

Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles



2026 Plan for Limited English Proficient Court Users

This Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan outlines how the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles (“Court”) provides equal access to justice for LEP persons in accordance with Government Code section 68560, et seq.

I. Needs Assessment & Data Collection

The demographic diversity and size of Los Angeles County presents the Court with unique challenges in meeting the language needs of its LEP users. The Court has 36 locations dispersed throughout the more than 4,000 square miles comprising Los Angeles County. The County’s approximately 10 million residents speak over 224 different languages. There are 140 distinct cultures in Los Angeles County and 55% of County residents report speaking a language other than English. Of that number, 24%¹ say they speak English less than very well. Moreover, language needs vary from year to year as the population shifts.

Each year, 92% of the Court’s interpreter requests are for Spanish interpreters. Requests for interpreters in Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Farsi, and other languages comprise another eight percent (8%) of the Court’s requests for interpreter services. To identify emerging demographic trends through Los Angeles County and project language needs, the Court considers census information, feedback from its community outreach activities, and information provided by legal service providers and other community-based non-profit organizations. The Court closely monitors the requests for interpreter services in court proceedings and adjusts its interpreter staffing needs accordingly.

The Court also actively participates in the language needs assessment the Judicial Council of California conducts every five years in compliance with Government Code section 68563. As part of that assessment, the Court provides the Judicial Council information about the language needs of court users in Los Angeles County. The Judicial Council compiles and analyzes that information for all 58 trial courts in the state and submits a [report to the Legislature](#).

II. Requesting Language Assistance for a Court Hearing

The Court provides multiple opportunities for LEP individuals to identify their need for language services before they appear in court. LEP court users who speak a language other than Spanish may request an interpreter in advance of their hearing through the Court’s web portal. The portal is accessible at lacourt.ca.gov. The Court assigns Spanish-speaking interpreters to each courthouse, except for the Spring Street and Catalina Courthouses. Spanish-speaking LEP individuals do not need to schedule an interpreter in advance.

¹ American Community Survey 5-year estimate 2019-2023.
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When an LEP individual first appears in the courtroom, judicial officers will determine whether the individual requires an interpreter. Pursuant to Standard 2.10 of California's Standards of Judicial Administration, the judicial officer will typically examine the party or witness to determine whether an interpreter is needed when: (1) a party or counsel requests such examination or (2) it appears to the judicial officer that the party or witness may not understand or speak English well enough to participate effectively in the proceedings.

III. Language Assistance Resources Available

Court Employees are an integral part of the Court's Language Access Services. The robust demographic diversity among the almost 10 million residents in Los Angeles County affords the Court the opportunity to employ a representative workforce. Consequently, many of its employees possess the language skills necessary to serve LEP court users.

A. CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED COURT INTERPRETERS

The Court provides spoken-language certified/registered Court Interpreters or provisionally qualified interpreters free of charge to LEP court users in court proceedings for all case types.

The Court employs approximately 300 California certified or registered court interpreters to interpret court proceedings. They undergo rigorous testing of their proficiency in English and their target language(s). They are also required to take an ethics class for certification and complete 30 hours of continuing education every 24 months. They fulfill other certification/registration requirements and are bound by [a professional Code of Ethics](#). The Court also contracts with independent court interpreters to supplement its workforce.

When interpreter availability is limited, the Court must prioritize coverage in accordance with Evidence Code section 756. If diligent efforts fail to identify a certified or registered court interpreter, Government Code 68561(c) authorizes the Court to use provisionally qualified interpreters. Before the Court uses such an interpreter, Rule 2.893 of the California Rules of Court requires the Court to inquire into the interpreters' skills, professional experience, and potential conflicts of interest to make a finding of the individuals' suitability to interpret. After doing so, the Presiding Judge or their designee provisionally qualifies an individual to interpret in a court proceeding.

B. BILINGUAL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS

The Court identifies employees with bilingual language skills, tests their foreign language proficiency, and certifies them as bilingual. Once designated as bilingual proficient, the Court compensates those employees for the language services they provide while carrying out their duties at points of contact with the public outside of the courtroom setting.

Volunteers and interns further expand the Court's language resources. For that purpose, the Court proactively recruits interns and volunteers with language skills to assist LEP Court users at its court-based Self-Help Centers. The Court's award-winning California JusticeCorps program, a public service fellowship that trains college students and graduates to assist self-represented litigants with navigating the court system, has been a particularly effective and valuable source of qualified, dedicated, bilingual volunteers.

C. REMOTE TELEPHONIC INTERPRETATION SERVICES

The Court seeks to facilitate communication with LEP individuals by providing them with linguistically appropriate resources for services offered throughout the Court. The Court supplies employees at its public counters with “I Speak” cards to help LEP court users identify the language they speak.

In response to the prodigious language diversity in Los Angeles County, when bilingual staff is not available to assist an LEP court user at a public counter, the Court provides audio remote telephonic interpreter assistance using the services of an outside language provider.

D. TRANSLATED WEBSITE, SIGNAGE, FORMS, AND DOCUMENTS

Making commonly used forms and documents accessible to LEP individuals facilitates access to court services and enables LEP Court users to understand and participate more effectively in the judicial process. To that end, the Judicial Council maintains a Self-Help information webpage in multiple languages, which includes instructional and informational material on a variety of case types. This website also offers translated forms that the Court makes available at its Self-Help Centers. In addition, the Court unveiled its newly redesigned, user-focused website at www.LACourt.ca.gov in 2025. It offers improved translation options, powered by Google Translate, to better serve diverse communities.

