



InterPRESS

A quarterly publication of the Arizona Court Interpreters Association Winter 2008

CONTENTS

Message from the President	2
Committees & New Members	2
Judge James Blake	3
He counts your words	4
Legal Terminology	6
Profile: Ricardo González Yuma Magistrate Court	8
Map Orange Tree Golf Resort	10
Future Events	11

Board of Directors

President: Blanca Lucht
blucht1@cox.net

1st VP: Kathleen Schaben
KMSchaben@aol.com

2nd VP: María García
mgarcia2@courts.az.gov

Treasurer: David Svoboda
svobodad@gmail.com

Secretary : Scott Loos
seekseegrekzed@aol.com

Editor: Kathleen Penney
kathleenpenney@yahoo.com

ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN US FOR LUNCH
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008
11:30AM – 4:00PM

AT THE

ORANGE TREE GOLF RESORT

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
10601 North 56th Street, Scottsdale, AZ
(Maps on Page)

Admission fees will be \$20 for Members and \$35 for Non-members or Guests.

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:30	REGISTRATION
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 – 2:00	BUSINESS MEETING
2:00 – 3:00	GUEST SPEAKER, JUDGE JAMES BLAKE
3:00 - 4:00	RAFFLE & CLOSING

Attendance will be by registration only
Registrations will not be accepted after 9 PM, December 3, 2008

*To Register contact Kathy Schaben KMSchaben@aol.com
For Directions contact Blanca Lucht at BLucht1@cox.net*

A Message from the President



Dear Members:

It's Annual Meeting time again! Once again we will have the meeting at the lovely Orange Tree Golf Resort. We hope you come and share an elegant lunch with us and participate in the raffle. Every year we get wonderful donations for the raffle, and this year will be the largest raffle yet. I am sure you will also enjoy Judge James Blake, our Guest Speaker.

Looking forward to 2009, the Board has planned a series of events, Workshops and Presentations, in a variety of topics which we are sure you will find useful and interesting.

Our Third Annual 2-Day Conference will be held in March and will deal with forensic matters. In keeping with ACIA's goal to provide training opportunities throughout the state, we have also scheduled events in Tucson, Prescott and Yuma. We look forward to seeing you at our 2009 events.

As usual, the topics of our workshops and presentations are based on requests by our members. So if you would like to attend an event on a particular subject, or have a presenter in mind, please let us know.

Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting!

Blanca Lucht
President

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Silvia Verdugo, Spanish, Phoenix

Emily Wilson, Spanish, Nogales

ACIA COMMITTEES LIST

Program Committee:

Chairperson, Kathleen Schaben
KMSchaben@aol.com

Membership Committee:

Chairperson, Maria Garcia
mgarcia2@courts.az.gov

Education Committee:

Chairperson, Scott Loos
eckseegrekzed@aol.com

Ethics Committee:

Chairperson, Kathleen Schaben
KMSchaben@aol.com

Non-Language Specific Delegate:

Juan Cordova
Juan.Cordova@cityofmesa.org

Parliamentarian:

Ricardo Gonzalez
Ricardo_Gonzalez@azd.uscourts.gov

Certification Committee

Fundraising Committee

If you would like to join a Committee
please contact the Board

GUEST SPEAKER:**JUDGE JAMES BLAKE**

Scottsdale City Court

Judge James Blake has been an Associate Scottsdale City Judge since he was sworn in on September 11, 2001. Currently he handles a criminal court docket. He is also the President of the Arizona Magistrates Association. He has been and is a member of the following Arizona State Bar Committees, Public Lawyers Committee, Legal Services Committee and the State Bar Convention Committee. In 2007, he was awarded the Judicial Excellence Award from the State Bar Public Lawyers Section.

Judge Blake received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona in 1983 where he graduated in the top third of his class. He received his Bachelors' of Science in History from Arizona State University in 1980, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude. At Arizona State University, he was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. In 1993, Arizona State University awarded Judge Blake its A.S.U. Young Achievement Award.

