



Fall 2001

ACIA Communiqué

What's Going On With ACIA?

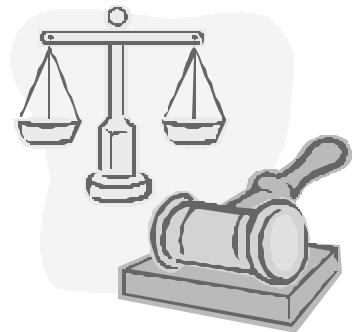
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A lot! Arizona Court Interpreters' Association has been working to provide you with more services and activities, including a **new website** coming soon! You've probably already noticed the newsletter's new name: Presenting the **ACIA Communiqué!** We thank Iván Berger for all of his past work on the Bulletin and wish him luck in his new endeavors. The Communiqué has the same idea as the Bulletin—to publish a quarterly newsletter with information for members on meetings, interpreter resources and terminology issues.

The Communiqué, like the Association, does not exist in isolation of its members, and we need you to help keep it

going strong. Please send your articles, website recommendations or terminology inquiries to **p o c o n n o r 3 3 1 @earthlink.net**. We'll put them in future issues. Look for informative meetings and presentations to be announced in upcoming editions. So far this year, ACIA has had a 'controversial' presentation on profanity by Alfonso Vilaseñor, federally certified interpreter; and a seminar on courtroom ethics by Joyce García, full-time Federal court staff—Tucson. For our **September 22nd meeting**, we're honored to have Victoria F. Vásquez, co-author of the interpreter's 'bible', Fundamentals of Court Interpretation. A



Presenting the new ACIA Communiqué!

signed copy of her book will be given to a lucky attendee!! Ms. Vásquez will lead an interactive presentation on 'paralanguage'. So keep participating to keep our Association vital and successful!

• ACIA Officers

- Louis Velasco: President. (602) 322-7266
- Linda Baronsky: Vice-President. (928) 445-5063; (928)567-7722.
- Hortensia Studer: Secretary
- Patrick O'Connor: Treasurer; Editor of Communiqué. (520) 623-3564; (520) 205-4249.

From the Classroom to the Courtroom

By Olivia Y. Escobar-Trujillo, M.A. Ed.

After 7 years of teaching at a middle school special ed classroom, I made the brave choice of not renewing my contract, becoming 'fashionably self-employed' and beginning a new career path. The security of the classroom is unmatched; after a couple of probationary years,

tenure is earned and you're set.

Years before, I had quit the classroom to stay home with my newborn son and requested information on court interpreting. I felt capable, having been raised in a well-educated bilingual home. When I received the information, though, I

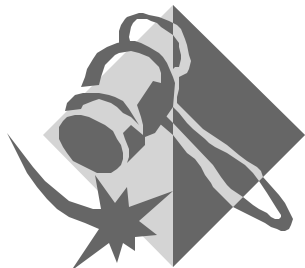
quickly realized it was financially out of my reach.

A couple of years ago, I began to feel professionally unfilled. The nurse, administrators and police all would call on me to interpret for monolingual

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Starting out: Advice for Beginning Interpreters

By Patrick O'Connor



Patrick O'Connor is a full-time staff interpreter at Federal Court in Tucson.

Before the 1970s, court interpreting was not considered a serious profession and few training programs existed. Now the situation has changed with more and more people choosing this exciting career to meet the ever-growing demand.

I often meet people who are interested in being an interpreter but not sure how to go about it. I usually tell them that it takes more than being fluently bilingual; the novice must build on his or her fluency by

acquiring an extensive legal vocabulary, sharpening memory skills, and learning how to interpret simultaneously and consecutively, as well as sight translate court documents.

The novice's skills can be sharpened through independent study—with or without specially designed programs—or formal education programs. I recommend the ACEBO program, by Holly Mikkelson (acebo.com for more info.) which includes tapes, a dictionary and practice

transcripts that simulate the real-life court experience.

Today many programs exist that teach court interpreting including over 20 in California that teach in Spanish and other languages, such as ASL. In Arizona we have at least two programs: the Agnese Haury Summer Institute at U of A, Tucson, and the ASU Court Interpreter Program in Phoenix. Both are known for a high level of expertise brought by well-known experts in their field.

- ASU Extended Campus. Spanish Court Interpreter Program. Phoenix. Call (480) 965-9200.
- University of Arizona, Tucson. Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation. (520) 621-3615 or e-mail an inquiry to: ncitrp@u.arizona.edu/~ncitrp.
- Southern California School of Interpretation in Santa Fe Springs. Call (562) 863-0026.
- The University of Charleston, South Carolina. Master's Degree Program. Call (843) 953-5614.

"Nothing works better to hone your skills than actual interpreting"



See above for more information on these and other recommended programs.

There are many benefits of direct observation of court proceedings. Seek out the staff interpreters; they can show you around and explain procedures. The simultaneous mode, usually the most challenging, can

be practiced quietly and you may even be able to get permission to tape the proceedings (and yourself) for this purpose.

Finally, nothing works better to hone your skills than actual interpreting. I began by volunteering for a local probation department but I must add a word of caution. Some people

bristle at the idea of work done for nothing but I feel there is a place for volunteer interpreting, mainly in small towns that can't afford a professional..

Whatever course you pursue, Seek out and inquire of your more seasoned colleagues and go out there and take advantage of the opportunities available!

ACIA ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER MEETING

ACIA MEETING AND PRESENTATION

VICTORIA F. VASQUEZ, WILL LEAD AN INTERACTIVE PRESENTATION ON THE ROLE OF PARALANGUAGE IN INTERPRETATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 9:00 A.M.