Additionally, to facilitate communication with LEP court users, the Court:

- Includes jury summons information and telephonic information about jury services in Spanish.
- Provides continuance forms in 23 languages.
- Provides instruction in Spanish when logging into LACourtConnect for remote participation in hearings.
- Posts signs in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, Farsi, and Russian informing LEP court users about the availability of interpreter services (free of charge) at building entrances.
- Posts court closure signs in multiple languages; and
- Maintains a complaint form for language services on its website in Spanish, Korean, Armenian (Eastern), Mandarin, Vietnamese, Farsi, and Russian.

E. JUDICIAL AND COURT STAFF TRAINING

The Court is committed to training its judicial officers and employees on strategies to communicate with LEP individuals. The Court’s Learning and Development Unit, and its Judicial Education Seminars Program incorporate language access issues in core course offerings. The following trainings include a component providing information about LEPs and Language Access Services:

- New Judges Orientation;
- Judicial officer training on the use of court interpreters and language competency;
- Orienting and onboarding new employees;
- JAT 101: Overview of Language Access;
- Language Access Overview for JusticeCorps members;
- Overview of the Court;
- Family Law, Civil and Criminal overviews;
- Customer Service: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Court Users;
- Customer Service in the Courts;
- Diversity and Cultural Awareness;

- Legal terminology training (in English) available for certified bilingual staff;
- Telephone Etiquette;
- Training on video remote interpreting;
- Training and information sheets are provided regarding simultaneous and consecutive interpreting;
- Court Interpreter Minimum Continuing Education (CIMCE) certified courses; and
- State-wide conferences on language access or conferences/webinars that include sessions dedicated to topics on language access.
- Interpreter Scholarship Programs offered by the Court and the Judicial Council.

The Court continuously reviews all courses and implements LEP court user awareness and training wherever possible in the core curriculum.

Additionally, the California Center for Judicial Education and Research develops specialized training for judicial officers. The Language Access Plan Implementation Task Force and the Court Interpreter Advisory Panel also developed training, including a video advising judicial officers on how to appoint spoken language interpreters in trial court proceedings. This video is also available on the Court's Digital Library for judicial officers. The Court also provides its interpreter employees access to a glossary of legal terms on the Court's internal website.

F. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

Court leaders engage in community outreach and education to communicate the various services available to all language speakers. Outreach and education efforts include:

- Collaboration with governmental agencies, public and private educational institutions, and legal service organizations that serve immigrant and foreign language communities;
- Outreach meetings with community service providers such as Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Neighborhood Legal Services, Bet Tzedek, Public Counsel, etc.; and
- Cultural festivals and events.
- Providing Spanish interpreters for the Teen Court Program through the Community Relations Office.
- Career day presentations at local schools about career paths and employment opportunities.
- Inclusion of information about the role of Court Interpreters in the recently deployed modular mobile exhibition, Court Commons, created to inform and engage the community.
- Partnering with the Judicial Council and Los Angeles Unified School District on initiatives that support future availability of qualified court interpreters for the Courts. The Court also launched the Court Interpreter Training Program, offering employee scholarships toward Spanish Interpreter Certification.

IV. Complaint Process

A. LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES DIVISION

Any person who has a complaint related to language access services may file a written complaint. The complaint form, available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Armenian (Eastern), Vietnamese, Farsi, and Russian can be downloaded from the [Court's website](#) and mailed to the Language Access Services (LAS) Administrator at: Language Access Services, 1945 S. Hill Street, Room 801, Los Angeles, CA 90007 or sent by e-mail to LanguageAccess@LACourt.ca.gov. The LAS Administrator will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 10 business days. The Court will investigate

the complaint and communicate the findings to the complaining parties. While the Court takes the complaint process seriously, this process may not be used to seek reconsideration of their legal case.

For questions about language access or comments regarding the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles Limited English Proficiency Plan, you may contact the Language Access Services Division of the Court at:

Language Access Services (LAS)
Salvador Jimenez,
Administrator II
1945 South Hill Street, Room 801
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(909) 802-1193
SJimenez@lacourt.ca.gov

B. REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED COURT INTERPRETER QUALIFICATIONS

- An individual may file a complaint regarding a specific California court interpreter if there is a certified or registered interpreter who has:
- Violated [Rule of Court 2.890](#), Professional conduct for interpreters
- Is unable to interpret competently in English and/or in the language being interpreted
- Committed acts of wrongdoing or behaved unethically.

The complaint form is available here:

English	Arabic (العربية)
Spanish (Español)	Traditional Chinese (繁體中文)
Vietnamese (Tiếng Việt)	Punjabi (ਪੰਜਾਬੀ)
Korean (한국어)	Russian (Русский)
Simplified Chinese (简体中文)	Tagalog (Tagalog)
	Farsi (فارسی)

To file a complaint directly with the Judicial Council regarding a specific court interpreter, submit the signed complaint form in a PDF via email to credreview@jud.ca.gov, in person, directly to the local court where the alleged misconduct took place, or mail the signed form to:

Court Interpreters Program
Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

V. Public Notification and Evaluation of Limited English Proficiency Plan

A. LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN APPROVAL AND NOTIFICATION

Once the Court's Executive Officer/Clerk approves the Limited English Proficiency Plan, it is posted on the Court's public website. A link to the plan is also available on the Judicial Council of California's public website.

B. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLAN

The Court's Language Access Services Administrator reviews this plan annually to assess its relevance and to update it as needed. Elements of the evaluation will include:

- Data pertaining to LEP persons requesting language assistance with Court services;
- Assessment of Court's language access services;
- Review of feedback from LEP communities in Los Angeles County;
- Assessment of whether Court staff adequately understands LEP policies and procedures and how to carry them out; and
- Review of feedback from court employee training sessions.

C. APPROVED BY:



David W. Slayton
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

Date: 1/12/2026
