



# Wisconsin Court Interpreter Program (CIP) Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2015

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## 2015 Important Dates

### Written Testing

July 17: Stevens Point

July 31: Madison

### Oral Testing

October 28-29:  
Madison

### Advanced Skill Building (invitation only)

Sept 26-27: Madison

### Committee to Improve Interpreting & Translating in WI Cts Fall Meeting

Oct 16: Madison

## 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)

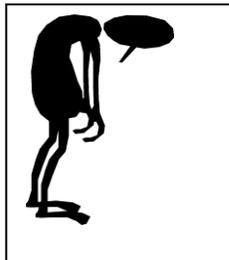
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID)  
[www.rid.org](http://www.rid.org)

Midwest Association of Interpreters and Translators (MATI)

## Budget Update

The state's budget for 2015-2017 was signed into law by the governor on July 12. Within the budget are some changes regarding the structure of reimbursement of court interpreter services from the state to counties. Under old law, three separate appropriations had provided funding to assist counties with circuit court support, guardians ad litem (GALs) and court interpreters. Governor Scott Walker's budget removes the statutes that had previously delineated the three appropriations and instead combines the three funds into one "pot" of money. This proposal seeks to give the Director of State Courts greater flexibility to determine how money in the new combined appropriation will be spent to support counties where earlier it had been outlined in statute. Any changes in the procedures for interpreter reimbursement will not be implemented until July 1, 2016.

## Compassion Fatigue and WisLAP



Interpreters in Wisconsin have begun discussing the notion of compassion fatigue and how it relates to the profession. According to the American Institute of Stress, compassion fatigue (also known as secondary traumatization) is the emotional strain of working with those who are suffering from the consequences of trauma. Interpreters are responsible for ensuring someone else's voice is heard at all times. The subject matter of an interpreter's work may involve rendering grisly details of child abuse, sexual assault or extreme violence. Research has shown that almost all language interpreters experience some symptoms of secondary or vicarious trauma as a result of repeated exposure to disturbing information and stories. Interpreters may not even be aware of the presence of compassion fatigue and its impact on their personal lives. Given the hectic nature of an interpreter's workday, often the opportunity to "de-brief" with colleagues after a long trial or difficult hearing is not available.

Recognizing the important role interpreters play in the court system, the Wisconsin State Bar is now extending WisLAP services to court interpreters. WisLAP or Wisconsin Lawyers Assistance Program is a service designed to help legal professionals build on their strengths and provide support through the enhancement of physical, mental, and emotional health. WisLAP is committed to the prevention, identification, and treatment of impairment among legal professionals through confidential assistance. Interpreters wishing to talk with a WisLAP specialist or simply wanting to know more about this service may contact Mary Spranger, a licensed clinical social worker and the coordinator of WisLAP at the State Bar at (608) 250-6159 or (800) 444-9404 x6159 or [mspranger@wisbar.org](mailto:mspranger@wisbar.org) Interpreters are encouraged to explore this service as a means to promote self-care and good health.

[www.matianet.org](http://www.matianet.org)

Upper Midwest  
Translators &  
Interpreters (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)

National Center for  
State Courts  
[www.ncsc.org](http://www.ncsc.org)

## 2015 Annual Conferences

Aug 8-12: RID  
New Orleans, LA

Sept 26: MATI  
Merrillville, IN

Nov 4-7: ATA  
Miami, FL

## Blogs, Newsletters & Other Tidbits

NAJIT  
[najit.org/blog/](http://najit.org/blog/)

The Interpreter  
Diaries  
<http://theinterpreterdiaries.com/>

Intersect  
[www.cultureandlanguage.net](http://www.cultureandlanguage.net)

The ATA's Chronicle  
[www.atanet.org/chronicle](http://www.atanet.org/chronicle)

NAJIT's Proteus  
[www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php](http://www.najit.org/publications/proteus.php)

Interpreters USA  
[www.interpretersusa.org](http://www.interpretersusa.org)

Wisconsin CIP  
[www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm](http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/index.htm)

## Meet Reme Bashi - Certified Spanish Interpreter



When you least expect it, a segment of your life experience comes in handy during an interpreting assignment. You, my fellow interpreters, know this all too well. In these lines, I'll tell you about my previous personas, those which jump to my aid with words and dialectal understanding while interpreting.

Thanks to my mother, I had a bilingual education in Mexico. I lived in Xalapa, Veracruz, where I got a bachelor's degree in Pedagogy at the state university. During my college years, I taught English and designed and made costumes for plays. After graduation, I wrote for a newspaper and a magazine. On the side, I interpreted for University events and diplomatic visitors. Conference interpreting, at first, gave me nightmares before each assignment! I was the coordinator of information at the School for Foreign Students at my Alma Mater, where I took my first formal interpreter training with Yvette Citizen, FCI. It was inspiring! There, I met a public speaker from New York City who hired me as his full time interpreter. I also handled Public Relations for his company. When I moved to Wisconsin with my two daughters, I worked for a school district and was surprised by the vague understanding people had of the interpreting and translation professions. I realized even though there was a high demand for interpreters here, the level of respect for the profession was not equivalent. I missed the "royal treatment" I got as an English-Spanish conference interpreter. My next challenge was interpreting at a meat processing plant- Hello "Spanglish" and a hard hat! I decided, at that point, I'd become a court interpreter.

## How Interpreters Can Access e-Filed Cases

Interpreters are trained to know one of the key ingredients to accurate interpreting is preparation which includes taking time to review the court file prior to an assignment. Requesting a "paper" copy of the file usually involves an interpreter simply asking the clerk for the file in order to review. Many courts around Wisconsin are making or have made the switch to electronic filing or e-Filing of cases for greater efficiency in case management and reduction in the amount of paper produced. The procedure for an interpreter to request access to an e-Filed case or other electronic documents is a relatively easy process as well. If the case is public, an interpreter looks up the case on a public access station located in each clerk's office. The public access terminal displays the court record along with all scanned and e-Filed documents (other than confidential documents). If the case is confidential (e.g. juvenile or guardianship matter) an interpreter can ask the clerk for a Temporary Access Code (TAC). The TAC will make the case available to the interpreter on a particular terminal for a limited period of time. The interpreter accesses the file and then closes it out when he/she is done reading it. Similarly, to view a confidential document in an otherwise public case (e.g. financial disclosure statement in a divorce) an interpreter would also use a TAC. Finally, if an interpreter wants to view a sealed document, the information must be printed out by the clerk, but requires prior judicial approval.

**Did you know that all forms regularly used by interpreters can be found at this link:**  
<http://www.wicourts.gov/services/interpreter/forms.htm>