

# Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program (CIP) Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2014

## CIP News

### Ten Years of Certification

In March of 2004, the Director of State Courts Office (DSCO) began offering certification testing through the Court Interpreter Program (CIP) with tests developed by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The first group of certified interpreters was sworn in by Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson at a ceremony held in the Supreme Court on May 24 of that year.

Our flagship group included eight Spanish interpreters Aramis DeFort, Fayme Filipiak, Christina Green, Lynn Leazer, Bruce Macadam, Liesl Monroy, Tamesia Sosa, and Alexandra Wirth; four ASL interpreters who had obtained legal specialist certification through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID) a number of years prior Debra Gorra-Barash, Stephanie Kerkvliet, Sandy Peplinski and Hedy Miller; as well as Spanish interpreter Susan Rascon who had earned federal certification through the US Administrative Office of the Courts. Family and friends

gathered at the Capitol as we celebrated their collective accomplishments.



A decade later the total number of interpreters who earned certification in Wisconsin stands at 71 and includes not just Spanish but Russian, French, German and Mandarin. In 2013, certified Spanish interpreters were used approximately 97% of the time in court proceedings. While Spanish accounts for about 80% of the language requests throughout the state, courts used interpreters in over 60 other additional languages during 2013.

Passing the oral test remains a challenging task but for good reason. The pass rate for the oral exam in our state is about 29%. At this swearing-in ceremony, now retired Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Elsa C. Lamelas, former Chair of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the Wisconsin Courts noted, "Language is the tool of the courts, so we must

have assurance that our interpreters can do the job." While a few of the interpreters who earned certification in this first group have moved on to other opportunities, many continue to work here. We express our gratitude to them and all of the interpreters who work in our courts for helping to ensure the legal system is fair to all.

### Continuing Education Soon to be Required

The DSCO has approved a change in the program policies that now requires interpreters to comply with continuing education. Beginning January 1, 2015 all interpreters listed on the Roster must report educational activities every two years that enhance professional development. See inside story on page 2 for more details.

### Discontinuation of the Written Language Assessment

The CIP has discontinued offering the written language assessment as part of the written exam. In the past, the

### Inside this issue:

Continuing Ed Requirement	2
Interpreters & Translators in High Demand in 2014	2
Legal Case: Lau v. Nichols	2
Fastest Growing Language Class	2
11 <sup>th</sup> Annual MATI Conference to be Held in Madison	3
Meet Spanish Interpreter Fayme Filipiak	3
CIP Manager Celebrates 10 Years	4

CIP used a multiple choice test and written language assessment whereby a candidate had to pass one or the other in order to sit for the oral examination. In order to be eligible to take the oral test, a candidate needs to pass the multiple choice test at 80%. There is no fee to take the multiple choice test.

### Orientation Fee Increase to \$195 in 2015

In order to keep up with the rising costs of hosting our 2-day orientation, the orientation fee will be raised to \$195 next year. The fee will still include training materials, lunches and snacks on both days.

## Related Links

National Association of  
Judiciary Interpreters and  
Translators (NAJIT)  
[www.najit.org](http://www.najit.org)

American Translators  
Association (ATA)  
[www.atanet.org](http://www.atanet.org)

Registry of Interpreters for  
the Deaf (RID)  
[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

Midwest Association of  
Interpreters & Translators  
(MATI)  
[www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org)

Upper Midwest Translators &  
Interpreters Association  
(UMTIA)  
[www.umtia.cloverpad.org](http://www.umtia.cloverpad.org)

Wisconsin RID  
[www.wisrid.org](http://www.wisrid.org)

InterpretAmerica  
[www.interpretamerica.net](http://www.interpretamerica.net)

California Federation of  
Interpreters  
[www.calinterpreters.org](http://www.calinterpreters.org)

Cross Cultural  
Communications  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)

Critical Link  
[www.criticallink.org](http://www.criticallink.org)

