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The Authors

Ayuda and Cross-Cultural Communications would like to thank the writing team that made this project possible.

This curriculum represents the interface between the fields of legal and community interpreting. It was developed by four specialists from both of these fields, including an attorney who runs a project for legal interpreters.

On the legal interpreting side, the team was privileged to include two respected experts: Isabel Framer and Lois Feuerle. On the community interpreting side the team benefited from the expertise of Marjory Bancroft, while Jean Bruggeman provided valuable legal expertise both as an attorney and the director of a nonprofit legal interpreter bank.

Isabel Framer, a national consultant on language access, currently serves as Chair of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT). She is a court-certified Spanish interpreter for over 15 years, a leading national advocate on language access and a national trainer who has provided expert witness testimony on legal interpreting across the country. She regularly trains legal interpreters, judges, law enforcement, attorneys and other court support services on interpreting and language access and has created many training curricula. As an interpreter, she has worked in a broad array of legal settings from federal courts and grand juries to nonprofit legal services, private attorney offices, law enforcement investigations and detention settings. A graduate of a medical interpreter training program, she has also performed community interpreting. She is the co-founder and former president of the Ohio Court and Community Interpreters Association. In addition to sitting on national and state boards as well as task forces, she presents regularly at conferences across the country and serves on the Supreme Court of Ohio's Advisory Committee on Interpreter Services.

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Marjory Bancroft, Director of Cross-Cultural Communications, immigrated to the U.S. from French Canada and has lived in eight countries. She holds a BA and MA in French linguistics from Université Laval in Quebec and advanced language certificates from universities in Spain, Germany and Jordan. She has taught translation, French and English as a second language for two universities (in Canada and Jordan), for immigrant schools run by the Quebec Ministry of Immigration and for continuing educa-

tion programs. She spent several years interpreting for health and human services and providing direct services to immigrants and refugees. She also directed a nonprofit community language bank of 200 interpreters and set up an immigrant health program. The co-author of the only nationally available 40-hour certificate program and train-the-trainer's program for bilingual staff and community interpreters, she has developed nearly three dozen interpreter and cultural competence training curricula, including five train-the-trainer programs. Since 2001 she has directed Cross-Cultural Communications, a training and technical assistance agency devoted to interpreting and cultural competence in community services. Today she is a leading national advocate for professional interpreter training for bilingual employees and community interpreters. She speaks widely at conferences, served three years on the Board of the National Council on Interpreting in Health Care and currently serves on the National LEP Task Force run by the National Health Law Program.

Jean Bruggeman is an attorney admitted to the Maryland and District of Columbia bars and the Director of the Community Legal Interpreter Bank, a project of Ayuda in Washington D.C. Each year, Ayuda provides multilingual legal and social services to thousands of immigrants from over 80 countries. The Interpreter Bank is a nonprofit legal interpreter service intended to provide trained interpreters for civil legal services providers in the District of Columbia. The project offers specialized training for interpreters and service providers. It also tests participating interpreters for language proficiency. Prior to this project, she directed the Survivor Services Department for Boat People SOS, a national Vietnamese community-based organization, where she also led the Community Against Domestic Violence and Victims of Exploitation and Trafficking Assistance programs, supervised legal and social services staff, conducted outreach and education within the Vietnamese community and provided training and technical assistance to service providers around the country. She graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center and was awarded a Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship to serve as the VAWA Attorney at Ayuda in Washington DC in 2000. Jean also holds an AB (Sociology/Anthropology) from Bryn Mawr College.

Collectively, the co-authors have authored dozens of publications. They belong to, or serve on, various membership organizations, nonprofit boards, coalitions, task forces and other organizations across the U.S. that support quality interpreting, legal services and equal access to public services.

The authors wish to thank the following individuals and organizations who served as the Community Legal Interpreter Bank's Advisory Board during the development of this curriculum. They provided vital input and support in the development of these materials: Professor Muneer I. Ahmad; Eric Angel, Esq.; Professor Susan Bennett; Rosa Carrillo; Marita Etcubañez, Esq.; Isabel Van Isschot; Karen Minatelli, Esq.; Lillian Perdomo; American University Washington College of Law; the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; Multicultural Community Service; Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center; La Clínica del Pueblo; and the D.C. Employment Justice Center.

