

April 24, 2024

Let's get right to it!

Upcoming state holidays

- May 27th Memorial Day

Stop by and say hello

I'd love to hear how your day is going – wins you've had, opportunities you've identified, etc!

- May 8th Lancaster County Courthouse
- May 1st & 16th Douglas County Courthouse
- May 31st Sarpy County Courthouse

From Egypt to Hall County

What a small world we live in! Two of our Nuer Interpreters, **Joseph Jok** and **Keak Kierkok**, got the opportunity to meet and work together during a two-day Jury Trial in Hall County District Court, Honorable Judge Butler presiding. During a break, Joseph realized that Keak's last name sounded very familiar and went on to ask if he was related to someone he went to school with back in Egypt. Turns out that individual is Keak's uncle! How fascinating is it to find out the many ways we are all connected.

Interpreter Appreciation Day *It's almost hereeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!*

As a token of appreciation for all that you do for Nebraska's courts and probation offices, please plan on joining us for *A Legal Encounter A to Z: A Guide to Professionalism*. It's free to you, worth 1.5CEUs (**all ethics!**) and you can do it from the comfort of your home! The training will be on Wednesday, May 1st from 6:30pm-8pm. Can't make it that day? You should still register so you'll have access to the recording and the CEUs for 1 month. Register [HERE](#).

Interpreter Certification Pathway

- 5 individuals took the Oral Exam in April.
- 31 individuals are registered to attend May's Orientation.
- Review calendar below for your remaining 2024 opportunities.

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Orientation	X			X		
Written Exam		X			X	
Oral Exam						X
Skills Building			X			

 **Interpreter Statements FYIs** 

LAP works closely with our Finance Division to ensure you are paid in a timely manner. To facilitate this, we need your help and, occasionally, your patience. Please keep the following in mind when completing and submitting your Statements.

- I will reply "received" when Statements are sent in electronically. If you don't receive a response, you'll need to resend the Statements.
- Finance pays by the 20th of the month. If you want to be paid by the 20th, then you must have your statements to me no later than the 7th of the month. Any statements received after the 7th will not be processed until the following month.

- Please wait until the 20th of the month or later before reaching out to me about payment.
- Some of the Statements are hard to read and I want to make sure you are compensated correctly! Scan them to me from a copier or by taking a picture of the Statement on your phone *and sending it to me as a PDF.*
 - If Finance or I cannot read the entire Statement (e.g., too dark, blurry), then you will be asked to resubmit the Statement, which may delay you being paid.
- Statements older than 6 months will not be paid, unless you document in writing exigent circumstances for the late Statements. Payment of any Statements older than 6 months will be reviewed by me and will require final approval for payment by the State Court Administrator. Therefore, it's critical that Statements are turned in monthly. Not doing so creates extra work for all involved and may result in you not being paid. Submitting statements on time will also help us better manage are budget.

Lancaster CC remote confirmations

Moving forward, payment confirmations for *all* remote hearings in Lancaster County Court will be handled by [Kelsey Andrews](#) and [William Calhoun](#). Please be sure to include the case number, name, and date of the hearing you need the confirmation for when you reach out to them. As always, if you are doing remote hearings as part of your block, confirmations will not be needed since the Ops Team can sign for all hearings done in block time.

Professional Resources

This month's offerings to check out:

- June's [NAJIT Academy](#) highlights
 - Translating the Language of Finance: Navigating the World of Financial Markets and Regulation
 - Rediscovering our colleague Malintzin
- Podcasts [Multilingual lawyer: Karen Lundquist](#)
- [Nebraska parenting act information brochure \(English\)](#)
- [Nebraska parenting act information brochure \(Spanish\)](#)
- [NAJIT Conference](#) wondering if you should go? Many of your colleagues have gone in the past so ask around – they would love to answer your questions! Pic below is from last year's conference in Las Vegas and features Mai Nguyen, Adrian Hinojosa, and Myhanh Che.



Office laptops

Each Language Access office now has a dedicated laptop for interpreter partners to conduct Zoom hearings. No log in required – when the screen says Interpreter, click on sign in and you're in! Access your email, get the Zoom link, and start interpreting! Two things you can do to set yourself up for success:

- Do a dry run BEFORE you have a Zoom hearing.
- Don't assume the laptop will be available when you need it – check with the Ops Team to ensure no other interpreter will be using it when you need to!

Recognitions

- ✚ **Young Lee and YoYo Kim** – It was a pleasure to meet both of you in person, thank you for your valuable service to the Sarpy District Court. – *Olivia Brockman, Interpreter Coordinator*



- ✚ **Iouri Surnik**: The Russian interpreter this morning was excellent, so thank you! - *Judge Acton, Lancaster County Court*
- ✚ **Ben Hammar**: He was awesome! - *MaKayla Parriott, 3J Probation*
- ✚ **Norma Olivas**: Ms. Olivas did a wonderful job! - *Linda Smith, Hitchcock County Court*
- ✚ **Stacey Con**: She always does a fantastic job. - *Nichole Lawson, Red Willow District Court*
- ✚ **Mai Nguyen**, thank you for covering a trial for Buffalo County Court and bearing with me when trying to figure out if it was going to go longer than 3 hours! - *Amiel Armijo, Language Access Coordinator*
- ✚ Last Wednesday, Hall County Court had an enormous number of individuals that appeared for Mass Arraignments who required a Spanish interpreter. **Amiel Armijo** helped us secure a second Spanish interpreter, so the Court was better able to serve those individuals and get them out of the Courtroom more quickly! It was great and the Judges were pleased to be able to help those individuals!- *Melisa Tonniges, Hall County Court Courtroom Clerk*
- ✚ We had a small claims trial this morning. The parties were a bit challenging in terms of talking over each other, the interpreter, and the Court- despite instructions to refrain from doing that. **Belkin Gonzalez** did an outstanding job throughout the entire proceeding. Please relay to Belkin my appreciation for a job well done. Thank you. – *Judge Matney, Dakota County Court*
- ✚ Just wanted to send you both (**Adrian Hinojosa** and **Kelly Varguez**) a BIG thank you again!! You guys are awesome, and I appreciate all you do for us! - *Taylor Schneider, Douglas County District Court Bailiff*

✦ [Language Access Snapshot](#) highlighting Pamela Duncan, Jamy Elker, Adrian Hinojosa, Sunkist Judson, Keak Kierkok, Dowjanya Kumari, Abukar Madimba, Morics Moo, Augustin Moses, Yadu Sapkota, Shawn Shannon, Tara Trindle, Kelly Varquez, Ashley Villanueva Enriquez, and Al Villareal.

Did you know?

This is always a fun section on trivia, languages, and interpreters!

- [Do you say pop or soda? “Regional Dialects” across the US explained](#)
- [Linguists identify new English dialect in Miami](#)
- [The amazing brains of the real-time interpreters](#)

Questions? Comments? Reach out to me!