

Washington State Supreme Court Interpreter Commission

March 1, 2022

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Honorable J. Michael Diaz, Chair
Superior Court Judges Representative

Honorable G. Helen Whitener
Appellate Court Representative

Honorable Lloyd Oaks
District and Municipal Court
Judges Representative

Ashley Callan
Superior Court
Administrators Representative

Frankie Peters
District and Municipal Court
Administrators Representative

Jeanne Englert
Administrative Office of the Courts
Representative

Luisa Gracia Camón
Interpreter Representative

Diana Noman
Interpreter Representative

Donna Walker
American Sign Language
Interpreter Representative

Kristi Cruz
Attorney Representative

Katrin Johnson
Attorney Representative

Francis Adewale
Public Defender Representative

Anita Ahumada
Community Member Representative

Naoko Inoue Shatz
Ethnic Organization Representative

Florence Adeyemi
Public Member Representative

RE: SEEKING PUBLIC MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE FOR
SUPREME COURT INTERPRETER COMMISSION

Dear Community Partners,

Members of the public use the Washington State Courts in a wide variety of circumstances. They may be brought into legal actions initiated by the State or other parties, or they may use courts to protect themselves and their rights. While legal procedure and terminology is difficult and intimidating to most people, it is exponentially more complicated for persons with limited English proficiency and hearing loss. Our state courts recognize that language access is a fundamental component of access to justice.

The Washington State Court Interpreter Commission develops policies governing the Washington Court Language Access Program. All interpreters who are certified or registered by the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts are subject to rules and regulations specified by policies set by the Interpreter Commission.

The Washington State Supreme Court selects various representative members to serve as liaisons between the courts, the interpreting community, and the public. The Commission will have a member vacancy for a *Public Member Representative* beginning on October 1, 2022. It is crucial that the Interpreter Commission receives the input and insight of all stakeholders as it seeks to improve language access in our courts.

The Commission is seeking an individual with a working knowledge of language access policies and services for persons who are limited-English speakers as well as those who rely on American Sign Language interpreter services. A detailed description of the Commission and duties of its members may be found at:

http://www.courts.wa.gov/programs_orgs/pos_interpret/index.cfm?fa=pos_interpret.display&file Name=interpreterCommission

The next Commission meeting is set for June 3, 2022 and the Commission would like to have the new representative applications for Commission member review prior to that meeting and have an opportunity to invite the selected individual to attend.

Please share this invitation widely.


For those interested in becoming a Commission member, please send a letter of interest and, please provide a copy of one's resume/curriculum vitae and letter of interest, to the address specified below no later than April 15, 2022:

Supreme Court Interpreter Commission
c/o Robert Lichtenberg
P.O. Box 41170
1206 Quince St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-1170
Email: Robert.Lichtenberg@courts.wa.gov

If there are any questions about the work of the Interpreter Commission or its meeting schedule, please contact Robert Lichtenberg or via email at Robert.Lichtenberg@courts.wa.gov

On behalf of the Commission, I appreciate your attention to this request.

Very Truly Yours,



Judge J. Michael Diaz
Interpreter Commission Chair

cc: Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator, AOC
Kelley Amburgey-Richardson, Supreme Court Commissions Coordinator, AOC
Robert W. Lichtenberg, Language Access Program Analyst, AOC