After graduation from Law School, Judge Blake was a prosecutor at the Maricopa County Attorneys Office from 1984 till 2001. There he tried cases ranging from Murder to Possession of Marijuana. He also managed attorneys as head of the Gang Bureau, Southeast Division and as Criminal Trial Division Chief. His specialty was prosecuting White Supremacy cases. He was also appointed a special prosecutor in Yuma, Pima and Yavapai Counties. In 1994, the State Bar of Arizona awarded him the Distinguished Public Lawyer Award and the Law Related Education Award.

He Counts Your Words (Even Those Pronouns)

The New York Times, October 14, 2008
By JESSICA WAPNER



James W. Pennebaker's interest in word counting began more than 20 years ago, when he did several studies suggesting that people who talked about traumatic experiences tended to be physically healthier than those who kept such experiences secret. He wondered how much could be learned by looking at every single word people used — even the tiny ones, the I's and you's, a's and the's.

That led Dr. Pennebaker, a professor of [psychology](#) at the [University of Texas](#), down a winding path that has taken him from [Beatles](#) lyrics ([John Lennon's](#) songs have more “negative emotion” words than [Paul McCartney's](#)) all the way to terrorist communications. By counting the different kinds of words a person says, he is breaking new linguistic ground and leading a resurgent interest in text analysis.

Take Dr. Pennebaker's recent study of [Al Qaeda](#) communications — videotapes, interviews, letters. At the request of the [F.B.I.](#), he tallied the number of words in various categories — pronouns, articles and adjectives, among others.

He found, for example, that [Osama bin Laden's](#) use of first-person pronouns (I, me, my, mine) remained fairly constant over several years. By contrast, his second-in-command, [Ayman al-Zawahri](#), used such words more and more often.

“This dramatic increase suggests greater insecurity, feelings of threat, and perhaps a shift in his relationship with bin Laden,” Dr. Pennebaker wrote in his [report](#), which was published in *The Content Analysis Reader* (Sage Publications, July 2008).

Kimberly A. Neuendorf, a professor of communications at Cleveland State University who has extensively studied content analysis, agreed with that assessment. Mr. Zawahri, she said, “is clearly repositioning himself to provide a singular platform for his opinion” and “reaffirming his status as an important individual in the dynamic.”

Because it is hard for the human brain to count and compare all the I's, a's and the's in a sample of speech or writing, Dr. Pennebaker had to invent a software program to do it. The program, Linguistic Inquiry and Word Count (LIWC, pronounced luke), contains a vast dictionary, with each word assigned to one or more categories.

There are social words (talk, they), biological words (cheek, hands, spit), “insight” words (think, know, consider) and dozens of other groupings. LIWC compares a text sample to its dictionary and, within seconds, provides a readout of how many words appear in each category.

To test-drive the program, Dr. Pennebaker, a pioneer in the field of therapeutic writing, asked a group of people recovering from serious illness or other trauma to engage in a series of writing exercises. The word tallies showed that those whose health was improving tended to decrease their use of first-person pronouns through the course of the study.

Health improvements were also seen among people whose use of causal words — because, cause, effect — increased. Simply ruminating about an experience without trying to understand the causes is less likely to lead to psychological growth, he explained; the subjects who used causal words “were changing the way they were thinking about things.”

(Continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Dr. Pennebaker, 58, has conducted numerous studies since then, all of them demonstrating that it's not just what we say that matters but how we say it. Where traditional linguistics "is really more interested in context, how sentences are put together and what a meaningful phrase is," he said, "our approach is simply counting words."

In study after study, the articles and pronouns, which text analysts often call "junk words," have proved crucial.

For example, Dr. Pennebaker has found that men tend to use more articles (a, the) and women tend to use more pronouns (he, she, they). The difference, he says, may suggest that men are more prone to concrete thinking and women are more likely to see things from other perspectives.

Jeffrey T. Hancock, an associate professor of communication at Cornell, uses word counting to study language and deception, particularly on the Internet.

Liars, he says, use more "negative emotion" words (hurt, ugly, nasty) and fewer first-person singulars. "These very simple dimensions have emerged again and again," he said, "despite the fact that there were 40 years of research before this."

Dr. Pennebaker says that because speech patterns are akin to a personal signature, his software might be used to identify authors of anonymous blogs and e-mail messages, and as supporting evidence in legal testimony. But he acknowledges that it cannot be definitive; too much depends on probability.

