

The Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 924102-3688

ATTN: Mr. Martin Hoshino
Administrative Director

RE: Petition to Revise the *Payment Policy for Contract Court Interpreters*

I, _____, am a Registered Court Interpreter. I hereby petition the Judicial Council to increase the statewide daily compensation rate for contract court interpreters without delay, in accordance with the *Payment Policies for Contract Court Interpreters* as adopted in 2007.

Effective September 1, 2007, the compensation rates for contract interpreters were set at \$282.23 for a full day and \$156.56 for a half day and have remained in effect throughout the four regions. While contractor rates have remained stagnant, the compensation rates for employee interpreters have been increased in the last couple of years through collective bargaining agreements as follows:

- Region 1: A 4.75% wage increase over the course of 3 years (expires 6/30/17)
- Region 2: A 4% wage increase over the course of 2 years (expires 9/30/16)
- Region 3: A 4% wage increase over the course of 2 years (expires 9/30/16)
- Region 4: A 9% wage increase over the course of 2 1/2 years (expires 6/30/18)

I urge the Judicial Council to implement and adopt revisions to the *Payment Policies for Contract Interpreters* for the following reasons:

- The Courts have consistently relied upon contract court interpreters as a vital and integral resource to provide the LEP court users access to justice.
- The Judicial Council should remain sensitive to the balance that must be maintained between regional negotiations and contractor rates in order to provide the courts the ability to attract and retain skilled contract interpreters.
- The implementation of the Language Access Plan and the Courts' expansion of interpreter services into civil matters will continue to increase the need to have a pool of qualified contract interpreters available. Presently, many contractors have lost interest in seeking employment within the courts and view the private sector's opportunities as the more lucrative choice.
- While contract interpreters do not expect to receive the same total compensation as an employee, the daily rates should mirror an equitable recognition of the skillful contribution both groups provide the court.

- The daily rates for contractors have not been increased in eight years, disregarding the continuous rise in the cost of living.

Contract court interpreters are not exempt from the financial challenges any contractor faces. While interpreters working in the private sector have the ability to increase their rates to defray increases in the cost of living and of doing business, contract interpreters working for the courts are precluded from doing the same due to the inflexible nature of the *Payment Policies* set by the Judicial Council. Thus, I hereby seek fair and equitable compensation.

Based on the continuous commitment contract court interpreters have demonstrated throughout the many years of service, as well as their active participation in providing equal access to justice, I ask that this Council consider this petition and expedite a suitable response.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to this matter.

Yours Truly,

Name

Signature

Language

Registration number (optional)

Date