial Branch began qualifying spoken-language legal interpreters for the Maine State Courts in the spring of 2008. The Judicial Branch is the only entity in Maine that provides legal qualification and national certification for spoken-language interpreting.

The spoken-language qualification process is rigorous, and involves a written examination, oral proficiency interview, a two-day

orientation with the Courts, and a background check.

In addition, each interpreter must abide by the *Standards of Professional Conduct for Interpreters Providing Services in Judicial Proceedings*. This document details the code of conduct and ethical obligations governing interpreters appointed by the Maine Courts. Once qualified, the Court Interpreter is issued an Identification Badge, and

is considered to be an officer of the court.

Maine has a tiered system of qualification: new Court Interpreters are considered Tier I; Court Interpreters with advanced training and 50+ hours of legal interpreting experience are considered Tier II; and Court Interpreters who have successfully passed the national state or federal certification exams are considered Tier III.

### Specialist Certificate: Legal

American Sign Language interpreters Meryl Troop, Tina Englert-Morrison, Lois Morin, and Mary Mackay at the 2014 Court Interpreter Recognition Ceremony.



The Judicial Branch does not certify American Sign Language (ASL) legal interpreters. The national certification process to become a legal ASL interpreter is equally rigorous, and involves a written exam and legal performance test.

Maine law requires that Specialist Certificate: Legal (SC:L) ASL interpreters be appointed for all court proceedings. Maine currently

has ten (10) ASL interpreters with the SC:L designation. Both spoken-language and ASL interpreters are available to provide in-person interpreting services for the Courts state-wide.

Pictured at right, Maine Supreme Court Justice Donald G. Alexander with Court Interpreter Darlene Metcalf-Bergeron at the Recognition Ceremony reception.



Interpreters provided over 4,500 hours of service to the Maine State Courts in 2013.