"In the language world, everything is probability," Dr. Pennebaker said. "But in our legal system, we have real problems with understanding probability. Everyone has problems with probability."

Still, the technique is drawing attention from a variety of sectors. Dr. Pennebaker has received a grant from the Army Research Institute to study the language of social dynamics, particularly how leaders use language. Joseph Pstoka, a research psychologist at the institute, said that over time, this kind of study "could be very helpful for training and leadership development, but precisely how we don't know yet."

Dr. Pennebaker's program has been translated into several languages, with an Arabic version in the works; Dr. Pennebaker notes that his Qaeda analysis was constrained by its reliance on English translations.

"Function words vary between one language and another and reveal a lot about another culture," he said.

Dr. Pstoka said counting and categorizing the words used by a foreign speaker could provide clues about "the subtle attitudes, not just the meaning of the words — to get a sense of whether or not negotiation or discussion is going smoothly."

Dr. Pennebaker has also turned his word-counting machinery toward the presidential campaign (at wordwatchers.wordpress.com), and he likes to look at age-old questions like whether Shakespeare had a co-playwright, who wrote the Federalist Papers and even whether a couple will stay together.

"The more similar they are in terms of language," Dr. Pennebaker said, "the more likely they are to be together several months later."



LEGAL TERMINOLOGY

By: Scott Loos M.A., Education Chair

Below are four examples of terms used specifically in a judicial or legal forum that cause English<>Spanish interpreters and translators some difficulties. They are, in most cases, false cognates that merit some attention:

term	comment	English	example
archivar	Not “file” in the sense of bring an action in court, but rather put an end to the process. “Archive” in a document denotes the end of the action, not just opening the drawer and never just filing the papers with the court.	Closest to “dismiss”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “La titular del juzgado de instrucción número 33 de la capital catalana, Elisabeth Castelló, ha decidido archivar provisionalmente las actuaciones contra 21 mujeres imputadas por un delito de aborto presuntamente ilegal en las clínicas del doctor Carlos Morín.” [Spain] • “Familiares de desaparecidos uruguayos en Argentina y otros afectados por las dictaduras castrenses de ambos países realizarán este viernes un acto de repudio ante la embajada de Uruguay en Buenos Aires para acompañar la marcha de los organismos humanitarios de ese país, que también ese día demandarán en Montevideo justicia y alertarán sobre los intentos judiciales de archivar casos emblemáticos de desapariciones y asesinatos en el contexto de la cooperación criminal entre ambos regímenes militares en los años 70.” [Argentina] • “Por recibido oficio que remite el Juez DE ORIGEN como acuse de recibo, y por tratarse de un asunto totalmente concluido, se ordena archivar el toca.” [Mexico]
evacuar	Not “evacuate” as in remove persons or objects from a place, but <i>carry out, process</i> .	The matter was <i>handled, heard, proceeded with, conducted, carried out, etc.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “No obstante, el demandante y codemandados no promovieron ni evacuaron pruebas en el lapso legal correspondiente. En este sentido, el Tribunal con los elementos que cursan en autos decidirá la controversia.” [Venezuela] • “Que mis tres testigos, nunca fueron recibidos por el Juzgado. La primera vez que se presentaron se me dijo que el señalamiento era solamente para la parte demandada y los devolvieron. La segunda vez fue porque mi abogado estaba muy enfermo, y el Juzgado no los evacuó.” [Costa Rica] <p>“Los magistrados del Quinto Tribunal Penal del Guayas evacuaron la mañana de ayer varias audiencias de juzgamientos de presos que aún no tienen sentencia.” [Ecuador]</p>