European Legal Interpreters  
& Translators Association  
[www.eulita.eu](http://www.eulita.eu)

## Online Interpreter Training Opportunities

de la Mora Interpreter  
Training  
[www.interpreter-  
training.com/index.html](http://www.interpreter-training.com/index.html)

Interpreter Education  
Online  
[www.site.interpretereduc  
ationonline.com/](http://www.site.interpretereducationonline.com/)

New Mexico Center for  
Language Access  
(NMCLA)  
[www.nmcenterforlangua  
geaccess.org/](http://www.nmcenterforlanguageaccess.org/)

## Continuing Education Requirement

In an effort to ensure continuous learning and training of interpreters, the DSCO will soon require interpreters to complete additional training as part of maintaining certification or status on the roster. Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 63.10 of the Interpreter Code of Ethics states "Interpreters shall improve their skills and knowledge to advance the profession through activities such as professional training and education and interaction with colleagues and specialists in related fields." Beginning January 1, 2015 all spoken language interpreters who appear on the Roster will be required to report continuing education activities and

professional development every two years commensurate with their roster level. Certified interpreters will be required to complete 16 credits while non-certified interpreters will be required to complete 10 credits. For all levels, at least two of the credits must include an ethics component. The CIP will maintain a list of preapproved sponsors of continuing ed courses such as NAJIT, ATA and MATI, where interpreters can be assured conferences and workshops sponsored by these entities qualify for continuing education credit. Interpreters required to report will also receive email notice soon.

## Legal Case: Lau v. Nichols, 414 US 563 (1974)

Continuing the theme of anniversaries, in this issue, we spotlight not a new legal case but a 30-year old case. *Lau v. Nichols* was a class-action lawsuit brought on behalf of non-English speaking Chinese students in the San Francisco school system during 1974. Although the students only spoke Chinese, the school's policy was to provide instruction only in English and require proficiency in English prior to graduation from grade 12. The Court found that this policy made "a mockery of public education" by denying students a "meaningful opportunity to participate in the educational program." The Court stated that "there is no equality of treatment merely by

providing students with the same facilities, textbooks, teachers, and curriculum, for students who do not understand English are effectively foreclosed from any meaningful education." Thus, the Court confirmed that discrimination prohibited by Title VI includes methods of program administration that have a disproportionate and adverse impact on persons of a particular national origin. While applied in an educational setting under Title VI, Lau's reach extends to all federally funded programs, such as courts, requiring recipients to provide free language assistance services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals.



## Did You Know?

The fastest-growing foreign language class in the past 20 years isn't foreign at all. Nor is it spoken. It's American Sign Language (ASL). More college students are now studying ASL than Chinese and Russian combined. In 2009, ASL was the fourth-most popular language for college students to study, falling behind only Spanish, French, and German. See here for full article <http://www.vox.com/2014/4/28/5654468/the-incredible-rise-of-american-sign-language>

## Interpreters & Translators Among Most In-Demand Jobs in 2014

A new U.S. study shows that interpreters and translators are in the Top 12 high-wage, in-demand skilled positions for 2014. The study is based on data from more than 90 federal and state sources, including the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, the *Latin Post* reports that another perk of interpreting is "personal gratification" from helping families and children. The report shows: Total "T & I" employment in 2013: 69,887; Median hourly earnings: \$22.39; Added jobs from 2010-2013: 8,377 (a 14% increase). See full story [http://www.latinpost.com/art  
icles/5787/20140110/interpret  
ers-translators-demand-high-  
paying-jobs-2014.htm](http://www.latinpost.com/articles/5787/20140110/interpreters-translators-demand-high-paying-jobs-2014.htm)

## MATI Annual Conference in Madison

The Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters (MATI) will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Saturday, September 20, 2014, in Madison at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. The keynote speaker will be Katharine Allen, co-President of InterpretAmerica, an organization dedicated to raising the profile of the interpreting industry. She will speak on the topic "Web 2.0, Mobile, and You: 21st Technology for Interpreters and

Translators." According to Ms. Allen, who holds a Master's in Translation and Interpretation from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, the session will provide an introductory overview of Web 2.0 and mobile applications that can facilitate the translator's and interpreter's professional development. Participants will come away with concrete strategies for using digital and mobile resources to enhance their professional activities.

