

# The Supreme Court of Ohio

## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy

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

**CC:** Stephanie Hess, Interim Administrative Director  
Stephanie Nelson, Director of Court Services Division

**DATE:** January 3, 2023

**RE:** Advisory Committee on Language Services – 2022 Annual Report

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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 2022 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 18 and August 27. 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, *Appointment of Court Interpreters under Sup.R. 88 and 89*, was delivered on January 28, 2022, and repeated on March 31, 2022. The second session, *Effective Use of Telephonic Interpretation Services*, was delivered on September 23, 2022, and repeated on November 9, 2022. The third session, *Accommodating Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in*

*the Courts*, was delivered on November 17, 2022, and repeated on December 15, 2022. Approximately a combined 578 court personnel attended these sessions.

Furthermore, the Advisory Committee proposed amendments 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. A model plan has been updated and posted on the Language Services' webpage for the convenience of the courts. Modification of the plan is easy and straightforward. The final section of the amendments includes "Standards for the Use of Video Remote Interpretation" to guide the courts in the used of remote interpretation. This is proposed as Sup.R. Appendix G. The amendments were reviewed by the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence and voted to send them to the Court to be released for public comment. The amendments were presented to the Court on August 30, 2022, and subsequently released for public comment. On November 15, 2022, the section and the advisory committee chair presented the amendments to the Commission based on revisions stemming from public comments. The amendments will be presented to the Court in 2023 for adoption.

Finally, the Section and the Advisory Committee revised three bench cards, *Working with Interpreters For the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Persons in the Courts*, *Language Services in Case or Court Function and Ancillary Court Services* and *Working with Telephonic Interpretation Services in Courts*. The two new bench cards include *Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) in Ohio Courts* and *Appointment and Credentialing of Foreign Language Interpreters*. The Section resumed court interpreter examinations after a two-year hiatus. Through testing and reciprocity, the section added ten additional interpreters to the roster.

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 person in Ohio.