

Self Study for Aspiring Court Interpreters

If you work as a court interpreter, or you plan to enter the field of court interpretation, the best training available in the country is to attend NCI's <u>Court Interpreter Training Institute</u> (the CITI). The CITI is held every summer for three weeks in Tucson, Arizona.

If you're not able to attend the CITI, there is quite a lot you can do on your own to build your skills as a legal interpreter. Below are some resources:

Legal Interpretools©

The Legal Interpretools[©] are Spanish-English practice materials developed to provide individuals an opportunity to enhance their interpreting skills and have language lab-type practice at home.

Volume I includes six lessons on simultaneous and consecutive modes as well as sight translation. Texts for simultaneous interpretation are recorded at two speeds to allow users to refine and improve their interpreting skills and techniques.

Volume II is dedicated to expert witness testimony. It includes six authentic texts for simultaneous practice and two written texts for sight translation. Topics covered include serology, hair analysis, firearms and tax documentation.

Volume III is dedicated to the formulaic language of the courts. The exercises for practice in simultaneous interpreting include initial appearances and arraignments, plea agreement hearings, sentencing and jury instructions. Attorney/client interviews and other topics are covered in the consecutive and sight translation exercises.

Each volume consists of a source sound file and a key sound file. The source file is used for practice, while the key file contains interpreted renditions by federally certified court interpreters of all the practice exercises. Spoken and printed glossaries are also included.

To purchase Legal Interpretools[®] please click here: http://nci.arizona.edu/legal int

The Spanish Talking Manual

The Spanish Talking Manual was developed to provide students with an opportunity to take a simulated oral interpreting exam and to study examples of acceptable and unacceptable

renditions of English and Spanish simultaneous and consecutive interpretations and sight translations. It is a simulation of the Federal Court Interpreter Certification Oral Exam. The scripts and subject matter are adapted from authentic test items, and the word count and time reflect the Federal oral testing experience.

The Talking Manual includes two sets of sound files: the first allows the user to simulate the exam under authentic testing conditions. The second contains example renditions which were rated acceptable and unacceptable by actual exam raters. The set also includes printed materials with examples of renditions, as well as tips for preparing for the exam.

To purchase the Talking Manual, please click here: http://nci.arizona.edu/span_man

The Court Interpreter Certificate of Proficiency (CICP)

The CICP is an interpreting performance test developed by NCI. The CICP assesses candidate performance in the three modes of interpreting. All scenarios are based on authentic court documents that reflect the complexity of cases routinely encountered in state court. To determine if a passing score on the CICP meets the requirements to work in Arizona state courts, please contact the Administrative Office of individual courts directly. To read more about this exam, or to register to take the exam, click here: http://nci.arizona.edu/cicp.

Certification at the State Level

45 states are members of the Council of Language Access Coordinators. Of those 45 states, some also offer state certification. To be a certified state court interpreter in one of these states, one must pass both a <u>written and an oral performance exam</u>. To research the policies and procedures for court interpreters in a specific state, use the <u>interactive map</u> provided by the National Center for State Courts to access the website for each state.

The Federal Court Interpreter Certificate Exam (FCICE)

The highest form of certification in the field of court interpretation is federal certification. Becoming a federally-certified court interpreter requires passing two exams: a written exam and an oral exam. Written exams are offered in even years (2016 is the written exam) and oral exams are offered in odd years (2017 will be the oral exam). To learn more about this two-part exam, visit this website: http://www.ncsc.org/fcice.

The NCSC offers a FCICE Examinee Handbook for free. The handbook contains a wealth of valuable information, including a detailed description of the written test format and a 160-item sample written examination. You can access the Handbook here: <u>Examinee Handbook</u>.

FCICE Sample Written Exams

You may also buy one of our sample written exams. Take the exam and then analyze your performance. We have 2 sample exams. Both were developed from actual past FCICE written exams. To purchase one click here: http://nci.arizona.edu/fcice_sample.

Professional Organizations

National and regional organizations often provide valuable resources and suggestions for the aspiring interpreter on their websites. Some national organizations (such as the <u>American Translators Association</u>) and regional organizations (such as the <u>Arizona Translators & Interpreter Association</u>) also offer mentoring programs for new interpreters. Joining a regional organization in your state or city might be especially helpful, both in terms of meeting more established interpreters in your area, as well as taking advantage of the training opportunities they often provide. You may find a comprehensive list of organizations <u>here</u>.