The program will also feature H  l  ne Pielmeier, who will speak on "The State of the Language Service Industry: 2014." As Director of Industry Provider Services for the market research firm Common Sense Advisory, she will present key findings and answer questions about her company's Language Services Market report for 2014, a "comprehensive study of the market for translation, localization, interpreting and other language services." Data

will include why languages matter, market size and opportunities, and the pressure that language service providers experience. Ms. Pielmeier holds a Master's degree in translation from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and both a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in English and German from the University of Strasbourg. For membership information and conference details visit [www.matiata.org](http://www.matiata.org)



### Meet Fayme Filipak

As a high school exchange student in Melo, Uruguay, I struggled to understand, communicate and adjust to my Spanish speaking surroundings. Little did I know my difficulties abroad would be the foundation for both a career as an interpreter and a deep compassion for people who don't understand English. As the granddaughter of Polish immigrants, I grew up completely comfortable with the idea that people in the US have come from all around the globe and may speak many languages. After returning from Uruguay, I received a BA in Spanish from UW-Whitewater, studied a

year abroad in Seville, Spain; earned an interpreting certificate from Miami-Dade Community College and enrolled in post-graduate studies at Florida International University. My first conference-interpreting job dealt with the latest technology at the time--bar codes! One of my most interesting jobs was in 1994 when I was hired as a full-time interpreter for a Spanish real estate developer whose son had contracted HIV. The developer's efforts to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS took us to Hollywood, Washington D.C., Chicago, Ibiza, and more. We regularly stayed in 5-star hotels, traveled by limousine, and met scores of celebrities. But what impressed me most was...interpreting equipment! I also worked with the US Department of Justice Immigration Court as an interpreter for 8 years in Miami

and Chicago. We were sent to a weeklong annual training and one year I ate lunch with court interpreting 'Guru' Holly Mikkelson. Ten years ago, Chief Justice Shirley Abrahamson swore-in the first class of certified court interpreters. I was in that class. It was a big kick for me a few years later when I was asked to interpret for the Chief Justice for an audience comprised of South America law students. In my opinion, the biggest change to the interpreting profession in the past decade has been the education of judges, court clerks, court commissioners, public defenders. Our job as court interpreters is finally becoming more understood, accepted and appreciated. I currently work primarily in the Wisconsin courts having taken assignments in at least 25 different counties. I have never had a job I've loved as much as this one.

### Newsletters, Blogs, & Other Websites on Interpreting and Translating

*Proteus*  
[www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php](http://www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php)  
Newsletter about judiciary interpreters and translators

*Intersect: A Newsletter about Language, Culture and Interpreting*  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)  
Newsletter on community interpreting and cultural competence

*The Chronicle*  
[www.atanet.org/chronicle](http://www.atanet.org/chronicle)  
Published 11 times a year and is included in annual membership fees.

*The Interpreter Diaries*  
[www.theinterpreterdiaries.com](http://www.theinterpreterdiaries.com)

*Translation and Interpretation in America*  
[www.translationandinterpretationinamerica.blogspot.com.es/](http://www.translationandinterpretationinamerica.blogspot.com.es/)  
Blog on teaching interpretation and translation in America

*Fretting, venting, and sharing: Madison interpreters & translators after hours*  
<http://www.matiata.org/news?mode=PostView&bmi=1423932>

## Contact:

Court Interpreter Program  
Office of Court Operations  
110 East Main St. #410  
Madison, WI 53703  
608.266.8635

Carmel A. Capati, Manager  
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[www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm)

Check for current dates of testing and training.

Interpreters are encouraged to submit relevant material for the newsletter which will be distributed twice a year in the Spring and Fall.

