



INTERPRETER'S DIGEST

A quarterly publication of the Tennessee Court Interpreter Program

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Policy and Procedural Changes Effective July 1, 2008

The Court Interpreter Program is making changes to the written exam and oral proficiency interview (OPI) for potential interpreters wanting to become registered or certified through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Previously, if a candidate did not pass the written exam with a passing score of 80% or above, he/she must wait at least one (1) year before retesting. **Effective July 1, 2008, anyone that does not pass the written exam must wait six (6) months before they can take the exam again.** The exam and all other requirements of the program must be completed within 3 years from the date of the ethics and skill building workshop.

The Court Interpreter Program currently has approved the use of Language Testing International (LTI) to conduct all oral proficiency interviews for credentialing of a registered and certified interpreter. Beginning July 1st, another option is available - ALTA Language Services, Inc. has also been approved as a provider for the oral proficiency interview. If an applicant wishes to use a different provider, prior approval from the AOC must be obtained. Regardless of the company used, all potential interpreters will be required to take both the English and target language interview and pass with a score of "Superior" (LTI) or 12 (ALTA) on both languages. OPI changes and procedures effective 7/1/08 are applicable to those candidates that have never taken the OPI and those that have taken the OPI only once before and have not passed. Those that have previously taken the OPI with Language Testing International (LTI) and have not passed after two attempts cannot take the OPI until they have completed a 10-hour language course in the target language. In addition to OPI interviews being held in Nashville, Jackson, and Knoxville, they will also be available in Chattanooga. **The candidate may take the English and target language interview as many times as needed until receiving a passing score on each interview.**

Spanish Oral Exam Registration

August 4-8

Deadline: July 18th



Registration forms are now available on the AOC website at www.tncourts.gov to register for the written and oral exams for the remainder of the year. To register for a particular exam, please follow the steps below:

- 1) Select Programs and Services
- 2) Click on Court Interpreters
- 3) Scroll down and select the exam and date under Registration Forms and Information
- 4) Submit registration form

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Up Close and Personal

Each quarter the *Interpreter's Digest* will feature two interpreters that have received credentials through the Court Interpreter Program. Because most of you do not get the opportunity to know your counterparts in this field unless it's through an annual conference or workshop, the Up Close and Personal section will provide you with information about interpreters that you may find interesting or perhaps, just informative. In this issue, you are featuring Wei Chow Ralph (Mandarin Chinese), registered interpreter and Dr. Tony Tadros (Arabic), certified interpreter. The following questions were asked of each interpreter:

Wei Chow Ralph, Mandarin Chinese



Tell me about yourself:

I am a native of Taiwan and have lived in the U S since 1976. I live in Sumner County with my husband of 27 years, Chinese uncle, and three adult children: Allen, Hester, and Tyree. I serve as Financial /Accounting Manager for MTSU-TSBDC and teach accounting for Nashville State Community College. I also freelance as a court interpreter and translator. In addition to that, I am a seasonal tax preparer and hold a MBA and BS in Accounting from US, and a BA degree from Taiwan. I am a member of TN GFOA, TAPIT, and NAMI - Sumner County board member.

How long have you been an interpreter?

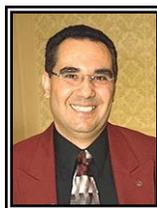
Since July 2004

What changes do you anticipate in the interpreter community in the next 5-10 years?

There will be much more demand for interpreters due to increased global economic activities, immigration and other exchanges. Interpreters need to keep pace with changes of languages in order to meet standards of demand. Interpreters will be more dependent upon new tools and technologies to facilitate remote, efficient and effective interpretation services. More ethic issues need to be addressed as territories of interpreters expand and emerge.

What advice would you give to those who are considering interpreting for the courts in TN?

Take on the challenges and grow with it. Give to the society what you have to give and your life will be empowered and enriched.



Dr. Tony Tadros, Arabic

Tell me about yourself:

I was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. I received my Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Ain Shams University, Egypt and received my Graduate Diploma in Translation from Cairo University, Egypt. I also have a Master's Degree in Simultaneous Interpretation from Ain Shams University, Egypt. I worked for a multi-national corporation in Europe as a Translator and Cultural Advisor; lived in Germany, England and Cyprus. I moved to the USA and started my business (Tadros & Tadros Translation) in southern California, and became a state certified court interpreter. I have a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Studies, with a minor on religious translation. I edited the Arabic translation of the best sellers "The Purpose Driven Life," and "The Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren. I moved to Nashville in 2006 to work as the Arabic Senior Producer for World Christian Broadcasting Inc., and also became a certified court interpreter in the state of Tennessee.

How long have you been an interpreter?

20 years

What changes do you anticipate in the interpreter community in the next 5-10 years?

Interpretation/translation will be better structured as a profession, and more recognized by the legal system and government agencies. Certification may have specialties, such as legal, medical, technical, etc.

What advice would you give to those who are considering interpreting for the courts in TN?

Study hard, read a lot, sit in court rooms and listen, learn about the legal system in general, watch legal shows (my favorite TV show is *Law and Order*), and give it your best!



Complaint against Foreign Language Interpreters

If you have a complaint regarding misconduct against an interpreter, please complete and submit a complaint form to the AOC. This is the most effective way to make sure the standards and the rules set by the Tennessee Supreme Court are upheld and enforced. Please be mindful that no action can be taken as a result of hearsay. Documentation of an interpreter's behavior is required before corrective action can be taken. The form can be found on our website at www.tncourts.gov. Select court interpreters, then other forms.

Languages Other Than Spanish (LOS) Oral Exam September 1-5 Deadline: August 15th

The next LOS exam will be September 1-5 at the AOC. The examination will be offered in Arabic, Cantonese, French, Haitian-Creole, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, and Vietnamese. A combined Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian examination will also be offered. This will be the last LOS exam of the year. If you need to know if you must take this exam, please contact Sheila Morris at 615-741-2687. To access registration, please visit <http://www.tsc.state.tn.us/geninfo/Programs/Interpreters/documents/Registration%20FormLOS%20Oral%20September%202008.pdf>.



ID Badge Usage

All interpreters are required to have a photo id card once they become registered. When interpreting in court, please make sure your badge can be seen at all times. Your badge is the only identifier that will differentiate you from non-credentialed interpreters.

If you are in need of a photo id, and do not reside in surrounding counties or find it difficult to stop by the AOC, you may send us a scanned photo image along with a copy of your driver's license and your badge will be mailed to you. This option is not available for those that currently possess a badge, only newly registered interpreters without one.

Use of Interpreter Equipment

Each judicial district has a set of interpreter equipment for interpreter use that should include 8 receivers and transmitters. The AOC maintains a list of the judge(s) that is responsible for this equipment; although, the judge assigned the set may not have it in his/her possession currently. If you need assistance in locating interpreter equipment, please contact Sheila Morris at 615-741-2687.

We Want to Know

Do you know of any resources or materials that would be beneficial to the interpreter community such as workshops, courses, training material, etc.? If so, please forward that information to the AOC to be published on the website or in future newsletters.

What information would you like to see in future *Interpreter's Digest* issues? We welcome any feedback and ideas. Please send your suggestions to Sheila Morris at sheila.morris@tncourts.gov