Preface

The Language of Justice is a three-day program designed to train community and court interpreters who perform non-courtroom legal interpreting. Although this curriculum primarily addresses spoken interpreting, the ethical requirements and protocols discussed in this program will also benefit sign language interpreters. (Some of the skills involved and issues that may arise in legal interpreting will affect sign language and spoken interpreters differently.)

This program addresses legal interpreting performed outside the courtroom. *The Language of Justice* does not focus on in-court interpreted proceedings. Participants who have received 40 hours or more of professional interpreter training in any area (including conference, court, community/medical or general interpreting) are ideally suited to attend this program. *The Language of Justice* may also be presented to those who are new to the field of legal interpreting. The training manual for *The Language of Justice* is designed to help participants provide competent interpreting for legal services providers and can also serve as a training manual for interpreters who work in other non-courtroom legal or quasi-legal settings.

There are two core audiences for this manual: community interpreters and court interpreters. One goal of the curriculum is to ensure that community interpreters clearly grasp the differences between community and legal interpreting. Another objective is to help court interpreters work effectively in non-courtroom legal settings. The interpreters who graduate from this program should emerge with a clear understanding of the ethics, standards, requirements and role of the legal interpreter.

Currently, there is an urgent need for training programs for non-courtroom legal interpreters. Community interpreters, for example, often are expected to act as advocates or cultural brokers, and they may be tempted to do so even when they perform

legal interpreting. Such activities may be acceptable in community interpreting, but they can be problematic and even prohibited in settings that involve attorneys, and/or paralegals, or in law enforcement and domestic violence settings, to name a few. All too often, community interpreters are sent out to perform legal or quasi-legal interpreting without any guidance on how legal interpreting differs from community interpreting. In many cases, they may even be unaware whether they are performing community or legal interpreting. Without clear guidance, an interpreter in legal settings may inadvertently have an adverse impact on the Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing or Limited English Proficient (LEP) individual's case and could undermine the attorney's effectiveness.

Conversely, few training materials for court interpreters discuss in depth how different legal interpreting is outside the courtroom, which is where most of a lawyer's work is performed. For example, most court settings are adversarial and require a public record, whereas most encounters outside the courtroom are collaborative and private: the attorney and legal team, work actively on the client's behalf to secure a just and beneficial outcome. Sometimes the rigid procedures and guidelines for court interpreting do not transfer well to other legal settings, such as attorney-client interviews. Interpreters need explicit guidance for such interviews since the legal outcome may depend on the quality and integrity of the interpreter's performance.

This curriculum is dedicated to supporting all legal interpreters and showing how they can uphold the highest standards of the legal interpreting profession in collaborative settings like attorney-client interviews. The project was created and funded by lawyers through the D.C. Bar Foundation and administered by Ayuda, a nonprofit agency that provides legal services. It has benefited at every stage of its development from the direct input of attorneys

who work with limited English speakers and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The authors wish to thank Ayuda and the D.C. Bar Foundation for the opportunity to collaborate on this groundbreaking project. We welcome feedback and hope that the program benefits legal interpreters everywhere. The goal of this project is to support quality interpreting and equal access to justice for the LEP community.

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Program Goal *and* Objectives

GOAL

To train community and court interpreters to interpret for nonprofit legal services providers

UNIT I

Procedures and Ethics (7 hours)

- Objective 1: The interpreter will discuss the requirements for legal interpreters.
- Objective 2: The interpreter will exhibit a sound understanding of relevant codes of ethics.
- Objective 3: The interpreter will demonstrate the correct application of a code of ethics and standards of practice to ethical dilemmas and simulated encounters.

UNIT II

Linguistic Mediation (7 hours)

- Objective 1: The interpreter will demonstrate sound decision-making about when and how to provide linguistic mediation.
- Objective 2: The interpreter will model the steps for linguistic mediation.
- Objective 3: The interpreter will develop linguistic mediation techniques and strategies.

UNIT III

Interpreting for Legal Services (6 hours)

- Objective 1: The interpreter will demonstrate knowledge of the U.S. legal system.
- Objective 2: The interpreter will model how to handle requests from clients and attorneys.
- Objective 3: The interpreter will review the terminology required for non-courtroom legal interpreting.

Final Assessment (1 hour)

A written assessment will evaluate participants' knowledge of the curriculum.