## Members of the Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in the WI Courts

Patrick Brummond  
Hon. John Damon, Chair  
Fayme Filipiak  
Debra Gorra-Barash  
Hon. Barbara Key Hart  
Hon. Dan Koval  
Hon. Mike Moran  
Heather Pantoga  
Sheila Reiff  
Hon. Stephanie Rothstein  
Jacqueline Thachenkary

The committee serves the Director of State Courts office by setting policy and procedural guidance on interpreting and translation issues throughout the Wisconsin court system. Meetings are held in the Spring and the Fall in Madison.

### Fall 2014 Meeting

Fri, October 17, 2014  
10:00 am-2:30 pm  
110 E Main Street  
Madison WI 53703

## Institutions of Higher Learning

### Community Interpreting Certificate Program

Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI

[www.viterbo.edu/interpret/](http://www.viterbo.edu/interpret/)

### Online Graduate Program in Translation

UWM, Milwaukee, WI

[www4.uwm.edu/letscti/translation/](http://www4.uwm.edu/letscti/translation/)

## 2014 Calendar of Get-Togethers & Conferences (Near and Far)

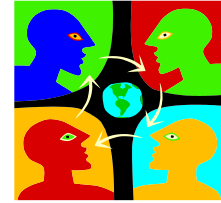
**Aug. 4** | MATI Translation Focused Gathering @ 6:30 pm | Panera on Regent Street | Madison, WI

**Sept. 20** | MATI Conference | Madison, WI

**Sept. 26-28** | New Mexico Interpreters Conference | Albuquerque, NM

**Oct. 10-12** | 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuing Education Conference of the California Federation of Interpreters | Los Angeles, CA

**Nov 5-8** | ATA Annual Conference | Chicago, IL



## CIP Manager Celebrates 10 Years

by Fayme Filipiak

Carmel Capati started as Manager of the CIP at the end of 2003. I had the opportunity to work with her then since I was hired in 2004 as her part-time assistant. She has been one of the driving forces behind considerable advances made in improving interpreting in Wisconsin courts.

It has not been easy to change the culture of the courts. When Carmel started as manager, the legislature had deleted a budget item that created an interpreter manager position and a testing and training program. First, she had to fight to even get a permanent program position! Fortunately, with the help of now retired US Sen. Herb Kohl, he was able to secure a two-year federal grant that allowed the program to run at full force. Over the past decade Carmel has presented extensively on court interpreter issues, state and federal requirements regarding language access in the courts to

judges, court clerks, commissioners, public defenders, attorneys, law students, etc. as well as at national conferences hosted by the National Center for State Courts and the Council of Language Access Coordinators. In 2007, Carmel helped push for and achieve legislation that requires courts to provide interpreters in both civil and criminal matters. Prior to this change, courts were only required to provide interpreters in criminal and a small handful of civil cases. In 2012, as part of a presentation at the Judicial College, Carmel developed video vignettes illustrating difficult in-court situations involving interpreters. See some of the videos at this link ([scroll to the bottom of page](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/judge/interpret1.htm)) <http://www.wicourts.gov/services/judge/interpret1.htm> In 2013, she received honorable mention in the highly competitive Virginia Hart Special Recognition Award competition. Chief Justice Shirley S. Abrahamson pointed

out that in one nine-month period in 2012, 256 interpreters provided services to the courts in 45 different languages. "Ms. Capati's efforts in expanding the CIP have made a significant difference in the services provided throughout the state. Her continuous development of the CIP contributes to ensuring equal access to justice for all individuals throughout Wisconsin court system regardless of the language they speak." (*The Third Branch*, Spring 2013) In 2014, Wisconsin was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> among states in providing support for people with LEP according to the National Center for Access to Justice. They consider many factors including use of certified interpreters and availability of forms in languages other than English. (*The Third Branch*, Spring 2014.) Ten years later, I wish to congratulate Carmel on a job well done! Let's all keep up the good work.