

**Willamette Valley Inns of Court**  
**Effective Use of Interpreters**  
**November 21, 2019**

- **Introduction**
- **Laura Lopez: Can your client communicate with you?**
  - Are you speaking the correct language?
    - Not all Spanish is the same.
    - Indigenous languages are not a different dialect.
  - How do you know an interpreter is competent?
    - Types of interpreters.
    - Using court-certified interpreters.
      - When do you need one?
      - What is the process for certification?
  - When to have your own interpreter at counsel table?
  - How to effectively use an interpreter.
    - Types of interpretation.
    - Method of interpretation during testimony of non-English speakers.
    - How to challenge/correct the interpretation.
    - How can lawyers help make interpreter's job easier and more effective?
  - Limitations for interpreters.
    - Number of minutes/hours?
    - Multiple individuals?
  - Questions.
- **Manuel Perez: How are you communicating with your client?**
  - Fluency of your interpreter or you.
  - A little Spanish can be worse than none.
  - Considering some options: family, children, law enforcement.
  - Tests for telling if the client understands you.
  - Telephone vs. in-person interpreters.
- **Carl Amala: Should you take the case at all?**
  - Do you have the skills/resources to effectively communicate with the prospective client?
- **Angelica Vega: Can you ethically and legally reject the case?**
- **Panel: Practical tips.**
  - When do you need an interpreter?
  - Stages in a case when you may need an interpreter.
  - Remedies for interpreter error.
  - Tips for working with interpreters.
- **Questions.**

## Helpful information

- Feel free to contact Manuel Perez with questions.
  - Phone: 503-373-4467
  - Email: manuel.perez@ojd.state.or.us
- Interpreter sources:
- **Passport to Languages:** For all services: in Portland the number is (503) 297-2707; outside of Portland the number is (800) 297-2707. You can see a list of languages on their website: <https://www.passporttolanguages.com>.
- 
- **International Language Bank (IRCO-ILB):** Statewide on-demand remote telephonic or video interpretation can be reached by calling (971) 271-6489. In the greater Portland metro area, ILB offers on-site interpretation with a one-hour minimum: call (503) 234-0068 to schedule an on-site interpreter. Office accounts should be set up in advance by contacting ILB via Email at [interpretation@ircoilb.org](mailto:interpretation@ircoilb.org). Their website is: <https://irco.org/ilb/>
- - Arranging for an Interpreter for court matters in Marion County:
- Heidi O'shaughnessey at PH: 503.731.4187
- Email: [SCA.CLAS.Midvalley@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:SCA.CLAS.Midvalley@ojd.state.or.us).
- **Court Language Access Services provides mandated linguistic access to the Oregon State Courts through trained ethical interpreters, education of the court and responsible resource management.**
- <http://courts.oregon.gov/CLAS>
- **To Schedule an Interpreter go to:**
- [Interpreter Request Form](#)
- Referral to OSB Lawyer Referral Service. 800-452-7636 or 503-684-3763