term	comment	English	example
evacuar (continued)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “La tasa promedio de producción anual de la rama, es decir el número de procesos que son evacuados efectivamente de la jurisdicción cada año, se encuentra en 413 procesos por funcionario judicial.” [Mexico]
ventilar	Not ventilate, but bring out, hear, carry out.	The case was <i>brought before</i> , <i>heard by</i> , etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Conforme a lo antes expuesto, al declinarse la competencia por razón de la materia, el Tribunal a quien le corresponda conocer continuará la causa en el estado en que se encuentre conforme al procedimiento que deba seguir, siempre y cuando las actuales procesales practicadas ante el Juez declinante no sean incompatibles con el trámite procedimental establecido por la ley para ventilar la acción por ante el Tribunal competente.” [Venezuela] “...que en esa virtud, se hace necesario contar con un instrumento jurídico que regule el procedimiento que ha de seguirse para compartir las resoluciones administrativas y fiscales de las autoridades responsables, y del funcionamiento procesal del tribunal en donde se han de ventilar los anteriores asuntos...”[Mexico]
magistrado	Not a <i>magistrate</i> , in the sense of a lower-court or inferior degree of authority, but just the opposite.	Usually refers to a justice or appellate court judge in many countries. Safest translation: <i>Judge</i> , not <i>magistrate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Fueron reinstalados como magistrados del Supremo Tribunal de Justicia del Estado (STJEM) José de la Paz Mercado y Sergio Fernández Villagrán, a la séptima y octava salas civiles, respectivamente.” [Mexico] “El Tribunal Supremo de Elecciones estará integrado, ordinariamente por tres Magistrados propietarios y seis suplentes, nombrados por la Corte Suprema de Justicia por los votos de no menos de los dos tercios del total de sus miembros. Deberán reunir iguales condiciones y estarán sujetos a las mismas responsabilidades que los Magistrados que integran la Corte.” [Costa Rica]



PROFILE



RICARDO GONZÁLEZ
STAFF COURT INTERPRETER
YUMA MAGISTRATE COURT

Q: What is your position and how long you have been with the court?

A: Staff Court Interpreter, Yuma Magistrate Court, U.S. District of Arizona. I've been part of this happy family since August 2003.

Q: How is the office set up: coordinator/administrator, support staff? Senior interpreter, administrator?

A: Administrative duties rotated among staff interpreters? I'm the only interpreter in Yuma, however, my supervisor (who's not an interpreter) is in Phoenix. I'm directly involved in the process of hiring "other than Spanish" freelance interpreters, so I do keep track of rotation and contract requirements for them. Since we're such a "small" unit, sometimes, I do fulfill other office duties. It keeps me "well rounded" so to speak.

Q: How many interpreters does the Court employ? Staff or contract?

A: Again, I'm the only "show in town". The District of Arizona has a total of 12 staff interpreters, all of us work in the English<>Spanish combination. The District also hires contract interpreters during periods of high demand and for other than Spanish cases.

Q: What are the qualifications for employment as an interpreter?

A: Federal Courts rely on the Federal Court Interpreting Certification Exam (FCICE) as the basic requirement for interpreters who work in Spanish, Navajo, and Haitian Creole languages. Of course work experience and academic preparation are very important factors that are also taken into account when any interpreter applies for work in Federal Court.

Q: Do new interpreters receive any kind of training before they are given assignments?

A: There's no interpreter specific training for new hires.

Q: Does the court offer on-going training for interpreters? Does the Court expect the interpreters to obtain job specific on-going training on their own?

A: We do have access to some basic ethics and work related issues, though it's not mandatory. We are encouraged to participate or to initiate on-going training. We've held a few training sessions within the District. Personally, I have given presentations at the NAJIT and ACIA conferences. Professional growth is also a factor taken into account when evaluating our performance.

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)

Q: Is there any type of orientation for Judges and Court staff regarding use of interpreter and/or interpreter issues?

A: I'm very lucky that the Yuma Magistrate has an "open door" policy when it comes to educating the Bench and the rest of the Court family regarding interpreting issues. Nationwide the Court Interpreter Advisory Group (a committee made up of interpreters and other Court professionals) makes recommendations regarding interpreting issues in Federal courts.

Q: At what point in a case are interpreters assigned?

A: From the very initial stages, as soon as the defendant is interviewed by his/her attorney. By the way, all Federal Public Defenders assigned to Yuma speak Spanish.

Q: Are interpreter cases tracked? If so, how?

A: The Court Clerks generate the minute entries and court calendars that show which cases require interpreters.

Q: What do you consider the most important interpreter issues faced by your court at the moment?

