

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy

FROM: Judge David Hejmanowski, Chairperson
Bruno Romero, Manager of the Language Services Section

CC: Robert W. Horner III, Administrative Director
Stephanie Nelson, Director of Court Services Division

DATE: December 29, 2023

RE: **Advisory Committee on Language Services – 2023 Annual Report**

Pursuant to Guideline 4.03 of the Operating Guidelines for the Advisory Committee on Language Services, Judge David Hejmanowski, chairperson and Bruno Romero, staff liaison to the Advisory Committee on Language Services (Advisory Committee), hereby submit the 2023 Annual Report.

Purpose of Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide ongoing advice to the Court and its staff regarding the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards on the operation of language access programs in Ohio courts; the development and delivery of interpreter services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel; and the consideration of any other issues the Advisory Committee deems necessary to assist the Court and its staff regarding the provision of language services in Ohio courts.

2022 Activities and Accomplishments

The Advisory Committee met via Zoom on March 24, August 24, and December 7. The Advisory Committee continued to build on past contributions and identified new areas of involvement.

The Advisory Committee identified and planned a series of training webinars for court personnel. Members of the training subcommittee assisted in delivering these one-hour presentations. The first session, *Artificial Intelligence in Interpretation and Translation: Promise and Limitations*, was delivered on February 17, 2023, and repeated on September 29, 2023. The

second session, *Effective Use of Interpreter Services*, was delivered on March 31, 2023. The third session, *Language Access in Ohio Courts*, was delivered in-person on December 8, 2023. Additional judicial education included a presentation on language access at the New Magistrate Orientation on March 24 and September 29. The section also took part at the Ohio Judicial Conference annual meeting on September 15 and New Judge Orientation on December 14.

Furthermore, the Judge David Hejmanowski, chair of the Advisory Committee, presented to the Court on February 9 the revised amendments after public comments to Sup.R. 80-89, Appendix G and H. The amendments included changes to remove limits of the number of continuing education credits that an interpreter can earn via distance learning and requiring each court to adopt a Language Access Plan (LAP). The plan is a compulsory language access compliance element of the United States Department of Justice. The changes also included clarification to the definition of “Ancillary court services” and the development of 12 “Standards for the Use of Video Remote Interpretation” in an effort to guide the courts in the used of remote interpretation. This was proposed and adopted as Sup.R. Appendix G.

The Advisory Committee on Language Services and the Language Services Section will continue to work together to strengthen access to justice for every limited English and deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the State of Ohio.