NEW PHOENIX FEDERAL COURTHOUSE—400 W. WASHINGTON

Assemble promptly at 9:00 A.M. on the east side of the building to be let in. Parking on Avenues or on Jefferson—don't park in the police lot!



Classroom to Courtroom

(continued from page 1)

Hispanic families, even in psychological evaluations. It wasn't in my job description (it fell under 'other duties as assigned') and I was displeased with this system but I felt compelled to assist the families.

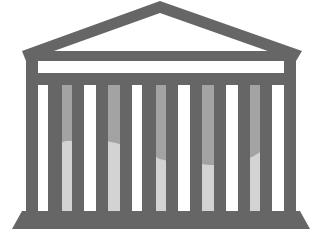
By late summer of 2000 I had almost given up on fruitless efforts at the school district to get compensation for fluently bilingual staff and to be heard regarding the disgraceful translations provided by others. I decided to further my studies in

Educational Administration but one day my mom called to tell me that she had seen a talk show promoting the Agnese Haury Institute for Court Interpretation. Things then moved very quickly and before I knew it I was commuting almost 200 miles a day to attend! In my 19+ years of education, I had never enjoyed myself so much or felt so inspired! After a grueling 3 weeks, I felt overwhelmed, motivated and very 'educated'. Unfortunately, I

had to return to the classroom. A year without using the eloquent vocabulary I learned caused me to lose much of it.

Spring 2001 approached and I began to prepare myself for this major life event by resigning my position and going to Superior Court of Cochise County and Federal Court to observe. After all this observing and 'learning' I finally braved the exam.

During a typical Law & Mo-



Olivia Y. Escobar-Trujillo lives in Sierra Vista and is a new ACIA member. Welcome and good luck, Olivia!

<p>Fundamentals of Court Interpretation</p> <p>\$10.00 off</p> <p>ARIZONA COURT INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION Describe your location by landmark or area of town.</p>	<p>Copies of the 'interpreter's bible' will be available at the special rate at Victoria F. Vasquez's presentation on paralinguistics at the next meeting, September 22, 9:00 at the new Phoenix Federal Courthouse</p>
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tion day, an interpreter set me up for my test. I sat in front of the judge between the reporter, bailiff and clerk. I felt like I was on stage! The kind interpreter was nowhere in sight when I began with the next case. The judge mentioned a 'presentence report'. I'd practiced that term repeatedly but it vanished! Everything I learned

at the Institute was gone! The judge went on but I was still stuck on presentence report.

I felt like an absolute fool. The interpreter motioned that I was done and we walked into the lobby where she gave me a warm hug and said, "Muchacha! You have to relax! We'll try this another time." She and the other staff

interpreter were very kind with their suggestions and advice.

I have not attempted to test again. I'll study, practice and study again and try some other time. Meanwhile, I continue observing and taking in as much as I can so that perhaps on the next occasion I'll remember how to interpret 'presentence report.'



"I had practiced that term repeatedly but it vanished!"

Push for State Certification: The 'Consortium'

Information for this article from www.ncsc.dni.us

Audits of interpreted court proceedings have shown that untested and untrained interpreters often perform poorly and constrain equal access to justice for those for whom they interpret.

The push began with Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon and

Washington to pool resources to develop and administer court interpreter test and training programs by creating the State Court Interpreter Certification Consortium ("Consortium"). The National Center for State Courts was charged with inviting other states and other enti-

ties to become members of the Consortium.

In Arizona a panel is now studying the possibility of joining. If you have questions or want to express your opinion on the Consortium and whether Arizona should join, email me at poconnor331@earthlink.net



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INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 4283
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Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

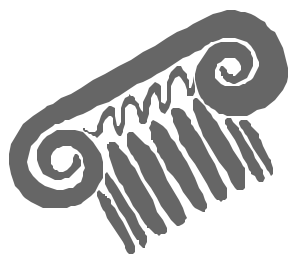
WE'LL BE ON THE
WEB SOON!



ACIA

How to Untangle the Legalese in Jury Instructions

By Néstor Wagner, Southern California School of Interpretation



ACIA thanks Mr. Wagner for permission to publish this article

Jury instructions given after closing arguments usually contain technical legal vocabulary and the judge usually reads them at over 160 words per minute! Here are some key terms and expressions to help interpreters correctly render the high register used in jury instructions in criminal cases:

You will disregard any evidence which was either not admitted or which was stricken by the court: Hará caso omiso a toda prueba que no haya sido aceptada o haya sido anulada (tachada) judicialmente.

Interest, bias or prejudice: Interés, predisposición (parcialidad) o prejuicio

Such objections: Dichas protestas

Whenever it is applicable: Cuando proceda

You are not bound: No está limitado (obligado)

An attempt was made to commit a wrongful act: Se hizo un intento de cometer un acto ilícito

The person had the ability to commit the offense: La persona tuvo la capacidad de cometer el delito.

In connection with: Junto con

Every person that commits an offense: Toda persona que comete un delito.

Likely to produce: Que probablemente ocasione

Trespass against land or goods: Ingresar a un bien inmueble o llevarse un bien mueble sin autorización.

Sudden quarrel or heat of passion: Súbita pendencia o arrebatado de ira

Bodily injuries: Lesiones corporales

The test is not the duration: El criterio a seguir no incluye la duración

The law does not undertake: El derecho (la ley) no propone

Wanton disregard for human life: Depravada (insensible) indiferencia hacia la vida humana

Proximate cause: Motivo inmediato

Self defense: Defensa legítima

Duress: Coacción

Criminal intent: Intención delictuosa

In violation of section: En quebranto (infracción) del artículo...