



Administrative Office of the Courts

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Maine Courts To Honor Court Interpreters

January 13, 2014. Portland Maine. On **January 14, 2013, at 3:15 p.m. at the Cumberland County Courthouse**, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court will honor two spoken-language interpreters who have recently received national court interpreter certification. The two are Luis Garcia and Genevieve Howe. In addition, the Court will recognize thirty-two spoken-language and Sign Language legal interpreters who have been providing service to the Maine courts for over five years. The honorees are listed below.

The Maine Judicial Branch began qualifying spoken-language court interpreters during the spring of 2008. The courts are the only State agency that provides certification for spoken-language legal interpreting.

The spoken-language legal qualification process is rigorous, and involves both written and oral examinations. A two-day orientation with the courts is also required for qualification. The process for designation as a *Sign Language Special Certification: Legal* is quite rigorous as well.

In announcing the ceremony Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley said, “In the spring of 2013, the Judicial Branch began to offer the national certification oral examinations for spoken-language court interpreters. The pass rate for first-time examinees is 24% nationwide. We are very proud of those interpreters who have spent many hours preparing for this national examination.”

She added, “Today, the State of Maine is home to fifty-four spoken-language court interpreters, and thirteen legally qualified Sign Language interpreters. These individuals represent fifteen countries of origin and twenty-four languages. We are grateful for their service. Legal interpreting is rigorous and demanding, and we applaud these individuals for rising to the challenge, and for providing increased access to justice for all Mainers. Without competent interpretation services, access to justice can be a hollow concept.”

Maine’s spoken-language court interpreters are located in eleven counties throughout the state. In the fall of 2013, the Judicial Branch qualified three new spoken-language court interpreters in Aroostook County as well, to round out its statewide coverage for limited English-proficient individuals.

Last year, interpreters provided over 4,500 hours of service to the Maine state courts. The state court provides an interpreter free of charge to any litigant or participant in a court proceeding.

The media is welcome to attend the ceremony.

Nationally Certified Court Interpreters

Luis Garcia

Genevieve Howe

Legal Interpreters- Five Years Service

Spoken Language:

Anna Baglay-Bouchard

Helen Lucie Beaudry

Jenny Dowling Siff

Sergei Chaparin

Chloe Dowley

Karin Elliot Whitney

Franca-Helena Gagliano-McFarland

Gladys Garcia

Paul Garcia

Mahmoud Hassan

Osman Hersi

Ricky Ho

Ahmed Isse

Berenice Luck

Carlos Luck

Darlene Metcalf-Bergeron

Arlene Perdomo

Domini Pham

Nathan Williams

David Wilson

Li Ying

Legally Qualified Sign Language Interpreters:

Shelly Flanders

Margaret Haberman

Jane Hecker-Cain

Judy Shepard-Kegl

Lois Morin

Mary Mackay

Maurita Marr

Douglas Newton

Meryl Troop

Victor Vigna