



The National Consortium

of Interpreter Education Centers

Creating Opportunities for Interpreters and Interpreter Educators

www.nciec.org

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Legal Interpreting

Interpreting in the legal setting is a long-recognized area of specialization in the field of ASL-English interpreting. Tradition from the field of spoken language interpreting and legal community contribute to the conventional way legal interpreting work is performed. As well, practices have been conceived by ASL-English interpreter practitioners over time through a process of application of theory drawn from the profession's scholarship. As more scholarship and research emerge, practices evolve, improve and change. The NCIEC Legal Interpreting workteam is comprised of expert practitioners, educators and members of the judiciary who seek to build a series of expert, practitioner, educator and consumer partnerships that stimulate the open exchange of ideas, experiences and knowledge that deepen our understanding of the work of interpreters in the legal setting.

To date, the efforts of this work team have resulted in the following:

- A fifty (50) page document entitled *Best Practices for Interpreting in Legal and Court Settings* that defines twenty-four (24) patterns of practice unique to the work of practitioners in this setting. Guiding principles that support the practices are included.
- A one hundred (100) page legal brief entitled *Deaf Interpreters in Court: An Accommodation that is more than reasonable* which analyzes case law and the range of factors impacting the need for Deaf Interpreters as part of interpreting teams working in the legal setting.
- A twenty (20) page document entitled *Defining the Functional and Specialty-Distinctive Competencies of Interpreters Working in the Legal Setting* which details the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for effective interpreting practice in the legal setting.
- A report of a national survey and series of focus groups on best practices and competencies of interpreters working in legal and court settings. The survey and focus groups examined the degree of consensus regarding best practices and requisite competencies that exists among practitioners specializing in legal interpreter, and the real and/or perceived barriers to application of best practices.
- An annotated bibliography of literature and resources useful to the teaching and practice of legal interpreting.
- Sponsorship of training events for legal interpreters such as the 2009 Conference for Legal Sign Language Interpreters (CLSLI) and 2009 Pre-RID Conference Mock Trial event preparing individuals to take the Special Certificate: Legal Performance Examination.

All products of the workteam are available on the NCIEC website under the legal interpreting workteam link at <http://www.nciec.org/>. Want more info about this