A: Pretty much like anywhere else case volume is a major strain in the Court system. Geography plays a major role in Yuma's case flow. The volume of cases depends on the agricultural season. Policy changes regarding prosecutions of illegal aliens and related crimes require the Court to use its discretion wisely at the time of sentencing. It's a difficult balance to keep between sentencing options and fair punishment. The Judge often hears cases of repeat offenders whose criminal record mainly has immigration related priors or career criminals whose priors pose a grave risk to the community. As an interpreter, I find it specially challenging to render the correct nuances when the Judge speaks to defendants who basically have committed the same offense but get very different scales of punishment due to their criminal history.

Please feel free to add any comments.

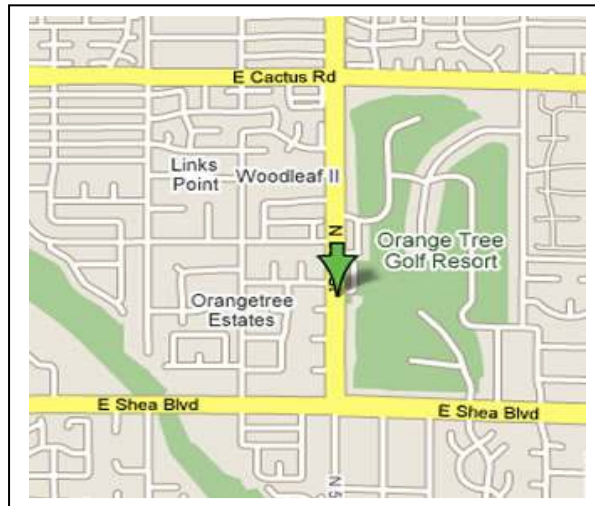
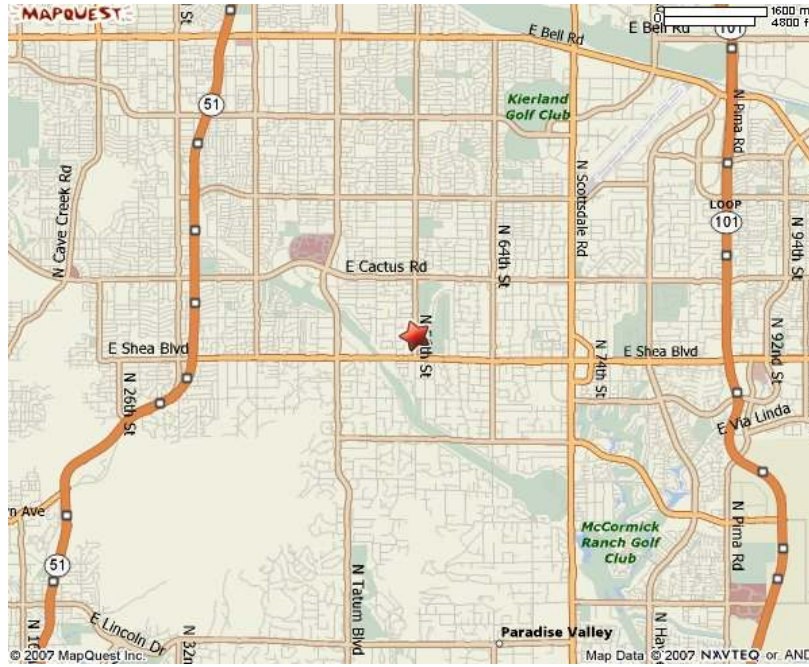
Thank you for giving me this opportunity to, briefly share with you what it's like to work here in Yuma. Please don't hesitate to stop by and check us out if you happen to be in this small, yet fast-growing town.

MEMBERSHIP LIST ON THE WEB



Check out the membership list on the web site. It will be up dated every quarter to coincide with the publication of the InterPRESS. To make corrections or to request that your information not be made public, please contact ekseegrekzed@aol.com. Addresses will not be published.

ORANGE TREE GOLF RESORT SCOTTSDALE
10601 N. 56TH STREET
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254





InterPRESS

Arizona
Court
Interpreters
Association

162 W. Myrna Lane
Tempe, AZ
85284

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.aciaonline.org

Future Events

The following dates and locations have been selected for our future events:

March 23 & 24, 2009 Phoenix

April 25, 2009 Tucson

June 27, 2009 Prescott

September 26, 2009 Scottsdale

November 7, 2009 Yuma

December 5, 2009 Scottsdale

ACIA
162 West Myrna Lane
Tempe, AZ 85284

